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JUDICIARY

Superior court judge who suspected DA hacked her computer is charged with computer trespassing

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A superior court judge in Gwinnett County, Georgia, has been indicted on three counts of computer trespass for allegedly allowing outsiders to access the county computer system, reportedly to investigate whether the district attorney had hacked her computer.

Judge Kathryn Schrader was indicted Wednesday along with a private investigator and two computer specialists allegedly given access to the computer system and data. One of the experts had been convicted of child molestation. Law.com

(<https://www.law.com/2019/09/18/special-prosecutor-seeks-indictment-of-gwinnett-judge-over-court-computer-hack-292-53725/>), the Gwinnett Daily Post

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(https://www.gwinnettdaily.com/local/gwinnett-superior-court-judge-kathryn-schrader-three-others-indicted-for/article_e008d912-da56-11e9-9861-eb6bd021d473.html), the Atlanta Journal-Constitution (<https://www.ajc.com/news/local/gwinnett-judge-dragoncon-founder-indicted-hacking-case/ni0nOji81VHz7xCdKP7LgN/>) and the Associated Press (<https://apnews.com/0b8f6bfa105845debadd91739a038949>) have coverage; a press release is [here](https://pacga.org/2019/09/18/four-indicted-for-criminal-trespass-by-gwinnett-county-grand-jury/) (<https://pacga.org/2019/09/18/four-indicted-for-criminal-trespass-by-gwinnett-county-grand-jury/>).

The indictment has few details. But a March court filing by a lawyer for the convicted child molester said the Georgia Bureau of Investigation was investigating whether Schrader allowed the experts to access the county computer system because she suspected that Gwinnett County District Attorney Danny Porter had hacked her computer. The Gwinnett Daily Post

(https://www.gwinnettdaily.com/local/hearings-set-for-computer-hacking-case-involving-sex-offender-gwinnett/article_22cd26c6-607d-11e9-a55e-9f1095479339.html) had coverage.

The court filing said one of the experts had installed a WireShark device on Schrader's computer in February to monitor suspicious activity on the computer network. The convicted child molester, Ed Kramer, was hired to analyze data collected by the device.

According to the filing, Kramer found "clear signs" that someone had accessed Schrader's computer without permission, according to the AP.

During the time period when Kramer was monitoring the data, he was accused of violating probation for taking a photo of a child at a doctor's office. The court filing by Kramer's lawyer sought to disqualify Porter in the parole violation case on the grounds that he was a potential witness in the computer-access investigation.

Porter had learned that Kramer had access to county computers after his office seized Kramer's electronic devices to look for photos of the child in the doctor's office, the court filing said.

Porter has denied hacking Schrader's computer. The criminal case was handled by the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia because Porter is considered a witness.

Schrader is no longer hearing criminal cases as a result of the investigation.

Schrader's lawyer, B.J. Bernstein, issued this statement: "Judge Schrader has spent her career pursuing justice as an attorney and as a judge. She believes in the justice system and knows from her years of experience the presumption of

innocence is real and necessary because she's seen the innocent needing a trial to undo an allegation. Standing unfairly accused she will rely on her deep faith, family and her belief in justice to defend herself.”

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