

# DA fires assistant who had filed suit

*District Attorney*  
Performance problems cited for ADA's dismissal

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SANTA CRUZ — The only county prosecutor who publicly spoke in support of District Attorney Ron Ruiz's bid for the post was fired Friday.

Ruiz, who was appointed to the office five weeks ago, relieved Assistant District Attorney Patty Bazar of her duties Friday and gave her a letter saying he intended to terminate her.

In the letter, Bazar said, Ruiz cited a four-day training seminar she went to in Palm Beach recently — but didn't attend any of the workshops. He also stated that she failed to make arrangements for another prosecutor to handle a family law hearing during her absence. Bazar said Ruiz also cited the same performance problems that Bazar claimed were false and misleading in a sexual



**Patty Bazar**

The assistant district attorney, who has worked 18 years for the county, called the reasons given for her firing 'incredible distortions.'

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## Fired

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discrimination lawsuit she filed last year against the county.

Bazar, who joined the District Attorney's Office 18 years ago as one of its first female hires, called all the issues that Ruiz cited "incredible distortions."

Ruiz could not be reached for comment late Friday.

"This is more than hard to take," Bazar said Friday night. "I was the only person (in the office) to speak on (Ruiz's) behalf."

Bazar sued the county and former District Attorney Art Danner, alleging that she was punitively transferred out of the special sexual-assault prosecution unit and subjected to false reports of poor job performance after she complained to her superiors and the county's Affirmative Action officer about gender bias. Not long after she filed the law-

suit in August, Danner transferred her to the Family Support Division — another reassignment she considered retaliatory.

At the time the lawsuit was filed, Danner, who left his post in December for a judgeship, called Bazar's allegations "preposterous."

Bazar's dismissal, which was announced in a staffwide memo, comes 10 days after Ruiz announced his decision to restructure the office, including returning Bazar to criminal cases, handling misdemeanors.

Just five weeks ago, Bazar was the only assistant district attorney to tell the county Board of Supervisors she thought Ruiz was the best candidate in a contentious race to fill the district attorney's post.

"What happens to people when they're elected and take the oath of office? Do they sprinkle them with fairy

dust that takes away their ethics?" Bazar said Friday.

"This is just part-and-parcel maneuvering on my lawsuit," she said of her termination. "I just feel incredibly betrayed by the county system. I have been the only person who's been willing to come out and talk about the abuses in the DA's Office. ... Then all of a sudden, I'm part of the problem."

Bazar said she did skip out of the family-support training classes at the Palm Beach event last month, but said she did so only after several failed attempts to



**Ron Ruiz**  
Fires ADA

meet with Ruiz to get his permission not to attend, since he had already indicated she was being transferred back to criminal work.

"He was too busy to meet with me ... and told me to treat (the seminar) like a vacation. So I thought it was OK," Bazar said.

"I'm more than happy to pay the county for what they think I owe for the seminar," she added. "... But to be terminated?"

The firing surprised some of Bazar's co-workers.

One prosecutor who spoke on the condition of anonymity said numerous attorneys heard Ruiz tell Bazar at a staff meeting the day after his appointment that he intended to transfer her out of the family support division and back to criminal work.

"He told me she was coming back," the prosecutor said.