

# OPINION: SEXIST DEPICTION OF BRIDGET KELLY RETURNS BRIDGEGATE TO FRONT PAGE

CARL GOLDEN | APRIL 1, 2014

Why did Christie's million-dollar lawyer think it necessary to portray Kelly as unstable, insecure victim of failed romance

While Gov. Chris Christie and his team of attorneys were prepared for the cynical reception of their in-house investigation that cleared him of any involvement in Bridgagate, they seem taken aback by the fierce blowback against the report's portrayal of his former deputy chief of staff Bridget Anne Kelly as an emotionally distraught, if not unstable, and insecure woman so upset over a failed love affair that she conspired to close access lanes to the George Washington Bridge in Fort Lee.

In exonerating Christie, the report placed all blame on Kelly and David Wildstein, a Christie-approved top staffer at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, for shifting the access lanes for four days in September, resulting in a massive traffic jam and eventually exploding into a scandal whose fall out has inflicted serious damage on the governor.

Singling out Kelly and Wildstein as the sole responsible parties while absolving the governor and his top staff was not unexpected, but the accompanying demeaning language characterizing Kelly elicited a storm of criticism accusing the lead attorney, Randy Mastro, and the governor of the worst sort of sexist behavior.

Mastro's task as assigned by Christie was to determine if there was involvement by anyone in the administration -- other than Kelly who was blamed and fired by Christie in January -- in the lane-closure scheme.

In doing so, his personal life in his report, it drew nearly

an assault on a woman for no apparent or logical reason, other than to

Didn't anyone in this roomful of high-powered lawyers utter "Whoa, this is trouble," upon reading the portrayal of Kelly? Did no one foresee the potential adverse reaction to alleging that Kelly was victimized by her own hormones and couldn't help herself from retaliating against someone?

Even in his appearance on a Sunday morning news/talk show, Mastro was defiantly unapologetic, defending his work with the snarky observation that some people "can't handle the truth."

So, for a million bucks or so, Christie got a guy who can quote Jack Nicholson.

The governor has defended Mastro's report and waved it in the air as conclusive and exhaustive proof of his repeated claims that he knew nothing about the bridge closing scheme until it hit the newspapers.

Critics suggest otherwise; that he got exactly what his administration paid for --- a report that ~~what he defended~~ and supported his predetermined conclusions.

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