

THE SMEARMONGERS WHO TOOK DOWN CHIARA AND HAGEN GOT PROMOTED TO MAIN JUSTICE

TPMM and LAT elaborate on what I reported yesterday—that the anti-gay discrimination described in yesterday's Monica Goodling report was targeted at Margaret Chiara and Leslie Hagen. Both have interviews with Hagen's attorney; the LAT did an interview with Chiara herself. And together, the LAT interviews describe the gossip-mongering of a few people within the USA office in Grand Rapids providing **both** the rumors that the women were in a gay relationship—and that Chiara's management had created morale problems in Grand Rapids.

The report describes an alleged "sexual relationship" between a career prosecutor and a U.S. attorney, who were not named. Margaret M. Chiara, the former U.S. attorney in Grand Rapids, Mich., said in an interview with The Times that she now believed she was fired because of the erroneous belief that she was having a relationship with career prosecutor Leslie Hagen.

"I could not begin to understand how I found myself sharing the misfortune of my former colleagues," Chiara said of the eight other U.S. attorneys who were fired. "Now I understand."

Justice officials said after her firing that Chiara was let go because of mismanagement and because she had caused morale in her office to sink. **Chiara said Monday she believed those concerns were raised by the same people who spread rumors about her and Hagen.** [my

emphasis]

Most troubling, though, is the suggestion from Lisa Banks, Hagen's attorney, that the attorneys who started those rumors eventually won jobs at Main Justice.

Banks said **she believed the rumors were started by other attorneys in the Grand Rapids office who eventually landed jobs at the Justice Department** in Washington.
[my emphasis]

How convenient. Someone plays to Monica Goodling's narrow-mindedness and gives her a reason to fire Chiara—and they get moved up to DC. I wonder if they share an office with Rachel Paulose?