

July 29, 2006

Section: City&Region

Edition: Final

Page: B1

UK OFFICER SUES OVER ALLEGED FIRING ASSISTANT CHIEF SAYS ISSUE INVOLVES CITATION AGAINST ADMINISTRATOR

Cassandra Kirby, Herald-Leader Staff Writer

A University of Kentucky assistant police chief who says she was forced to leave the department for not persuading an officer to dismiss a citation against a senior school administrator has filed a lawsuit against the college and a top official.

Stephanie Bastin said she was "commanded" by UK's Associate Vice President Ken Clevidence, who oversees the police department, to persuade the officer to dismiss the citation. She refused because that would have been a violation of state law, according to the lawsuit.

"Her refusal was a motivating factor in the termination of her employment," said the lawsuit, which was filed Thursday in Fayette Circuit Court against Clevidence and UK's board of trustees.

UK says Bastin retired Feb. 28. The lawsuit maintains she was "compelled to leave" and "wrongfully discharged from her employment."

Bastin's lawsuit does not reveal the name of the senior school administrator who received the citation or the officer who gave it.

Clevidence was out of the office yesterday and could not be reached for comment, according to his secretary. UK spokesman Jay Blanton declined to discuss the lawsuit because it is pending.

The woman's attorney, **Robert Abell**, did not return Herald-Leader phone messages.

Bastin said Clevidence also helped see to her termination because she spoke with him about his numerous acts of mismanagement, abuse of authority and violations of the police department's policies, which were hampering the department's operations.

Because she refused to cooperate with his requests and vocalized her concerns, Bastin said Clevidence often undermined her authority and prevented her from obtaining assignments and promotions that would increase her earnings.

Bastin had been employed at the university for about 30 years before retiring, Blanton said. She was earning \$71,340 a year.

Bastin is seeking compensatory and punitive damages, back pay, attorney fees and other expenses.

Reach Cassandra Kirby at (859) 231-3266, 1-800-950-6397, Ext. 3266, or ckirby@herald-leader.com.