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# Will Beatty make plea deal?

**Lawyers say she should talk with the prosecutor**

BY BEN SCHMITT • FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER • MARCH 25, 2008

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Will she cut a deal? Will she cooperate? Will she testify against the man with whom she had an affair?

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Those are the questions swirling around Christine Beatty, the former chief of staff to Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick.

Legal experts differed Monday on whether Beatty would agree to cooperate with prosecutors in the criminal case against Kilpatrick, but all agreed a plea deal would be discussed with both sides. Several experts said Beatty, a first-year Wayne State University law student, should consider a plea.

"If I were her lawyer, I'd probably be encouraging her to have a conversation with the prosecutor," said John Freeman, a former local and federal prosecutor who practices criminal law in Troy. "I'd be recommending that she consider cutting a deal and try to maintain her eligibility to become a lawyer when she graduates from law school."

University of Detroit Mercy law professor Larry Dubin agreed with Freeman, saying Kilpatrick is the main target.

"Beatty's testimony would certainly strengthen the various criminal charges against the mayor, since she basically was similarly situated to having the knowledge to what he did with respect to all of the alleged crimes," Dubin said. "I would think that her legal representation would view what is in her best interest separate from those interests of the mayor."



WDIV-TV

Beatty turns herself in Monday. She is expected to be arraigned today in 36th District Court, as is Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick.



Christine Beatty, the mayor's former chief of staff, testifies at the whistle-blower case in 2007.

(DAVID P. GILKEY/Detroit Free Press)

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Peter Henning, a Wayne State University professor and ex-federal prosecutor, said both sides will most likely send out feelers about possible deals.

"It's a dance," Henning said. "Certainly she would be a logical candidate for some sort of plea agreement. Whether she's willing to, that's a tougher question."

Detroit attorney Ben Gonek said Beatty's lawyers should try to cooperate but he's unsure Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy will listen.

"I think the case is so overwhelming against both the mayor and Beatty that they really don't need her testimony," Gonek said. "It seems open and shut to me."

Beatty has been seen in public only sporadically since the scandal broke in January; she resigned shortly afterward. Her mother, Carolynn Rowland, told the Free Press earlier this month that Beatty's life has been turned upside down.

Monday afternoon, Beatty turned herself in to the Wayne County Sheriff's Office in Westland to face charges of perjury, obstruction and willful misconduct. She is expected to be arraigned today in 36th District Court, as is Kilpatrick.

Her lawyer, Mayer Morganroth, said Monday that Beatty plans to go to trial. "We have full confidence she will be exonerated," he said.

Detroit attorney Marvin Barnett said legal strategies can change as a criminal case proceeds. He said he would have approached Worthy's office a month ago if he represented Beatty.

"When you have a person that is equally culpable, it's who gets to the courthouse first," he said. "All conspiracy cases are the same; you've got to get somebody on the inside."

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