

★ Lawyer accuses Cohen

May be behind leaks, Daniels' attorney says

BY JOHN RILEY

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The lawyer for Stormy Daniels claimed in a federal court filing on Tuesday that President Donald Trump's lawyer Michael Cohen may be leaking "select audio recordings" of the porn star that were seized during FBI raids on Cohen's home and office in April.

Lawyer Michael Avenatti, in a letter to U.S. District Judge Kimba Wood, asked her to question Cohen about the leaks at an upcoming hearing in a lawsuit over attorney-client privilege claims by Cohen and Trump relating to materials seized by federal agents investigating Cohen.

"We have reason to believe that plaintiff Michael Cohen or members of his team have begun to leak select audio recordings to the media," Avenatti wrote. "We further have reason to believe that these recordings may relate to our client."

Avenatti said the leaks were "meant to paint a false narrative relating to Mr. Cohen and his business dealings at the same time he is not disclosing numerous other recordings of him speaking with individuals such as Mr. Trump."

Cohen made a \$130,000 payment to Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, to keep her quiet in 2016 about an alleged affair with Trump. Prosecutors say he is under investigation for fraud-related offenses. A special master named by Wood is currently reviewing the seized files to filter out privileged materials.

Avenatti wants to intervene in the case over the seized files because he said they likely contain materials relating to Daniels. Earlier this month, he publicized confidential bank records from Cohen revealing massive payments to him from companies with issues before the government.

That sparked a war of words with Cohen in court filings over whether Avenatti should be allowed to participate in the case. In Tuesday's letter Avenatti said the purported leaks of audio recordings would call into doubt the "seriousness" of Cohen's claims that Avenatti is behav-

ing unethically.

Prosecutors have still not seen the materials seized from Cohen while special master Barbara Jones reviews them. As part of that process, Cohen has been provided copies of everything seized from him.

Avenatti said that if Cohen is leaking those materials it may "directly interfere with the privilege review being conducted by the special master." No news reports had surfaced by Tuesday afternoon about audiotapes involving Daniels. A lawyer for Cohen did not immediately return a call for comment.

While Avenatti blasted Cohen in New York, a California federal bankruptcy judge on Tuesday ordered Avenatti's law firm to pay \$10 million to a former colleague after failing to make a \$2 million payment personally guaranteed by Avenatti to settle the firm bankruptcy, the Los Angeles Times reported.

The paper also reported that the Justice Department revealed that Avenatti has defaulted on \$440,000 in back taxes, penalties and interest he promised to pay for the law firm.

Avenatti did not return a call for comment.

TEEN CHARGED IN DEATH OF BALTIMORE COP

The Associated Press

PERRY HALL, Md. — A 16-year-old who was supposed to be on house arrest for auto theft was charged Tuesday with first-degree murder in the death of a Maryland police officer.

After hearing about Dawnta Anthony Harris' numerous recent run-ins with the law, a judge called him a "one-man crime wave" and ordered the teen held without bail.

More than 20 police officers were in the courtroom when Harris made his first court appearance by video. Harris has been charged as an adult in the Monday killing of Baltimore County Police Officer Amy Caprio, who was responding to a report of a suspicious vehicle that authorities say was involved in a burglary.

Investigators have reviewed the slain officer's body camera footage, prosecutor William Bickel said during the hearing. It clearly shows Harris accelerating a stolen Jeep at Caprio after she tried to apprehend him on a suburban cul-de-sac in the Perry Hall community, north-east of Baltimore, he said.

"She fired her weapon. He ran over her," Bickel said. Harris was apprehended shortly after abandoning the Jeep, which was stolen Friday in Baltimore, not far away, Bickel said.

When asked if he understood the charge he faces, Harris mumbled "yes" as he sat next to his public defender.

Harris has a series of auto



Officer Amy Caprio

theft arrests and a repeated history of running away from juvenile facilities, Bickel said. The teen was on house arrest at his mother's West Baltimore home but ran away May 14, prosecutors said.

Judge Sally Chester ordered the ninth-grader to be held at Baltimore County Detention Center, an adult lockup.

According to a probable cause statement filed Tuesday, Harris told a detective he had been waiting in the driver's seat of the vehicle as "associates" were committing a burglary.

He tried to flee in the Jeep when he saw Caprio arrive on the block, but she followed him and ordered him out of the vehicle, the statement said. Harris told the detective that he "drove at the officer," according to the statement.

Police said three other teenagers suspected in area burglaries were in custody Tuesday in connection with the incident. The teens, whom police didn't immediately name, were expected to have initial court appearances Wednesday.

DeVos: School safety plan in works

BY TOM BRUNE

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WASHINGTON — Education Secretary Betsy DeVos said Tuesday the school safety commission created after the Parkland, Florida, high school shooting has held "listening sessions" with officials and parents but is still putting together its agenda and won't report until year's end.

Just days after the Santa Fe High School shooting in Texas, DeVos testified before the House Committee on Education and the Workforce about the work of the commission, which President Donald Trump formed in March.

She indicated that the commission she leads with the attorney general and two other cabinet secretaries remains in the early stages of its organization and work, but said it had begun to move forward.

"We are seeking input from

students, parents, teachers, school safety personal, administrators, law enforcement officials, mental health professionals, school counselors — anyone who is focused on identifying and elevating practical solutions," DeVos said.

White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Friday after the Texas high school shooting that the commission had been "activated."

"Going forward we will soon have a timeline to be published more broadly," DeVos said. "The commission looks forward to delivering best practices and findings by year's end."

Noting that the report would not be available for another seven months as educators and families worried about more school violence, Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-Ore.) asked, "Will you please expedite the work of the commission?"

DeVos responded, "We are working very quickly."

Trump named DeVos, Attorney General Jeff Sessions, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar and Homeland Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen to the commission. It held one closed-door organizational session, on March 28.

At the hearing on Tuesday, Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-N.C.), the committee chairwoman, said state and local school districts are struggling with how to address school safety, and parents and students are concerned and "even scared," and looked forward to an update on the commission.

Later in the hearing, DeVos for the first time said schools and communities might not have to wait until December for some recommendations, telling Rep. Carol Shea-Porter (D-N.H.) that "hopefully an interim report" would provide some solutions. But DeVos did not say when such a report would be issued.



Bouquets left in a makeshift memorial near the cul-de-sac where Officer Caprio was fatally run over on Monday.