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Worthy says 'stress' taking toll on her office

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The Detroit News

Detroit -- Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy pointed to "stress" today when asked about a spate of legal and other problems involving her assistant prosecutors.

"All I can say is we're a very stressed office in terms of personnel," Worthy said at a news conference, shortly after telling reporters her staffing levels are not what they should be.

But when pressed, Worthy would not say whether she believes recent troubles that five of her officials have gotten into are the result of job-related stress.

Three of Worthy's assistant prosecutors and her former lobbyist face criminal charges. A fourth assistant prosecutor -- the lead attorney in the prosecution of former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick -- is on leave for an undisclosed reason.

- Karen Plants, Worthy's former top drug prosecutor, is charged with obstruction of justice in connection with her handling of a 2005 trial.
- Assistant Prosecutor Mary Rubio is facing a drinking and driving charge.
- Assistant Prosecutor Teresa Smith is charged with domestic violence.
- Mary Waters, a former lobbyist for Worthy, is charged with bribery in a federal case involving political consultant Sam Riddle and former Southfield City Councilman William Lattimore. The alleged offenses were not committed while Waters worked for Worthy, though Waters resigned her prosecutor's job for "personal reasons" as news of the criminal investigation broke.
- Assistant Prosecutor Robert Moran is on leave. Maria Miller, a spokeswoman for Worthy, has refused to say why. Moran has not responded to requests for interviews.

Worthy said her office deals with stressful issues such as "murder, rape, robbery, child molestation every day, and my office is stressed just like any other office is stressed."

However, "I don't have any comment on any personnel matters at this time," she said.

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