

# Cain

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thrown his presidential campaign into turmoil. She said she was reluctant to describe the encounters she had with Cain when they worked together at the Washington-based restaurant trade group.

The employee described in conversations with the AP over several days situations in which she said Cain told her that he had confided to colleagues how attractive she was and invited her to his corporate apartment outside work.

His actions "were inappropriate, and it made me feel uncomfortable," she said.

Asked for comment about the accusations, including the most recent, Cain spokesman J.D. Gordon said, "Mr. Cain has said over the past two days at public events that we could see other baseless allegations made against him as this appalling smear campaign continues." Gordon added, "He has never acted in the way alleged by inside-the-Beltway media, and his distinguished record over 40 years spent climbing the corporate ladder speaks for itself."

The AP confirmed that the employee worked at the restaurant association with Cain during the period in question, that she has no party affiliation in her voter registration in the past decade and is not identified as a donor in federal campaigns or local political campaigns. Records show she was registered as a Democrat at one point previously.

Though trying to project an image of campaign business as usual, Cain appeared frazzled at times Wednesday and couldn't escape the questions that have dogged him since a published report Sunday night that at least two

women had complained about his behavior while at the restaurant association and had been given financial settlements. The controversy has arisen two months before the leadoff Iowa caucuses and as polls show Cain at the head of the GOP field alongside former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney.

In an interview with Forbes, Cain said he believes a consultant to Texas Gov. Rick Perry, one of his GOP rivals, gave information about the allegations to Politico for the original report.

Perry's campaign denied it. "No one at this campaign had anything to do with this story. We strongly reject the accusation, and learned of the allegations when we read Politico," said spokesman Ray Sullivan.

Cain said he outlined the allegations of a woman to the consultant, Curt Anderson, when Anderson was helping him on an earlier campaign.

As the day began, Cain said, "There are factions that are trying to destroy me personally, as well as this campaign." He didn't say to whom he was referring, but he said "the voice of the people" is stronger.

Cain was supposed to take questions after a speech to health care professionals, but he ultimately refused and left the hotel through a back door.

When pressed about the week's previous allegations, Cain raised his voice and said "What did I say? Excuse me. Excuse me!" as hotel security led him through a hallway jammed with journalists in a Washington suburb. "What part of 'no' don't people understand?"

Meanwhile, another of Cain's accusers appeared increasingly reluctant to speak publicly, though her lawyer took the first steps for her to do so. Attorney Joel P. Bennett contacted the association on Wednesday and asked it to release his client from the confidentiality

arrangement she had agreed to so that she could talk openly about her allegations and respond to Cain's assertion that her complaints were "totally baseless and totally false."

Cain has declined to say whether he will ask his former employer to terminate confidentiality restrictions on the two women who accused him of sexual harassment in the 1990s while he was head of the trade group. Cain campaign manager Mark Block said the campaign would address that question "when it's appropriate."

Sue Hensley, a restaurant association spokeswoman, confirmed that Bennett contacted the trade group and was told to contact its outside counsel. Hensley said Bennett expected to meet with his client and make the request on Thursday.

Confidentiality agreements that commit both sides to silence are common in financial settlements of an employee's sexual harassment claims, lawyers for management and employees said. Violating such an agreement can lead to a complaint in court and an order to pay damages, or at least the other side's attorney's fees, said Sarah Pierce Wimberly, a partner in the Atlanta office of the Ford and Harrison law firm.

But when the silence is broken, it's often hard to find the source of the leak, said Robert Kelner, a partner in the Covington and Burling firm's Washington office. He said, "The truth is, when parties enter into these confidentiality agreements around a settlement, they usually understand that there is less than 100 percent certainty that the information is truly going to remain confidential."

It's not clear if Cain himself was part of the settlement or whether it just involved the association and the woman. But he almost certainly would be bound by

it, as the association's former president.

Over the past two days, Cain has acknowledged he knew of one agreement between the restaurant association and a woman who accused him of sexual harassment. He has said the woman initially asked for a large financial settlement but ultimately received two to three months' pay as part of a separation agreement. Cain also acknowledged remembering one of the woman's accusations against him, saying he stepped close to her to make a reference to her height and told her she was the same height as his wife.

He has said he is not aware of agreements or settlements with any other women, though Politico — which first disclosed the allegations — reported that the trade group had given settlements to at least two female employees who accused him of inappropriate sexual behavior.

In media interviews since the story broke Sunday, Cain has offered conflicting accounts of what happened during his tenure at the trade group in Washington. He later acknowledged knowing about one settlement but said he did not know how much was paid. The *New York Times* reported Tuesday that one payout was \$35,000, equivalent to one year's salary for one of the women.

# Habitat

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hours in construction of their home. An onsite construction manager oversees each project. The time for completing a home varies but average is between eight and nine months.

"We're fortunate to have a number of people in Yankton with different construction skill sets as well as people who want to help in any way they can, who donate time, materials, meals or other resources," Kirby says. "That really helps keep the cost of the homes down. We also have some businesses in town who sometimes bring their employees over and they all pitch in to help build the home."

"One of our greatest needs right now is for lots where we can build future homes," Kirby adds. "Of course, we are always in need of new donors and volunteers, materials and extra hands who wish to work on the building site."

Since the organization was established, they have completed approximately two homes each

year. Board President Steve Huff says, for its size, Yankton's Habitat organization has a highly successful track record.

"We remain the second largest Habitat chapter in the state," Huff says. "Our funds come from private donations and grants. We have developed our Carpenter Club, the Habitat 500 and some other fund raising events during the year."

Yankton's HFH is currently seeking applicants for their "A Brush With Kindness" program, which offers assistance to low-income homeowners by offering minor exterior home improvements. Volunteer teams work to improve the condition of homes by painting, fix-up, minor exterior repair and landscaping. All the work is done at little to no cost to homeowners.

The HFH website, [www.habitatyanktoncounty.com](http://www.habitatyanktoncounty.com), contains additional information about Yankton's HFH organization and activities.

"This is an organization that gives people in Yankton an opportunity to help people here meet their basic needs," Kirby says. "I'm excited to be part of that. I believe God would have all of us serve others in some way."

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