

State finds former surgeon unprofessional

By [Chuck Allen](#)

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Friday, December 10, 2010

QUINCY — The Department of Health has alleged that Gaston Cornu-Labat, a former Quincy Valley Medical Center surgeon, engaged in unprofessional conduct by failing to comply with the Medical Quality Assurance Commission's order for an investigative mental examination.

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The allegation was made in a statement of charges posted on the Department of Health's website last week.

Cornu-Labat was fired as surgeon at the hospital in October 2009 after he refused to undergo a mental evaluation by the Washington Physicians Health Program. Cornu-Labat said he didn't trust the program, which offers anonymous evaluations and treatment of medical providers for mental health and substance-abuse issues so they can return to practice.

He instead submitted the results of four psychological evaluations that he commissioned. When QVMC did not accept the evaluations provided by Cornu-Labat, he then referred his case to the Department of Health.

Cornu-Labat stated last December that he made the referral "to see if they consider necessary any further evaluation of my person for which I am at their disposition."

In a statement e-mailed to the Post-Register on Tuesday, Cornu-Labat alleges the Department of Health investigators are incompetent or are participating in a cover-up with the Medical Center.

"At this point it is evident that what complicated the matters even further is the fact that the negligence present at QVMC reflects on DOH performance as the regulatory agency," stated Cornu-Labat. "Either this and the consequent perceived need to cover it up or just the sheer incompetence and inefficiency of the few DOH employees involved in this case has made this drag on for 14 months with complete disregard from their part for the profound damages all this has implied to my professional career and mine and my family's well being."

Quincy Valley Medical Center Administrator Mehdi Merred said the DOH's statement of allegations supports the conclusion QVMC reached last year regarding Cornu-Labat.

"I'm glad to see the Department of Health has reached the same conclusion that QVMC has reached," Merred said. "Let us not forget he has chosen the Department of Health to be the arbitrator in this matter. On Dec. 10, 2009, he stated that he has intended to be at their disposition and his actions are now in contradiction with his statements. It is important to remember that we went above and beyond for him not to be in that situation."

Cornu-Labat stated his mental health is not an issue and he is being retaliated against for standing up for his rights. "The issue has never been my refusal to submit to a mental health evaluation when in fact I have had four evaluations done by idoneous and recognized professionals that clearly establish that there is absolutely nothing wrong with my mental health. I have never refused the evaluations but have remained firm all along in standing for my rights and have refused to submit to capricious and abusive impositions backed by a most abusive and unprofessional attitude of imposing 'because I say so' and flexing muscle."

Despite his concerns, Cornu-Labat said he will continue with the MQAC proceedings.

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iconoclastinator (Knutzing Izacred) 5 days, 21 hours ago

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Wow...an unprofessional doctor? Who knew. It's truly unfortunate that we are SO in need of doctors in this country that the quacks are often overlooked....such as a certain ENT that moved from here to Ellensburg whose skills with a knife rival that of Josef Mengele. She's still practicing medicine. Maybe with enough practice....she'll get it right one day.

LOVE the last paragraph. Get real!!! If we all have nothing to fear from your mental state and you want to practice medicine in this great land, take the damn test they require. It doesn't take asurgeon....to figure out that they hospital CANNOT accept such tests you've commissioned yourself because they are open to undo influence by the individual being tested. Such tests must be impartially given in order to protect the validity of the outcome. If you do not understand this concept, please return your medical degree to the cereal box from whence it came.

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oh and: "...capricious and abusive impositions..." REALLY? so, you are the ONLY doctor that they've required these tests from? Doubtful. From the sound of it though, the tests are certainly warranted!

Kudos to the Dept. of Health!

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girlfawkes (r wools) 5 days, 21 hours ago

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I'll confess. I had to look up the definition of "idoneous".

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alanseaton (Alan Seaton) 5 days, 12 hours ago

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Why does someone need to get 4 psychiatrists to tell them they are sane? The action speaks for itself.

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