

PREGNANCY FRAUD

Daughter of Bay Area radio icon Ronn Owens pleads guilty pregnancy fraud case

In a case that drew national attention, Laura Owens was accused of falsifying pregnancy claims against two men, one who is former 'The Bachelor' star Clayton Echard



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Laura Owens, the daughter of Bay Area radio icon **Ronn Owens**, pleaded guilty Friday in a pregnancy fraud case that became a national cause célèbre after she accused former

“Bachelor” star Clayton Echard and a second man of getting her pregnant, and she unsuccessfully pursued her claims against them in years-long court battles.

The 36-year-old Owens took a plea deal with prosecutors in Maricopa County, Arizona, where she and her parents moved in 2021 after Ronn Owens, now 80, retired from his nearly five-decade career at KGO-810, according [to a video from KTAR.com in Arizona](#).

Owens was charged with a total of 14 felony counts and pleaded guilty to four related to her 2023 pregnancy claims against Echard, who lives in Scottsdale, Arizona, and her 2021 claims against a second Scottsdale man. The counts to which she pleaded guilty are: fraudulent schemes and artifices and perjury involving her claims against Echard; and fraudulent schemes and artifices involving the second Arizona man.



Owens also pleaded guilty to taking the identity of another, stemming from allegations she stole another woman’s ultrasound image of her twins, according to a Maricopa County Attorney’s Office report. The woman had posted the image online in 2014, while writing a blog post about her grief over learning she was pregnant with twins and then losing one of the twins. Owens then allegedly texted the ultrasound image to the second Arizona man to show a purported twin pregnancy, according to the report. With Owens’ plea deal with prosecutors, 10 of the other felony counts were dismissed. She faces sentencing on Oct. 23. Witnesses in the courtroom reported online that Echard was present, as was Owens’ mother, former KCBS reporter Jan Black, and a

number of people who have been following the case. Witnesses also said that Owens was crying at some point before pleading guilty.

KTAR News in Arizona reported that the first count Owens pleaded guilty to carries no sentencing agreement, meaning the judge can impose anything from probation to 12.5 years in prison. The remaining three counts call for probation.

The Maricopa County Attorney's Office report and the indictment against Owens allege she accused Echard and the second Arizona man of getting her pregnant in order to compel them into relationships after they briefly dated her and had sexual encounters with her.

Owens met up with Echard in May 2023. At the time, Echard, who starred on ABC's "The Bachelor" in 2022, was working as a real estate agent in Scottsdale, and Owens contacted him about wanting to pursue some real estate investments, according to court records in the Echard paternity case.

After their one and only date, Echard told her he did not want a relationship, according to records. At one point, Owens allegedly told Echard she was pregnant with twins, and the criminal charges against her say she doctored a sonogram and pregnancy video and lied under oath as she took him to court, according to prosecutors.

The Maricopa County Attorney's Office report also alleged that Owens, an aspiring self-help podcaster, sought to "increase her notoriety" through "lies and contrived evidence," as she took the men to court to seek protective orders. In both cases, Owens said the pregnancies ended either because of miscarriage or because she had an abortion.

Owens began to attract widespread national attention after she publicized her paternity claims against Echard in a 2023 interview with The Sun. She soon became the subject of reports, commentary and investigations by YouTubers Dave Neal and Megan Fox and

other online sleuths and “Bachelor” fans. The case has also been examined in the iHeartMedia and Glass podcast “Love Trapped.”

Owens came under criminal investigation after a Maricopa County family court judge, presiding over her June 2024 paternity trial against Echard, referred the case to prosecutors. The judge, Julie Mata, said that Owens lacked “good faith” and cited “serial fabrications” that she made in her court declarations, deposition and testimony.

Before Owens and her family moved to Arizona, she accused a third man, who is from San Francisco, of getting her pregnant in 2016. Owens also took the man, Michael Marraccini, to court in San Francisco County after they broke up in 2017. She obtained a domestic violence restraining order, alleging that he had been physically and verbally abusive during their 17-month relationship, and that she feared for her safety.

Marraccini has said that Owens also fabricated her pregnancy claims against him, as well, including claims she was pregnant with twins, before she said she lost the pregnancy, either through a miscarriage or abortion. Marraccini also denied ever abusing her and told this news organization that her allegations and years of court action hurt his reputation, career prospects, finances and cost him thousands of dollars in legal fees.

Last year, Owens sought to renew the restraining order, even though he lives more than 700 miles away in Northern California. Her petition was dismissed in November because she failed to appear at San Francisco County Superior Court for scheduled hearings.