

Editor:Re "The

- > Cowardly Labor Secretary" (editorial, March 3):Your editorial's
- > conclusions are in profound conflict with the reality as we,
- > Jeffrey Epstein's current and former lawyers, knew it.
- > Alexander
- > Acosta, the labor secretary, as United States attorney for
- > the Southern District of Florida in 2007, oversaw a plea
- > deal for Mr. Epstein involving charges of solicitation of prostitution
- involving
- > young women. Your underlying premise is that Mr. Acosta had
- > capitulated and not filed federal charges because Mr.
- > Epstein had a "high-priced defense team." This was categorically
- > denied by the Southern District's then first assistant,
- > Jeffrey H. Sloman, in an Op-Ed
- > article in The Miami Herald on Feb. 15. Mr. Sloman
- > correctly represented the existence of "significant legal
- impediments to {federally} prosecuting" what was a quintessentially
- state case. He also correctly represented that the government had
- achieved its principal objectives — a felony plea,
- > incarceration, millions of dollars in
- > monetary settlements, and lifetime sex offender registration
- > — through its agreement with Mr. Epstein. That agreement was
- > reviewed at multiple levels of the Justice Department. An
- > agreement rather than a trial is how over 97 percent of
- > federal cases get resolved,
- > through negotiations by two teams of experienced

> professionals. The case lacked the credible and compelling proof that is required by federal criminal statutes. That the guilty plea
> was required in a state not federal court reflected the absence of
> evidence that Mr. Epstein used the internet, or commercially trafficked women to others,
> engaged in force, fraud or coercion, used drugs or alcohol
> to entice young women who came to his house to exchange
> sexual massages for money, or in
> other ways violated federal law. Your claims regarding
> the number of young women involved in the investigation were
> vastly exaggerated, there was no "international
> sex-trafficking operation"
> and there was never evidence anywhere at anytime that Mr. Epstein "hosted sex
> parties".
> . Finally, Mr. Epstein
> has gone to prison and made enormous monetary settlements
> required under his negotiated agreement. He is entitled to
> finality like every other defendant.