

exclusive contract to manage all the sales and leasing of postal real estate. Williams noted that outsourcing these activities to a single firm is "a fundamental change from how the Postal Service previously managed its real estate portfolio [and] Facilities officials should improve oversight to mitigate inherent risks associated with the CBRE contract Specifically, there are conflict of interest concerns."

Williams warned of the potential for contract fraud, but he stopped short of referring the matter to a prosecutor, and advised the postal executives in charge of the CBRE contract to clean up their act.

It's clear CBRE sold properties at bargain prices to favored parties, violating its contract with the Post Office:

In June 2011, the Postal Service hired CBRE as its exclusive agent to sell post offices, warehouses, parking lots, and vacant land worth hundreds of millions of dollars. The contract instructs CBRE to propose properties to sell with final approval reserved to the head of the Postal Service's Facilities Division, Tom Samra. And it requires CBRE to sell them at or above appraised (fair market) values, or not at all.

CBRE is also charged with appraising the fair market value of these properties and listing a reasonable sales price. It is important to point out that real estate appraisals are not customarily performed by the agent marketing the property. To avoid conflicts of interest, property appraisals are normally performed by professionals not involved in negotiating the sale.

So you can see how this charade works: CBRE is tasked with selling properties at market value or higher. But who determines what market value is? CBRE. So the fox is officially running the henhouse. Byrne filed a FOIA to try to obtain the appraisals. The Post Office refused, with the intelligence-insulting excuse that the appraisals were commercially sensitive and were comparable to national security secrets! Um, they are property specific and at a certain point in time, so their value after a sale is consummated is nil...except for audit purposes. But it appears that anything that might embarrass DiFi, who chairs the Senate Intelligence Committee, by definition is a national security issue.

But what is in the public record is plenty damning. CBRE was routinely selling property at below assessed value. For anyone familiar with real estate in the US, "assessed value" is the value used for

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real estate tax purposes and by convention, almost without exception is meaningfully below market value. Bryne recaps the record:

During the first two years of its contract, CBRE sold the 52 properties it had picked to market for millions of dollars less than their assessed values. For example, in Seattle, CBRE sold a post office building in 2011 for \$8 million that was assessed at \$16 million. And earlier this year, it sold a seventeen-story office building in St. Paul, Minnesota for \$20 million under the 2009 value assessed for it shortly before it was put on the market by CBRE.

Details presented in the chapter "Following the Money" of this e-book show that from June 2011 through May 2013, CBRE sold 52 postal properties for \$166 million. The total assessed value of this portfolio at the time of sale was \$232 million. Subtracting out the nine properties that sold at a value higher than their assessed value, CBRE has arguably undersold its postal real estate portfolio by at least \$79 million. And it undersold these properties even as the price of commercial real estate, especially for central downtown parcels, was approaching the pre-crash highs of 2007.

Interviews about standard real estate practices with two experts provided by the National Association of Realtors indicate that the sale of a property at or below assessed values most often occurs when it is located in a distressed or impoverished area. When there is shortage of commercial real estate in developable areas — which has been the general situation, nationwide, for several years — demand tends to push prices far higher than assessed values.

But the vast majority of the CBRE-negotiated sales did not involve distressed properties: They were mostly located in economically healthy neighborhoods. The sales were mostly of central downtown buildings, with parking, in wealthy or revitalizing neighborhoods that attracted restaurant, boutique, and residential developers, or modern, suburban office buildings and warehouses, also with ample parking that attracted high-tech industrial firms.

There's more damning detail in the book extract. I strongly urge you to read it in full. This case shows how open our ruling classes have become in stealing from the public at large. And the worst is that even if this story were to get traction, it's highly unlikely anyone has the guts to cut a super powerful couple like Blum and Feinstein down to size.

2010

Judicial Watch, the public interest group that investigates and prosecutes government corruption, today released its 2010 list of Washington's "Ten Most Wanted Corrupt Politicians." The list, in alphabetical order, includes: Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Rahm Emanuel, Former Obama White House Chief of Staff, Senator John Ensign (R-NV), Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA), Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr. (D-IL), President Barack Obama, Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Rep. Charles Rangel (D-NY), Rep. Hal Rogers (R-KY), and Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA).

Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) is Chair of the Senate Select Committee on Ethics. But it appears she still needs an ethics lesson. Boxer presided over a year-long investigation by the Senate Ethics Committee into whether two of her Senate colleagues, Christopher Dodd (D-CT) and Kent Conrad (D-ND), received preferential treatment from Countrywide Financial as part of the company's "VIP" program. (Senate ethics rules prohibit members from receiving loan terms not available to the general public.) In fact, according to *The Associated Press*, during an Ethics Committee hearing Boxer asked "the bulk of the questions."

However, Boxer failed to mention (or disclose on her official Senate Financial Disclosure documents) that she and her husband have signed no less than seven mortgages with Countrywide! At the time of the hearing, Boxer reportedly indicated she had paid off two Countrywide mortgages, but did not mention the others.

The evidence clearly showed that Dodd and Conrad knew they were receiving preferential treatment despite repeated denials. Yet Boxer's Senate Ethics Committee allowed Dodd and Conrad to wriggle off the hook with a light admonition that suggested the two Senators should have exercised better judgment. The same, apparently, can be said of the Committee's own chair, who either neglected to mention or outright lied about her own dealings with the corrupt mortgage company.

Rahm Emanuel, Former Obama White House Chief of Staff didn't earn the nickname "Rahmbo" for being a mild-mannered shrinking violet. He served as Bill Clinton's chief money-man at a time when the Clinton campaign was corrupted by foreign money. He defended the "worst of the worst" Clinton scandals, and, in fact, earned his reputation as a ruthless political combatant by fiercely defending President Clinton in the Monica Lewinsky investigation. (Notably, Emanuel also served on the board of Freddie Mac when the company was involved in fraudulent activity.)

The bottom line is that when the Clintons' dirty work needed to be done, Emanuel did it and apparently without question. That didn't change under Obama. Remember when the Obama White House wanted to manipulate Democratic primaries in 2010?

Emanuel teamed with his then-Deputy Chief of Staff Jim Messina to allegedly interfere with Senate elections in Pennsylvania and Colorado by offering federal appointments to Rep. Joe Sestak and Andrew Romanoff. Sestak and Romanoff were not Obama's favored candidates, so Emanuel and Messina apparently attempted to unlawfully persuade them to abandon their campaigns.

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A Judicial Watch complaint to the U.S. Office of Special Counsel on June 15, 2010, tells the story: "As widely reported in the media, White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel and Deputy Chief of Staff Jim Messina, on behalf of the Obama Administration, have both used their position and influence as highly placed federal employees to affect the outcome of federal elections in direct violation of the Hatch Act, which states that an employee may not 'use his official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with or affecting the result of an election.'"

And then, of course, there's Emanuel's participation in the Blagojevich scandal.

According to sworn testimony during the "Blago" trial, Emanuel served as Obama's chief negotiator with the Blagojevich team as the former Illinois Governor attempted to illegally sell Obama's former Senate seat to the highest bidder. Unfortunately, the federal prosecutor cut short the case against Blagojevich and Emanuel and other Obama insiders were never called to testify.

Emanuel left the White House under an ethical cloud and has decided to throw his hat in the ring for Mayor of Chicago, where he again stands accused of ignoring the rules and violating the law regarding candidate residency requirements.

Senator John Ensign (R-NV): In a scandal that first broke in 2009, Senator Ensign publicly admitted to an affair with the wife of a long-time staffer. And the evidence indicates Ensign then tried to cover up his sexual shenanigans by bribing the couple with lucrative gifts and political favors.

According to *The New York Times*, after Ensign's aide, Douglas Hampton, discovered the affair, "Mr. Ensign asked political backers to find a job for... Hampton. Payments of \$96,000 to the Hamptons also were made by Senator Ensign's parents, who insist this was a gift, not hush money. Once a lobbying job was secured, Senator Ensign and his chief of staff continued to help Mr. Hampton, advocating his clients' cases directly with federal agencies."

These lobbying activities were seemingly in violation of the Senate's "cooling off" period for lobbyists. According to *The Wall Street Journal*, "Under Senate rules, former Senate aides cannot lobby their former colleagues for one year after leaving Capitol Hill." Hampton began to lobby Mr. Ensign's office immediately upon leaving his congressional job.

Ensign seems to have ignored the law and allowed Hampton lobbying access to his office as a payment for his silence about the affair. And despite the claims of Ensign and his parents, the \$96,000 in "gifts" provided to the Hamptons were clearly hush payments.

Nonetheless, on December 1, 2010, the Obama Justice Department announced it will file no criminal charges against Ensign, while the Federal Election Commission has also dismissed a related ethics complaint. If there is to be justice for Ensign, it will have to be up to the corrupt (see Boxer entry above) Senate Ethics Committee, which is still considering the charges against the Nevada Republican.

Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA): In a story that continued to mushroom throughout 2010, Congressman Barney Frank (D-MA) improperly intervened for Maxine Waters (D-CA) on behalf of his home-state OneUnited Bank to obtain Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) funds. When asked about the scandal, the Massachusetts Democrat admitted he spoke to a "federal regulator" but, according to *The Wall Street Journal* he didn't remember which federal regulator he spoke with."

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According to explosive Treasury Department emails uncovered by Judicial Watch in 2010, however, it appears this nameless bureaucrat was none other than then-Treasury Secretary Henry "Hank" Paulson!

While Frank's "partner in crime" in the OneUnited scandal, Congressman Maxine Waters, is being investigated by the House Ethics Committee (see below), Frank's colleagues in the House have inexcusably ignored the Massachusetts Democrat's connection to the OneUnited grant.

To this day, Barney Frank continues to defend his role in the meltdown of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, saying he was just as blindsided as the rest of America when the two government sponsored enterprises collapsed, triggering the financial crisis. Frank has been peddling this fiction ever since the economy collapsed in September 2008. But, as The Boston Globe reported in a devastating article published on October 14, 2010, not many people are buying Frank's lies anymore. And Frank knows it. Here's an excerpt from the Globe:

The issue...in 2003 was whether mortgage backers Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac were fiscally strong. Frank declared with his trademark confidence that they were, accusing critics and regulators of exaggerating threats to Fannie's and Freddie's financial integrity. And, the Massachusetts Democrat maintained, 'even if there were problems, the federal government doesn't bail them out.' Now, it's clear he was wrong on both points...

Frank wasn't wrong. He was just lying through his teeth. Frank claims that he "missed" the warning signs with Fannie and Freddie because he was wearing "ideological blinders," which was just his lame attempt to blame Republicans. But he did not miss them. According to evidence uncovered by Judicial Watch, he just chose to ignore them.

Judicial Watch obtained documents in 2010 proving that members of Congress, including — and perhaps especially — Barney Frank, were well aware that Fannie and Freddie were in deep trouble due to corruption and incompetence and yet they did nothing to stop it.

Moreover, as the Globe notes, in July 2008, then-Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson says he called Frank and told him the government would need to spend "billions of taxpayer dollars to backstop the institutions from catastrophic failure." Frank, despite that conversation, appeared on national television two days later and said the companies were "fundamentally sound, not in danger of going under." Less than two months later, the government seized Fannie and Freddie and the bailout began.

Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. (D-IL): This year's trial of scandal-ridden former Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich ended with "Blago" being convicted of only 1 of 24 charges related to the scheme to sell Obama's vacated Senate seat to the highest bidder. But as the government plans its second attempt to prosecute the case, one person who should be on the hot-seat is Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. (D-IL).

According to the Chicago Sun-Times, "Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. directed a major political fund-raiser to offer former Gov. Rod Blagojevich millions of dollars in campaign cash in return for an appointment to the U.S. Senate."

How much cash?

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The *Chicago Sun Times* put that figure at \$1.5 million in its initial reports. But according to Jackson's fundraiser, Raghuveer Nayak, the Illinois Congressman asked him to offer not \$1.5 million, but a whopping \$6 million in campaign cash to Blagojevich to secure the Senate seat!

In addition to his corrupt deal-making, in 2010 Jackson was also nailed for conducting an improper and potentially criminal relationship with a female "social acquaintance."

Nayak told investigators that Jackson asked him to "pay to fly a Washington, DC, restaurant hostess named Giovana Huidobro...to Chicago to visit him." Nayak reportedly did so twice.

We all know what "social acquaintance" means under these circumstances. Jackson says this is a "private and personal matter between me and my wife." But not if it involves public funds or illegal gifts — issues which remain unsettled.

President Barack Obama: Remember the promise President Obama made just after his inauguration in 2009? "Transparency and the rule of law will be the touchstones of this presidency."

Instead, Americans have suffered through lies, stonewalling, cover-ups, corruption, secrecy, scandal and blatant disregard for the rule of law...this has been the Obama legacy in its first two years.

In 2010, Obama was caught in a lie over what he knew about Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich's scheme to sell the president's vacated Senate seat. Blagojevich's former Chief of Staff John Harris testified that Obama had personal knowledge of Blago's plot to obtain a presidential cabinet position in exchange for appointing a candidate handpicked by the President. In fact, according to Harris's court testimony, Obama sent Blagojevich a list of "acceptable" Senate candidates to fill his old seat. Obama was interviewed by the FBI even before he was sworn into office. He claimed he and his staff had no contact with Blagojevich's office. Unfortunately federal prosecutors never called the President or his staff to testify under oath.

The President also broke his famous pledge to televise healthcare negotiations. And in 2010, we learned why he broke his pledge. In what is now known as the "Cornhusker Kickback" scheme, Obama and the Democrats in the Senate "purchased" the vote of one of the last Democrat hold-outs, Nebraska Senator Ben Nelson, who opposed Obamacare over the issue of covering abortions with taxpayer funds. Nelson abandoned his opposition to Obamacare after receiving millions of dollars in federal aid for his home-state, helping to give the Democrats the 60 votes they needed to overcome a Republican filibuster. Same goes for Louisiana Democratic Senator Mary Landrieu, who received a \$100 million payoff in what has been called "The Louisiana Purchase." (The Kickback was so corrupt that Democrats stripped it out at the last minute. The Louisiana Purchase, on the other hand, became law of the land.)

Obama lied about his White House's involvement in this legislative bribery that helped lead to the passage of the signature policy achievement of his presidency.

It's not often that House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi camps under the GOP tent, but that's just what happened recently when she broke ranks with Bay Area Democrats and the Obama administration and voted to keep billions of dollars in federal student aid flowing into the coffers of for-profit colleges.

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She had her reasons. Some of the biggest recipients of the \$32 billion in federal student loans and Pell Grants each year paid to for-profits are in her district - including major Democratic donor John Sperling, founder of the online University of Phoenix, the nation's largest for-profit college.

The issue arose after Education Secretary Arne Duncan proposed a rule that would stiffen federal aid requirements for for-profits, making them provide stats showing that their students actually are getting the jobs they trained for."

<http://www.sfgate.com>

Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA): "Air Pelosi" is now grounded.

Judicial Watch uncovered documents back in 2009 detailing attempts by Pentagon staff to accommodate Pelosi's numerous requests for military escorts and military aircraft for herself and her family as well as the speaker's 11th hour cancellations and changes. In 2010, Judicial Watch kept the pressure on Pelosi, uncovering documents that demonstrated the Speaker was using U.S. Air Force aircraft as her own personal party planes. Overall, the Speaker's military travel cost the United States Air Force \$2,100,744.59 over a two-year period — \$101,429.14 of which was for in-flight expenses, including food and alcohol.

For example, purchases for one Pelosi-led congressional delegation traveling from Washington, DC to Tel Aviv, Israel and Baghdad, Iraq May 15-20, 2008, included: Johnny Walker Red scotch, Grey Goose vodka, E&J brandy, Bailey's Irish Cream, Maker's Mark whisky, Courvoisier cognac, Bacardi Light rum, Jim Beam whiskey, Beefeater gin, Dewar's scotch, Bombay Sapphire gin, Jack Daniels whiskey, Corona beer and several bottles of wine.

Moreover, Pelosi also abused the rules by allowing members of her family to join her on taxpayer-funded Air Force flights. For example, on June 20, 2009, Speaker Pelosi's daughter, son-in-law and two grandsons joined a flight from Andrews Air Force Base to San Francisco International Airport. That flight included \$143 for on-flight expenses for food and other items. On July 2, 2010, Pelosi took her grandson on a flight from Andrews Air Force Base to Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, California, which is northeast of San Francisco.

Judicial Watch's efforts not only exposed Nancy Pelosi's corrupt abuse of military aircraft, but they also led to reform when Rep. John Boehner announced after Election Day that, as Speaker of the House of Representatives, he will fly commercial to and from Ohio instead of using military aircraft.

Of course, it was Rep. Nancy Pelosi who famously promised to "drain the swamp" in Washington, DC during the campaign of 2006 when the Democrats seized control of power on Capitol Hill. That did not happen. Aside from her own personal transgressions, Pelosi also turned a blind eye to corruption on the part of her Congressional colleagues (see Charlie Rangel entry below).

Rep. Charles Rangel (D-NY): On December 2, 2010, the House of Representatives voted 333-79 to "censure" Rep. Charles Rangel. Next to expulsion, this is the most serious sanction that can be taken by the House against an individual member. This censure vote followed an investigation by the Committee for Official Standards of Conduct, which finally convicted Rangel on 13 ethics

violations, including:

- Forgetting to pay taxes on \$75,000 in rental income he earned from his offshore rental property. (Rangel was formerly in charge of the committee responsible for writing tax policy.)
- Misusing his congressional office, staff and resources to raise money for his private Rangel Center for Public Service, to be housed at the City College of New York. (He also put the squeeze on donors who had business before his House Ways and Means Committee, and used the congressional "free mail" privilege to solicit funds.)
- Misusing his residentially-zoned Harlem apartment as a campaign headquarters.
- Failing to report \$600,000 in income on his official congressional financial disclosure reports, which contained "numerous errors and omissions."

It is worth noting that the Committee did not consider other serious corruption charges against Rangel. For example, it has been alleged that Rangel preserved a tax loophole for an oil company in exchange for a Rangel Center donation. The Committee also did not consider the charge that Rangel used improper influence to maintain ownership of his highly coveted rent-controlled apartment — the same apartment he improperly used for campaign activities.

As this is Washington, politicians of both parties will pretend that censure is a serious punishment. But it is a "punishment" that simply requires Rangel to come to the well of the House and hear a disapproving statement read by lame-duck House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. In the real world, you get fired or thrown in jail for abusing your office and not paying your taxes.

Here is further context: The last time the House censured anyone was in 1983, when two congressmen (a Republican and Democrat) were censured for having sexual relationships with teenaged House pages. It seems that unless one is convicted of a crime, one can do *anything* as a congressman and not be thrown out of the House! The fact that the House has so rarely resorted to censure is more indicative of the lack of seriousness about ethics in Congress than of the so-called severity of the censure punishment.

Rangel should have been expelled from the House of Representatives.

Rep. Hal Rogers (R-KY): On Election Day 2010, voters sent Congress a clear message: No more big spending or corrupt back-room deals! And what did House Republicans decide to do as one of their first moves for the new Tea Party Congress? Appoint Rep. Hal Rogers, also known as the "Prince of Pork," to chair the powerful House Appropriations Committee.

According to ABC News: "In two years, Rogers pushed through 135 earmarks worth \$246 million. He's brought tens of millions of dollars into his hometown of Somerset, Ky., so much so that the town has been dubbed 'Mr. Rogers' neighborhood.'" Among the most egregious earmarks was a \$17 million grant Rogers obtained for an "Airport to Nowhere," a Kentucky airport with "so little traffic that the last commercial airline pulled out in February (2010)."

But the most serious charge against Rogers involves an earmark he obtained that could benefit one of his own family members.

Rogers secured \$5 million in the House for conservation groups that work with wild cats, including the Cheetah Conservation Fund, a Namibia-based organization that employs Rogers' daughter Allison. In fact, Allison Rogers serves as grants administrator. After she joined the organization in 2007,

Congressman Rogers began his push for funding. In 2009, with help from Rogers, the bill passed the House by a 2-1 margin. (It has yet to be voted on in the Senate.)

Congressman Rogers claims he'll change his stripes now: "No more earmarks. I'll be the enforcer of the moratorium." But Rogers' 27 year history of wasting taxpayer funds on questionable projects is certainly cause for skepticism.

On November 9, 2010, Judicial Watch sent a letter to House Speaker John Boehner asking him to reject a bid by Rep. Jerry Lewis (R-CA), who made our 2009 "Top Ten" list, to once again serve as Chair of the Appropriations Committee, given Lewis's penchant for influence peddling. Rep. Rogers, however, is no upgrade.

Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA): Now that Charlie Rangel has been "punished" for his wrongdoing is California Rep. Maxine Waters next up on the hot-seat?

The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct (known informally as the House Ethics Committee) plans to hold hearings, although the committee delayed the trial indefinitely on November 29, 2010, citing newly discovered documentary evidence that may impact proceedings. According to The Associated Press, "The charges focus on whether Waters broke the rules in requesting federal help for a bank where her husband owned stock and had served on the board of directors."

Judicial Watch has investigated the Waters/OneUnited Bank scandal for months. In fact, JW successfully sued the Obama Treasury Department to get documents and obtained explosive emails from the Treasury that provide documented evidence to support the charges against Waters.

For instance, a January 13, 2009, email from Brookly McLaughlin, Treasury's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, expresses surprise at Waters' apparent conflict of interest:

Further to email below, WSJ [*Wall Street Journal*] tells me: ...Apparently this bank is the only one that has gotten money through section 103-6 of the EESA law. And Maxine Waters' husband is on the board of the bank. ??????

Judicial Watch also uncovered documents detailing the deplorable financial condition of the bank at the time of the cash infusion, which showed that the bank would have been an unlikely candidate to receive TARP funding without intervention from Waters and Frank.

Aside from OneUnited, there was yet another scandal with Waters' fingerprints all over it.

To support Judicial Watch's efforts to fight political corruption, donate here.

According to The Washington Times: "A lobbyist known as one of California's most successful power brokers while serving as a legislative leader in that state paid Rep. Maxine Waters' husband \$15,000 in consulting fees at a time she was co-sponsoring legislation that would help save the real-estate finance business of one of the lobbyist's best-paying clients, records show." That "real-estate finance business" was labeled a "scam" by the IRS in a 2006 report.

Where Are They Now?

(Updates on Selected Judicial Watch "Ten Most Wanted" Alumni)

Jack Abramoff, Former Lobbyist: Jack Abramoff appeared on Judicial Watch's 2006 "Ten Most Wanted" list for his role in a slew of public corruption scandals that led to the convictions of 20 people, including former Ohio Republican Congressman Bob Ney. Abramoff was sentenced that year to nearly six years in prison for a fraudulent casino deal. In 2008, Abramoff received a concurrent four-year sentence "for conspiring to defraud the government, corrupting public officials and defrauding his clients in a separate case." In December 2010, Abramoff completed a six-month stint at a Baltimore piz joint, which officially concludes his prison sentence, and he is now on probation for three years. In 2010, Abramoff was also the subject of a new film called "Casino Jack," which stars actor Kevin Spacey. Spacey received a Golden Globe nomination for his portrayal of the disgraced former lobbyist.

Former Senator Roland Burris (D-IL): Former Senator Roland Burris made Judicial Watch's 2009 "Ten Most Wanted" list for his corrupt (and ultimately successful) attempt to secure Barack Obama's vacated Senate seat from then-Governor Rod Blagojevich. According to Reuters: "Roland Burris came under fresh scrutiny...after disclosing he tried to raise money for the disgraced former Illinois governor who named him to the U.S. Senate seat once held by President Barack Obama...Burris said he looked into mounting a fundraiser for Rod Blagojevich — later charged with trying to sell Obama's Senate seat — at the same time he was expressing interest to the then-governor's aides about his desire to be appointed." Burris changed his story five times regarding his contacts with Blagojevich prior to being appointed to the U.S. Senate. Three of those changing explanations came under oath. As a special appointment, Roland Burris's term ended in November 2010, and he is no longer in the U.S. Senate.

Former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay (R-TX): Congressman DeLay was embroiled in a series of scandals while serving as majority leader for House Republicans, earning him a spot on Judicial Watch's 2006 "Ten Most Wanted" list. DeLay, who was also investigated for his ties to "Ten Most Wanted" alumnus Jack Abramoff, resigned his post as majority leader in 2005 and resigned from Congress in 2006. In November 2010, DeLay was ultimately convicted of "illegally funneling corporate money to Texas candidates in 2002," according to The Associated Press. "He faces five years to life in prison on the money laundering charge and two to 20 years on the conspiracy charge." Mr. DeLay is adamant he did nothing wrong and plans to appeal the verdict. Mr. DeLay is also the only "Ten Most Wanted" alumnus to appear on the television dance competition *Dancing with the Stars*.

Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CT): Senator Dodd made Judicial Watch's "Ten Most Wanted" list in 2008 for his corrupt relationship with Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and for improperly accepting preferential treatment from Countrywide Financial as part of the company's corrupt "Friends of Angelo" VIP program. Then he made the list again in 2009 for undervaluing a property he owns in Ireland on his Senate Financial Disclosure form. Dodd allegedly obtained a sweetheart real estate deal for the Ireland property in exchange for his assistance in obtaining a presidential pardon (during the Clinton administration) and other favors for a long-time friend and business associate. It seems the scandals were too much politically, and in 2010 Dodd announced he would not run for re-election. Despite his ethical lapses related to the financial sector, Dodd's name (along with Barney Frank's) is affixed to the "Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act," the huge regulatory overhaul of the financial sector passed and signed into the law earlier this year. In January 2011 he will be out of office.

2009

Judicial Watch Announces List of Washington's "Ten Most Wanted Corrupt Politicians" for 2009

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Washington, DC

Judicial Watch, the public interest group that investigates and prosecutes government corruption, today released its 2009 list of Washington's "Ten Most Wanted Corrupt Politicians." The list, in alphabetical order, includes:

1. **Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CT):** This marks two years in a row for Senator Dodd, who made the 2008 "Ten Most Corrupt" list for his corrupt relationship with Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and for accepting preferential treatment and loan terms from Countrywide Financial, a scandal which still dogs him. In 2009, the scandals kept coming for the Connecticut Democrat. In 2009, Judicial Watch filed a Senate ethics complaint against Dodd for undervaluing a property he owns in Ireland on his Senate Financial Disclosure forms. Judicial Watch's complaint forced Dodd to amend the forms. However, press reports suggest the property to this day remains undervalued. Judicial Watch also alleges in the complaint that Dodd obtained a sweetheart deal for the property in exchange for his assistance in obtaining a presidential pardon (during the Clinton administration) and other favors for a long-time friend and business associate. The false financial disclosure forms were part of the cover-up. Dodd remains the head the Senate Banking Committee.
2. **Senator John Ensign (R-NV):** A number of scandals popped up in 2009 involving public officials who conducted illicit affairs, and then attempted to cover them up with hush payments and favors, an obvious abuse of power. The year's worst offender might just be Nevada Republican Senator John Ensign. Ensign admitted in June to an extramarital affair with the wife of one of his staff members, who then allegedly obtained special favors from the Nevada Republican in exchange for his silence. According to The New York Times: "The Justice Department and the Senate Ethics Committee are expected to conduct preliminary inquiries into whether Senator John Ensign violated federal law or ethics rules as part of an effort to conceal an affair with the wife of an aide..." The former staffer, Douglas Hampton, began to lobby Mr. Ensign's office immediately upon leaving his congressional job, despite the fact that he was subject to a one-year lobbying ban. Ensign seems to have ignored the law and allowed Hampton lobbying access to his office as a payment for his silence about the affair. (These are potentially criminal offenses.) It looks as if Ensign misused his public office (and taxpayer resources) to cover up his sexual shenanigans.
3. **Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA):** Judicial Watch is investigating a \$12 million TARP cash

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injection provided to the Boston-based OneUnited Bank at the urging of Massachusetts Rep. Barney Frank. As reported in the January 22, 2009, edition of the Wall Street Journal, the Treasury Department indicated it would only provide funds to healthy banks to jump-start lending. Not only was OneUnited Bank in massive financial turmoil, but it was also “under attack from its regulators for allegations of poor lending practices and executive-pay abuses, including owning a Porsche for its executives’ use.” Rep. Frank admitted he spoke to a “federal regulator,” and Treasury granted the funds. (The bank continues to flounder despite Frank’s intervention for federal dollars.) Moreover, Judicial Watch uncovered documents in 2009 that showed that members of Congress for years were aware that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac were playing fast and loose with accounting issues, risk assessment issues and executive compensation issues, even as liberals led by Rep. Frank continued to block attempts to rein in the two Government Sponsored Enterprises (GSEs). For example, during a hearing on September 10, 2003, before the House Committee on Financial Services considering a Bush administration proposal to further regulate Fannie and Freddie, Rep. Frank stated: “I want to begin by saying that I am glad to consider the legislation, but I do not think we are facing any kind of a crisis. That is, in my view, the two Government Sponsored Enterprises we are talking about here, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, are not in a crisis. We have recently had an accounting problem with Freddie Mac that has led to people being dismissed, as appears to be appropriate. I do not think at this point there is a problem with a threat to the Treasury.” Frank received \$42,350 in campaign contributions from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac between 1989 and 2008. Frank also engaged in a relationship with a Fannie Mae Executive while serving on the House Banking Committee, which has jurisdiction over Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

4. **Secretary of Treasury Timothy Geithner:** In 2009, Obama Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner admitted that he failed to pay \$34,000 in Social Security and Medicare taxes from 2001-2004 on his lucrative salary at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), an organization with 185 member countries that oversees the global financial system. (Did we mention Geithner now runs the IRS?) It wasn’t until President Obama tapped Geithner to head the Treasury Department that he paid back most of the money, although the IRS kindly waived the hefty penalties. In March 2009, Geithner also came under fire for his handling of the AIG bonus scandal, where the company used \$165 million of its bailout funds to pay out executive bonuses, resulting in a massive public backlash. Of course as head of the New York Federal Reserve, Geithner helped craft the AIG deal in September 2008. However, when the AIG scandal broke, Geithner claimed he knew nothing of the bonuses until March 10, 2009. The timing is important. According to CNN: “Although Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner told congressional leaders on Tuesday that he learned of AIG’s impending \$160 million bonus payments to members of its troubled financial-products unit on March 10, sources tell TIME that the New York Federal Reserve informed Treasury staff that the payments were imminent on Feb. 28. That is ten days before Treasury staffers say they first learned ‘full details’ of the bonus plan, and three days before the [Obama] Administration launched a new \$30 billion infusion of cash for AIG.” Throw in another embarrassing disclosure in 2009 that Geithner employed “household help” ineligible to work in the United States, and it becomes clear why the Treasury Secretary has earned a spot on the “Ten Most Corrupt Politicians in Washington” list.
5. **Attorney General Eric Holder:** Tim Geithner can be sure he won’t be hounded about his tax-dodging by his colleague Eric Holder, US Attorney General. Judicial Watch strongly opposed Holder because of his terrible ethics record, which includes: obstructing an FBI investigation of the theft of nuclear secrets from Los Alamos Nuclear Laboratory; rejecting multiple requests for an independent counsel to investigate alleged fundraising abuses by

then-Vice President Al Gore in the Clinton White House; undermining the criminal investigation of President Clinton by Kenneth Starr in the midst of the Lewinsky investigation; and planning the violent raid to seize then-six-year-old Elian Gonzalez at gunpoint in order to return him to Castro's Cuba. Moreover, there is his soft record on terrorism. Holder bypassed Justice Department procedures to push through Bill Clinton's scandalous presidential pardons and commutations, including for 16 members of FALN, a violent Puerto Rican terrorist group that orchestrated approximately 120 bombings in the United States, killing at least six people and permanently maiming dozens of others, including law enforcement officers. His record in the current administration is no better. As he did during the Clinton administration, Holder continues to ignore serious incidents of corruption that could impact his political bosses at the White House. For example, Holder has refused to investigate charges that the Obama political machine traded VIP access to the White House in exchange for campaign contributions – a scheme eerily similar to one hatched by Holder's former boss, Bill Clinton in the 1990s. The Holder Justice Department also came under fire for dropping a voter intimidation case against the New Black Panther Party. On Election Day 2008, Black Panthers dressed in paramilitary garb threatened voters as they approached polling stations. Holder has also failed to initiate a comprehensive Justice investigation of the notorious organization ACORN (Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now), which is closely tied to President Obama. There were allegedly more than 400,000 fraudulent ACORN voter registrations in the 2008 campaign. And then there were the journalist videos catching ACORN Housing workers advising undercover reporters on how to evade tax, immigration, and child prostitution laws. Holder's controversial decisions on new rights for terrorists and his attacks on previous efforts to combat terrorism remind many of the fact that his former law firm has provided and continues to provide pro bono representation to terrorists at Guantanamo Bay. Holder's politicization of the Justice Department makes one long for the days of Alberto Gonzales.

6. **Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr. (D-IL)/ Senator Roland Burris (D-IL):** One of the most serious scandals of 2009 involved a scheme by former Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich to sell President Obama's then-vacant Senate seat to the highest bidder. Two men caught smack dab in the middle of the scandal: Senator Roland Burris, who ultimately got the job, and Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr. According to the Chicago Sun-Times, emissaries for Jesse Jackson Jr., named "Senate Candidate A" in the Blagojevich indictment, reportedly offered \$1.5 million to Blagojevich during a fundraiser if he named Jackson Jr. to Obama's seat. Three days later federal authorities arrested Blagojevich. Burris, for his part, apparently lied about his contacts with Blagojevich, who was arrested in December 2008 for trying to sell Obama's Senate seat. According to Reuters: "Roland Burris came under fresh scrutiny...after disclosing he tried to raise money for the disgraced former Illinois governor who named him to the U.S. Senate seat once held by President Barack Obama...In the latest of those admissions, Burris said he looked into mounting a fundraiser for Rod Blagojevich — later charged with trying to sell Obama's Senate seat — at the same time he was expressing interest to the then-governor's aides about his desire to be appointed." Burris changed his story five times regarding his contacts with Blagojevich prior to the Illinois governor appointing him to the U.S. Senate. Three of those changing explanations came under oath.
7. **President Barack Obama:** During his presidential campaign, President Obama promised to run an ethical and transparent administration. However, in his first year in office, the President has delivered corruption and secrecy, bringing Chicago-style political corruption to the White House. Consider just a few Obama administration "lowlights" from year one: Even before President Obama was sworn into office, he was interviewed by the FBI for a criminal investigation of former Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich's scheme to sell the

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President's former Senate seat to the highest bidder. (Obama's Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel and slumlord Valerie Jarrett, both from Chicago, are also tangled up in the Blagojevich scandal.) Moreover, the Obama administration made the startling claim that the Privacy Act does not apply to the White House. *The Obama White House believes it can violate the privacy rights of American citizens without any legal consequences or accountability*. President Obama boldly proclaimed that "transparency and the rule of law will be the touchstones of this presidency," but his administration is addicted to secrecy, stonewalling far too many of Judicial Watch's Freedom of Information Act requests and is refusing to make public White House visitor logs as federal law requires. The Obama administration turned the National Endowment of the Arts (as well as the agency that runs the AmeriCorps program) into propaganda machines, using tax dollars to persuade "artists" to promote the Obama agenda. According to documents uncovered by Judicial Watch, the idea emerged as a direct result of the Obama campaign and enjoyed White House approval and participation. President Obama has installed a record number of "crs" in positions of power. Too many of these individuals are leftist radicals who answer to no one but the president. And too many of the crs are not subject to Senate confirmation (which raises serious constitutional questions). Under the President's bailout schemes, the federal government continues to appropriate or control — through fiat and threats — large sectors of the private economy, prompting conservative columnist George Will to write: "The administration's central activity — the political allocation of wealth and opportunity — is not merely susceptible to corruption, it is corruption." Government-run healthcare and car companies, White House coercion, uninvestigated ACORN corruption, debasing his office to help Chicago cronies, attacks on conservative media and the private sector, unprecedented and dangerous new rights for terrorists, perks for campaign donors — this is Obama's "ethics" record — and we haven't even gotten through the first year of his presidency.

8. **Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA):** At the heart of the corruption problem in Washington is a sense of entitlement. Politicians believe laws and rules (even the U.S. Constitution) apply to the rest of us but not to them. Case in point: House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and her excessive and boorish demands for military travel. Judicial Watch obtained documents from the Pentagon in 2009 that suggest Pelosi has been treating the Air Force like her own personal airline. These documents, obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, include internal Pentagon email correspondence detailing attempts by Pentagon staff to accommodate Pelosi's numerous requests for military escorts and military aircraft as well as the speaker's 11th hour cancellations and changes. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi also came under fire in April 2009, when she claimed she was never briefed about the CIA's use of the waterboarding technique during terrorism investigations. The CIA produced a report documenting a briefing with Pelosi on September 4, 2002, that suggests otherwise. Judicial Watch also obtained documents, including a CIA Inspector General report, which further confirmed that Congress was fully briefed on the enhanced interrogation techniques. Aside from her own personal transgressions, Nancy Pelosi has ignored serious incidents of corruption within her own party, including many of the individuals on this list. (See Rangel, Murtha, Jesse Jackson, Jr., etc.)
9. **Rep. John Murtha (D-PA) and the rest of the PMA Seven:** Rep. John Murtha made headlines in 2009 for all the wrong reasons. The Pennsylvania congressman is under federal investigation for his corrupt relationship with the now-defunct defense lobbyist PMA Group. PMA, founded by a former Murtha associate, has been the congressman's largest campaign contributor. Since 2002, Murtha has raised \$1.7 million from PMA and its clients. And what did PMA and its clients receive from Murtha in return for their generosity? Earmarks — tens of millions of dollars in earmarks. In fact, even with all of the attention surrounding his

alleged influence peddling, Murtha kept at it. Following an FBI raid of PMA's offices earlier in 2009, Murtha continued to seek congressional earmarks for PMA clients, while also hitting them up for campaign contributions. According to The Hill, in April, "Murtha reported receiving contributions from three former PMA clients for whom he requested earmarks in the pending appropriations bills." When it comes to the PMA scandal, Murtha is not alone. As many as six other Members of Congress are currently under scrutiny according to The Washington Post. They include: Peter J. Visclosky (D-IN.), James P. Moran Jr. (D-VA), Norm Dicks (D-WA.), Marcy Kaptur (D-OH), C.W. Bill Young (R-FL.) and Todd Tiahrt (R-KS.). Of course rather than investigate this serious scandal, according to Roll Call House Democrats circled the wagons, "cobbling together a defense to offer political cover to their rank and file." The Washington Post also reported in 2009 that Murtha's nephew received \$4 million in Defense Department no-bid contracts: "Newly obtained documents...show Robert Murtha mentioning his influential family connection as leverage in his business dealings and holding unusual power with the military."

10. **Rep. Charles Rangel (D-NY):** Rangel, the man in charge of writing tax policy for the entire country, has yet to adequately explain how he could possibly "forget" to pay taxes on \$75,000 in rental income he earned from his off-shore rental property. He also faces allegations that he improperly used his influence to maintain ownership of highly coveted rent-controlled apartments in Harlem, and misused his congressional office to fundraise for his private Rangel Center by preserving a tax loophole for an oil drilling company in exchange for funding. On top of all that, Rangel recently amended his financial disclosure reports, which doubled his reported wealth. (He somehow "forgot" about \$1 million in assets.) And what did he do when the House Ethics Committee started looking into all of this? He apparently resorted to making "campaign contributions" to dig his way out of trouble. According to WCBS TV, a New York CBS affiliate: "The reigning member of Congress' top tax committee is apparently 'wrangling' other politicians to get him out of his own financial and tax troubles...Since ethics probes began last year the 79-year-old congressman has given campaign donations to 119 members of Congress, including three of the five Democrats on the House Ethics Committee who are charged with investigating him." Charlie Rangel should not be allowed to remain in Congress, let alone serve as Chairman of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, and he knows it. That's why he felt the need to disburse campaign contributions to Ethics Committee members and other congressional colleagues.
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2008

Judicial Watch Announces List of Washington's "Ten Most Wanted Corrupt Politicians" for 2008

December 11, 2008 | [No Comments](#)

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Washington, DC — December 31, 2008

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Judicial Watch, the public interest group that investigates and prosecutes government corruption, today released its 2008 list of Washington's "Ten Most Wanted Corrupt Politicians." The list, *in alphabetical order*, includes:

Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY): Let's start with the fact that Hillary Clinton is constitutionally ineligible to serve as Secretary of State in the Obama administration. According to the Ineligibility Clause of the United States Constitution, no member of Congress can be appointed to an office that has benefited from a salary increase during the time that Senator or Representative served in Congress. A January 2008 Executive Order signed by President Bush during Hillary Clinton's current Senate term increased the salary for Secretary of State, thereby rendering Senator Clinton ineligible for the position. (Congressional "fixes" do not address the constitutional issue. Her appointment would be in violation of the U.S. Constitution.) And then, of course, there is the long history of corrupt behavior that follows Hillary wherever she goes, including Chinagate, Filegate, pardons for terrorists, pardons for cash (for her brothers), White House fundraising coffees, Whitewater, Travelgate lies, doing business with the State of Arkansas while her husband was governor, Web Hubbell, smear campaigns, false financial disclosure forms, John Huang, Chinese generals, the Lippo Group, paid sleepovers in the Lincoln Bedroom, cattle futures fraud, and stealing White House furniture. (This corruption is still going strong. In 2008, Hillary also received an illegal foreign campaign contribution in the form of a fundraising concert by music icon Elton John.)

Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT): Question: Which member of the U.S. Senate took the most campaign money from corrupt institutions Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac? Answer: Chris Dodd, Chairman of the Senate Banking Committee. Given this fact there is little reason to wonder why Senator Dodd blocked reform proposals for Fannie and Freddie, calling them "ill advised." Dodd's willingness to protect Fannie and Freddie would alone merit a spot on the "ten most corrupt list," but there is much more. Dodd was also nabbed for accepting preferential treatment and loan terms from Countrywide Financial. The Connecticut Senator admitted earlier this year that he was told in 2003 when he refinanced two properties that he was being placed in Countrywide's "VIP Program," but said he believed this was simply a courtesy that had nothing to do with his position in the U.S. Senate. This is either a blatant lie or horribly naïve for a man who has served in the Senate for more than 25 years and currently chairs the Senate Banking Committee that regulates the mortgage industry. We're not buying it.

Obama Advisor Valerie Jarrett (D-IL): CBS News once called Chicago politician Valerie Jarrett "the other side of Barack Obama's brain." Residents of a housing project in Chicago simply know her as "slumlord." Jarrett is the former manager of Grove Parc Pla, a controversial low-income housing project located in Obama's former state senate district. According to the *Boston Globe*, the housing complex was considered "uninhabitable by unfixed problems, such as collapsed roofs and fire damage... In 2006, federal inspectors graded the condition of the complex an 11 on a 100-point scale – a score so bad the buildings now face demolition." According to documents uncovered by Judicial Watch, Jarrett is also linked to a series of other shady real estate scandals involving convicted felon and former Obama fundraiser Antoin "Tony" Rezko. Jarrett has also been caught up in the Blagojevich scandal as Obama's Candidate #1 for his senate seat. Most of Blagojevich's corrupt negotiations with the Obama team centered on the possible Jarrett appointment. She remains mum on the scandal.

Rep. Jerry Lewis (R-CA): Rep. Lewis may share a name with a world-renowned comedian, but there's nothing funny about his addiction to influence peddling and earmarking. Lewis, the senior Republican on the House Appropriations Committee, is under investigation for approving hundreds

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of millions of dollars in federal projects to benefit clients of one of his best friends, lobbyist and former Congressman Bill Lowery. According to press reports, Lowery, partners in his company and their clients donated approximately 37% of the funds collected by Lewis' campaign PAC over a six-year period (an estimated \$480,000) in return. Lowery has benefited handsomely from his relationship to Lewis. His company more than tripled its income between 1998 and 2004 with help from Lewis, while increasing its client base from 21 clients to 101 over that same time period. Despite these allegations, Lewis maintains his high-ranking position on the House Appropriations Committee.

President-Elect Barack Obama (D-IL): As Barack Obama assumes the presidency he already brings to the White House a large amount of ethical baggage. Obama's presidential campaign had some of the ethical trimmings of a Chicago ward election. It was marked with enormous corruption issues, ranging from its alliance with the sleazy ACORN operation's "voter registration" and "get out the vote" efforts to its acceptance of untraceable, and in too many cases, illegal online contributions. There are also Obama's corrupt dealings with convicted felon Tony Rezko and unrepentant terrorist William Ayers, his below-market rate mortgage loans, his stock dealings and related "earmark" votes in the U.S. Senate, and his missing or non-existent official papers from his years in the Illinois State Senate. His ongoing cover up of his and his team's role in the Blagojevich "pay-to-play" scandal is ruining his presidency even before he takes the oath of office.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA): Last year House Speaker Nancy Pelosi made the "most corrupt" list for sneaking a \$25 million earmark for her husband into a \$15 billion Water Resources Development Act passed by Congress. This year, Pelosi ran afoul of federal election law by participating in an illegal advertising campaign funded by Al Gore's non-profit Alliance for Climate protection. The advertisement featuring Pelosi ran at least 300 times nationally, including in the House speaker's district, during campaign season, representing an illegal in-kind contribution to her campaign. Perhaps more disturbing than this incident, however, is the fact that Speaker Pelosi has allowed corruption to run rampant in Congress and has ignored serious incidents of crooked behavior within her own party. Pelosi promised a new era of ethics enforcement during the 2006 campaign and she has failed to deliver. Instead, she continues to protect the worst of the worst of political corruption in the House of Representatives.

Rep. Charles Rangel (D-NY): Rep. Charles Rangel, Chairman of the powerful Ways and Means Committee, took the unusual step of filing an ethics complaint against himself in 2008 related to scandals involving unpaid taxes and rent-controlled apartments. This act was clearly a publicity stunt, but regardless, the House Ethics Committee took the New York congressman up on his request, and even took things a step further by expanding the scope of its investigation. The initial transgressions that led to the ethics panel probe involve: Rangel's failure to pay taxes on \$75,000 in rental income he earned from his off-shore rental property; his efforts to use his influence to keep hold of highly coveted rent-controlled apartments in Harlem; and misusing his congressional office to fundraise for his private Rangel Center. Now Congress is looking into whether or not Rangel preserved a tax loophole for an oil drilling company in exchange for funding for the Rangel Center as well.

Former Rep. Rick Renzi (R-AZ): Three-term Republican congressman Rick Renzi was indicted by a federal grand jury in 2008 for conspiracy, extortion, money laundering and wire fraud. He allegedly used his influence on a House Natural Resources Committee to orchestrate a land swap with the federal government that financially benefited himself and his associates. The 49-year-old

lawmaker, who owns an insurance business, is also charged with embezzling more than \$400,000 from insurance clients to fund his congressional campaign. A 26-page federal indictment lays out how the legislator and his business associates conspired to obtain federal government land by swapping land they owned together because the coveted public land sits above underground copper deposits. The indictment says that the congressman concealed nearly \$1 million that he made for using his influence to seal the land deals. No wonder Renzi decided to retire this year.

Former Senator Ted Stevens (R-AK): "Uncle Ted" Stevens, the face of Alaska politics for 40 years and formerly the longest serving Republican in the U.S. Senate, was narrowly defeated in his campaign for re-election in November. But that's the least of his problems. Just days before the November election, Stevens was convicted on seven felony counts for accepting illegal gifts and then lying about it. The establishment of both political parties came to Stevens' defense, including former Secretary of State Colin Powell and Democratic Senator Daniel Inouye, but to no avail. The jury found Stevens guilty on all counts. And now Stevens faces the possibility of a 35-year prison sentence.

Rep. Don Young (R-AK): Carrying on Alaska's legacy of corruption, Rep. Don Young is also the subject of an influence peddling investigation. (You may recall it was Young who attempted to push through the \$200 million "Bridge to Nowhere" boondoggle.) Well the Justice Department is also investigating the 18-term congressman for his corrupt ties to an oil services company, VECO, ironically the same company that furnished illegal gifts to Senator Ted Stevens. VECO allegedly used golf tournaments and pig roasts to illegally funnel cash to Young, which the 18-term congressman then failed to report on his financial disclosure forms. VECO Vice President Rick Smith has already pleaded guilty to bribing lawmakers to support oil-friendly legislation. The Alaska Republican also added a \$10 million earmark for the construction of short stretch of road in *Florida* that benefited a wealthy campaign contributor. Real estate developer, Daniel Aronoff, had raised \$40,000 for Young shortly before the earmark was inserted.

DISHONORABLE MENTIONS

Former Senator John Edwards (D-NC): By day, former North Carolina Senator and Democratic presidential candidate John Edwards repeatedly professed his love for his cancer-stricken wife during media interviews and campaign speeches. By night, Edwards was carrying on an illicit sexual affair with a former campaign consultant, Rielle Hunter. Of course, Edwards denied the affair (calling it "tabloid trash") even after he was trapped in the basement of the Beverly Hilton hotel by reporters from the *National Enquirer* during one of his late-night liaisons with Ms. Hunter. While Edwards did finally admit to violating his marriage vows, questions remain as to whether or not he broke any laws. Edwards' former National Finance Chairman (who just passed away) paid large sums of money to Ms. Hunter, as much as \$15,000 per month, in addition to covering Hunter's moving expenses. Were these "hush funds" paid out of Edwards' campaign coffers?

Former Rep. William "Dollar Bill" Jefferson (D-LA): William "Dollar Bill" Jefferson was nabbed in a sting operation accepting a \$100,000 bribe from an FBI informant to broker business deals in Africa. During his conversation with the informant, who was wired, Jefferson famously remarked, "All these notes we're writing to each other, as if the FBI is watching." Well, the FBI was watching (and listening) and during a subsequent search of Jefferson's home, investigators found \$90,000 in cash stuffed in the congressman's freezer. (The marked bills were later recovered by federal authorities.) Jefferson allegedly intended to use the money to bribe a Nigerian official over a business deal that would have enriched himself and his family. Jefferson was widely expected to

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return to Congress despite these serious allegations. However, in a December 2008 special election surprise, voters decided instead to send "Dollar Bill" into retirement.

Judicial Watch is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Judicial Watch neither supports nor opposes candidates for public office.

2007

Judicial Watch Announces List of Washington's "Ten Most Wanted Corrupt Politicians" for 2007

December 11, 2007 | [No Comments](#)

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(Washington, DC) – Judicial Watch, the public interest group that investigates and prosecutes government corruption, today released its 2007 list of Washington's "Ten Most Wanted Corrupt Politicians." The list, in alphabetical order, includes:

1. **Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY):** In addition to her long and sordid ethics record, Senator Hillary Clinton took a lot of heat in 2007 – and rightly so – for blocking the release her official White House records. Many suspect these records contain a treasure trove of information related to her role in a number of serious Clinton-era scandals. Moreover, in March 2007, Judicial Watch filed an ethics complaint against Senator Clinton for filing false financial disclosure forms with the U.S. Senate (again). And Hillary's top campaign contributor, Norman Hsu, was exposed as a felon and a fugitive from justice in 2007. Hsu pleaded guilt to one count of grand theft for defrauding investors as part of a multi-million dollar Ponzi scheme.
2. **Rep. John Conyers (D-MI):** Conyers reportedly repeatedly violated the law and House ethics rules, forcing his staff to serve as his personal servants, babysitters, valets and campaign workers while on the government payroll. While the House Ethics Committee investigated these allegations in 2006, and substantiated a number of the accusations against Conyers, the committee blamed the staff and required additional administrative record-keeping and employee training. Judicial Watch obtained documentation in 2007 from a former Conyers staffer that sheds new light on the activities and conduct on the part of the Michigan congressman, which appear to be at a minimum inappropriate and likely unlawful. Judicial Watch called on the Attorney General in 2007 to investigate the matter.
3. **Senator Larry Craig (R-ID):** In one of the most shocking scandals of 2007, Senator Craig was caught by police attempting to solicit sex in a Minneapolis International Airport men's bathroom during the summer. Senator Craig reportedly "sent signals" to a police officer in an adjacent stall that he wanted to engage in sexual activity. When the police officer showed Craig his police identification under the bathroom stall divider and pointed toward the exit, the senator reportedly

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exclaimed 'No!'" When asked to produce identification, Craig presented police his U.S. Senate business card and said, "What do you think of that?" The power play didn't work. Craig was arrested, charged and entered a guilty plea. Despite enormous pressure from his Republican colleagues to resign from the Senate, Craig refused.

4. Senator Diane Feinstein (D-CA): As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee's subcommittee on military construction, Feinstein reviewed military construction government contracts, some of which were ultimately awarded to URS Corporation and Perini, companies then owned by Feinstein's husband, Richard Blum. While the Pentagon ultimately awards military contracts, there is a reason for the review process. The Senate's subcommittee on Military Construction's approval carries weight. Sen. Feinstein, therefore, likely had influence over the decision making process. Senator Feinstein also attempted to undermine ethics reform in 2007, arguing in favor of a perk that allows members of Congress to book multiple airline flights and then cancel them without financial penalty. Judicial Watch's investigation into this matter is ongoing.

5. Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani (R-NY): Giuliani came under fire in late 2007 after it was discovered the former New York mayor's office "billed obscure city agencies for tens of thousands of dollars in security expenses amassed during the time when he was beginning an extramarital relationship with future wife Judith Nathan in the Hamptons..." ABC News also reported that Giuliani provided Nathan with a police vehicle and a city driver at taxpayer expense. All of this news came on the heels of the federal indictment on corruption charges of Giuliani's former Police Chief and business partner Bernard Kerik, who pleaded guilty in 2006 to accepting a \$165,000 bribe in the form of renovations to his Bronx apartment from a construction company attempting to land city contracts.

6. Governor Mike Huckabee (R-AR): Governor Huckabee enjoyed a meteoric rise in the polls in December 2007, which prompted a more thorough review of his ethics record. According to The Associated Press: "[Huckabee's] career has also been colored by 14 ethics complaints and a volley of questions about his integrity, ranging from his management of campaign cash to his use of a nonprofit organization to subsidize his income to his destruction of state computer files on his way out of the governor's office." And what was Governor Huckabee's response to these ethics allegations? Rather than cooperating with investigators, Huckabee sued the state ethics commission twice and attempted to shut the ethics process down.

7. I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby: Libby, former Chief of Staff to Vice President Dick Cheney, was sentenced to 30 months in prison and fined \$250,000 for lying and obstructing the Valerie Plame CIA leak investigation. Libby was found guilty of four felonies — two counts of perjury, one count of making false statements to the FBI and one count of obstructing justice — all serious crimes. Unfortunately, Libby was largely let off the hook. In an appalling lack of judgment, President Bush issued "Executive Clemency" to Libby and commuted the sentence.

8. Senator Barack Obama (D-IL): A "Dishonorable Mention" last year, Senator Obama moves onto the "ten most wanted" list in 2007. In 2006, it was discovered that Obama was involved in a suspicious real estate deal with an indicted political fundraiser, Antoin "Tony" Rezko. In 2007, more reports surfaced of deeper and suspicious business and political connections. It was reported that just two months after he joined the Senate, Obama purchased \$50,000 worth of stock in speculative companies whose major investors were his biggest campaign contributors. One of the companies was a biotech concern that benefited from legislation Obama pushed just two weeks after the senator purchased \$5,000 of the company's shares. Obama was also nabbed conducting

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campaign business in his Senate office, a violation of federal law.

9. Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA): House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who promised a new era of ethics enforcement in the House of Representatives, snuck a \$25 million gift to her husband, Paul Pelosi, in a \$15 billion Water Resources Development Act recently passed by Congress. The pet project involved renovating ports in Speaker Pelosi's home base of San Francisco. Pelosi just happens to own apartment buildings near the areas targeted for improvement, and will almost certainly experience a significant boost in property value as a result of Pelosi's earmark. Earlier in the year, Pelosi found herself in hot water for demanding access to a luxury Air Force jet to ferry the Speaker and her entourage back and forth from San Francisco non-stop, in unprecedented request which was wisely rejected by the Pentagon. And under Pelosi's leadership, the House ethics process remains essentially shut down – which protects members in both parties from accountability.

10. Senator Harry Reid (D-NV): Over the last few years, Reid has been embroiled in a series of scandals that cast serious doubt on his credibility as a self-professed champion of government ethics, and 2007 was no different. According to The Los Angeles Times, over the last four years, Reid has used his influence in Washington to help a developer, Harvey Whittemore, clear obstacles for a profitable real estate deal. As the project advanced, the Times reported, "Reid received tens of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions from Whittemore." Whittemore also hired one of Reid's sons (Leif) as his personal lawyer and then promptly handed the junior Reid the responsibility of negotiating the real estate deal with federal officials. Leif Reid even called his father's office to talk about how to obtain the proper EPA permits, a clear conflict of interest.

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2006

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December 11, 2006 | [No Comments](#)

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Washington, DC — December 22, 2006

Judicial Watch, the public interest group that investigates and prosecutes government corruption, today released its 2006 list of Washington's "Ten Most Wanted Corrupt Politicians." The list, in alphabetical order, includes:

- **Jack Abramoff, Former Lobbyist** — Abramoff is at the center of a massive public corruption investigation by the Department of Justice that, in the end, could involve as many as a dozen members of Congress. Abramoff pleaded guilty to conspiracy, fraud and a host of other charges on January 3, 2006, and was sent to prison in November to serve a five-year, 10-month sentence for defrauding banks of \$23 million in Florida in 2000.
- **Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-NY)** — In January 2006, Hillary Clinton's fundraising operation

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was fined \$35,000 by the Federal Election Commission for failing to accurately report more than \$700,000 in contributions to Clinton's Senate 2000 campaign. New information also surfaced in 2006 raising more questions about Hillary and her brother Anthony Rodham's connection to the Clinton Pardongate scandal, where presidential pardons were allegedly traded in exchange for cash and other favors.

- **Former Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham (R-CA)** — In November 2005, Cunningham pleaded guilty to federal charges of conspiracy to commit bribery, mail fraud, wire fraud, and tax evasion. He was sentenced to 8 years, four months in prison and ordered to pay \$1.8 million in restitution in March 2006.
- **Former Rep. Tom DeLay (R-TX)** — Tom DeLay, who was forced to step down from his position as House Majority Leader and then resign from Congress, decided in 2006 not to run for re-election. Congressman DeLay has been embroiled in a series of scandals from bribery to influence peddling, and was indicted twice by grand juries in Texas.
- **Former Rep. Mark Foley (R-FL)** — Foley left the House in disgrace after news broke that he had been sending predatory homosexual emails to a House page. A recent House Ethics Committee report indicated that Republican leaders knew about Foley's dangerous behavior, but failed to take action. Democrats, meanwhile, shopped the story to the press to influence the elections. Outrageously, the Committee recommended no punishment for those involved.
- **Rep. Denny Hastert (R-IL)** — In addition to mishandling the Foley scandal, outgoing House Speaker Dennis Hastert allowed House ethics process to ground to a halt on his watch. Gary Condit, Cynthia McKinney, William Jefferson, John Conyers, Tom Delay, Duke Cunningham, Jim McDermott, Patrick Kennedy are examples of alleged wrongdoers who faced little-to-no ethics enforcement in the House.
- **Rep. Alcee Hastings (D-FL)** — Hastings is one of only six federal judges to be removed from office through impeachment and has accumulated staggering liabilities ranging from \$2,130,006 to \$7,350,000. Hastings was "next in line" for Chairmanship of the House Select Committee on Intelligence until a wave of protest forced Nancy Pelosi to select another candidate. Nonetheless, Hastings is expected to continue to serve on the Intelligence Committee.
- **Rep. William "Dollar Bill" Jefferson (D-LA)** — Jefferson is alleged to have accepted hundreds of thousands of dollars in bribes to help broker high-tech business deals in Nigeria. According to press reports, he was also caught on tape discussing the deals, while an FBI search of his home uncovered \$90,000 in cash stuffed in his freezer.
- **Former Rep. Bob Ney (R-OH)** — Ohio Republican Congressman Bob Ney resigned in early November 2006, three weeks after pleading guilty for accepting bribes from an Indian casino in exchange for legislative favors. Ney was the first congressman to be convicted of a crime in the web of scandals involving former lobbyist Jack Abramoff and is expected to serve a jail sentence.
- **Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV)** — Senator Reid came under fire in 2006 for failing to properly report to Congress a \$700,000 land deal. Reid also accepted more than \$30,000 of Abramoff-tainted money allegedly in return for his "cooperation" in matters related Nevada Indian gaming.

Dishonorable Mentions include:

- **Rep. John Conyers (D-MI)** — According to complaints released by the House Ethics Committee recently, aides to Representative John Conyers (D- MI) alleged their former boss repeatedly violated House ethics rules, forcing them to serve as his personal servants, valets, and as campaign staff while on the government payroll.

A-603

- **Rep. Patrick Kennedy (D-RI)** — In May 2006, Kennedy crashed his car into a Capitol Hill barricade at nearly 3 a.m. in the morning. Kennedy blamed the incident on a reaction to prescription pills, but officers at the scene said he smelled of alcohol. Nonetheless, they escorted him home rather than arresting him.
 - **Former Rep. Cynthia McKinney (D-GA)** — McKinney assaulted a Capitol Hill police officer in April after refusing to go through a metal detector. While McKinney was never forced to answer in a court of law for her behavior, she lost her bid for re-election in 2006.
 - **Rep. John Murtha (D-PA)** — Iraq war critic John Murtha was incoming House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's first choice for House Majority Leader despite the ethical skeletons in his closet. Murtha is an unindicted co-conspirator in the 1980 "Abscam" scandal, which included the arrest and convictions of a senator and six congressmen. Murtha, whose current ethics continue to be questioned, lost his bid for Majority Leader to Maryland Democrat Steny Hoyer.
 - **Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL)** — News reports surfaced in 2006 that Illinois Senator Barack Obama entered into an unusual land deal with a now- indicted political fundraiser, Tony Rezko. The complicated real estate transaction occurred when it was widely known that Rezko was under federal investigation in a political corruption scandal.
 - **David Safavian, Former Bush Administration Official** — Safavian, the former White House Chief of Procurement and former Chief of Staff for the General Services Administration, was indicted on September 19, 2006 on five counts of lying about his dealings with former lobbyist Jack Abramoff and obstructing a Senate investigation of his dealings. Safavian resigned from his White House position three days prior to his arrest.
 - The Keating Five scandal is a crucial back story that undercuts McCain's entire image as an ethical reformer who can clean up Washington. It foreshadows everything McCain has become.
 - [Read Whole Story](#)
 - **Feds Finally Seize Failed Bank That McCain's Son Ran**
 - Mark Nickolas | Posted 05.25.2011 | [Politics](#)
 - **Read More: Silver State Bank, John McCain, Fdic, McCain, Charles Keating, Banking, Banking Crisis, Andrew McCain, John McCain Keating 5 Scandal, Keating Five, Politics News**
-

- Sadly, America is in the thick of the biggest national financial crisis since the savings and loan meltdown of the 1980s and McCain was at the epicenter of the 11th bank failure this year.
 - [Read Whole Story](#)
 - **FDIC Poised To Seize Failing Bank Where McCain's Son Served As Director and Audit Committee Member?**
 - Mark Nickolas | Posted 05.25.2011 | [Politics](#)
 - **Read More: John McCain, Banking Crisis, Fdic, Andrew McCain, Silver State Bank, John McCain Keating 5 Scandal, Keating Five, Cindy McCain, Politics News**
-

- A quick update on the still unreported saga of Silver State Bancorp, the failing bank where John McCain's (R) son Andrew served as a director and memb...
- [Read Whole Story](#)
- **Still No Answer Why McCain's Son Quit Board Of Failing Bank**
- Mark Nickolas | Posted 05.25.2011 | [Business](#)
- **Read More: Banking Crisis, John McCain, John McCain Keating 5 Scandal, Andrew**

ABOY

McCain.Keating Five.Charles Keating.Business News

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-
- Six days after Andrew McCain suddenly resigned as a member of the board of directors and audit committee of Silver State Bancorp, there's still a great deal of mystery about his departure, as no one is talking.
- Read Whole Story
- **20 Years Later: Another McCain At Center Of A Bank Collapse and Government Take-Over?**
- Mark Nickolas | Posted 05.25.2011 | Politics
- Read More:Banking Crisis,John McCain,Andrew McCain,John McCain Keating 5 Scandal,Keating Five,Cindy McCain,Charles Keating,Politics News
-
-
- Almost exactly 20 years ago -- in the middle of the saving and loan crisis -- federal regulators seized Lincoln Savings and Loan Association of Irvine...
- Read Whole Story
- **Page: 1**

McCain's poker scandal

Posted by

CNN Political Unit

(CNN) – Sen. John McCain, perhaps the Senate's most outspoken voice in favor of military action in Syria, was caught playing poker Tuesday at the first congressional hearing about giving the president authority to use force in the war-torn country.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee grilled the panel of top Obama officials, including Secretary of State John Kerry, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey.

While McCain spoke up when it came his turn, a Washington Post photographer snapped a photo of the Arizona Republican trying his luck in the meantime.

Read more about the hearing

The senator later explained his poker habit on CNN's "The Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer."

"As much as I like to always listen with rapt attention constantly (to) remarks of my colleagues over a three and a half period, occasionally I get a little bored and so I resorted," he said, chuckling. "But the worst thing about it is I lost thousands of dollars in this game."

He followed up, saying it was only "fake" money.

2605

John Boehner admits to giving bribes from Big Tobacco on the House floor...Why does the media consider him credible?

By John Amato February 9, 2009 4:00 pm

790253 1630 2791

C&Ler Dan sent in this clip to us. I know we wrote about Boehner's tobacco ties when he fought to become minority leader ... In this 1996 documentar

C&Ler Dan sent in this clip to us. I know we wrote about Boehner's tobacco ties when he fought to become minority leader ... In this 1996 documentary by PBS called "The People and the Power Game," *John Boehner is caught red-handed in an amazing act of corruption, and his biggest critics are fellow Republicans.*

Boehner: Mine asked me to give out a half dozen checks quickly before we got to the end of the month and I complied. I did it on the House floor which I regret and I should not have done, it's not a violation of the House rules, but it's a practice that's gone on here for a long time.

Were the checks from tobacco companies?

Boehner: Ahh, I think if my memory serves me correctly, I think it was a tobacco company, yes.

Q)....but in this case tobacco's well timed contributions helped save its subsidy. The people that were passing out the checks won.

So how did he become their leader in the HOUSE? Oh right, being corrupt is just fine for Republicans, but they put a hold on the Solis nomination for something her husband is involved in and she had nothing to do with.

And yet the media uses John Boehner as a spokesman bashing the stimulus package as if he's been a clean member of the Republican party.

- See more at: <http://crooksandliars.com/john-amato/john-boehner-admits-giving-bribes-big-t#sthash.ITL4zmlk.dpuf>

Much of the press attention to the Keating Five focused on the relationships of each of the senators to Keating.

AKOP

Cranston had received \$39,000 from Keating and his associates for his 1986 Senate re-election campaign.^[41] Furthermore, Keating had donated some \$850,000 to assorted groups founded by Cranston or controlled by him, and another \$85,000 to the California Democratic Party.^[41] Cranston considered Keating a constituent because Lincoln was based in California.^[35]

DeConcini had received about \$48,000 from Keating and his associates for his 1988 Senate re-election campaign.^[41] In September 1989, after the government sued Keating and American Continental for improper actions regarding contributions, DeConcini returned the money.^[41] DeConcini considered Keating a constituent because Keating lived in Arizona; they were also long-time friends.^[35]

Glenn had received \$34,000 in direct contributions from Keating and his associates for his 1984 presidential nomination campaign, and a political action committee tied to Glenn had received an additional \$200,000.^[41] Glenn considered Keating a constituent because one of Keating's other business concerns was headquartered in Ohio.^[35]

McCain and Keating had become personal friends following their initial contacts in 1981,^[11] and McCain was the only one of the five with close social and personal ties to Keating.^{[42][43]} Like DeConcini, McCain considered Keating a constituent as he lived in Arizona.^[35] Between 1982 and 1987, McCain had received \$112,000 in political contributions from Keating and his associates.^[44] McCain and his family had made several trips at Keating's expense. McCain did not pay Keating (in the amount of \$13,433) for some of the trips until years after they were taken, when he learned that Keating was in trouble over Lincoln.^{[7][45]} In 1989 Phoenix New Times writer Tom Fitzpatrick opined that McCain was the "most reprehensible" of the five senators.^[46]

Riegle had received some \$76,000 from Keating and his associates for his 1988 Senate re-election campaign.^[41] Riegle later announced in April 1988 he was returning the money.^[6] Riegle's

constituency connection to Keating was that Keating's Hotel Pontchartrain was located **in**
Michigan.^[35]



S CONSPIRES WITH UN
gn Onto UN Agenda 21
ut Congress

Barack Obama, working in conjunction with the socialists and communists in the U.N. (who despise us), will sign an accord that will operate under the pretense of updating the 1992 Climate Change Treaty – Agenda 21.

Agenda 21 is the U.N. plan of action on climate change.

Obama will bypass Congress.

It will be the largest redistribution of wealth that the world has ever seen.

<http://townhall.com/tipsheet/katiepavlich/2014/04/16/breaking-new-emails-show-lois-lerner-contacted-doj-about-prosecuting->

BREAKING: New Emails Show Lois Lerner Was in Contact With DOJ About Prosecuting Tax Exempt Groups

f 696

Katie Pavlich | Apr 16, 2014



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32.7K SHARES



According to new IRS emails obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request from Judicial Watch, former head of tax exempt groups at the IRS Lois Lerner was in contact with the Department of Justice in May 2013 about whether tax exempt

fb 609

groups could be criminally prosecuted for "lying" about political activity.

"I got a call today from Richard Pilger Director Elections Crimes Branch at DOJ ... He wanted to know who at IRS the DOJ folk s [sic] could talk to about Sen. Whitehouse idea at the hearing that DOJ could piece together false statement cases about applicants who "lied" on their 1024s --saying they weren't planning on doing political activity, and then turning around and making large visible political expenditures. DOJ is feeling like it needs to respond, but want to talk to the right folks at IRS to see whether there are impediments from our side and what, if any damage this might do to IRS programs. I told him that sounded like we might need several folks from IRS," Lerner wrote in a May 8, 2013 email to former Nikole C. Flax, who was former-Acting IRS Commissioner Steven T. Miller's chief of staff.

"I think we should do it – also need to include CI [Criminal Investigation Division], which we can help coordinate. Also, we need to reach out to FEC.

Does it make sense to consider including them in this or keep it separate?" Flaxresponded on May 9, 2013.

From: Flax Nikole C
Sent: Thursday, May 09, 2013 8:04 AM
To: Lerner Lois G
Cc: Grant Joseph H; Marks Nancy J; Vozne Jennifer L
Subject: RE: DOJ Call

I think we should do it -- also need to include CI, which we can help coordinate. Also, we need to reach out to FEC. Does it make sense to consider including them in this or keep it separate?

From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Wednesday, May 08, 2013 5:30 PM
To: Flax Nikole C
Cc: Grant Joseph H; Marks Nancy J
Subject: DOJ Call
Importance: High

I got a call today from Richard Pilger Director Elections Crimes Branch at DOJ. I know him from contacts from my days there. He wanted to know who at IRS the DOJ folks could talk to about Sen. Whitehouse idea at the hearing that DOJ could piece together false statement cases about applicants who "lied" on their 1024s -- saying they weren't planning on doing political activity, and then turning around and making large visible political expenditures. DOJ is feeling like it needs to respond, but want to talk to the right folks at IRS to see whether there are impediments from our side and what, if any damage this might do to IRS programs.

I told him that sounded like we might need several folks from IRS. I am out of town all next week, so wanted to reach out and see who you think would be right for such a meeting and also hand this off to Nancy as contact person if things need to happen while I am gone --

Thanks

After this email exchange, Lerner handed things off to Senior Technical Adviser and Attorney Nancy Marks, who was in charge of setting up a meeting with DOJ.

Just a few short days later on May 10, 2013, Lerner admitted and apologized for the inappropriate targeting of conservative tea party groups during an American Bar Association Conference after answering a planted question. Further according to

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Judicial Watch, "In an email to an aide responding to a request for information from a *Washington Post* reporter, Lerner admits that she "**can't confirm that there was anyone on the other side of the political spectrum**" who had been targeted by the IRS. She then adds that "The one with the names used were only know [sic] because they have been very loud in the press."

In other words, only conservative groups were being looked at for criminal prosecution.

Last week news broke that Democratic Rep. Elijah Cummings' staff was in contact with Lerner about the conservative group True the Vote, despite denying any contact occurred. In this specific instance of Lerner discussing possible criminal prosecution of tax-exempt groups through DOJ, Democratic Senator Sheldon Whitehouse seems to have been the person to get the ball rolling.

On April 9, 2013 during a Senate Judiciary Hearing, just one month before the targeting scandal broke, Whitehouse asked witnesses from DOJ and the IRS why groups that had possibly "made false

statements" about their political activities had not been prosecuted. On March 27, 2013, just days before the hearing took place, Lerner described the purpose for the hearing to IRS staff in an email.

"As I mentioned yesterday -- there are several groups of folks from the FEC world that are pushing tax fraud prosecution for c4s who report they are not conducting political activity when they are (or these folks think they are). One is my ex-boss Larry Noble (former General Counsel at the FEC), who is now president of Americans for Campaign Reform. This is their latest push to shut these down. One IRS prosecution would make an impact and they wouldn't feel so comfortable doing the stuff," she wrote. "So, don't be fooled about how this is being articulated – it is ALL about 501(c)(4) orgs and political activity."

Lerner later acknowledged pursuing prosecutions of these groups would not fit well with the law.

"These new emails show that the day before she broke the news of the IRS scandal, Lois Lerner was

talking to a top Obama Justice Department official about whether the DOJ could prosecute the very same organizations that the IRS had already improperly targeted,” Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton said in a statement. “The IRS emails show Eric Holder’s Department of Justice is now implicated and conflicted in the IRS scandal. No wonder we had to sue in federal court to get these documents.”

This post has been updated.

Editors note/correction: *A previous version of this post stated and implied Lois Lerner contacted the DOJ about criminal prosecution when the emails state she in fact got a phone call from DOJ about the issue. While she was clearly in contact with DOJ about criminal prosecution for tax exempt groups, DOJ initiated the contact in this specific instance. Emails also show Lerner and Flax responded to both recommendations by Senator Whitehouse and DOJ to look into criminal prosecution. The headline to this post has also been updated.*

Topics:

LOIS LERNER

IRS TARGETING

INCLUDE JOE BIDEN ARTICLE

<http://jimbovard.com/blog/2014/08/27/eric-holder-waco-coverup/> **Eric Holder and the Waco Coverup**

by Jim on August 27, 2014 in Clinton, Congress, Cynicism, Drug War, Fraud, Freedom, Holder Eric, Lying

Sharon Bridgewater

12070 W. Outer Dr.

Detroit, MI 48223

Sbridge11@yahoo.com

1-313-375-0351

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

A625

THE STATE of Alabama, Alaska, Arizona,) **[PROPOSED] ASSET FREEZE, WITH**
Arkansas, California, Colorado,) **TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER**
Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia,) **APPOINTMENT OF A RECEIVER,**
Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa,) **OTHER EQUITABLE RELIEF AND**
Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine,) **ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE WHY A**
Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan,) **PRELIMINARY AND/OR**
Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana,) **PERMANENT INJUNCTION SHOULD**
Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New) **NOT ISSUE**
Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North)
Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma,)
Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South)
Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas,)
Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West)
Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming(The Federal)
Trade Commission, The Bureau of)
Consumer Protection, Bureau of)
Competition, Securities and Exchange)
Commission) *EX REL* Sharon Bridgewater)
(A.K.A. Sharon Abusalem, Sharon Davis)
Qui Tam Relator and/or Private Attorney
General and on behalf of myself, James S.
Bridgewater, one or more of the following
companies, Specialty Investment Group
L.L.C., a Georgia Company, Specialty
Global Investments Inc., a Nevada
Corporation, and Bridgewater & Company
Inc., The Coalition for
Empowerment(formerly Greater Lansing
Helping Hands)a 501C-3 non-profit
organization, B & B Building Maintenance
INC. a Michigan Corporation, and those
similarly situated INTERVENING
PLAINTIFFS AND/OR PETITIONERS

Vs.

Barak H. Obama in his official capacity
as US President and/or individually

1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW,
Washington, DC 20500

And/or

1676

ERIC H. HOLDER., in his official capacity
as Attorney General of the United States
and/or individually et al

United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Defendants and/or Respondants

**[PROPOSED] ASSET FREEZE, WITH TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER
APPOINTMENT OF A RECEIVER, OTHER EQUITABLE RELIEF AND ORDER TO
SHOW CAUSE WHY A PRELIMINARY AND/OR PERMANENT INJUNCTION SHOULD
NOT ISSUE**

DECLARTORY JUDGMENT

This Action was tried by Judge Amy B. Jackson without a jury and the following decision was reached:

It is declared that:

This case has ripened beyond an abstract question into an actual controversy and that is otherwise within its jurisdiction and as follows:

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2. *Chlorophyll a* and *Chlorophyll b* were determined using the method of Lichtenthaler (1987).

3. There is good cause to believe that Fortune Hi-Tech Marketing, Inc., FHTM, Inc., Alan Clark Holdings, LLC, FHTM Canada, Inc., Fortune Network Marketing (UK) Limited, Paul C. Orberon, and Thomas A. Mills (herein collectively referred to as "Defendants") have engaged in, and are likely to engage in the future in, acts and practices that violate Section 5(a) of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45(a); Sections 2 and 2A of the Illinois Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Practices Act, 815 ILCS 505/2 and 505/2A; the Kentucky Consumer Protection Act, KRS 367.170; the North Carolina Pyramid and Chain Schemes Statute, N.C. Gen.

Stat. § 14-291.2; and the North Carolina Unfair and Deceptive Practices Act, N.C. Gen.

Stat. § 75-1. 1 (a); and that Plaintiffs are therefore likely to prevail on the merits of this action.

4. There is good cause to believe that immediate and irreparable damage to the Court's ability to grant effective final relief for consumers in the form of monetary restitution will occur from the sale, transfer, or other disposition or concealment by Defendants of their assets or corporate records unless Defendants are immediately restrained and enjoined by Order of this Court. There is thus good cause for an asset freeze, the appointment of a temporary receiver over the corporate defendants Fortune Hi-Tech Marketing, Inc., FHTM, Inc., Alan Clark Holdings, LLC, FHTM Canada, Inc., and Fortune Network Marketing (UK) Limited, and for relieving Plaintiffs of the duty to provide Defendants with prior notice of Plaintiffs' motion.

5. There is good cause for issuing this Order pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 6S(b), Fed. R. Civ. P. 6S(b).

6. Weighing the equities and considering Plaintiffs' likelihood of ultimate success, a temporary restraining order with asset freeze, other equitable relief, and order to show cause why a preliminary injunction should not issue is in the public interest.

7. No security is required of any agency of the United States for issuance of a temporary restraining order. Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(c).

DEFINITIONS

1. "Asset" or "Assets" means any legal or equitable interest in, right to, or claim to, any real or personal property, including, but not limited to, "goods," "instruments," "equipment," "fixtures," "general intangibles," "inventory," "checks," or "notes" (as these terms are defined in the Uniform Commercial Code), lines of credit, chattels, leaseholds, contracts, mail or other deliveries, shares of stock, lists of consumer names, accounts, credits, premises, receivables, . funds, and all cash, wherever located.

1. Documents, list from

2. "Assisting others" includes, but is not limited to: (a) performing customer service functions, including, but not limited to, receiving or responding to consumer complaints; (b) formulating or providing, or arranging for the formulation or provision of, any sales script or other marketing material; (c) providing names of, or assisting in the generation of, potential customers; (d) performing or providing marketing or billing services of any kind; (e) acting as an customers; (d) performing or providing marketing or billing services of any kind; (e) acting as an officer or director of a business entity; (f) hosting websites; or (g) processing payments.

3. "Individual Defendants" means Paul C. Orberon and Thomas A Mills, and by whatever other names each may be known.

4. "Corporate Defendants" means Fortune Hi-Tech Marketing, Inc., FHTM, Inc., . Alan Clark Holdings, LLC, FHTM Canada, Inc., and Fortune Network Marketing (UK) Limited, and their successors and assigns, as well as any subsidiaries, and any fictitious business entities or business names created or used by these entities.

5. "Defendants" means all of the Individual Defendants and the Corporate Defendants, individually, collectively, or in any combination.

6. "Document" or "Documents" means any materials listed in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 34(a) and includes writings, drawings, graphs, charts, photographs, audio and video recordings, computer records, and other data compilations from which information can be

obtained and translated, if necessary, into reasonably usable form through detection devices. A draft or nonidentical copy is a separate document within the meaning of the term.

7. "Financial Institution" means any bank, savings and loan institution, credit union, or any financial depository of any kind, including, but not limited to, any brokerage house, trustee, broker-dealer, escrow agent, title company, commodity trading company, or precious metal dealer. metal dealer.

8. "Marketing Program" includes, but is not limited to, any multi-level marketing program, business investment opportunity, pyramid marketing scheme, Ponzi scheme, or chain marketing scheme.

9. "Person" means a natural person, an organization or other legal entity, including a corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, limited liability company, association, cooperative, or any other group or combination acting as an entity.

10. "Plaintiffs" means the Federal Trade Commission, State of Illinois, Commonwealth of Kentucky, and State of North Carolina.

11. "Receivership Defendants" means Fortune Hi-Tech Marketing, mc., FHTM, mc., Alan Clark Holdings, LLC, FHTM Canada, mc., and Fortune Network Marketing (UK) Limited, and their successors and assigns, as well as any subsidiaries, and any fictitious business entities or business names created or used by these entities.

PROIDBITED BUSINESS ACTIVITIES

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Defendants, and their officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys, and all other persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of this Order by personal service or otherwise, whether acting directly or through any trust, corporation, subsidiary, division, or other device, in connection with the advertising, promoting, marketing, proposed sale, or sale of any product, service, plan, or program, are hereby restrained and enjoined from:

A. Engaging in, participating in, or assisting others in the advertising, marketing, promotion, or operation of any Marketing Program that:

1. Pays any compensation related to the recruitment of new participants;
2. Pays any compensation related to the purchase or sale of goods or services unless the majority of such compensation is derived from sales to persons who are not members of the Marketing Program; or

3. Constitutes a pyramid scheme;

B. Misrepresenting, or assisting others in misrepresenting, directly or indirectly, expressly or by implication, any material fact, including, but not limited to, that consumers who participate in a Marketing Program will or are likely to receive substantial income;

C. Furnishing promotional materials to be used in recruiting new participants in a Marketing Program that contain false and misleading representations;

D. Violating Sections 2 and 2A(2) of the Illinois Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act, 815 ILCS 505/2 and 2A(2) by:

1. Promoting a Marketing Program in which compensation is based primarily upon the inducement of additional participants into the Marketing Program and not primarily contingent upon the sale, or distribution for resale, of property or services to consumers in violation of Section 2A(2) of the Illinois Consumer Fraud Act;

2. Failing to disclose all fees and costs associated with participating in the programs being offered;

3. Misrepresenting, directly or indirectly, that consumers will earn substantial income after joining the program;

4. Furnishing consumers with promotional material to be used in recruiting new participants that contain false and misleading representations;

E. Violating the Kentucky Consumer Protection Act, KRS 367.010, by:

1. Promoting and inducing participation in a Marketing Program, which bases compensation payments to participants primarily on their recruitment of new participants rather than the retail sale of products or services;

2. Advertising, marketing, promoting and selling the right to participate in a Marketing Program by misrepresenting that participants will likely earn substantial income;

3. Providing participants with promotional materials to recruit new

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participants that contain false, misleading and deceptive information and representations; and
F. Violating the North Carolina Pyramid and Chain Schemes Statute, N.C. Gen. Stat
§ 14-291.2, by operating a pyramid scheme whereby a participant gives valuable consideration for
the opportunity to receive compensation in return for inducing other persons to become
participants in the program.

II. ASSET FREEZE

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendants, and their officers, agents, servants,
employees, attorneys, and all other persons in active concert or participation with any of them,
who receive actual notice of this Order by personal service or otherwise, whether acting directly
or through any trust, corporation, subsidiary, division, or other device, except as provided herein,
as stipulated by the parties, or as directed by further order of the Court, are hereby temporarily
restrained and enjoined from:

A. Transferring, liquidating, converting, encumbering, pledging, loaning, selling,
concealing, dissipating, disbursing, assigning, spending, withdrawing, granting a lien or security
interest or other interest in, or otherwise disposing of any funds, real or personal property,
accounts, contracts, shares of stock, lists of consumer names, or other assets, or any interest
therein, wherever located, including outside the territorial United States, that are:

1. Owned, controlled, or held by, in whole or in part, for the benefit of, or
subject to access by, or belonging to, any Defendant;
2. In the actual or constructive possession of any Defendant; or
3. In the actual or constructive possession of, or owned, controlled, or held by, or
subject to access by, or belonging to, any other corporation, partnership, trust, or any other entity
directly or indirectly owned, managed, or controlled by, or under common control with, any
Defendant, including, but not limited to, any assets held by or for any Defendant in any account at
any bank or savings and loan institution, or with any credit card processing agent, automated
clearing house processor, network transaction processor, bank debit processing agent, customer
service agent, commercial mail receiving agency, or mail holding or forwarding company, or any
credit union, retirement fund custodian, money market or mutual fund, storage company, trustee,
or with any broker-dealer, escrow agent, title company, commodity trading company, precious

A683

metal dealer, or other financial institution or depository of any kind, either within or outside the territorial United States;

B. Opening or causing to be opened any safe deposit boxes, commercial mail boxes, or storage facilities titled in the name of any Defendant, or subject to access by any Defendant or under any Defendant's control, without providing the Commission prior notice and an opportunity to inspect the contents in order to determine that they contain no assets covered by this Section;

C. Cashing any checks or depositing or processing any payments from customers or clients of Defendants;

D. Incurring charges or cash advances on any credit card issued in the name, singly or jointly, of any Defendant; or

E. Incurring liens or encumbrances on real property, personal property, or other assets in the name, singly or jointly, of any Defendant or of any corporation, partnership, or other entity directly or indirectly owned, managed, or controlled by any Defendant.

Notwithstanding the asset freeze provisions of Section II. A -E above, and subject to prior written agreement with the Commission, Individual Defendants may, upon compliance with Section VI (Financial Statements) infra, pay from their individual personal funds reasonable, usual, ordinary, and necessary living expenses.

The funds, property, and assets affected by this Section shall include both existing assets and assets acquired after the effective date of this Order.

IX. CONSUMER CREDIT REPORTS

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to Section 604(1) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1681b(1), any consumer reporting agency may furnish a consumer report concerning Defendant and/or Respondant Eric Holder Jr. to the Counsel for the Class Plaintiffs and/or Petitioners.

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ITI.

DUTIES OF TIDRD PARTIES HOLDING DEFENDANTS' ASSETS

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any financial institution, business entity, or person maintaining or having custody or control of any account or other asset of any Defendant, or any corporation, partnership, or other entity directly or indirectly owned, managed, or controlled by, or under common control with any Defendant, which is served with a copy of this Order, or otherwise has actual or constructive knowledge of this Order, shall:

A. Hold and retain within its control and prohibit the withdrawal, removal, assignment, transfer, pledge, hypothecation, encumbrance, disbursement, dissipation, conversion, sale, liquidation, or other disposal of any of the assets, funds, documents, or other property held by, or under its control:

1. On behalf of, or for the benefit of, any Defendant or any other party subject to Section II above;
2. In any account maintained in the name of, or for the benefit of, or subject to withdrawal by, any Defendant or other party subject to Section II above; and
3. That are subject to access or use by, or under the signatory power of, any Defendant or other party subject to Section II above;

B. Deny Defendants access to any safe deposit boxes or storage facilities that are either:

1. Titled in the name, individually or jointly, of any Defendant, or other party subject to Section II above; or
2. Subject to access by any Defendant or other party subject to Section II above;

C. Within five (5) days of the date of service of this Order, provide Plaintiffs a sworn statement setting forth:

1. The identification number of each account or asset titled in the name, individually or jointly, of any Defendant, or held on behalf of, or for the benefit of, any Defendant or other party subject to Section II above, including all trust accounts managed on

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PROOF OF SERVICE

I Sharon Bridgewater the Plaintiff/Appellant certify that I sent the following below parties:

A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE:

THE PETITION FOR PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS, FOR WRIT S IN NAUTRE OF WRIT OF MANDUMS, AFFIDVANT AND VERIFIED COMPLAINT FOR COMMON LAW WRIT OF CERTIORARI ON APPEAL FROM THE 36TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN were sent by first class mail(in a properly-addressed envelop with first class postage duly paid) served before 5:00 p.m. on FEB.1, 2017 from Detroit, Michigan to the parties and/or attorneys of record for all parties in this action, to the addresses listed below:

- To: Jeff Sessions in his official capacity as
Attorney General of the United States
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW Washington DC 20530-0001
Certified mail # 7015-1730-0000-4700-0980
- To: The Clerk of the Court for the United States Federal District Court of Columbia
333 Constitution Ave., N.W. Washington, DC 20001
Certified mail # 7015-1730-0000-4700-0973
- To: Kerry W. Kircher, General Counsel D.C. Bar No. 386816 at U.S. House of
Representatives
219 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515
Certified mail # 7015-1520-0001-6915-4915-4948
- To: John Russell Tyler, General Counsel,for Eric Holder at 950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington DC 20530-0001
Certified mail #7015-1520-001-6915-4955
- To: Donald B. Verrilli , the Solicitor General of the United States, Room 5614 – Department
of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW Washington DC 20530-0001,
Certified mail #7015-1520-0001-6915-4931

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To: Channing D. Phillips U.S. Attorney General for the District of Columbia
555 Fourth Street, NW
Washington DC 20530
Certified mail #7015-1520-0001-6915-4924


To: Judge Austin W. Garrett in his official capacity
As State Court Judge for the 36th District Court for the State of Michigan
State of Michigan 36th District Court
421 Madison
Detroit, MI 48226
Certified mail #7015-1520-0001-4700-0942

To: Officer Brian Kross – 0029-092-503 in his official capacity as State Trooper Police Officer
for the State of Michigan

State of Michigan Police – 14350 W. 10 Mile Road, Oak Park, MI 48237
Certified mail #7015-1730-0000-4700-0959

To: Donald Trump in his official capacity as United States President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue ,N.W. Washington, D.C.20500-0001
Certified mail #7015-1730-0000-4700-0966

I certify and/or Declare and/or state under penalty and perjury and to pursuant to 28 U.S.C.
§1746 that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed 19th DAY OF APRIL 2017 in Detroit,
Michigan.


Sharon Bridgewater –Pro Se
Appellant
18952 Dale Street
Detroit, MI 48219
313-471-8714
sbridge11@yahoo.com
ATTORNEY FOR THE ABOVE

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