

Corruption Chronicles

A PUBLICATION BY JUDICIAL WATCH



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FIGHTING THE ACLU CAN COST BIG MONEY

The scare tactic that liberal groups have used for years to intimidate cities nationwide into removing religious displays before even going to court is one big step closer to extinction.

Groups such as the ultra-leftist American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) have bullied numerous municipalities into removing the displays—such as crosses and Ten Commandments displays—from public property with threats of costly lawsuits that scare officials into complying in order to avoid costly litigation. The figures can be astronomical since courts usually reimburse the so-called civil rights groups for their high attomey's fees in addition to damages.



House of Representatives

In September, the House of Representatives passed the Public Expression of Religion Act which would prevent federal courts from requiring government entities to reimburse the legal costs of the individual or group that sued the government agency over the First Amendment's establishment clause. The clause says that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

The battles have cost taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years since federal judges routinely require the government agency, whether it is a city or county, to pay the legal expenses of a plaintiff who successfully asserts an establishment clause violation. This has intimidated many officials into complying with requests before ever reaching a courthouse to fight it. Recent cases involve crosses at veterans' cemeteries, Christmas nativity scenes and Ten Commandments displays in government buildings.

Another high-profile example involves the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors which was threatened with a \$1 million legal bill by the ACLU if it didn't remove a tiny cross in the county seal. Although the cross was a fixture in the county seal for decades, reluctant supervisors complied with the ACLU demand when faced with the prospect of large legal fees.

"Groups such as the ultra-leftist
American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
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removing [religious] displays."

ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT KILLS OFFICER



Houston, Texas Mayor Bill White.

In yet another tragic example of the federal government's negligence in failing to secure the country's borders, a Houston Texas police officer was murdered by an illegal immigrant who had been deported in 2004 for molesting a child.

The officer was brutally shot by the illegal immigrant, Juan Quintero, during a routine traffic stop, and Houston's distraught police chief blamed the U.S. government's neglect for the lethal attack, saying that if it had fulfilled its responsibility of protecting the border, his officer would still be alive.

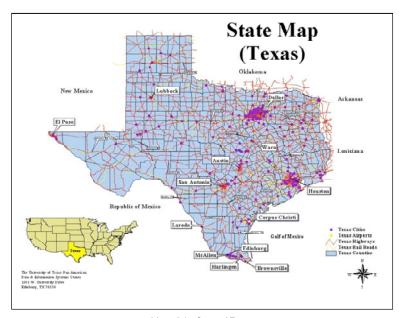
Ironically, a general order created in 1992 prevents Houston police officers from asking people they encounter in traffic stops and other minor incidents about their immigration status. Mayor Bill White and Police Chief Harold Hurtt successfully fought efforts to place on

the November ballot a proposal that would require police to question citizenship.

Officer Rodney Johnson stopped Quintero, who was employed by a Deer Park landscaping company, for speeding in a company pickup and proceeded to arrest him for driving without a license or any other form of identification.

Quintero had previously been arrested for driving while intoxicated, driving with a suspended license, and for failing to stop and provide information after an automobile accident. This time the Mexican national had a concealed a 9 millimeter handgun in the waistband of his pants and shot the officer four times in the back of the head. Officer Johnson leaves behind four young children and a wife, who is also a police officer.

The big question, of course, is how did this convicted criminal get back into the United States after being deported? (Another dangerous example of our porous borders.) There is also the issue of his employer. Who would hire a violent and previously deported illegal immigrant? Some suggest that authorities go after the Deer Park landscaping company that hired this convicted illegal migrant and allowed him to use a company vehicle.



Map of the State of Texas.

NATIONAL SECURITY FOR SALE AT U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION

The federal agency responsible for preventing immigration fraud is infested with corrupt officers who regularly accept bribes from illegal immigrants in exchange for visas and other official government documents.

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), a branch of the Department of Homeland Security, claims that promoting national security is its priority, however, hundreds of its employees are being investigated for their involvement in bribery, fraud and foreign influence.

This year alone, five agency employees have been arrested or convicted on charges ranging from benefits fraud to embezzlement. Recently, an immigration officer in the Los Angeles office was arrested and charged with issuing a visa to an illegal immigrant from Nicaragua. The officer, Maria Barillas, was also charged with accessing government computers without authorization and identity theft.



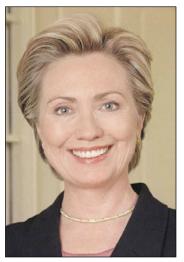
Congressman Ed Royce (R-CA), Chairman, House Subcomittee on Terrorism and Nonproliferation.

The rampant corruption among the agency's 15,000 employees is clearly overwhelming the agency's Office of Security and Investigations, which has only four officers investigating more than 3,000 complaints of wrongdoing. Of those, about 500 involve serious allegations such as bribery, fraud and foreign influence.

The congressman who currently chairs the House Subcommittee on Terrorism and Nonproliferation says this obviously creates a national security compromise which terrorists can easily exploit. Congressman Ed Royce (R-CA) also condemned the agency for allocating millions of dollars this year for employee bonuses and parties instead of internal criminal investigations.

"The congressman who chairs the House Subcommittee on Terrorism and Nonproliferation says [corruption] obviously creates a national security compromise which terrorists can easily exploit."

MCAULIFFE TO HEAD HILLARY'S **CAMPAIGN?**







The renowned Democratic fundraiser. who made a fortune with suspicious investments in a telecommunications giant that went bankrupt, will chair Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign beginning next year.

Former Democratic National Committee Chairman and political money machine Terry McAuliffe told his rich friends that he will, in fact, run Clinton's 2008 campaign for the White House, even though the New York Senator continues to insist she is focused solely on winning her Senate reelection this year. McAuliffe,

who has raised millions for Democrats over the years, was responsible for Bill Clinton's reelection in 1996, according to the former president himself. Al Gore has called him "the greatest fundraiser in the history of the universe."

Political insiders estimate that McAuliffe can help Hillary, considered a money-raising machine in her own right, to raise approximately \$100 million before the 2008 lowa caucuses in January.

McAuliffe started his fundraising career in Jimmy Carter's 1979 reelection campaign and he has raised big bucks for Democrats over the years. Not without controversy. He was investigated for campaignfinance abuses during the 1996 presidential election and was deposed by the Senate committee investigating the matter.

In 2002 McAuliffe was investigated for his role in an unprecedented case of political profiteering for turning a \$100,000 investment in telecommunications giant Global Crossings into an \$18 million profit. The company later made the fourth-largest bankruptcy filing in history, and McAuliffe insisted he only did "political work" for the company's founder who, incidentally, donated \$1 million to Bill Clinton's Presidential Library.

Perhaps McAuliffe will tell more in his upcoming book, for which he received a seven-figure advance. After all, he promises that it will detail his closeness to Bill Clinton.

"In 2002 McAuliffe, was investigated for his role in an unprecedented case of political profiteering for turning a \$100,000 investment in telecommunications giant Global Crossings into an \$18 million profit."

PRISONS INFESTED WITH ISLAMIC TERRORISTS

Long considered recruiting stations for violent gangs, U.S. prisons have become a dangerous breeding ground for radical Islamic terrorists, and authorities claim they don't have the resources to address the serious problem.

A new report to be released by the Homeland Security Policy Institute at George Washington University concludes that U.S. officials are aware of the problem but are too cash-strapped to do anything about it. This allows Islamic extremists to target their vulnerable prison mates with Muslim readings that promote radi-



Islamic fundamentalists at Folsom State Prison plotted shooting rampages at three National Guard facilities.

calization and violence, creating the sort of homegrown terrorism currently plaguing other countries.

The Federal Bureau of Prisons estimates that there are 2 million people imprisoned in the U.S. and around 6% of them are Muslim. There have been many high-profile cases of terrorists who became radicalized during incarceration, including British shoe bomber Richard Reid in a United Kingdom prison.

Others include former Chicago gang banger Jose Padilla, the "dirty bomber," who converted to Islam while serving time in a South Florida prison; radical Wahhabi Islam converts at northern California's Folsom State Prison who plotted shooting rampages against three National Guard facilities, several synagogues and the Israeli consulate; an FBI informant who converted to Islam while serving time in a California juvenile detention center and later trained with the terrorist who kidnapped and beheaded an American newspaper reporter.

One counterterrorism organization offers a glimpse into how this radicalization process occurs by posting a variety of material, distributed in American prisons, to indoctrinate inmates. It includes Quran translations by radical terrorists groups that promote jihad. Another says all Muslims are obligated to undertake jihad by spending wealth or offering oneself for fighting in the cause of Allah and another says, "teach your children the love of justice and revenge from the unjust like the Jews and the tyrants."

None of this is news to U.S. officials or lawmakers. After all, more than a year ago FBI Director Robert Mueller testified before Congress, that "prisons continue to be fertile ground for extremists who exploit both a prisoner's conversion to Islam while still in prison, as well as their socioeconomic status and placement in the community upon their release." This begs the question: What is going to be done about it?

JUDGING LIBERALLY IN THE WEST



9th Circuit Court of Appeals

The same notoriously liberal appellate court that ruled unconstitutional the phrase "Under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance, overturned a first-degree murder conviction because the victims' family wore buttons with the victims' pictures in court.

The U.S. Supreme Court recently heard arguments on this issue and hopefully it will overturn the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals' bizarre decision, which concluded that the picture buttons worn by the victims' family deprived the murderer of a fair trial because they conveyed a specific message—that

the defendant was guilty. Never mind the overwhelming evidence and multiple witnesses that testified in the case involving a vicious gun attack.

In fact, the infamously liberal justice who wrote the opinion for the 9th Circuit's three-judge panel said that, "a reasonable jurist would be compelled to conclude that the buttons worn by [the victims'] family members conveyed the message that the defendant was guilty." The court cited a 1976 Supreme Court ruling that said it would be unfair to require a criminal defendant to wear jail clothes during trial because the jury would infer guilt.

The veteran justice, Stephen Reinhardt, was appointed to the court by Jimmy Carter and is often referred to as a liberal legal activist on the bench. He happens to be married to the executive director of the Southern California American Civil Liberties Union, Ramona Ripston.

The 75-year-old judge has the honor of having two of his decisions before the Supreme Court this session and is a member of the appellate court that is most often reversed by the high court—15 reversals out of 18 cases last term alone.

Reinhardt was also on the three-judge panel that overturned the California death sentence of a man who brutally killed a woman by beating her with an iron dumbbell because jurors "might not have taken into account the defendant's potential for a positive adjustment to life in prison."

A 1997 magazine article said Judge Reinhardt's jurisprudence has become increasingly eccentric and sloppy.

"...a reasonable jurist would be compelled to conclude that the buttons worn by [the victims'] family members conveyed the message that the defendant was guilty."

HILLARY QUIET ABOUT ONE DUBAI DEAL

While Hillary Clinton toured the country denouncing a controversial deal that would have allowed an Arab company to help run American ports, she failed to mention that a firm operated by her top advisers was quietly lobbying for the same Arab company's takeover of two U.S. defense plants.

Concerned about national security, the New York senator vowed to block the spring deal which would have put Dubai Ports World, owned by the United Arab Emirates, in charge of all major U.S. ports. Clinton promised to do everything in her power to ensure there are no repeat attacks like the ones her state experienced on September 11, 2001, saying it meant "ensuring our ports are not turned over to foreign governments."

At the same time, a lobbying/public relations firm called Glover Park Group was helping—for a hefty \$100,000 fee—Arab government-owned Dubai International Capital acquire an engineering firm that makes tank and aircraft turbines in Connecticut and Georgia. Evidently, this didn't bother



Senator Hillary Clinton

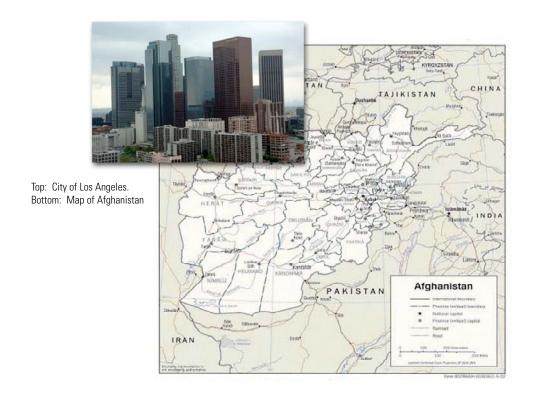
Clinton, whose top advisers run Glover Park Group and presumably collect hefty incomes from its annual profits.

Based in Washington, D.C. and New York, Glover Park Group's partners include Clinton insiders such as former Hillary Clinton spokesperson Howard Wolfson and former White House spokesman Joe Lockhart. The firm's web site says it offers crisis management services and has handled everything from a presidential impeachment—obviously referring to Bill Clinton—to a crippling antitrust action of one of the nation's largest companies.

Glover Park has also represented the government of Turkey for thousands of dollars. The firm's 2005 financial reports detail lobbying income of more than \$2 million.

"...[Hillary Clinton] failed to mention that a firm operated by her top advisers was quietly lobbying for the same Arab company's takeover of two U.S. defense plants."

MUSLIM TERRORISM ADVOCATE RECEIVES "HUMANITARIAN AWARD"



A U.S. government entity not only awarded an Islamic terrorism proponent and renowned America-hater a prestigious humanitarian award, but it turns out that state open meeting laws were likely violated when the Muslim leader was selected. Apparently fearful of the controversy its radical candidate for the annual award would stir, the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission evidently violated California open meeting laws when members decided to honor Maher Hathout with the "outstanding human relations work" award.

Hathout, the president of the Islamic Center of California, is well-known for his anti-Semitic speeches that endorse Palestinian Hamas, known chiefly for its brutal suicide bombings, and the radical Lebanese group Hezbollah. In fact, at an October 2000 rally across from the White House, Hathout screamed, "intifada"—an Arabic term for uprising—and told the assembled crowd that Israel is a racist, apartheid state of butchers. The Jewish Defense League is outraged at the award's recipient, saying that it represents an insult to all Americans and Jews and that Hathout should instead be condemned.

Hathout has repeatedly accused the United States of committing state terrorism and has come to the defense of several Muslims convicted in the U.S. of financing or aiding foreign Islamic terrorist groups. In the late 90's he said that America was committing an act of terrorism by striking terrorist targets in Sudan and Afghanistan in response to al Qaida's bombing of American embassies in Africa.

Apparently, the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations, a county government body appointed by the board of supervisors, believes this outrageous terrorist and anti-Semitic propaganda is deserving of a prestigious award named after a former director of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (John Allen Buggs).

BUCKS FOR BILLS IN GOLDEN STATE

Califomia Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has raised millions of dollars for his reelection campaign from big time contributors with interests in pending legislation that he will soon veto or sign into law.

The former Hollywood actor has raised \$26.4 million from a variety of industries that clearly hope to receive favorable legislation in return. Among the deep-pocketed businesses with bills on the governor's desk are restaurants, insurance companies, banks, construction and real estate interests and energy producers.

The car sales and agriculture industries have each dished out \$1 million as several bills that currently sit on the governor's desk would deeply affect them. The big piece



California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

of legislation for car dealers would require that half of all vehicles sold in California by 2020 be fueled by alternative sources. Pending farming bills would increase monitoring of contaminants in groundwater and could raise workers' compensation charges for employers.

While state legislators approved more than 1,000 bills in August, bills that now depend on the governor's signature, Schwarzenegger toured the country soliciting campaign cash. Collecting millions from the very businesses that lobby for favorable laws during the make-it-or-break-it period has even drawn criticism from the governor's avid supporters.

One of them, former California Republican Governor George Deukmejian, said that while he is sure Schwarzenegger wouldn't do anything in exchange for a contribution, "it does give that appearance" and "that should be avoided."

Ironically, Schwarzenegger called for a fundraising blackout period as a first-time candidate in 2003 and criticized former Governor Gray Davis, whom he replaced in a recall election, for raising money during the months when he was signing bills. Now the Terminator is doing the exact same thing.

"The former Hollywood actor has raised \$26.4 million from a variety of industries that clearly hope to receive favorable legislation in return."

BILL CLINTON DEMANDS CENSORSHIP OF 9/11 MOVIE



Former President Bill Clinton

Of the many powerful friends Bill Clinton has in Hollywood, none were willing to help the former president in his drive to censor an ABC miniseries about the September 11 terrorist attacks that aired on the fifth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Clinton demanded that the television network pull the drama, and his army of well-connected lawyers has sent network executives a threatening, four-page letter listing his demands.

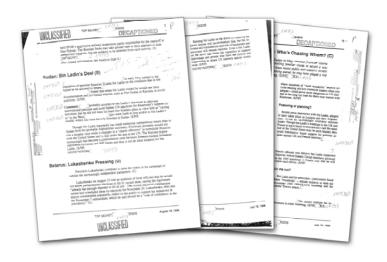
The five-hour miniseries dramatizes ten years of events leading up to the horrific attacks on the Twin Towers and the Pentagon, clearly leaving the impression that the people in charge of keeping Americans safe —Clinton and his administration—failed systematically and shamefully. The series is based on the 9/11 Commission report which in fact accuses the government of failing to protect the nation.

A scandal-plagued, persisitent liar who could always count on his friends in the mainstream media and Hollywood for support, Clinton is evidently feeling betrayed by his powerful pals. He disputes every scene that portrays him or members of his administration, especially former secretary of state Madeleine Albright, negatively as "false and defamatory."

The fact is: there is plenty of evidence that Clinton acted negligently regarding terrorist threats during his eight tumultuous years in the White House. Last year Judicial Watch released declassified State Department documents that prove the Clinton administration was warned about the threat posed by Osama bin Laden but took no meaningful action to stop him.

Authored by the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research, the documents warned Clinton administration officials about bin Laden's influence and activities following his expulsion from Sudan and listed information about his travels, prolonged stay in Afghanistan, financial networks and anti-Western

threats. Apparently Clinton was too busy dealing with his domestic issues to focus on the need to eliminate one of America's biggest terrorist threats. So here we are today, five years into a worldwide war on terrorism.



U.S. State Department documents detailing the bin Laden threat.

WAIVING VISAS RISKS NATIONAL SECURITY

Officials in the Department of Homeland Security admit that an unknown amount of "inadmissible aliens" have entered the United States using a stolen or lost passport from a country whose citizens are allowed to travel here without a visa.

Introduced in 1986, the Visa Waiver Program allows millions of citizens in 27 countries to come to the U.S. for 90 days or less without first obtaining a visa. In fiscal year 2004, the year with the latest available statistics, more than 15 million foreigners entered the U.S. without obtaining prior consular permission.

This system facilitates travel while easing consular workload, but also poses huge national security risks since stolen passports from visa waiver countries can easily be obtained by terrorists and other criminals. Additionally, the foreign documents present huge challenges to border inspectors who may face language barriers or the sufficient resources for adequate investigations.

These and other problems with the Visa Waiver Program are documented in a new report from the Government Accountability Office, which concludes that the program has inherent risks and many weaknesses that the Department of Homeland Security has failed to address over the years.

Among them is the mega-agency's failure to establish specific operating procedures for the crucial reporting of stolen passports that could be used to enter the U.S. illegally. While the agency has told participating countries to report stolen passports, it has yet to create the specific method or guidelines for enforcement. Visa waiver countries currently report stolen passports to the International Criminal Police Organization. However, U.S. authorities rarely use the data as a border screening tool.

The Visa Waiver Program has been under scrutiny for years and, in 2002, Congress even ordered a muchneeded review of the security risks posed by participating countries which include the United Kingdom and



Spain, home to many terrorist cells. Federal officials responded by creating a two-employee office to asses risks and conduct reviews—an inadequate response to a very serious threat to national security.

Department of Homeland Security web pages detailing the government's Visa Waver Program.

EXPENSIVE GOVERNMENT SECRECY



The U.S. federal government continues to restrict public access to information at unprecedented levels, often asserting the national security "state secrets" privilege successfully in court.

In 2005 alone, the government spent \$7.7 billion to prevent information from going public by marking 14.2 million documents either top secret, secret or confidential. A new report by a coalition of watchdog groups details how the government is keeping information from the people and how taxpayers are picking up the hefty tab. For instance, federal agencies spent \$134 creating and storing new secrets for each dollar spent to declassify old secrets. That's down from the record \$148 in 2004, but up from the \$17-to-\$1 ratio spent in 2000.

Additionally, the George W. Bush administration has used national security to keep information secret more times than previous administrations at the height of the Cold War, between 1953 and 1976.

The top secretive agencies include the Pentagon, which spent 17% of its \$315.5 billion budget to classify information, and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, which oversees requests for U.S. surveillance and approved all 2,072 secret surveillance orders.

One of the report's authors said it's natural for every administration to control information about its policies and practices, but said this administration has done it at unprecedented levels and asked how the public or even Congress can make informed decisions under such circumstances.

"In 2005 alone, the government spent \$7.7 billion to prevent information from going public by marking 14.2 million documents either top secret, secret or confidential".

THE CLINTON YUCAIPA CONNECTION

A scandal-ridden billionaire who pays Bill Clinton millions of dollars annually to be an "adviser" is one of Hillary Clinton's major donors and fundraisers. And the New York Senator often votes on legislation that affects his massive empire.

Ron Burkle, the owner of Los Angeles-based equity firm Yucaipa, contributed millions of dollars to Bill Clinton's campaigns, the Democratic Party and Bill's longtime wife, Hillary. Burkle also paid a big chunk of the \$11 million in legal bills Bill accrued during his presidential scandals and he is a huge benefactor of the Clinton Library in Little Rock.

Yucaipa supposedly operates funds that invest capital into poor urban and rural areas in the United States and abroad, the kind that traditional equity funds and banks are reluc-



Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY)

tant to serve. Among them is a clothing enterprise owned by multi-millionaire rap mogul Sean Puffy Combs, a major contributor to Hillary Clinton's campaigns, who has vowed to support her White House run in 2008.

Hillary has refused to provide details of her husband's multi-million dollar ties to Yucaipa, claiming on her 2003 and 2004 Senate financial disclosures that Bill's only Yucaipa income is "more than \$1,000 in quaranteed payments."

All of this may bring back memories of Hillary's infamous 1978 commodity trade in which she turned an initial investment of \$1,000 into \$6,300 overnight by ordering cattle futures contracts worth twelve times the amount in her account. In the subsequent ten months of trading, the former First Lady made nearly \$100,000 thanks to "inside" tips.

These types of suspicious financial relationships are par for the course for Hillary as has been well-documented through the years.

"Hillary has refused to provide details of her husband's multi-million dollar ties to Yucaipa, claiming on her 2003 and 2004 Senate financial disclosures that Bill's only Yucaipa income is 'more than \$1,000 in guaranteed payments."

PUBLIC MONEY FOR TRANSGENDER PRISON INMATES



Thousands of taxpayer dollars are annually spent on hormone treatments, laser hair removal and makeup for "transgender" prison inmates, and now one convicted murderer is suing the Massachusetts Department of Corrections to pay for an expensive sex-change surgery, claiming that he is a woman trapped in a man's body.

The surgery is estimated to cost between \$10,000 and \$20,000 and the inmate, convicted in 1993 of murdering his wife, claims that his gender-identity disorder is a serious illness that can lead to severe anxiety, depression, suicide attempts and self-castration. Denying this treatment for a "medical necessity" supposedly would violate the Eighth

Amendment's prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment, according to his lawsuit.

The murderer, Robert Kosilek, already receives costly female hormone treatments, laser hair removal, makeup and female undergarments in prison. Many states across the county spend thousand of dollars of public money to regularly provide so-called transgender inmates these costly items because their advocates claim that they will otherwise suffer.

For instance, Massachusetts pays for the hormone shots of at least four inmates diagnosed with gender-identity disorder. Colorado pays for the female hormone treatment of a convicted child molester who is now suing the state to provide him with a gender specialist in hopes that the specialist determines he needs the costly sex-change operation.

Wisconsin is the only state with a law prohibiting the Department of Corrections from using tax dollars for transgender inmates' hormone therapy or sex-reassignment surgery. The legislation was passed earlier this year and has already been challenged by a civil rights group on behalf of two inmates, who claim they are being denied "appropriate medical treatment while incarcerated."

"Many states across the county spend thousand of dollars of public money to regularly provide so-called transgender inmates these costly items because their advocates claim that they will otherwise suffer."

OFFICER IN TROUBLE FOR CATCHING ILLEGALS?

A Rhode Island State Trooper who apprehended 14 illegal immigrants during a traffic stop is being investigated at the request of a renowned "civil rights" organization that claims the officer had no right to ask for identification.

During a routine traffic stop, Trooper Thomas Chabot asked the driver as well as the passengers in a van for identification, a department procedure. When 14 of the passengers could not provide valid identification, the officer called Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials. As it turns out, the 14 passengers were found by federal authorities to be in the U.S. illegally and now face deportation. This outraged the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), an advocate of open borders and rights for illegal immigrants.

The ACLU went so far as to accuse the trooper of "egregious racial profiling" and overstepping his authority by taking immigration enforcement into his own hands. The organization's Rhode Island affiliate filed a complaint, forcing the officer to be investigated. Judicial Watch sent a letter to the Rhode Island state government supporting the trooper in response to the ACLU's complaints.

Perhaps the ACLU would prefer that federal immigration officials man checkpoints in every city so that illegals could be detained on the spot by the "appropriate officials."

The point, however, is that a local law enforcement officer did his job and now he is under fire. It comes as little surprise that the ACLU would protect an illegal immigrant over a cop who catches lawbreakers. The organization has often been on the wrong side of the law and common sense for more than 80 years.



"Federal immigration laws make it a crime for any person to transport certain classes of aliens."

> Excerpt from a letter sent to the Rhode Island State Police from Judicial Watch.

NSA WIRETAPPING JUDGE ACCUSED OF QUESTIONABLE COURTROOM ETHICS



The federal judge who presided over the government's anti-terrorism wiretapping case may have had a conflict of interest according to documents uncovered by Judicial Watch. Judge Anna Diggs Taylor serves on a Board of Directors for a community foundation that gave money to the Michigan ACLU, one of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit. This link was never disclosed to parties in the case.

This recent discovery received a ton of media coverage owing to the seriousness of the case, and it certainly calls to question Judge

Diggs Taylor's judgment, but it is not the first time Judge Diggs Taylor has been accused of questionable ethics in cases before her court. For example:

In an affirmative action case involving the University of Michigan School of Law, Judge Diggs Taylor reportedly attempted to use her position as then-Chief Judge of the federal District Court to reassign the case from Judge Bernard Freedman, who had been assigned the case by a blind draw, to a more "sympathetic" judge. Interestingly enough, Judge Diggs Taylor's husband was, and is, on the Board of Regents for the University of Michigan. Judge Freedman questioned Diggs Taylor's "highly irregular" behavior and the attempt to reassign the case was dropped. Judge Diggs Taylor, however, was never punished.

Currently, Judge Diggs Taylor is presiding over a civil trial in which former Arab Community Center for Social and Economic Services (ACCESS) employee, Bushra Alawie, is suing ACCESS for a variety of claims, including discrimination. Judge Diggs Taylor is a Trustee and the Secretary for the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan (CFSEM), a foundation that has donated \$180,000 to ACCESS. Despite her connection to ACCESS however, Judge Diggs Taylor has not recused herself and the trial is set for February 2007.

Judge Anna Diggs Taylor serves on a Board of Directors for a community foundation that gave money to the Michigan ACLU, one of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit.

FORBES FLIP FLOPS ON CHINESE BUSINESSMAN LI KA SHING

On September 5, 2006, Forbes magazine's Editor-in-Chief, Steve Forbes, personally bestowed the first ever Malcom S. Forbes Lifetime Achievement Award on Chinese businessman Li Ka Shing. According to the Li Ka Shing Foundation website, "The Award, named for Forbes' legendary chairman, honors a lifetime of achievement as a hero of entrepreneurial capitalism." You read that correctly. The first-ever Forbes award given to a "hero of entrepreneurial capitalism," will go to a Communist Chinese businessman.



The Red flag of China.

What a difference seven years can make.

Here's what Steve Forbes had to say about Li Ka Shing's company, Hutchinson Whampoa Limited, in an interview with *Worldnetdaily* on December 21, 1999:

"Clearly, President Clinton and Vice President Gore are not telling the American people the truth about their relationship with Communist China. We all know why. You can see it in how they react, such as the Hong Kong company Hutchison Whampoa that got the concession on both sides of the [Panama] canal. The same company was involved in California with the U.S. Naval base at Long Beach. Not to mention the way they blindly allowed our nuclear secrets to be stolen. I think there, the [Clinton/Gore] administration did not think that keeping secrets was all that important.

"I do know [Hutchinson Whampoa has] relations with the Beijing government even though they vigorously deny it, and say they are independent. So why take the risk."

Steve Forbes was right in 1999 and he's wrong now. Li Ka Shing has close and suspicious ties to the Chinese Communist government and military. According to intelligence documents obtained by Judicial Watch, Li Ka Shing, "is directly connected to Beijing and is willing to use its business influence to further the aims of the Chinese government." He also was a founding board member of the China International Trust and Investment Corporation (CITIC), a front group for China's "People's Liberation Army."

Can Steve Forbes seriously say that there was no one else more deserving of this award?

"The first-ever Forbes award given to a 'hero of entrepreneurial capitalism,' will go to a Communist Chinese businessman."

IMMIGRATION COURT BATTLES BEGIN



Fed up with the enormous burden of illegal immigration, cities nationwide have created legislation in an effort to curb it.

Now they face costly litigation battles with so-called civil rights groups that are challenging the new laws in court.

Five municipalities have already passed ordinances to control illegal immigration and penalize those who abet it, and dozens are in the process of creating such legislation. Many of the proposed laws are similar to those created over the summer in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, a former coalmining town northwest of Philadelphia with a large illegal immigrant population.

Hazleton's Illegal Immigration Relief Act was pushed by Mayor Louis
Barletta after an illegal immigrant committed a brutal murder in May. Agreeing
with the mayor's sentiment that illegal immigrants were harming the city, Hazleton's City Council
approved the law in July. It suspends the license of any business that employs, retains or aids illegal
immigrants and imposes a hefty fine on landlords renting property to illegal immigrants. It also declares
that all official city business be written in English.

Now various civil rights groups are suing Hazleton to block their laws, claiming that they violate the United States Constitution's supremacy clause by attempting to regulate immigration, which is up to the federal government. Riverside, California, which passed similar laws, is also fighting legal challenges.

Leading the lawsuit bandwagon is the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund and, of course, the American Civil Liberties Union.

These organizations claim that the ordinances discriminate against immigrants and the president of one of the group's actually said that they were created as "a reaction to a crazy climate of 'get these people out of town.'"

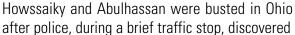
The argument that the local laws are unconstitutional may not hold up in court since a congressional report recently concluded that cities are entitled to use local licensing laws to regulate the employment of illegal immigrants, especially since the measures are consistent with federal objectives.

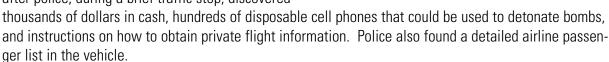
Regardless of who wins the legal battle, cities throughout the country, already burdened with the toll that illegal immigrants have taken on law enforcement, healthcare and education must spend more of taxpayer dollars to defend the laws they were forced to create to protect against the rising tide of illegal aliens.

AMERICANS FUND "HEZBOLLAH HIGH"

Two Arab men charged in August 2006 with money laundering to aid terrorism are graduates of a Michigan public high school that is widely known as "Hezbollah High" for its rallies in defense of the radical Islamic terrorist organization.

In fact, the two men, both 20 years old, were star football players at the taxpayer-funded school in Dearborn, Fordson High. Talk radio host Debbie Schlussel, who has been following the school, says that the next time you're told that all-American Muslim boys play football and are "just like us," think again.





The most disturbing part of this story is that these men apparently began their terrorist training at an American public school in Middle America. Ninety percent of Fordson High students are of Arab descent and students frequently participate in pro-Hezbollah marches in town. Clearly, despite supporting terrorist movements, they like to take advantage of America's First Amendment.

Just before the charges were filed, many Fordson students were among the 5,000 Arabs who marched in Dearborn streets to protest Israel's defense against Lebanese terrorists. They waved Lebanese flags and chanted, "Stop Israeli terrorism" and "Long live Hezbollah!"



"...these men apparently began their terrorist training at an American public school in Middle America."

DEFEAT BLAMED ON FRAUD, CONSPIRACY



Former Georgia Congressman Cynthia McKinney

Is voter fraud and political corruption responsible for the reelection defeat of radical Georgia Congressman Cynthia McKinney, or is she simply a paranoid conspiracy theorist?

The fact is, people in McKinney's Peach State district wanted her out. The controversial congressman first blamed her recent reelection primary loss on voter fraud and then later on Republican crossover voters who were out to ruin her. The bottom line is that the race-baiting, cop-assaulting McKinney will no longer represent Georgia's fourth district and she can't possibly use her favorite rallying cry, racism, since the man who defeated her is also black. McKinney lost to Hank Johnson by 11,000 votes, or 16%, though she states the election was stolen from her and that a media conspiracy played a big role.

McKinney had her attorney send a threatening letter to an Atlanta newspaper demanding that it stop publishing stories that said Johnson was leading her in various polls. McKinney called it "libelist writing" and insisted the paper "cease and desist and offer a retraction."

The threats didn't exactly get her more votes and she didn't go down gracefully. McKinney's bitterness was apparent in her "concession" speech which railed against electronic voting and stolen elections. Moreover, after playing the blame game, McKinney's team allegedly started beating reporters the same way that McKinney beat a Capitol Hill police officer for requesting she provide identification.

"The fact is folks in McKinney's Peach State district wanted her out."

NEY PLEADS GUILTY, LEAVES CONGRESS

The web of scandals involving Jack Abramoff has claimed its first congressional "victim." Rep. Bob Ney (R-OH) recently pled guilty to conspiracy and making false statements related to his dealings with Abramoff. He is the first lawmaker to confess to crimes in the Abramoff matter, which reportedly involves at least a dozen members of congress.

With his guilty plea, Ney acknowledged taking money, gifts and favors in return for official actions on behalf of Abramoff and his clients, and now faces a maximum of 10 years in prison. Prosecutors are reportedly seeking a 27-month prison sentence, while federal guidelines suggest a fine of between \$5,000 and \$60,000.

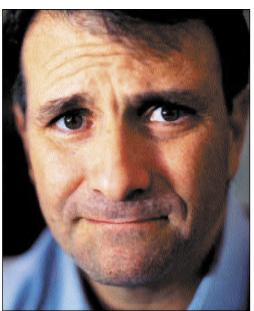
Earlier this year, Ney withdrew from his race for a seventh term in the U.S. House of Representatives. Maintaining his innocence, Ney attributed the sudden change to his family, not his well-documented ties to the convicted lobbyist or the federal investigation into his corrupt activities.

Ney's congressional chief of staff had previously pled guilty for conspiring to corrupt Ney and other members of Congress and their aides with trips, free tickets and meals. The former aide, Neil Volz, admitted committing the illegal activities over four years. He eventually left Ney's office to work for Abramoff, who was one of Washington's best connected lobbyists and a major fundraiser for both parties. (Abramoff is now serving a prison sentence.)

In the May primary, Ney won 68% of the vote against a little-known opponent and he vowed to go forth with a seventh term, despite the fact that he was under intense scrutiny in the corruption scandal that rocked Washington. Obviously, as the investigation progressed, he saw the writing on the wall.

Ney is the first of what many believe will be a string of congressional casualties in the Abramoff scandal.





Top: Rep. Bob Ney (R-OH)
Bottom: Former Lobbyist Jack Abramoff

FORMER ALABAMA GOVERNOR DENIED ACQUITTAL IN CORRUPTION CASE

Former Alabama governor, Don Siegelman, was recently found guilty in a wide-spread scandal. According to the *Associated*

Press, "Siegelman was convicted of seven counts, which included charges of bribery, mail fraud, conspiracy, and obstruction of justice." His defense filed a motion for acquittal but on August 18 courts denied the motion from Siegelman and accomplice Richard Scrushy, former CEO of Health South.

According to the abounding evidence, Siegelman was up to his elbows in illicit campaign donations and ill-gotten gifts.

At the top of the corruption list, Siegelman received \$500,000 in campaign donations from Health South ex-CEO, Richard Scrushy, disquised as donations to an education lottery campaign. In return,

Siegelman was to award Scrushy with a place on the Certificate of Need board, a state organization that approves hospital expansion projects, where Scrushy could influence important decisions that would benefit Health South.

It doesn't stop there. In return for hundreds of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions, a four-wheeler for his son, a motorcycle, plane tickets and countless other "donations," Seigelman provided lobbyist Lanny Young with assistance in his lobbying career and his landfill development. Young was convicted after pleading guilty to what he testified was, "an agreement with Siegelman ...to turn the governor's office into an unlawful enterprise."

But wait- there's more. In return for more than \$40,000 in campaign contributions from toll-bridge developer Jim Allen, Siegelman was to appoint Allen's former employee State Transportation Director. Prosecutors also accused Siegelman of accepting other bribes from Allen to support road development projects that would personally benefit Allen.

"Siegelman was convicted of seven counts, which included charges of bribery, mail fraud, conspiracy, and obstruction of justice."

NEW YORK'S JUSTICE PROBLEMS

Serious abuses occur daily in small-town courts throughout New York State that practice old-fashioned justice led by some judges with no formal education and little knowledge or regard for the law

A lengthy newspaper expose details how New York's town and village courts regularly violate basic rights and often close their doors to the public. The incompetent judges are not lawyers but rather truck drivers, sewer workers or laborers with little knowledge of even the most basic legal principles.



New York Supreme Court

The 1,250 town and village courts have nearly 2,000 part-time justices that serve from the suburbs

of New York City to the farm towns of Niagara Falls. The courts are officially part of the state court system and the State Commission on Judicial Conduct is responsible for disciplining the outlaw judges but seldom does.

Cases of wrongdoing are rampant and include a Montgomery County judge who closed his court to the public and let prosecutors run proceedings for two decades, a Westchester County judge who warned police not to arrest his political buddies for driving drunk and a Delaware County judge who had been convicted of having sex with a mentally retarded woman in his care.

Perhaps one longtime judge, a phone-company repairman, in the tiny town of Dannemora helped summarize the sentiment among his peers in the small courts when he said, "I just follow my own common sense and the hell with the law."

Incredibly enough, New York is one of 30 states that still use this outdated and seldom regulated local court system that was originally created to keep peace in the colonial days when lawyers were scarce. Justices are not screened for competence, knowledge of law, temperament or even reading ability. They are simply elected and usually keep their often tainted records from going public. One longtime prosecutor calls it a "closed door, back of someone's house, in the barn, in the highway department, no record" justice system.

"The incompetent judges are not lawyers but rather truck drivers, sewer workers or laborers with little knowledge of even the most basic legal principles."