

Interoffice Memo

TO: Tom Fitton
FROM: Janice Rurup
PERIOD: Interim Report – Project Inception Thru 3rd Quarter - 2010
RE: Obama Accountability Project
DATE: September 30, 2010

Factual Background: **Barack H. Obama** served three terms in the Illinois Senate from 1997 to 2004 and won election to the U.S. Senate in November 2004. He served as a U.S. Senator from Illinois from January 2005 until his election to the presidency in November 2008. His presidential campaign began in February 2007.

Summary Page

Archives Date From:		Symbol for
May 16, 2008	Newsletter archives	~
June 7, 2002	Press Release archives	+
December 21, 2006	Internet Search	#

All press releases regarding Barack Obama and his presidential administration are included in this summary and noted by the symbol (+) next to the date. Investigations discussed in the Newsletters that are *not* mentioned in the press releases are included chronologically in this list and noted by the symbol (~) next to the date.

First Obama Mention, Dec. 21, 2006: Judicial Watch Announces List of Washington's "Ten Most Wanted Corrupt Politicians" for 2006. Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL) – News reports surfaced in 2006 that Illinois Senator Barak 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. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/6091.shtml>

First JW Obama Investigation: July 9, 2008 - Judicial Watch Files Senate, FEC Complaints against Barack Obama over Questionable Mortgage Loan. Northern Trust Allegedly Provided Obama Special Discounts on "Super Super Jumbo" Home Loan.

JW Obama Investigations FY 2006

Dec 21, 2006 # Contact: Press Office Judicial Watch Announces List of Washington's "Ten Most Wanted Corrupt Politicians" for 2006. List Also Includes 6 "Dishonorable Mentions" (Obama listed as number 5). **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 took place when it was widely known that Rezko was under federal investigation in a political corruption scandal. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/6091.shtml>

JW Obama Investigations FY 2007

Dec 28, 2007 # Judicial Watch's Top Ten Most Corrupt Politicians. Hat tip to Weekly Standard which after reading it led me to the Judicial Watch's article naming the "Ten Most Wanted Corrupt Politicians" for 2007. ¶Number eight on Judicial Watch's corrupt politicians list is Barack Obama: In 2006, it was discovered that Obama was involved in a suspicious real estate deal with indicted political fundraiser, Antoin "Tony" Rezko. In 2007, more reports of deeper and suspicious business and political connections surfaced. 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 campaign business in his Senate office, a violation of federal law. ¶Antoin Rezko: According to *The New York Times*, Antoin Rezko's company was one of the first campaign donors to Barack Obama as well as holding fund-raisers and rallying support for Obama. ¶After Rezko was indicted on federal charges of business fraud and influence peddling involving the administration of Gov. Rod R. Blagojevich of Illinois, Barack Obama has given over \$21,000 to charity from Rezko's donations from Rezko associates. He also gave away \$11,500 from Mr. Rezko last fall. Found at <http://www.wakeupamericans-spree.blogspot.com/2007/12/judicial-watches-top-ten-most-corrupt.html>.

JW Obama Investigations FY 2008

First Mention of Obama in JW News Archives

May 16, 2008 – Taken From JW News Room Archives (~)

<http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2008/may/jw-holds-panel-under-reported-stories-election-2008>. **From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton: Election 2008: What the Media Isn't Telling You.** We held a tremendous educational panel this week at the National Press Club here in Washington, DC. Joining me to discuss "Election 2008: What the Media Isn't Telling You" were [Jim Bopp](#), the noted First Amendment lawyer with the firm Bopp, Coleson, and Bostrom; [Cliff Kincaid](#), president of America's Survival, Inc. and editor for Accuracy in Media (AIM); and [Curt Levey](#), executive director of The Committee for Justice. Our goal is not necessarily to bash the press, but to highlight issues that deserve more coverage from media during this election year. . . . ¶As I've already noted, the story of Hillary corruption is long and deep. But Barack Obama is being given a pass on corruption issues as well. I'm not talking about his racist life coach Jeremiah Wright. Tony Rezko, who is waiting as we speak for a jury verdict on corruption charges against him, is a longtime and close supporter of Obama. Rezko provided

significant funding for Obama's initial political campaigns. Even after it became known that he was the subject of corruption investigations, Senator Obama entered into real estate dealings with him that even the Senator has described as 'boneheaded.' Hillary is never going to talk about Rezko, she has Whitewater. There's been little sustained interest by our media or political elites in Obama's evolving story on his connections to this thoroughly corrupt individual . . .

June 6, 2008 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton:

Obama and Corruption ¶Obama was indirectly referenced in court documents involving the Illinois senator's "bagman," Antoin "Tony" Rezko and his suspicious relationship with corrupt Iraqi businessman Nadhmi Auchi. Rezko, a key fundraiser for Obama, allegedly received a \$3.5 million payout from Auchi's company; Obama was subsequently forced to give to charity \$150,000 in Rezko-tainted donations. ¶According to *The New York Times*, "Less than two months after ascending to the United States Senate, Barack Obama bought more than \$50,000 worth of stock in two speculative companies which had as major investors some of his biggest political donors. One of the companies was a biotech concern that was starting to develop a drug to treat avian flu. In March 2005, two weeks after buying about \$5,000 of its shares, Mr. Obama took the lead in a legislative push for more federal spending to battle the disease." ¶Obama either never kept or he destroyed documents from his days as an Illinois State Senator, leaving no paper trail of his work there. When questioned about it by the press, Obama couldn't get his story straight. A Judicial Watch investigation continues. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2008/23-obamas-connection-corruption>.

July 9, 2008 (+) Judicial Watch Files Senate, FEC Complaints against Barack

Obama over Questionable Mortgage Loan *Northern Trust Allegedly Provided Obama Special Discounts on "Super Super Jumbo" Home Loan.* Judicial Watch . . . has filed separate complaints with the [Federal Election Commission](#) (FEC) and the [U.S. Senate Ethics Committee](#) against Senator Barack Obama for allegedly accepting a below-market rate mortgage loan in 2005 not available to the general consumer. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2008/jul/judicial-watch-files-senate-fec-complaints-against-barack-obama-over-questionable-mort>.

July 11, 2008 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton: Is

Obama Legally Able to Serve as President? ¶Information is circulating over the Internet related to Barack Obama's legal eligibility to serve as President of the United States. We've received a ton of emails on the subject, so I thought I'd address it here. ¶Here's the crux of the Internet argument: . . . ¶Our legal team reviewed the argument and provided some useful analysis that I thought I should share with you. Under 8 U.S.C. 1401(a), anyone born in the U.S. and subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S., is a U.S. citizen at birth. In addition, under 8 U.S.C. 1405, anyone born in Hawaii after April 30, 1900 is a U.S. citizen at birth. (Obama was born in Hawaii in 1961.) The argument questioning Obama's legal eligibility is wrong and apparently confuses persons born inside the U.S. with persons born outside the U.S., one of whose parents is a U.S. citizen and the other is a non-U.S. citizen (8 U.S.C. 1401(g)). ¶I know there are concerns about whether the birth certificate distributed by the Obama campaign is truly an official copy. The Obama camp will have to put to rest that question on its own. In the meantime, I haven't seen any reliable information yet to suggest Obama was born anywhere other than Hawaii, so he's a United States citizen and eligible to serve as our nation's president. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2008/28-judicial-watch-investigates-obamas-mortgage-deal>.

July 18, 2008 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton

Obama and McCain Court Radical Mexican Separatist Group Looking to curry favor with Latino voters, Barack Obama and John McCain both made high profile speeches recently before the extremist Mexican group, the National Council of La Raza, or the "National Council of The Race." (Actually, Obama's speech was really more of a pep rally as the president of the supposedly nonpartisan council has all but endorsed the presumptive Democratic nominee.) ¶So, what is the National Council of La Raza and why is it so dangerous? ¶Founded in 1968, the National Council of La Raza has somehow managed to carve out an image as a mainstream civil rights organization, but nothing could be further from the truth. It is essentially the public relations arm of the Mexican reconquista movement, which seeks to conquer the American Southwest - by force or by ballot box - and return it to Mexico. . . . The organization aggressively lobbies for open borders and supports amnesty for the 12 million illegals currently residing in the United States. . . . ¶(By the way, you may be interested to know that your tax dollars have even been used to support the National Council of La Raza, which has received \$30 million in federal grants since 1996.) ¶Obama called for a "stop [to] the hateful rhetoric filling our airwaves -- rhetoric that poisons our political discourse, degrades our democracy, and has no place in this great nation." (He was, of course, attacking opponents of illegal immigration and altogether ignoring the racism of the "La Raza" movement, which is expressed in its very name and other ideas like turning the United States into a "bronze nation.") . . . ¶(Our polling has found that Hispanics favor strict enforcement of our nation's laws and oppose taxpayer funding of illegal day labor sites. Politicians like McCain and Obama should understand that Americans, from all stripes, oppose illegal immigration.) ¶If this subject interests you, and you want more information on the "La Raza" movement, check out this special report we produced last year on *Academilla Semillas del Pueblo*, a Mexican separatist school in California supported by the National Council of La Raza. It is truly eye-opening. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2008/30-mccain-and-obama-lobby-la-raza-support>.

July 31, 2008 (+) Judicial Watch Files Open Records Lawsuit against Illinois Governor and Illinois State Senate over Pork Barrel Spending . . .

Judicial Watch . . . announced today that it has filed open records lawsuits against Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich and the Illinois Senate and Illinois Senate President Emil Jones over documents related to pork barrel spending in the State of Illinois and "secret-side deals" made between Governor Blagojevich and Illinois state lawmakers. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2008/jul/judicial-watch-files-open-records-lawsuit-against-illinois-governor-and-illinois-state>.

August 11, 2008 (+) Judicial Watch Launches Investigation of a Nationwide Effort by a Liberal Activist Group to Intimidate Supporters of Republican and Conservative Causes.

According to the August 8 edition of *The New York Times*, Accountable America, a liberal group, plans to send a letter "to confront donors to conservative groups, hoping to create a chilling effect that will dry up contributions...The warning letter is intended as a first step, alerting donors who might be considering giving to right-wing groups to a variety of potential dangers, including legal trouble, public exposure and watchdog groups digging through their lives. ¶The group is also hoping to be able to respond if an outside conservative group broadcasts a television advertisement attacking Senator Barack Obama, or another Democratic candidate, by running commercials exposing the donors behind the advertisements." Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2008/aug/judicial-watch-launches-investigation-effort-intimidate-conservatives>.

**August 29, 2008 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton
Corruption and the Presidential Election ¶And then there's Barack Obama.**

¶Why is it "off limits" to ask the Illinois Senator about his relationship with unapologetic domestic terrorist William Ayers? Why has most of the press refused to probe Obama's suspicious land deal with Antoin "Tony" Rezko, who was recently jailed in a massive public corruption probe? Have you noticed the massive amount of press coverage given to officials who have received preferential loan terms from mortgage companies in exchange for favors? (See Senators Dodd and Conrad.) So why did [Obama's "super jumbo loan,"](#) which he received at a below-market rate, not make it above the fold? ¶Why has the media refused to hold Obama accountable for the [shocking lack of a "paper trail"](#) with respect to his record as an Illinois State Senator? Obama comes from Chicago and Illinois, among the most corrupt political cultures in the country, yet his involvement in that culture has escaped much scrutiny. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2008/35-both-presidential-candidates-have-ties-corruption>.

September 12, 2008 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton.

... Freddie's foundation has its own list of heavy hitters. Among its former board members are Rep. Rahm Emanuel (D-Ill.), a confidant of Democratic nominee Barack Obama, and Harold Ickes, a senior adviser to both President Clinton and Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.). From the Republican side, David Gribbin, an aide to Vice President Cheney, once sat on the board, and Robert Glauber, a former Treasury undersecretary, is on the board. ¶Another so-called "confidant" of Barack Obama, by the way, was none other than James Johnson, the former Fannie Mae CEO who was forced to resign from Obama's Vice Presidential vetting committee after the press reported Johnson had received preferable mortgage interest terms. (Johnson was also linked to shady fundraising practices when he was the head of the company.) . . . ¶The fact is big government leads to more corruption. And it doesn't get much bigger than Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, which dominated the \$12 trillion home loan market, especially now that the federal government is running the whole show. . . ¶Arguably, this is the biggest government corruption scandal in our nation's history. But because "everyone" in Washington is involved, you won't hear a peep about it from our nation's Establishment. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2008/38-senator-rangel-fails-pay-his-taxes>.

**September 26, 2008 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton
Want to know the true source of the financial meltdown in the home mortgage industry leading to the collapse of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and today's attendant financial crisis?**

Follow the money trail back about nine years. Check out this article from the September 30, 1999 edition of [The New York Times](#): ¶In a move that could help increase home ownership rates among minorities and low-income consumers, the Fannie Mae Corporation is easing the credit requirements on loans that it will purchase from banks and other lenders. ¶The action, which will begin as a pilot program involving 24 banks in 15 markets -- including the New York metropolitan region -- will encourage those banks to extend home mortgages to individuals whose credit is generally not good enough to qualify for conventional loans. Fannie Mae officials say they hope to make it a nationwide program by next spring. ¶Fannie Mae, the nation's biggest underwriter of home mortgages, *has been under increasing pressure from the Clinton Administration to expand mortgage loans among low and moderate income people* and felt pressure from stock holders to maintain its phenomenal growth in profits. [Emphasis added.] ¶The article goes on to predict that such a strategy might not cause problems during times of economic prosperity but that Fannie Mae could run into serious financial difficulty during an economic downturn. ¶And here we are with the financial markets on the

verge of collapse and the federal government debating the largest government bailout in the nation's history. ¶While the Clinton administration is certainly culpable for getting the ball rolling on these high-risk loans, there is plenty of blame to go around. Fannie Mae led by Clinton's former budget director Franklin Raines and Obama campaign advisor Jim Johnson took Clinton's risky gamble and then doubled down. The pair allegedly cooked the books at Fannie, issued countless dubious mortgages, and then took huge bonuses before leaving the company. Both men have also been accused of accepting special mortgage deals from Countrywide (a co-conspirator in this financial mess) as well. ¶Johnson resigned from his official position with the Obama campaign because of the scandal, though he, like Raines, may still be advising him. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2008/39-truth-behind-financial-crisis>.

September 26, 2008 (+) Documents Uncovered by Judicial Watch Shed Light on Barack and Michelle Obama's Chicago Connections ¶Obama served as Chairman of the [Annenberg Challenge](#), a school program designed by William Ayers, a known domestic terrorist, for eight years (1995-2002). The documents include a fundraising letter signed by Obama requesting a \$22,500 grant noting, "we [meaning the Annenberg Challenge] are launched." Ayers is reported to have been the power running this group and Obama needs to better explain his contacts with him. [Documents](#) showing Barack Obama supported a housing development project known as Cottage View Terrace, which yielded \$900,000 in developers' fees for convicted felon Antoin "Tony" Rezko and Obama's employer, lawyer Allison Davis. Rezko, who was involved in Obama's home purchase, was recently convicted on 16 counts of fraud and money laundering, has personally donated at least \$21,000 to Obama's campaigns, and raised over two hundred thousand dollars in additional support . . . [Documents](#) that raise questions about Michelle Obama and the Rezko land deal as well. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2008/sep/documents-uncovered-judicial-watch-shed-light-barack-and-michelle-obamas-chicago-conne>.

October 3, 2008 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. JW Obtains Documents Related to Barack Obama's Suspicious Pet Project ¶In his first three years in the U.S. Senate, Barack Obama requested hundreds of millions of dollars in earmarks for pet projects for his state of Illinois. But it is an earmark he obtained while serving as a State Senator that has earned the attention of Judicial Watch (and the press). ¶Judicial Watch recently uncovered [documentary evidence](#) of a \$100,000 grant obtained by Obama for a garden project in Englewood, Illinois, spearheaded by Obama's former campaign volunteer Kenny Smith. (The documents obtained by Judicial Watch include all relevant correspondence between Smith, who runs the Chicago Better Housing Association, and the State of Illinois, the project application, the contract and a detailed budget.) ¶There's only one problem. The "Englewood Botanical Garden" project never happened. In fact, according to the *Chicago Sun Times*, which has been covering the story, "today the garden site is a mess of weeds, chunks of concrete and garbage." ¶So if Smith didn't finish the garden project, what happened to all that money? The Illinois State Attorney General is investigating. More from the [Chicago Sun Times](#): ¶A \$100,000 state grant for a botanic garden in Englewood that then-state Sen. Barack Obama awarded in 2001 to a group headed by a onetime campaign volunteer is now under investigation by the Illinois attorney general amid new questions, prompted by *Chicago Sun-Times* reports, about whether the money might have been misspent. ¶The garden was never built. And now state records obtained by the Sun-Times show \$65,000 of the grant money went to the wife of Kenny B. Smith, the Obama 2000 congressional campaign volunteer who heads the Chicago Better Housing Association, which was in charge of the project for the blighted South Side neighborhood. ¶Smith wrote another \$20,000 in grant-related checks to K.D. Contractors, a construction company that his wife, Karen D. Smith, created five months after work on the garden was supposed to have begun, records show. K.D. is no longer in business. ¶When initially asked about the "Englewood

Botanical Garden," Smith claimed he was never able to raise all the funds he needed to complete the project, but that the grant obtained by Obama on his behalf was spent properly on "underground site preparation." However, the contractor hired for that job, according to his recollection, was paid no more than \$3,000 and claims all he did was clear a few trees. ¶Obama and Smith's relationship goes back about ten years or so. The pair announced the project at a January 2000 press conference during Barack Obama's failed bid to win a seat in the U.S. Congress. To some, \$100,000 may not sound like a lot of money in the grand scheme of things (especially as Congress considers a \$700 billion Wall Street bailout) but this is yet another in a long line of suspicious Obama relationships. (See William Ayers, James Johnson, and Antoin "Tony" Rezko, to name just a few.) ¶To view the Obama "Garden" documents, click [here](http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2008/40-two-cour-t-victories-judicial-watch). Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2008/40-two-cour-t-victories-judicial-watch>.

October 6, 2008 (+) Obama Supported Pet Projects for Wife's Cousin and Political Supporters. ¶Judicial Watch has obtained documents detailing earmarks submitted by Barack Obama on behalf of his family and political supporters during his time in the Illinois State Senate. ¶*Blue Gargoyle: Barack Obama helped secure a \$25,000 grant for the Blue Gargoyle in August 2000, an organization that was headed by Capers C. Funnye, Jr., Michelle Obama's first cousin once removed. ¶*Garden to Nowhere: ¶*Community of St. Sabina: ¶*FORUM: Run by Yesse Yehudah, Barack Obama gave a \$75,000 grant to the organization in 2000. ¶"Barack Obama's earmark for his wife's cousin, Rabbi Funnye, raises ethical questions. Some of these earmarks show that Barack Obama may have abused his office in the Illinois State Senate . . . Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2008/oct/judicial-watch-uncovers-documents-detailing-suspicious-illinois-state-senate-earmarks->.

October 10, 2008 (+) Judicial Watch Calls Upon Obama to Release Donor Names. ¶Judicial Watch . . . issued the following statement . . . the Obama campaign's failure to release the names of donors who have contributed less than \$200. These donors have given Obama approximately half of his campaign's \$426.9 million in total contributions. The McCain campaign, by contrast, has made its entire donor database available online. In addition, press reports allege Barack Obama's presidential campaign has accepted illegal online campaign contributions from this category of donors, which include funds allegedly donated by foreign nationals. "The Obama campaign appears to be playing fast and loose with campaign finance laws and it has to stop. It is especially disturbing that foreign campaign contributions made to the Obama campaign may be corrupting this presidential election. The Federal Election Commission (FEC) should immediately investigate these allegations. In the interest of transparency the Obama campaign should publicly list the source of every single campaign contribution. The American people deserve to know for certain that all campaign finance laws are being followed. Frankly, it is suspicious that these names have not been made public." Judicial Watch has pending FEC complaints concerning both Senator McCain and Senator Obama. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2008/oct/judicial-watch-calls-upon-obama-release-donor-names>.

October 10, 2008 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton
ACORN Accused of Voter Registration Fraud -- Again ¶You'll recall a couple of weeks ago, I told you that liberals in Congress were determined to stick a huge cash giveaway to the "community organization" Association for Community Organizations for Reform (ACORN) in the government's Wall Street bailout bill. Thankfully the effort failed. It's no secret why Democrats, including Barack Obama, would want to support this group. ACORN bills itself as an organization that gives voice to the poor and disenfranchised by helping them to register to vote.

However, in reality, ACORN has always been a radical leftist organization that will stop at nothing - not even voter fraud - to achieve its goals. ¶And this election year is no different. According to [The Associated Press](#): ¶Nevada authorities seized records Tuesday from a group they accused of submitting fraudulent voter-registration forms - including for the starting lineup of the Dallas Cowboys... ¶State authorities raided the headquarters of the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, a group that works to register low-income people. ¶Miller said the raid was part of a month's long investigation, and he contended the group had submitted registration forms that used false information or duplicated information on multiple forms. . . . ¶ACORN is relying upon prison inmates on work release to lead its voter registration program. . . . One inmate designated a "team leader" by ACORN, told [ABC News](#) that many of his fellow inmate canvassers are "lazy crackheads" just looking to make a quick buck. . . . ¶As ABC News notes, "The group's track record has been marred with allegations of voter registration fraud and the criminal prosecutions of employees caught tampering and falsifying registration cards." And just how low is ACORN willing to go in its fraud campaign? "In Ohio in 2004, a worker for one affiliate was given crack cocaine in exchange for fraudulent registrations that included underage voters, dead voters and pillars of the community named Mary Poppins, Dick Tracy and Jive Turkey," . . . ¶(with) investigations into ACORN's corrupt practices in Wisconsin, North Carolina, New Mexico, Michigan, Ohio and Missouri. (See any "swing states" on that list?) Overall, ACORN claims to have registered 1.3 million people this election cycle and the truth is we have no idea how many of these registrations are legitimate. ¶Now there is another part of this story that is particularly relevant 30 days out from the presidential election - Barack Obama's extensive connections to this corrupt organization. Obama served as the group's lawyer, helped train ACORN staff in Chicago while serving as a "community organizer," and helped funnel large chunks of cash to ACORN while sitting on the board of the Woods Foundation and the Annenberg Challenge (the education program launched by domestic terrorist William Ayers). Guess which candidate ACORN's PAC has endorsed? That's right, Barack Obama. ¶This story is still unfolding, and you can be sure I'll have more for you in future editions of the *Weekly Update*. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2008/41-obama-earmarks-family-donors>.

October 24, 2008 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton

Obama Campaign Accepts Untraceable Donations ¶There is no question Barack Obama's campaign finance operation has been impressive. . . . \$750,000,000 when all is said and done. . . . ¶Evidence uncovered in just the last few weeks, however, suggests we may be witnessing the single most flagrant campaign finance scam in our nation's history. ¶Sen. Barack Obama's presidential campaign is allowing donors to use largely untraceable prepaid credit cards that could potentially be used to evade limits on how much an individual is legally allowed to give or to mask a contributor's identity, campaign officials confirmed. ¶Faced with a huge influx of donations over the Internet, the campaign has also chosen not to use basic security measures to prevent potentially illegal or anonymous contributions from flowing into its accounts, aides acknowledged. Instead, the campaign is scrutinizing its books for improper donations after the money has been deposited... ¶In recent weeks, questionable contributions have created headaches for Obama's accounting team as it has tried to explain why campaign finance filings have included itemized donations from individuals using fake names, such as Es Esh or Doodad Pro. ¶The problem with these cards, campaign finance lawyers say, is that it is "impossible to tell whether foreign nationals, donors who have exceeded the limits, government contractors or others who are barred from giving to a federal campaign are making contributions." ¶Now, as the Post points out, this problem is preventable. And so, we must ask ourselves: If "basic security measures" exist to prevent fraudulent online donations, why would the Obama campaign choose not to employ them? . . . The Obama campaign wants to be able to use as much money as possible, even if it is illegally obtained, and return only those funds they are forced to return. . . .

even if it means that foreign nationals and other illegal donors may be allowed to corrupt our electoral process. Obama's fundraising system completely undermines campaign finance law enforcement. ¶The fact is nearly half of Obama's campaign funds (amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars in donations) were obtained from sources that have yet to be made public. . . . the Obama campaign refuses to disclose the names of those who donate in increments of \$200 or less. ¶I don't think there is any question the Obama campaign has illegally accepted illegal contributions. The only question is how many? And because the Obama campaign refuses to come clean, we may not have any answers until long after Election Day. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2008/44-obama-violate-law-election-day>.

October 30, 2008 (+) Letter to Illinois State Board of Elections: Election Day Text Messages May Violate Law against Electioneering in Polling Places. ¶Judicial Watch announced today that it has issued a request to the Illinois State Board of Elections to investigate whether the Obama campaign's planned Election Day text messages would violate a state law that prevents electioneering in polling places. Judicial Watch plans to issue similar requests to election officials in other states. . . . ¶According to media reports, Senator Obama's campaign sent text messages to voters on primary day in New Hampshire encouraging them to vote for Senator Obama. The Obama campaign apparently intends to conduct a similar text message campaign on Election Day. Given that these messages will likely be received and read by voters on their cell phones inside polling places, and perhaps inside voting booths, the messages may violate an Illinois state law against electioneering within polling places. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2008/oct/letter-illinois-state-board-elections-election-day-text-messages-may-violate-law-again>.

November 7, 2008 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton Obama Selects Clinton Crony Rahm Emanuel to be his Chief of Staff. ¶Talk about getting off on the wrong foot! Barack Obama's first decision as President-Elect, as he tries to make good on his promise to bring "change" to Washington, was to select a veteran Chicago politician and corrupt Clinton attack dog to serve as his Chief of Staff. . . . ¶Born in Chicago, Congressman Rahm Emanuel served as President Clinton's chief money man in 1992, a campaign which was corrupted by foreign money. Emanuel then became a Clinton White House aide who misused his position to help cover for the Clinton fundraising and Lewinsky scandals. Emanuel defended the "worst of the worst" Clinton scandals. Indeed, it was his very public role in the Lewinsky scandal that cemented his reputation as Clinton's fiercest defender and apologist. Emanuel denied the Clinton-Lewinsky affair on national television and later, when there was nothing left to deny, he was put in charge of "managing the situation." ¶In short, Emanuel attacked and obstructed federal criminal investigations for the despicable Bill Clinton. ¶Nicknamed "Rahmbo" for his ferociously combative style, Emanuel has been described as arrogant, profane and vindictive. According to one story repeated in the London Telegraph, "amid a discussion over a celebratory dinner about which political figures had earned [President Clinton's] enmity, Mr. Emanuel became so enraged that he grabbed a steak knife, stood up and began reciting a list of names, plunging the knife into the table and shouting 'Dead! Dead! Dead!' after each one." (Judicial Watch independently confirmed this story.) ¶Emanuel turned for a time to investment banking after the Clinton administration, making a fortune for himself (reportedly \$18 million in just 3 years). During that time he also served on the board of directors for Freddie Mac, just as the company was involved in fraudulent activity. In 2002, Emanuel returned to politics, but this time as a candidate. He won election to Congress in Illinois' 5th. ¶So, this is the man Obama has tapped to lead his national campaign for bipartisanship, unity and integrity? A scandal ridden Clinton apologist and former Freddie Mac board member who is best known for his violent and vindictive political style? This is a bad sign folks. The appointment is both

scandalous and is likely to lead to more scandal. ¶To make matters worse, Obama selected another Clinton crony, former Clinton Chief of Staff John Podesta (who also covered up and enabled Clinton corruption - from Travelgate to Monicagate), and the Rezko-connected, Chicago fixer Valerie Jarrett to lead his transition team. Found at

<http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2008/46-no-honeymoon-obama>.

November 14, 2008 (+) Obama Advisor Valerie Jarrett Linked to Real Estate Scandals Jarrett Managed Housing Project Deemed "Uninhabitable."

¶Judicial Watch has obtained documents linking Valerie Jarrett, an advisor to Barack Obama and the co-chairman of the President-Elect's transition team, to a series of real estate scandals, including several housing projects operated by convicted felon and Obama fundraiser/friend Antoin "Tony" Rezko.

... ¶The Illinois Secretary of State, Valerie Jarrett served as a board member for several organizations that provided funding and support for Chicago housing projects operated by real estate developers and Obama financial backers Rezko and Allison Davis. (Davis is also Obama's former boss.) Jarrett was a member of the Board of Directors for the Woodlawn Preservation and Investment Corporation along with several Davis and Rezko associates, as well as the Fund for Community Redevelopment and Revitalization, an organization that worked with Rezko and Davis. ... Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2008/nov/obama-advisor-valerie-jarrett-linked-real-estate-scandals>.

November 18, 2008 (+) Judicial Watch Statement on Obama's Selection of Clinton Impeachment Lawyer Greg Craig to Serve as White House Counsel

¶President Tom Fitton issued the following statement today in response to Barack Obama's decision to hire Clinton impeachment lawyer and controversial Washington, DC, attorney Greg Craig as White House Counsel. ¶"It is disturbing that Barack Obama will allow Bill Clinton's impeachment lawyer Greg Craig to serve as his White House Counsel. Many thought Barack Obama had beaten the Clinton political machine. Instead, he appears to have embraced it. ...

¶"Not only did Greg Craig defend the worst of the worst of the Clinton scandals but he also defended the violent government raid that delivered Elian Gonzalez back to Castro's Cuba. In fact, we believe that Greg was working with communist Cuban government during the Elian affair. Greg Craig is the wrong lawyer to serve as White House Counsel in the Obama White House. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2008/nov/judicial-watch-statement-obama-selection-clinton-impeachment-lawyer-greg-craig-serve>.

November 21, 2008 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton Obama Violates His Own Pledge - Taps Daschle for HHS

¶Here's one campaign pledge President-Elect Obama plans to toss out the window right away. Check this out from [The New York Times](#): ¶President-elect Barack Obama's selection of former Senator Tom Daschle for secretary of health and human services [sic] posed new questions on Wednesday about how broadly the new administration would apply Mr. Obama's campaign promises to limit potential conflicts of interest among his appointees. ¶At issue is Mr. Daschle's work since leaving the Senate four years ago as a board member of the Mayo Clinic and a highly paid adviser to health care clients at the law and lobbying firm Alston & Bird. ¶In a detailed list of campaign promises, Mr. Obama pledged that "no political appointees in an Obama administration will be permitted to work on regulations or contracts directly and substantially related to their prior employer for two years." ¶The New York Times notes that the Obama administration would likely ask Daschle to recuse himself from "any matter" involving the Mayo Clinic or any of the clients serviced by Alston & Bird, which "represents dozens of... concerns including pharmaceutical companies, health care providers, and trade groups for nurses and nursing homes." ¶Daschle's main

responsibility, if confirmed, would be to push through Obama's planned healthcare system overhaul, which would most certainly have an impact on all of the industries served by Daschle. It is beyond reason to think that Daschle, as Secretary of HHS, would recuse himself from leading the charge for healthcare reform. If Obama sticks with Daschle, Obama must jettison a key campaign promise. ¶Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2008/47-pardons-terrorists>.

November 28, 2008 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton

¶**What is this obsession Barack Obama has with scandal-ridden former Clinton officials?** Rahm Emanuel, Greg Craig, John Podesta, and Eric Holder are all slated to hold key positions in the upcoming Obama administration (not to mention Hillary herself ... And now you can add former Clinton Energy Secretary [Bill Richardson](#) to the list. Richardson will now serve as Obama's Secretary of Commerce. ¶Richardson may not have the corruption resume of, say, a Hillary Clinton. (But who does?) That said, Richardson is not without his ethical skeletons. ¶You may recall that Richardson was the Secretary of Energy at the time nuclear secrets were stolen from the Los Alamos Laboratory and possibly transferred to the Communist Chinese. Judicial Watch client [Notra Trulock](#), the DOE Director of Intelligence who uncovered this serious breach of national security, was subjected to a massive smear campaign by Clinton officials in retaliation, led by Bill Richardson. Trulock was demoted and ultimately forced out of the agency. (Judicial Watch deposited Richardson in litigation on behalf of Trulock.) ¶(Richardson was roundly criticized for his mishandling of the Los Alamos fiasco, but that didn't stop him from publishing a book entitled, *Leading by Example: How We Can Inspire an Energy and Security Revolution*. You gotta admit; he's got nerve.) ¶While serving as Clinton's Ambassador to the United Nations, Richardson also narrowly escaped prosecution for his alleged participation in the attempted Monica Lewinsky cover-up. Richardson met with Lewinsky on several occasions in her Watergate condo and offered her a job at the UN. This was an attempt to keep Lewinsky quiet about the affair. In fact, Richardson apparently lied during his Secretary of Energy confirmation hearings when he said he offered a job to Lewinsky to fill an "existing opening." Evidence suggests there was no such job. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2008/49-obama-takes-ownership-clinton-scandals>.

December 1, 2008 (+) Judicial Watch Statement on Obama's Selection of Hillary Clinton to Serve as Secretary of State. . . .

¶Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton issued the following statement today in response to Barack Obama's selection of New York Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton to serve as Secretary of State. ¶"Hillary Clinton is ethically challenged. Her husband is ethically challenged. From their days in the White House to the present day, the Clintons have consistently abused their public office for personal and political gain. . . . "Has any other Secretary of State nominee been the subject of a grand jury criminal investigation? ¶"I believe Barack Obama made a deal with the devil to avoid a floor flight at the Democratic convention. This decision may have served Obama politically, but the public should not suffer the consequences. Hillary's nomination is another weak personnel decision that will harm the Obama presidency. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2008/dec/judicial-watch-statement-obama-s-selection-hillary-clinton-serve-secretary-state>.

December 09, 2008 + Judicial Watch Statement: Blagojevich Arrest Shakes

Obama Presidency to Its Core ¶Tom Fitton issued the following statement today in response to the arrest of Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich: "There has been an air of lawlessness around Governor Blagojevich for some time and Judicial Watch applauds U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald for his actions. ¶"Blagojevich's corruption is no surprise, but its breadth and depravity

is shocking. The alleged efforts to sell the Senate seat of Barack Obama are outrageous, but also seem to implicate many other powerful politicians and political players. Especially disturbing are the questions the scandal raises about Barack Obama and his close associates. . . . ¶ "The criminal complaint filed today indicates that Obama and his team knew about Blagojevich's efforts to sell Obama's Senate seat. ("Tony" Rezko, Obama friend, fundraiser and real estate partner, is once again implicated in the corrupt activities exposed today.) Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2008/dec/judicial-watch-statement-blagojevich-arrest-shakes-obama-presidency-its-core>.

December 09, 2008 (#) OBAMA WATCH CENTRAL. What did Obama know ... and when did he know it? Unanswered questions alarm anti-corruption investigators.

Posted: December 09, 2008, By Bob Unruh © 2010 *WorldNetDaily*. Also reported by *The New York Times*: ¶ Records show that when Mr. Obama needed cash in the waning days of his losing 2000 Congressional campaign, Mr. Rezko rounded up thousands of dollars from business contacts. In 2003, Mr. Rezko helped Mr. Obama expand his fund-raising for the Senate primary by being host of a dinner at his Mediterranean-style home for 150 people, including some whose names have since come up in the influence scandal. ¶ And when Mr. Obama and his wife, Michelle, bought a house in 2005, Mr. Rezko stepped in again. Even though his finances were deteriorating, Mr. Rezko arranged for his wife to buy an adjacent lot, and she later sold the Obamas a 10-foot-wide strip of land that expanded their yard. ¶ The land sale occurred after it had been reported that Mr. Rezko was under federal investigation. That awkward fact prompted Mr. Obama, who has cast himself as largely free from the normal influences of politics, to express regret over what he called his own bad judgment. Judicial Watch said it has been investigating Blagojevich for more than two years and has an ongoing open records litigation concerning "the sale of government jobs for which he was arrested today." ¶ Found at <http://www.wnd.com/?pageId=83223>.

December 18, 2008 (+) Judicial Watch Invited to Testify Before Blagojevich

House Impeachment Committee ¶ Illinois House of Representatives Committee Considers Merits of Blagojevich Impeachment . . . ¶ Judicial Watch . . . announced today that on Thursday, December 18, 2008, Director of Litigation Paul Orfanedes will testify before Illinois House Special Investigative Committee considering impeachment of Governor Rod Blagojevich (D-IL). (Judicial Watch was contacted today to provide testimony at tomorrow's hearing.) ¶ Judicial Watch filed an open records lawsuit against the office of the governor on January 16, 2007, in Cook County, Illinois . . . (for) grand jury subpoenas received by the Governor's office or any state agencies under the Governor's control. The subpoenas reportedly were issued by U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald's office. . . . ¶ Blagojevich then fought to have his office represented by his personal attorney, rather than the State Attorney General. ¶ Judicial Watch filed a motion for default against Blagojevich's office in this lawsuit last week. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2008/dec/judicial-watch-invited-testify-blagojevich-house-impeachment-committee>.

December 31, 2008 + Judicial Watch Announces List of Washington's "Ten

Most Wanted Corrupt Politicians" for 2008 ¶ . . . The list, in alphabetical order, includes: . . . 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 Plaza, 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. ¶ . . . **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. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2008/dec/judicial-watch-announces-list-washingtons-ten-most-wanted-corrupt-politicians-2008>.

JW Obama Investigations FY 2009

January 5, 2009 (+) Judicial Watch Obtains Documents Re: Blagojevich

Contacts with Obama and Transition Team ¶Judicial Watch. . . announced today that it has obtained documents from the office of Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich through the Freedom of Information Act related to Blagojevich's contacts with President-elect Obama and his transition team. The documents include a December 3, 2008, letter from Barack Obama following his December 2, 2008, meeting with Blagojevich as well as a November 17, 2008, letter signed by Presidential Transition Team co-chairs Valerie Jarrett and John Podesta providing Blagojevich with a list of transition team contacts. ¶The following are excerpts from the letter signed by President-elect Obama on December 3, 2008, less than one week before authorities arrested Blagojevich for attempting to "sell" Obama's now-vacant Senate seat, among other corruption charges: ¶*"Thank you for meeting with me on Tuesday in Philadelphia. Vice President-elect Joe Biden and I were pleased with the open discussion." ¶*"As we discussed, I would appreciate any advice you can provide to me and my team on the biggest roadblocks to states in moving forward in 'getting ready to go' projects started quickly." ¶*"In addition, I welcome any advice you can provide me and my team on revitalizing and reinvigorating the state-federal partnership. I want to make it a priority of my Administration to work closely with you." ¶*"I look forward to working with you and hitting the ground running on January 20th." ¶The November 17, 2008, letter signed by Jarrett and Podesta states: "On behalf of President-elect Barack Obama and Vice President-elect Joe Biden we want you to know of our strong interest in working with you in the months to come. As you may know we have formed a Presidential Transition Team so that the new Administration will be prepared to confront the extraordinary challenges facing our country. . . . ¶"These documents tend to undermine Obama's claims that he had no contact with Blagojevich and suggest his transition is hiding documents about such contacts . . . Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2009/jan/judicial-watch-obtains-documents-re-bлагоjevich-contacts-obama-and-transition-team>.

**January 9, 2009 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton
Judicial Watch Files Senate Lawsuit, Senate and Obama Flip on Burris**

Appointment ¶It's been a roller coaster week for Roland Burris, Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich's pick to take over the senate seat left vacant by President-elect Obama. On Tuesday morning, the Secretary of the Senate denied entry to Mr. Burris at the direction of Senate leadership because his credentials were "not in order." The bottom line is Senate leadership (and Barack Obama) did not want to have to honor the Blagojevich appointment because of the embarrassing corruption scandals that led to the democratic governor's arrest in December. ¶On Wednesday, however, Judicial Watch filed a [lawsuit against the U.S. Senate](#) for denying Mr. Burris his rightful position as junior senator from the State of Illinois. Here is our argument in a nutshell: ¶The [17th Amendment](#) to the Constitution allows a state's governor to appoint a Senator in the event of a vacancy, so long as the governor has the support of the state legislature. Illinois law specifically mandates that the "Governor shall make temporary appointment" to fill any vacancy. ¶The U.S. Constitution also guarantees Illinois taxpayers the right to representation by two U.S. Senators in the U.S. Senate. Given these facts, the Senate's refusal to allow Mr. Burris to be sworn in and to assume his rightful position as member of the U.S. Senate violates the U.S. Constitution. ¶Given Judicial Watch's aggressive investigations involving [Blagojevich's corruption](#), it may seem a bit odd that we would support the governor's appointment. But as I said in press statements earlier this week, Blagojevich may be a crook, but his appointment of Burris was lawful and must be respected. ¶Harry Reid and Barack Obama are caving on the appointment and are "leaning" towards seating Burris once "legal hurdles" involving the appointment are cleared. By the way, I love today's *Washington Times* editorial, entitled "[Outwitting Harry Reid](#)." The *Times* noted: "And to make image matters worse it was the conservative watchdog group Judicial Watch that filed suit to have Mr. Burris seated, not the so-called party of civil rights." ¶As Judicial Watch noted in its lawsuit, Senate leaders do not have a choice but to seat Burris. The law is not on their side and they know it.

January 14, 2009 (+) Letter to Judiciary Committee and Advertisements in *The Washington Times* Highlight Holder's Corrupt Record ¶Judicial Watch . . . announced

today its opposition to Barack Obama's appointment of Eric Holder to serve as Attorney General in the incoming Obama administration. The nonprofit watchdog organization sent a letter to members of the Senate Judiciary Committee and published a full-page advertisement in *The Washington Times* raising questions about Holder's corrupt record in the Clinton administration's Justice Department. Holder's confirmation hearing is scheduled for Thursday, January 15th. ¶"Mr. Holder's record demonstrates a willingness to bend the law in order to protect his political patrons. On his watch at the Clinton Justice Department, the pardon process was upended and corrupted by a 'pay to play' mentality. This undermined, in the least, the appearance of the fair administration of justice by the Justice Department," Judicial Watch noted in its letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee, dated January 13, 2009. "Mr. Holder is the wrong person to head the Department of Justice." ¶Judicial Watch's letter highlights Holder's participation in a number of Clinton-era scandals, including: Holder's support of pardons for unrepentant terrorists from FALN and the Weather Underground; his efforts to secure a pardon for fugitive financier Marc Rich; his participation in planning the violent raid to seize then-six-year-old Elian Gonzalez at gunpoint and returning him to Castro's Cuba; and his opposition to appointing an independent counsel to investigate fundraising controversies involving President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2009/jan/judicial-watch-urges-judiciary-committee-reject-holder-appointment>.

January 23, 2009 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton

Obama's Cabinet of Misfits . . . ¶So how about a treasury secretary who doesn't pay his taxes? According to [The Associated Press](#): ¶Treasury Secretary-designate Timothy Geithner said Wednesday he was careless in failing to pay \$34,000 in Social Security and Medicare taxes earlier this decade but declared "I have paid what I owed" and apologized to Congress. . . . ¶As to his failure to pay the payroll taxes from 2001 to 2004 while he worked for the International Monetary Fund, Geithner said: "These were careless mistakes. They were avoidable mistakes. ¶Did I mention that Geithner would be in charge of the Internal Revenue Service? ¶. . .

Panetta's Legacy of Corruption ¶After he was nominated by Obama recently to serve as head of the CIA, the wisdom of appointing Leon Panetta to this critical job was being questioned even by leading Democrats. ¶. . . Judicial Watch is far more concerned by Mr. Panetta's history as Bill Clinton's second White House chief of staff. ¶Let's start with the Clintons' illegal scheme to "sell" taxpayer-financed trade missions . . . Nolanda Hill, a personal confidant and business partner of the late Clinton Commerce Secretary Ron Brown (Hill's sworn declaration came in Judicial Watch's lawsuit against the [Clinton Commerce Department](#)), declared: "I further learned through discussions with Ron (Brown) that the White House, through Leon Panetta and John Podesta, had instructed him to delay the case by withholding the production of documents prior to the 1996 elections, and to devise a way not to comply with court's orders." ¶That, my friends, is called obstruction of justice. ¶Then . . . "White House coffees," the illegal fundraising events the Clintons actually held *in the White House* . . . The idea, of course, was to sell access to President Clinton and Vice President Gore in exchange for campaign contributions. And it worked. The Clintons held at least 107 such events. [The Washington Post](#) estimates \$27 million was illegally raised for the DNC from 1995-1996. ¶The guest list for these coffees included "straw donors" acting at the behest of the Communist Chinese military. The guest list also included then Clinton Chief of Staff Leon Panetta, who attended three of these coffees in February, April and May of 1995. He was also in charge at the White House when the Clintons sold sleepovers in the Lincoln Bedroom to campaign contributors. At the time, *The Washington Post* called the scandal "crass." I call it "criminal." Under Panetta, the White House was turned into a brazen bazaar of bribes and extortion that would make Ron Blagojevich blush. ¶And lest we forget, Panetta was in charge of the White House staff when Monica Lewinsky served as a White House intern. (In other words, Lewinsky worked for Panetta while she was carrying on an affair with President Clinton.) ¶Under Clinton, Panetta opened the White House to foreign governments that were illegally trying to influence our elections and government decision-making. And now he's up for CIA chief? This could be a disaster and the Senate should stop Panetta's nomination in its tracks. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2009/04-obamas-cabinet-misfits>

January 30, 2009 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton

Judicial Watch Files Lawsuit Challenging Hillary Clinton Appointment ¶On Thursday, Judicial Watch filed a lawsuit against newly sworn-in Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on behalf of U.S. Foreign Service Officer and State Department employee David C. Rodearmel. (Click [here](#) to read the lawsuit. Click [here](#) to read a statement from our client.) ¶This is our argument in a nutshell: Hillary Clinton is constitutionally ineligible to serve as Secretary of State and Mr. Rodearmel cannot be forced to serve under the former U.S. Senator, as it would violate the oath he took as a Foreign Service Officer in 1991 to "support and defend" and "bear true faith and allegiance" to the Constitution of the United States. ¶**Obama Ethics Pledge Already Meaningless?** And, in fact, according to [Politico](#), the pledge has been violated at least a dozen times: ¶President Obama promised during his campaign that lobbyists "won't find a job in my White House." On January 21, Barack Obama signed an [Executive Order](#) effectively banning lobbyists from serving in his administration, among other things. Barely a day later, Obama [made the order seem like a bit of a joke](#) by naming William Lynn III, the former top lobbyist for

Raytheon, to the position of Deputy Secretary of Defense, the number two position at the Defense Department. And, in fact, according to [Politico](#), the pledge has been violated at least a dozen times: ¶So far, though, at least a dozen former lobbyists have found top jobs in his administration, according to an analysis done by Republican sources and corroborated by Politico. ¶The article includes a list of the "Big 12," which includes Eric Holder, Obama's pick for Attorney General . . . and Cecelia Munoz, who lobbied for the radical Chicano organization, "National Council of La Raza." She now serves as Obama's White House Director of Intergovernmental Affairs. . ¶The "lobbyist ban that isn't a lobbyist ban" shows the silliness of the whole idea. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2009/05-historic-lawsuit-filed>.

February 6, 2009 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton

Obama's "Screwed Up" Presidential Appointments ¶This week, Barack Obama was forced to admit that he "screwed up" on a couple of his key appointees, most notably former Senator Tom Daschle, Obama's pick to run the Department of Health and Human Services. Daschle stepped down on Tuesday after news broke that he failed to pay nearly \$150,000 in back taxes. (Daschle did ultimately make good on the bill last month, but it was too little too late.) Another appointee to be first federal "performance" officer, Nancy Killefer, also withdrew because of an old tax lien. ¶**JW Investigates Former Treasury Secretary Paulson's Meeting with Bank Execs** ¶On October 13, 2008, with the federal government in a full-scale panic over the melt-down of the financial markets, then-Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson called the heads of the six major banks to the table to strike a deal. This is what [Business Week reported](#) at the time: ¶U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson called in the heads of six major banks to discuss the plans on the afternoon of Monday, Oct. 13. Soon thereafter, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that regulators plan to devote \$250 billion of the \$700 billion recently approved by Congress to buy direct equity stakes in financial institutions in return for preferred shares. ¶Some reports suggest that Paulson made an offer the banks couldn't refuse, which sounds like something out of Venezuelan strongman Hugo Chavez's economic playbook. The net result of this meeting was a massive expansion of the federal government's ownership of private financial institutions, to the point where I doubt today if anyone can truly put a number on it. (The figures tossed around today make \$250 billion look like chump change.) Yet . . . little is known about what transpired during this meeting. ¶Enter Judicial Watch. On October 16, 2008, we filed a Freedom of Information Act request . . . ¶The government initially requested additional time to process the request (aka "stonewalling"), and then failed to respond altogether. Judicial Watch [filed a lawsuit](#) on January 26, 2009. ¶We don't know what we'll find. But regardless, the public has a right to know the truth -- especially as the Obama administration plans to spend trillions of more dollars on bailouts. <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2009/06-obama-screwed>.

February 9, 2009 (+) FEC Investigation Confirms Obama Received Discount

Mortgage ¶FEC Dismisses Judicial Watch Complaint Alleging Northern Trust Provided Obama Special Discounts on "Super Super Jumbo" Home Loan ¶Judicial Watch . . . announced today that the Federal Election Commission (FEC) has "closed the file" on Judicial Watch's complaint against Senator Barack Obama for allegedly accepting a below market rate mortgage loan in 2005 not available to the general consumer. In its factual and legal analysis the FEC confirms Obama obtained a discounted loan but said no laws were violated. ¶According to Judicial Watch's original FEC complaint, filed July 8, 2008, the Illinois Senator reportedly received a home loan of \$1.32 million at a rate of 5.625 percent, although the average going rate on that day according to two different surveys was between 5.93 and 6 percent. Unlike what was reportedly available for the general consumer, this special below market "super super jumbo" loan, was secured without an origination fee or discount points. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2009/feb/fec-investigation-confirms-obama-received-discount-mortgage>.

February 20, 2009 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton

Judicial Watch Calls on Roland Burris to Resign ¶What a difference a month can make.

¶On January 7, Judicial Watch filed a [lawsuit against the United States Senate](#) for denying Roland Burris his position as the junior senator from Illinois. Now, we're calling for Burris to resign. And we're not alone. Even the liberal *Washington Post* is urging Burris to step down.

¶What happened in the last five weeks to provoke such a change of heart? Burris apparently lied about his contacts with disgraced and impeached Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich, who was arrested in December 2008 for trying to "sell" President Barack Obama's Senate seat to the highest bidder. . . . By *The Washington Post's* count, Burris has 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. ¶Of course when the question was first raised, Burris said there was no contact with Blagojevich prior to the appointment. Now we learn Burris attempted to raise money for Blagojevich at the same time the former Illinois

governor essentially put the Senate seat on the open market. ¶Clinton Lawyer Cheryl Mills

to Serve as Hillary's Chief of Staff ¶Here's what *Politico* doesn't tell you. In addition to "bringing order" to Hillary's campaign, Cheryl Mills also negotiated on behalf of Bill Clinton in discussions with the Obama administration related to the former president's enormous conflicts of interest. The Obama team was reportedly concerned about Bill (and Hillary) Clinton's business dealings when considering Hillary Clinton for the position of Secretary of State. Obviously, Mills did her job as Hillary received the appointment. ¶Presumably, as Chief of Staff, Cheryl Mills ought to be raising red flags when Bill Clinton's business and foundation interests intersect with official State Department business. This brings up a key question: How can Cheryl Mills be trusted to keep tabs on Bill Clinton at the State Department when she served as his chief negotiator just a few months ago? You may recall that Cheryl Mills was a key player in a scandal uncovered by Judicial Watch in 2000, often referred to as "[Emailgate](#)." During the course of its "Filegate" litigation against the Clinton White House, which pilfered the private FBI files of former Reagan and Bush staffers, Judicial Watch uncovered more than 1.8 million email communications the Clinton White House withheld from Judicial Watch, federal investigators and members of Congress. . . . Judicial Watch's discovery resulted in a six-month federal court hearing into the email scandal, during which Clinton officials were deposed, including Cheryl Mills. Mills was, in fact, aware of the missing White House emails but "assumed" someone else was handling the matter . . . ¶In an [April 28, 2008, ruling](#) in the email scandal, Judge Royce C. Lamberth called Cheryl Mills' participation in the matter "loathsome." He further stated Mills was responsible for "the most critical error made in this entire fiasco... Mills' actions were totally inadequate to address the problem." (Unfortunately, Judge Lamberth ruled there was no evidence of a conspiracy or obstruction of justice.) ¶Loathsome and totally inadequate. Say hello to the new Chief of Staff for the Secretary of State, ladies and gentlemen. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2009/09-loathsome-and-inadequate>.

February 27, 2009 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton

Strike Three...Obama's Third Commerce Secretary Nominee Has Corrupt Ties to

Chinagate ¶This is all starting to get a little ridiculous. Obama's first pick for Commerce Secretary, Bill Richardson, had to withdraw his name when it was discovered that he was the subject of a federal grand jury investigation concerning influence peddling. Obama's second choice, New Hampshire Senator Judd Gregg, first accepted and then rejected the nomination, citing irreconcilable policy differences (which included Gregg's objecting to the politicization of the Census by the Obama White House).¶Next up: Former Washington Democratic Governor Gary Locke. So is the third time the charm for the president? Or, as columnist [Michelle Malkin](#) put it, "Is it possible for Barack Obama to pick a Commerce Secretary nominee who'll actually make it past first base?" ¶Locke may in the end get the votes he needs but he is a horrible choice

for such a sensitive post. Allow me explain. ¶Remember the Chinagate scandal, where the Clintons and the Democratic National Committee raised gobs of cash from communist Chinese operatives? (This is perhaps the worst fundraising scandal in U.S. history, and Judicial Watch was one of the first to get on top of it. Check out the first three related lawsuits listed on [this page](#).)

¶Well, the Clinton Chinagate scheme had a focus in the Clinton Commerce Department. One of the key figures in Chinagate is none other than former Clinton Commerce official and DNC fundraiser John Huang. You may recall, when deposed by Judicial Watch in its Chinagate litigation, Huang took the fifth more than 2,000 times in connection to the scheme, although he did eventually plead guilty to violations of campaign finance laws. ¶In the midst of violating all those campaign finance laws in the 1990s, Huang also found time to raise money for another key Democratic rising star, Gary Locke. ¶Huang personally stroked a \$1,000 check for Locke and also co-sponsored fundraising events that netted [\\$30,000](#) in 1996 alone. ¶Of course, when criticized for his connections to Huang, Locke quickly yanked out the race card. . . . ¶There is little doubt that there was a plan by the Chinese Communist government to influence our politics with campaign cash. The Clintons were happy to play along. And it looks like Gary Locke may have been, too. ¶[Michelle Malkin](#) has done some excellent reporting on the Locke-Chinagate connections, much of the work produced while Michelle was working for the Seattle Times in the 1990s. Click [here](#) to read her posts. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2009/09-another-screwed-obama-nominee>.

March 6, 2009 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton

Judicial Watch Files Civil Rights Lawsuit on Behalf of "Joe the Plumber" ¶On March 5, during a news conference held at the National Press Club, Judicial Watch announced a new federal [civil rights lawsuit](#) filed on behalf of Samuel Joseph Wurzelbacher. Most of you know him as "Joe the Plumber." The lawsuit . . . alleges that officials of the State of Ohio violated Mr. Wurzelbacher's constitutional rights by illegally accessing confidential information from its official databases. ¶The defendants are Helen Jones-Kelley, Fred Williams and Doug Thompson, the three highest ranking employees of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services at the time of the alleged transgression. ¶Judicial Watch's lawsuit stems from an incident that took place on October 12, 2008, right in the midst of the contentious presidential election battle. ¶Mr. Wurzelbacher was throwing a football with his son in the front yard of his home when then-presidential candidate Barack Obama and his campaign entourage appeared on his street. ¶Mr. Wurzelbacher, an employee of a small plumbing business, subsequently had the opportunity to ask Obama about the impact of his tax proposals on small businesses. Obama responded by saying, "It's not that I want to punish your success; I just want to make sure that everybody who is behind you that they've got a chance at success, too. I think when you spread the wealth around, it's good for everybody." ¶This exchange between Obama and Mr. Wurzelbacher resulted in widespread media attention and references to "Joe the Plumber" in the third presidential debate held on October 15, 2008. . . . ¶According to an investigation by the [Ohio Inspector General](#), on October 16, 2008, just four days after Mr. Wurzelbacher questioned Obama, Jones-Kelley, Williams and Thompson held a meeting and specifically discussed "Joe the Plumber." Following the meeting the defendants authorized and instructed agency personnel to search confidential office databases to retrieve information about Mr. Wurzelbacher. All three defendants are believed to have been supporters of Obama's presidential campaign. ¶The Inspector General found "no legitimate agency function or purpose for checking on [Mr. Wurzelbacher's] name through the [confidential databases] or for authorizing these searches," which he labeled a "wrongful act" . . . (and) misused state resources to conduct political activities on behalf of Obama. ¶It is unconscionable that high-ranking state officials pried into confidential government files in retaliation for Joe's exercise of his First Amendment rights. No American should be investigated for simply asking a question of a public official. ¶I will have much more on this lawsuit in the

coming months. In the meantime, you can read the complaint for yourself by clicking [here](#). Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2009/10-jw-helps-joe-plumber>.

March 12, 2009 (+) JW Obtains Grand Jury Subpoenas of Federal Investigation of Former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich – White House Advisors Listed.

¶Subpoenas Issued Seeking Records on Individuals Connected to Obama Include: Valerie Jarrett, David Axelrod, David Wilhelm and J.B. Pritzker. ¶Judicial Watch . . . announced today that it obtained documents from the office of former Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich as result of an Illinois Freedom of Information Act lawsuit related to federal investigations of Blagojevich, who was removed from office in January for attempting to "sell" President Obama's Senate seat, among other charges. The documents include federal subpoenas issued to Governor Blagojevich's office related to a number of individuals connected to President Obama and the national Democratic party, including: . . . ¶*Valerie Jarrett: Once labeled "the other side of Barack Obama's brain" by CBS news, Jarrett remains a close advisor to President Obama. . . . ¶*David Axelrod: Axelrod, Obama's top campaign strategist, now serves as a senior White House advisor. During the campaign, when asked about the search for a replacement for Obama's Senate seat, Axelrod told Fox News Chicago, "I know [Obama has] talked to the governor and there are a whole range of names, many of which have surfaced, and I think he has a fondness for a lot of them." He later retracted the statement. . . . ¶*David Wilhelm: Wilhelm, a former Chairman of the Democratic National Committee and campaign strategist for Bill Clinton . . . ¶*J.B. Pritzker: Obama named Mr. Pritzker's sister, Penny, to serve on his recently formed 15-member Economic Recovery Advisory Board. Penny Pritzker previously served as the Obama campaign's National Finance Chair. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2009/mar/blagojevich-subpoenas>.

March 20, 2009 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton

¶**Feds Attack Local Communities for Enforcing Immigration Laws** ¶. . . At a time when many local law enforcement agencies are finding success putting a stop to illegal immigration crime, the Obama administration has decided to interfere. According to the Houston Chronicle: ¶"Several members of a key U.S. House committee called for greater oversight of a controversial federal program that allows local law enforcement to detain suspected illegal immigrants, citing a recent report that questioned its effectiveness. ¶"In a hearing Wednesday before the House Committee on Homeland Security, several members of Congress called for Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials to institute improvements... ¶This federal program, called 287g, specifically trains local law enforcement officers to help enforce federal immigration law. And thanks in part to a Judicial Watch public education campaign, the number of local law enforcement agencies participating in the program is growing (from 29 participants in 2006 to 67 today). ¶Why? Because it works! ¶Still, the Obama crowd and their fellow leftists in Congress aren't convinced. And they're not stopping with GAO reports and congressional hearings. They're looking for a scapegoat. And they think they've found one in Maricopa County (AZ) Sheriff Joe Arpaio, known as "America's Toughest Sherriff" for his no nonsense approach to illegal immigration and other crime. (As some of you may recall, Judicial Watch encouraged Sherriff Arpaio to [crack down on illegal immigration crime](#) in Phoenix, Arizona.) ¶As [MSNBC](#) reported recently, federal investigators, at the behest of top officials in the Obama administration, are turning up the heat on Sherriff Arpaio: " ¶(with) President Barack Obama's inauguration, and more specifically his nominating Eric Holder as U.S. Attorney General, the federal government is heeding community activists' calls for extensive investigation of Arpaio's office." ¶So there is a drug-fueled civil war creeping across our border from Mexico and our government investigates one of the few effective lawmen on the front lines! ¶**What Happens When Politicians Try to Run the Economy?** ¶The Obama administration has been back on its heels all week long after AIG executives paid out \$165 million in bonuses from the more than \$170 billion they

received in the federal government's bailout scheme. On Wednesday, Senator Chris Dodd retracted a lie and was forced to admit he slipped language in the bailout bill under pressure from the Obama Treasury Department that paved the way for the bonuses. ¶Here's the story according to Fox News: ¶"In a dramatic reversal Wednesday, Sen. Chris Dodd confessed to adding language to a spending cap in the stimulus bill last month that specifically excluded executive bonuses included in contracts signed before the bill's passage. ¶Dodd, D-Conn., told FOX News that Treasury officials forced him to make the change. ¶"As many know, the administration was, among others, not happy with the language. They wanted some modifications to it,' he said. 'They came to us, our staff, and asked for changes, and the changes at the time did not seem that obnoxious or onerous.'" . . . The problem here is that the government has decided to meddle in the private sector, dedicating literally trillions of dollars in public funds to irresponsible companies for the expressed purpose of propping them up. And what happens when politicians try to run the economy – from finance to the auto industry? Chaos. ¶Obama, Congress and others who allowed the bonuses express faux outrage. To add to the chaos/lawlessness, the House just passed a confiscatory tax measure that even some of its supporters suggest may be unconstitutional. . . . And to make matters worse, all the while the government has been spending our money behind closed doors away from public scrutiny. That's why Judicial Watch has been so aggressive in filing Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests with the federal government related to the bailout scheme. ¶When the Fannie and Freddie scandal first ripped through the economy last year, we filed a FOIA. When Secretary Paulson met with bank executives and offered them a "deal they could not refuse," we filed a FOIA. And on Thursday, Judicial Watch filed a fresh batch of FOIAs related to the AIG mess that emerged this week. The whole bailout scheme is now approaching north of \$12 trillion in potential costs to the taxpayer. I'm sure you agree we need to follow that money! Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2009/12-chaos-washington>.

March 27, 2009 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton

¶**Rahm Emanuel's High-Paying, Do-Nothing Tenure at Freddie Mac** ¶Obama's Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel . . . (has) been described as rude, crude, aggressive, mean-spirited, dogmatic and loquacious. . . . ¶So how is it that Emanuel served on the Board of mortgage lending giant Freddie Mac for 14 months without making any noticeable mark, while at the same time reaping huge financial rewards? And why did the normally obtrusive Emanuel keep his lips zipped when presented with an illegal accounting scheme designed to defraud Freddie Mac investors? . . . [The Chicago Tribune](#) found out: ¶Before its portfolio of bad loans helped trigger the current housing crisis, mortgage giant Freddie Mac was the focus of a major accounting scandal that led to a management shake-up, huge fines and scalding condemnation of passive directors by a top federal regulator. ¶One of those allegedly asleep-at-the-switch board members was Chicago's Rahm Emanuel—now chief of staff to President Barack Obama—who made at least \$320,000 for a 14-month stint at Freddie Mac that required little effort. ¶"Little effort" may be an understatement. The Freddie Mac board does most of its work in committees. According to the *Tribune*, there is no documented evidence Emanuel even served on a committee. ¶But it gets worse. ¶On Emanuel's watch, Freddie Mac hatched an [accounting scheme](#) – reviewed by the board –to defraud investors by artificially inflating the value of the company in order to pay out big bonuses to executives. The company was also slapped with a \$3.8 million fine by the Federal Election Commission for using corporate funds to bankroll political fundraisers. . . . ¶Judicial Watch is trying to dig up as much information as possible on the political corruption that enabled Fannie and Freddie (and their congressional co-conspirators) to operate above the law. ¶In fact, one [Judicial Watch Freedom of Information Act \(FOIA\) request](#) relates directly to the political fundraising scheme that resulted in the FEC fine referenced above. On December 18, 2008, Judicial Watch filed a FOIA request with the Treasury Department regarding political

contributions and political contribution policies at Fannie and Freddie. ¶We are looking into the deliberate campaign by these two agencies to buy political protection on Capitol Hill (mostly from liberals) so that they could continue on their reckless programs to hustle "subprime" mortgages to unqualified homebuyers. ¶**The Obama Administration's Schizophrenic Approach to Border Security** ¶The Obama administration announced this week a plan to send a few hundred federal agents to the U.S. border with Mexico . . . ¶Meanwhile on Capitol Hill, Janet Napolitano, Secretary of Homeland Security, said "thanks but no thanks" to an offer by the U.S. Senate for more money (about \$380 million) to address the problem, despite repeated pleas by members of the Senate Committee on Homeland Defense to use the funds to fix the problem. And the administration also rejected an appeal from Texas Governor Rick Perry and Arizona Governor Jan Brewer to deploy 1,000 National Guard troops to quell the violence... ¶Unlike seizing large stakes in private companies, border protection is actually a fundamental responsibility of the federal government. Judicial Watch investigators have repeatedly visited the border area and report that the dangers and lawlessness there cannot be overstated. ¶As Senator Lieberman told Napolitano after she refused the money, "I think you're going to need more resources to get the job done...I mean, [this is a kind of war](#)." ¶Yes, it most certainly is a kind of war. As Judicial Watch has uncovered through the Freedom of Information Act, U.S. Border Patrol officers have been involved in [dangerous confrontations](#) with Mexican government officials in U.S. territory, including members of the Mexican military. You can check out what we discovered by clicking [here](#). ¶We're now in a legal battle with the Obama administration to obtain more recent reports on Mexican incursions. ¶**Yet Another Screwed Up Obama Nomination** ¶Back in February, Barack Obama admitted that he had "screwed up" on a couple of his presidential appointments. Looks like the president screwed up again. Earlier this week, yet another of Obama's appointments resigned due to corruption problems. This time, it's Jon Cannon, who was slated to be second in command at the Environmental Protection Agency. In 2007, the EPA inspector general [published a report](#) regarding the mismanagement of \$25 million in grants awarded to the now defunct America's Clean Water Foundation. The report concluded that the foundation violated conflict of interest provisions by awarding a large contract to a member of its board of directors. The report also found that the organization cheated in its accounting, could not support costs, and submitted incorrect proposals to the government. ¶Cannon said he withdrew because he didn't want to become a "distraction." ¶Earlier this year, several other high profile Obama appointments, among them former Senator Tom Daschle (Health and Human Services) and former New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson (Secretary of Commerce) withdrew their names from consideration as well. ¶Daschle stepped down after news broke that he failed to pay nearly \$150,000 in back taxes. Richardson was forced to remove his name from consideration as Secretary of Commerce due to a pending grand jury investigation involving influence peddling. Another appointee to be the first federal "performance" officer, Nancy Killefer, also withdrew because of an old tax lien. ¶And those are just the ones who have resigned. A partial list of others with corruption problems in the Obama administration include Obama himself, Hillary Clinton (Secretary of State), Eric Holder (Attorney General), Timothy Geithner (Secretary of Treasury), Greg Craig (White House Counsel), Leon Panetta (CIA), and Rahm Emanuel (WH Chief of Staff). ¶Judicial Watch, as part of its anti-corruption mission, will be busier than ever monitoring this Obama crowd. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2009/13-will-obama-protect-our-border>.

April 3, 2009 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton
New Documents Uncovered by Judicial Watch Show Congress Ignored Corruption at Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac for Years. ¶According to new documents we uncovered this week, 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 while liberals in Congress (led by Frank) continued to block attempts to regulate the two Government Sponsored Enterprises (GSEs). ¶We obtained these documents from the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) in response to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request we submitted back on December 4, 2008. This is part of our comprehensive investigation of the government's role in the financial crisis, but our particular concern in this case was the policy of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to increase lending to individuals with poor credit risk, as well as correspondence and records about contacts between FHFA and Fannie and Freddie. ¶The following are a few of the most important documents we found. (You can read all of the documents we received in full by clicking [here](#)) . . . so what do these documents tell us? Well now we know for certain that Congress was made aware of the massive problems at Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac going back at least six years. When you read through these documents, you can see how desperate officials at FHFA were sounding the alarm regarding fraud, abuse and corruption at Fannie and Freddie. ¶Yet even when faced with the litany of complaints by FHFA against these two GSEs, liberals in Congress, led by Congressman Barney Frank, repeatedly blocked attempts to rein them in. . . . **Judicial Watch's Battle for Transparency in Security and Prosperity Partnership Continues in Court** ¶Judicial Watch filed an appeal this week in its open records lawsuit against the Department of Commerce regarding the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) and its off-shoot, the North American Competitiveness Council (NACC). . . . Now the question might come up, why is this battle so important given that Fox, Martin and President Bush are no longer in power? SPP is still active, and it is important to find out as much as possible about where we stand on some of the policies that are being developed, especially in light of the drug-fueled civil war in Mexico. ¶Second, if the federal government is successful in our lawsuit, it could set a precedent that will allow other government advisory committees to operate improperly in secret. (Obama seems to be on the edge of the law on this issue already with his secretive Economic Recovery Advisory Board.) ¶. . . That is why we're going to keep up the fight in court to shine a light on the Security and Prosperity Partnership and its offshoot, the North American Competitiveness Council. ¶The SPP was formally announced by then-heads of government Vicente Fox, George W. Bush, and Paul Martin on March 23, 2005, in Waco, Texas. The expressed purpose of the SPP, according to the trio, was to create a "safer, more prosperous North America." However, critics believed that the ultimate goal was the creation of a North American Union, blurring the lines of distinction between the three countries and sacrificing national sovereignty. ¶When the government officials at the highest levels began holding secret meetings with business interests and crafting policies behind closed doors that impact all Americans, suspicions heightened. And that's when Judicial Watch got involved. ¶We filed numerous open records requests with the federal government, making the argument that all meetings related to the Security and Prosperity Partnership are subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and should therefore be open to the public. Through the Freedom of Information Act, Judicial Watch unearthed some fascinating documents, which you can read [here](#). However, some agencies continue to stonewall the release of records related to SPP, prompting Judicial Watch to file lawsuits, such as the one referenced above against the Commerce Department. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2009/14-scandal-obama-justice-department>.

April 3, 2009 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton

¶Obama Pentagon Retaliates Against Judicial Watch for "Air Pelosi" Investigation

¶So what's the price for taking on House Speaker Nancy Pelosi these days? About \$760. Check this out from [Fox News](#): ¶A conservative watchdog group that published a [critical report](#) last month on House Speaker Nancy Pelosi says the government has retaliated by charging the group exorbitant fees for documents. ¶Judicial Watch published a report in March, based on e-mails and

other documents obtained through a Freedom of Information request, showing Pelosi repeatedly requested military aircraft to shuttle her and her colleagues and family around the country.

Though Judicial Watch was not charged fees for those documents, the group got a different response when it filed a follow-up document request with a unit in the Air Force on March 16: That'll be \$760. ¶ This is a rather naked attempt of retaliation by the Obama administration. Judicial Watch is the nation's leading organization when it comes to filing Freedom of Information Act requests. We know the law inside and out. Over the years we have filed literally [thousands of open records requests](#). And we are almost never charged a fee. This is petty payback for holding Nancy Pelosi to account over the Air Pelosi scandal. ¶ Our lawyers are considering our next steps, but you can be sure we won't be cowed from continuing our investigation of Pelosi's abuse of her office and our military. ¶ Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2009/16-are-you-right-wing-extremist>.

May 8, 2009 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton

¶ **Judicial Watch Uncovers New FCC Documents on Fairness Doctrine Debate** ¶ If the Fairness Doctrine is dead, as President Obama has said, you wouldn't know it from the [batch of documents](#) Judicial Watch obtained from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). We filed our original FOIA back in December 2008 to find out what internal government discussions have taken place surrounding the reimplementation of the Fairness Doctrine, which was abolished in 1987. And there was much discussion for sure. ¶ Not only do the documents show that controversy continues concerning the Fairness Doctrine, the FCC is considering alternative proposals that may regulate free speech in the media just as much under the professed goal of "diversity." One thing is for certain. These documents show that we are going to have to keep an eye on this FCC. The last thing our country needs is bureaucrats in the Obama administration stomping on the First Amendment rights of conservatives. ¶ By the way, Judicial Watch will host a panel discussion regarding the "Fairness Doctrine" May 14th . . . Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2009/19-supreme-court-battle-looming>.

May 15, 2009 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton

¶ **Judicial Watch Forces Release of Bank Bailout Documents** ¶ Judicial Watch again made major news this week with our announcement that we forced the Obama administration to release documents about the October 13, 2008, Treasury Department meeting that coerced major banks into allowing the government to take \$250 billion in equity stakes. Among other news, the documents confirm former Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson told the CEOs of nine major banks that they had no choice but to allow the government to take equity stakes in their institutions. The documents show Obama Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner, FDIC Chairman Shelia Blair and Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke co-hosted the meeting with Paulson. ¶ We filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request about the bankers meeting on October 16, 2008. After months of stonewalling, a FOIA lawsuit was filed against the Obama Treasury Department on January 27, 2009. Incredibly, on February 4, Treasury responded it had no documents about the historic meeting. Pressure from Judicial Watch forced Treasury to reevaluate its response, which resulted in this document release last month. These documents show our government exercising unrestrained power over the private sector. Despite promises of transparency, the Obama administration tried to cover up the very existence of these smoking-gun documents. And the cover-up continues, as the Obama administration protects Timothy Geithner by withholding a key document about his role in this infamous bankers' meeting. ¶ You can be sure that we will continue our legal and investigative efforts to extract documents about the so-called financial bailout. As you can see, our very freedoms may be at stake. ¶ To view the bank meeting

documents, you can go to our Internet site at www.judicialwatch.org. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2009/20-banks-forced-bailout>.

May 22, 2009 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton

¶JUDICIAL WATCH VICTORY! Illinois Senate Turns Over Secret List of Earmarks, Vows Full Disclosure ¶Judicial Watch earned a huge victory recently when the Illinois State Senate [finally released a secret list of legislative earmarks](#) and then vowed to make public all future earmarks so the citizens of Illinois can know exactly how legislators are distributing their tax dollars. Judicial Watch has agreed to drop its lawsuit against the Illinois Senate in exchange for the documents. ¶We'll see about that. But at least public officials in Illinois won't be able to operate outside public scrutiny. ¶And why is this scrutiny so important? Because earmarks are a means by which legislators reward their political contributors. It is part of the cronyism that has infected the political system not only in Illinois, but in government institutions across the country. ¶You may recall that Judicial Watch [filed this lawsuit](#) as part of its overall investigation into corruption involving former (now impeached) Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich. Blagojevich was believed to have made secret deals with Illinois lawmakers "for items ranging from police cars and tornado sirens to millions of dollars for after-school programs..." ¶Don't you think politicians will think twice about making these kinds of deals if they know the public will be keeping an eye on them? That's certainly the idea. ¶Judicial Watch victories come in many forms. In this case, not only did we get the [documents we sought](#), but we also effected a change in policy on behalf of the citizens of Illinois. By the way, we appreciate Illinois Senate President John Cullerton's fresh approach to the problem of earmarking. And rest assured we will make sure he keeps his commitment to transparency. ¶In the meantime, if you would like to review the earmarking documents we uncovered, click [here](#). It should not come as a shock to you that these documents reference millions and millions of taxpayer dollars poured into pork projects. Now the trick is to find out if there were any corrupt deals made to secure the funds. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2009/22-nancy-pelosi-lying>.

May 26, 2009 (+) Judicial Watch Statement on Obama's Nomination of Judge Sonia Sotomayor for the United States Supreme Court

¶ . . . Judicial watch issued the following statement today in response to Barack Obama's decision to nominate Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the United States Supreme Court: ¶"Barack Obama is on record saying he favors judges who will let their 'empathy' or bias for certain individuals color their decision-making. If Judge Sotomayor shares Obama's activist judicial philosophy, U.S. Senators who want to protect the Constitution will have no choice but to oppose her nomination. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2009/may/judicial-watch-statement-obama-s-nomination-judge-sonia-sotomayor-united-states-suprem>.

May 28, 2009 (+) Judicial Watch Obtains Obama Commerce Department Documents Detailing ACORN Partnership for 2010.

¶Census Bureau refuses to partner with "Hate Groups, Law Enforcement, Anti-Immigrant Groups" ¶Judicial Watch . . . announced today that it has obtained documents from the U.S. Census Bureau detailing the substantial involvement of the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) in the 2010 Census. Included among the 126 pages of documents, obtained by Judicial Watch under threat of a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit is ACORN's original Census partnership application. The document describes 18 different areas of responsibility requested by the community organization, which is under investigation in multiple states for illegal activity during the 2008 election, including voter registration fraud. ¶ . . . In its official statement responding to the ACORN controversy, the Obama Commerce Department downplayed ACORN's participation

in the Census and labeled "baseless" the notion that ACORN would be involved in any Census count. . . . ¶According to its application ACORN also signed up to: "Encourage employees and constituents to complete and mail their questionnaire; identify job candidates and/or distribute and display recruiting materials; appoint a liaison to work with the Census Bureau; provide space for Be Counted sites and/or Questionnaire Assistance Centers; sponsor community events to promote participation in the 2010 Census," among 18 requested areas of responsibility. The documents also show the decision to add ACORN as a partner occurred in February, long after the January 15th Census partnership application deadline. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2009/may/judicial-watch-obtains-obama-commerce-department-documents-detailing-acorn-partnership>.

July 24, 2009 (+) Judicial Watch Files Open Records Request with Cambridge, MA Police Department Regarding Arrest of Professor Henry Louis Gates ¶Watchdog Seeks Audiotapes and/or Videotapes on Gates Arrest ¶. . . . Specifically, Judicial Watch seeks the following records: ¶Any audiotapes or videotapes recorded prior to, during, or after the arrest of Harvard Professor Henry Louis Gates on July 16, 2009. ¶According to Sergeant Crowley, after approaching the house, Professor Gates was belligerent and refused to provide identification when requested. Sergeant Crowley told the press he arrested Gates for disorderly conduct after the professor followed him outside the home "continuing [his] tirade even after being warned multiple times, probably a few more times than the average person would have gotten." ¶According to Professor Gates, Sergeant Crowley was disrespectful from the beginning, refusing to identify himself or provide his badge number. ¶"President Obama threw the race card on the table after the Gates arrest without having all of the facts. Uninformed, inflammatory comments on this matter by President Obama have widened racial division and undermined the rule of law. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2009/jul/judicial-watch-files-open-records-request-cambridge-ma-police-department-regarding-arrest>.

May 22, 2009 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton
Special Inspector General: TARP Massive, Corrupt and Lacks Transparency ¶The Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program (SIGTARP) released its quarterly report to Congress this week on the federal government's massive TARP program. And it isn't pretty. Among the conclusions of the report: TARP is far more massive than originally planned. The program is rife with corruption. And the Obama Treasury Department has violated its pledge of transparency and refuses to require TARP fund recipients to report how the funds are being used. ¶Pretty tough stuff. But did anyone actually believe this was going to go down any differently? Did we really expect the government to keep the scope of the program modest, or to be able to manage the massive amount of corruption that always seems to accompany big government programs? Did we expect Treasury to care a whit about the American taxpayer and their right to know what is being done with their hard-earned money? ¶I certainly didn't. ¶The government's massive bailout of our financial institutions does not lead to corruption. It is corruption. Judicial Watch has said this from the beginning. The federal government has no business meddling in the private sector in this overwhelming fashion. ¶And even Democrats in Congress were critical of the Obama Treasury Department. In hearings this week with TARP Inspector General Neil Barofsky concerning his report, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Edolphus Towns (D-NY) [said](#), "The taxpayers now have a \$700 billion spending program that's being run under the philosophy of 'don't ask, don't tell.'" ¶Judicial Watch is committed to securing as much transparency as possible with respect to the government's bailout scheme. We've already uncovered some [important documents](#) related to the government's mob-style "deal" made with the nation's banks. Our investigation of "bailout nation" is perhaps the most comprehensive in Judicial Watch's 15-year history – we have at least 36 pending

Freedom of Information Act requests on the \$24 trillion government takeover of our nation's economy. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2009/30-obama-protecting-pelosi>.

August 5, 2009 (+) President Obama Promised "Transparency and the Rule of Law Will Be the Touchstones of This Presidency" ¶Judicial Watch . . . announced today that it has filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit against the Obama Department of Treasury to obtain documents concerning the taxpayer bailouts of mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Through its lawsuit, filed on July 29, 2009, Judicial Watch seeks the following records: ¶a. Documents concerning the U.S. Government's intervention (bailout, capital injection, conservatory formation, etc.) for Freddie Mac (records include but are not limited to legal framework, consideration and documentation of foreign investors' concerns, correspondence, etc.). ¶b. Documents concerning the U.S. Government's intervention (bailout, capital injection, conservatory formation, etc.) for Fannie Mae (records include but are not limited to legal framework, consideration and documentation of foreign investors' concerns, correspondence, etc.). ¶The bailouts of Fannie and Freddie have already cost taxpayers \$86 billion – and are expected to cost up to \$200 billion by the end of next year. . . . ¶On his first day in office, President Obama promised that "transparency and the rule of law will be the touchstones of this presidency." The president further declared that "the Freedom of Information Act is perhaps the most powerful instrument we have for making our government honest and transparent, and of holding it accountable." ¶Judicial Watch had to sue the Obama Treasury Department in order to obtain documents regarding an historic meeting held by former Treasury Secretary Henry "Hank" Paulson with top bank executives. The documents show that Paulson and other officials, including then-NY Fed Reserve head and current Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner forced the executives to take the government's \$250 billion "investment" (and resulting control). ¶Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2009/aug/jw-sues-treasury-department-obtain-documents-bailout-fannie-mae-and-freddie-mac>.

August 7, 2009 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton
¶Obama White House Adopts Low-ball Tactics from HillaryCare (Circa 1993) ¶As I've said many times before, past is prologue. Remember back in 1993 when Hillary Clinton attempted her government takeover of the nation's healthcare system? She failed miserably. But in watching the Obama administration's healthcare reform pressure campaign, it is clear that not only is Obama pushing Hillary-style government-run healthcare, he has also resorted to the same low-ball tactics used by Hillary in 1993. ¶In the last few months, the Obama administration [refused to turn over a list](#) of health industry officials who visited the White House, spread disinformation on his proposed plan and [mobilized a mob of minions](#) to attack opponents of his healthcare plan under the ironic moniker "fight the smears." . . . ¶Lies, smears, and secrecy. All of these were hallmarks of Hillary Clinton's efforts in 1993. ¶Obama hired many a Clinton hack to work in his White House (such as Rahm Emanuel). So it is no surprise that the Clinton gang's despicable tactics (some of which may be illegal) are being used by the Obama administration in their aggressive drive for socialized healthcare. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2009/32-obamas-healthcare-fight-gameplan-lies-smears-and-secrecy>.

August 14, 2009 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton
¶Obama Snagged in Digital Television Controversy ¶More broken promises to report this week related to the Obama White House and the issue of transparency. On August 6, Judicial Watch [filed a Freedom of Information Act \(FOIA\) lawsuit](#) against the Federal Communications

Commission (FCC) to obtain documents related to the government's decision to delay the transition to digital television. The FCC refused to respond to Judicial Watch's initial FOIA request until - get this - "we receive instructions from the White House." ¶This response is not only highly unusual, but it is also extremely troubling given that our FOIA request actually involves alleged corruption inside the Obama White House! ¶Here's the back-story. ¶On February 13, 2009, Judicial Watch filed a FOIA request with the FCC . . . concerning the decision to delay the transition to digital television until June 12, 2009. . . . ¶At the time, [press reports indicated](#) that a donor and advisor to President Obama on digital television issues . . . stood to benefit from the delay. The digital transition delay allegedly allowed Clearwire (and its partner, Sprint) to maintain an edge over competitor Verizon. . . . ¶On June 16, Judicial Watch received a number of documents related to the first part of its request. However, a large portion of these documents was heavily redacted without explanation. No documents have been received to date related to the FCC's communications with the White House. ¶So here's my question: Why is the Obama White House interfering in a routine FOIA request? ¶There is no provision of FOIA law that allows the White House to screen requests for potentially damaging information. . . . If the Obama White House cares a whit about transparency . . . its operatives will stop impeding the open records process. ¶**Treasury Documents Uncovered by Judicial Watch Reveal Details of AIG Bailout** ¶This week we released documents from the Treasury Department related to the government's bailout of insurance giant American International Group (AIG). Here's the headline: The Treasury Department knew the taxpayer would never recover their "investment" in AIG and apparently attempted to conceal that fact from the American people. ¶Overall, the [documents](#), which we obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, include internal Treasury Department emails and a series of outlines, presentation slides and articles outlining the details of the government's AIG bailout, which at the time totaled as much \$152 billion. Apparently although some government officials recognize their responsibility to measure the effectiveness of their TARP investments, at the same time, the American people are misinformed and remain in the dark about how their money is being spent. And it bears repeating that Treasury Department officials understood that the \$152 billion "investment" in AIG would not be recovered by the taxpayers. Yet it appears someone at Treasury did not want the risky nature of the deal to be relayed to the American people. ¶That's why we're being so persistent in pressuring the government to release bailout documents . . . (Just like we did with the [documents we uncovered](#) regarding former Treasury Secretary Henry "Hank" Paulson's meetings with the nation's leading banks.) Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2009/33-air-congress-scandal-news>.

August 19, 2009 (+) JW Files Landmark Lawsuit to Obtain Documents

Regarding Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac's Political Contributions ¶Judicial Watch . . . announced today that it has filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit against the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) to obtain documents related to political contributions made by the mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. According to the FHFA, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac might well possess documents responsive to Judicial Watch's initial FOIA request. However, the agency claims it is not obligated to release such documents to the public. Judicial Watch maintains that since Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are now wholly operated by the federal government through the FHFA they are subject to FOIA law. . . . ¶Overall, members of Congress have received more than \$4.8 million in political contributions from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac over the last ten years. ¶According to OpenSecrets.org, from 1998 through 2008 . . . Senator Dodd, the top recipient of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac campaign contributions, is Chairman of the Senate Banking Committee responsible for regulating the mortgage industry. Notably, President Obama was a top recipient of campaign monies despite being in the Senate for only three years. ¶"So much for the new era of transparency from the Obama administration...

The decision to keep Fannie and Freddie's political contribution records secret conveniently protects President Obama, his Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel and his top party allies on the Hill... "Fannie and Freddie funneled 'profits' from backing risky mortgages to politicians like Barack Obama. In turn, these politicians protected Fannie and Freddie from proper oversight of the risks they were taking with taxpayer-funds. More than anything else, this fundamentally corrupt scheme led to the collapse of the housing market and the financial crisis. No wonder the Obama administration doesn't want us to see what is in Fannie's and Freddie's records." Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2009/aug/jw-files-landmark-lawsuit-obtain-documents-regarding-fannie-mae-and-freddie-mac-politi>.

August 21, 2009 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton

JW Sues Treasury for Records on TARP Funds Distributed to Boston Bank after Intervention by Rep. Barney Frank

¶Barney Frank is no stranger to scandal. As you may recall, Judicial Watch [uncovered documents](#) proving that Frank was well aware of massive problems at Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, even while he blocked attempts by Congress to rein them in. Frank, of course, has been the beneficiary of tens of thousands of dollars from the two mortgage giants over the last decade in campaign contributions, which might help explain why he allowed the Fannie and Freddie to run wild. ¶(As you may recall, just weeks ago, Frank called on Fannie and Freddie to [relax mortgage standards yet again](#), even though such risky lending practices facilitated the collapse of the economy.) ¶Now there is a fresh influence peddling scandal brewing, this time involving the allocation of funds from TARP (Troubled Asset Relief Program). ¶Last week, Judicial Watch [filed a Freedom of Information Act \(FOIA\) lawsuit](#) against the U.S. Treasury Department to obtain records related to evaluation procedures used by the government to determine which financial institutions received funds from TARP. Of particular interest to Judicial Watch is a \$12 million TARP cash injection provided to the Boston-based OneUnited Bank at the urging of — you guessed it — Barney Frank. . . . ¶What is so suspicious about this OneUnited Bank TARP grant? ¶The Treasury Department has said from the beginning of its TARP program that 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." ¶Congressman Frank admitted he spoke to a "federal regulator" and then Treasury granted the funds. ¶TARP has created a whole new form of earmarking, where politicians lobby to receive mass cash infusions for special interests in their states. OneUnited Bank did not appear to be a suitable candidate for federal assistance until Barney Frank intervened and shook loose a \$12 million TARP grant. Indeed, OneUnited recently [fell behind](#) in its required dividend payments to Treasury as required under TARP. The American people deserve to know if Congressman Frank's intervention improperly colored the decision to give precious tax dollars to his hometown bank. That's why we're pursuing this information so aggressively. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2009/34-obama-hypocrisy-secrecy>.

September 11, 2009 (+) JW Obtains Docs from Secret Service Regarding

Security Costs for Obamas' "Date Night" in New York City ¶*Taxpayers Stuck with \$11,648.17 Secret Service Bill for Dinner and a Broadway Show on May 30, 2009* ¶Judicial Watch . . . announced today that it [obtained documents](#) this week through the Freedom of Information Act from the United States Secret Service documenting \$11,648.17 in security costs related to President Obama's "date night" with First Lady Michelle Obama on May 30, 2009 in New York City. On May 30, President Obama took the First Lady to New York City for what he described as a "date night." In a statement to the press, the President said: "I am taking my wife to New York City because I promised her during the campaign that I would take her to a Broadway

show after it was all finished." The Obamas dined for two hours at Blue Hill, a West Village restaurant before heading to the Belasco Theater for "Joe Turner's Come and Gone." The Obama White House had refused to detail costs for the trip. ¶Our government has saddled us with crushing debt in the worst economy since the Great Depression and yet President Obama stuck the American people with a massive bill for a 'date night' with the First Lady. We do not yet have a full accounting of the total costs of the Obamas' 'night on the town,' but this nearly \$12,000 waste of taxpayer funds will concern many taxpayers," stated Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2009/sep/jw-obtains-docs-secret-service-regarding-security-costs-obamas-date-night-new-york-cit>.

September 11, 2009 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton

¶**Obama "Green Jobs" Czar Van Jones Resigns** ¶There is at least one less radical in the Obama White House now that "green jobs" czar Van Jones was forced to resign this week. ¶Here's the story according to [Fox News](#): ¶White House green jobs adviser Van Jones resigned in the middle of the Labor Day weekend following persistent controversy over his past remarks and associations. ¶Jones, who served as an adviser to the White House Council on Environmental Quality, had generated mounting criticism over the past week. He earlier issued back-to-back apologies -- first, for calling Republicans [expletive deleted] during a videotaped address earlier in the year, and second for signing a petition in 2004 supporting the "9/11 truther" movement, which believes the Bush administration may have been involved in the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks. ¶. . . Obviously, anyone who would associate himself with the insane notion the Bush administration played a role in 9/11 has no business serving in the White House, any White House. . . . ¶Article II section 2 of the Constitution, states that, "... [the President] shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the Supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States, whose Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by Law." ¶Unlike the heads of other executive departments (such as the Secretaries of Energy, Transportation, etc.), most of Obama's czars [have not been confirmed](#) by the U.S. Senate. Some of them might not have even been subjected to a basic FBI background check. Importantly, as advisors to the president, these individuals can claim "executive privilege" if ever subpoenaed to testify before Congress. And they are not subject to transparency laws. They answer to no one but President Obama. ¶There is an [effort currently underway](#) in Congress, led by Rep. Patrick McHenry (R-NC), to force the czars to testify before Congress with respect to their "authority and responsibilities." And Rep. Jack Kingston (R-GA) has introduced [legislation](#) that mandates that czars be appointed only with advice and consent of the Senate. ¶Meanwhile, Judicial Watch has launched a full investigation of Obama's czar's — all 38 of them. We filed a [Freedom of Information Act request](#) with the Office of Management and Budget as well as requests with each separate czar office. (Of course we included Van Jones on our list. The White House, in a [snarky reply](#), said it had no documents responsive to our request because Jones "was not appointed as a 'czar.' Mr. Jones was appointed as Special Advisor for Green Jobs.") On all of these requests, we're after any and all documents pertaining to the mission statements, staffing and budgets for these offices. The Jones' story is not over as questions remain as to who hired him and who ignored (or, more likely, was impressed by) his radical background. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2009/37-whos-lying-about-healthcare>.

September 18, 2009 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton

¶**ACORN on the Run** ¶The radical community organization ACORN finally and deservedly has fallen on some hard times. In just the last week, the U.S. Census Bureau [severed](#) its ties with ACORN, the U.S. Senate [denied the organization](#) access to housing funds, and -- to top it all off -- the House of Representatives [voted overwhelmingly](#) to deny ACORN all federal funds

yesterday. ¶So, why is ACORN getting the cold shoulder in Washington with their former lawyer currently occupying the White House and liberals running Congress? ¶The tipping point was the release of the hidden camera [videos](#) that quickly became an Internet (www.BigGovernment.com) and Fox News Channel sensation last week. Young conservative journalists caught ACORN workers red-handed trying to advise the undercover reporters on how to evade tax, immigration, AND child prostitution laws! ¶Judicial Watch's ACORN-Census investigation is just one component of a larger campaign to expose the organization. Overall, we've filed over two dozen Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests regarding allegations of ACORN misconduct with various agencies. . . . Under the partnership agreement, the Census Bureau offered ACORN the opportunity to "recruit Census workers" who would participate in the count. And, as an "executive level" partner, ACORN would have had the ability to "organize and/or serve as a member on a Complete Count Committee," which, according to Census documents, helps "develop and implement locally based outreach and recruitment campaigns." ¶We found this unacceptable. And the documents we uncovered, coupled with a massive public education campaign, led to an avalanche of negative publicity for ACORN and the Census Bureau. For example, I appeared twice on Fox News to discuss the scandal -- [Megyn Kelly](#) and [Glenn Beck](#) highlighted our work. . . . ¶The good news from all of this is that ACORN is finally on the run. Its funding was cut. It was exposed as a complete fraud (again). And Judicial Watch helped force the U.S. Census to kick the organization to the curb where they belong. It's about time. ¶ACORN is not going to disappear. They have leftist supporters throughout this administration and in Congress. In addition to being their lawyer in the past, Obama also worked for an ACORN affiliate "getting out the vote," trained their people in left-wing pressure tactics, and his presidential campaign paid \$800,000 to another ACORN group to help him beat Hillary. . . . ¶Meanwhile, Judicial Watch's other ACORN investigations continue. . . . We filed over two dozen FOIAs on ACORN with various federal agencies over the last few months. And now is the time to decide whether your Judicial Watch will begin suing in federal court to gain access to documents. ¶**Judicial Watch Uncovers Documents from Treasury Related to Government-Brokered Acquisition of Bear Stearns by JP Morgan** ¶Judicial Watch's comprehensive investigation of the federal government's takeover of large swaths of our economy continues to break headlines. This week we uncovered documents from the Treasury Department regarding the March 2008 government-brokered acquisition of Wall Street firm Bear Stearns by JP Morgan Chase and Co. ¶This was many months and many bailouts ago, so here's a bit of the backstory ¶On Sunday, March 16, 2008, JP Morgan announced that it had acquired the troubled Bear Stearns for a price of [\\$2 per share](#), a fraction of the firm's \$30 market price on Friday, March 14. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York (NY FRB) supported the deal with \$30 billion in funding at the direction of then-Treasury Secretary Henry "Hank" Paulson. . . . ¶These FOIA documents were initially withheld from Judicial Watch in March and were only released after an administrative appeal to the Obama Treasury Department. Nonetheless, Treasury redacted many of these new documents and withheld many others in their entirety. ¶Judicial Watch is also pursuing a FOIA lawsuit for Vern McKinley, who is seeking documents on, among other bailout topics, the government's contention that a Bear Stearns collapse would have caused a "contagion" in the financial system. This lawsuit was highlighted in a September 13 [editorial](#) in *The Wall Street Journal*. ¶With respect to the Bear Stearns' deal, this was nothing more than a scam. Paulson sold the American people on the idea that this bailout would help stave off chaos in the financial markets. Of course, we know now that it did nothing of the sort. Since Bear Stearns, the federal government has committed trillions of taxpayer dollars to prop up other "worthless" financial institutions (and a zombie car company or two) with no end in sight. ¶Rest assured Judicial Watch will continue to force the government to come clean with the American people about "Bailout Nation" and its attendant corruption. ¶Until now, very little was known about the backdoor wheeling and dealing that took place among the Treasury Department, JP

Morgan and Bear Stearns. ¶[The documents](#) we recently uncovered, despite the Obama Treasury's heavy (and improper) redactions, provide some fascinating backdrop to the Bear Stearns' deal. They include "confidential" term sheets describing the deal, released to the public for the first time, along with behind-the-scenes email correspondence between Treasury officials showing that JP Morgan officials believed Bear Stearns to be "nearly worthless" just hours before the acquisition deal was announced to the press on Sunday night, May 16. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2009/38-acorn-run>.

September 24, 2009 (+) Judicial Watch Files Lawsuit against HUD to Obtain ACORN Documents. Seeks Records Related to HUD's Taxpayer Support of Controversial Community Organization Judicial Watch . . . has [filed a Freedom of Information Act \(FOIA\) lawsuit](#) against the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to obtain records related to federal grants provided to the controversial "community organization" Association of Community Organizers for Reform Now (ACORN). ¶Over the last two weeks, the U.S. Senate has voted to deny ACORN access to housing funds, while the House of Representatives voted to deny ACORN all federal funds. The U.S. Census Bureau, meanwhile, has severed its partnership with the organization for the 2010 U.S. Census. ¶The IRS also just severed a program relationship with ACORN. These actions were taken after videos surfaced depicting ACORN workers attempting to advise undercover reporters on how to evade tax, immigration and child prostitution laws. Most relevant to the lawsuit against HUD, are the videos depicting ACORN workers providing advice on purchasing a house to run as a brothel for underage, illegal alien girls. "The Obama administration needs to come clean to the American people about its relationship with this disgraced organization, especially in light of President Obama's personal connections to ACORN," said Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. "Given ACORN's scandalous record, the federal government has no business supporting the organization with taxpayer dollars. It is troubling, given President Obama's promises of transparency; we have had to sue to try to gain access to the ACORN documents." Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2009/sep/judicial-watch-files-lawsuit-against-hud-obtain-acorn-documents>.

October 2, 2009 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton ¶**JW Sues DHS for Documents on "Reforms" to 287(g)** ¶Local communities across the country are taking advantage of a federal program, called [287\(g\)](#), to train law enforcement officers in illegal immigration enforcement techniques. And it's working. These newly trained police officers are shutting down illegal alien crime and helping to deport illegal alien criminals out of the country. ¶What is the Obama administration's response to the success of this program? Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano decided to implement "reforms" to weaken it as part of her comprehensive "review" of all border security policies. Judicial Watch, of course, wants to know everything about how and why this incomprehensible decision was made, which is why we [filed a Freedom of Information Act \(FOIA\) lawsuit](#) against the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) last week. . . . ¶However, despite the fact that 287(g) is clearly working, the Obama administration seems intent on undermining the program. Arizona's Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio is a particular target of this "reform." Because of his successful and comprehensive implementation of 287 (g), "[America's Toughest Sheriff](#)" has been the target of attacks by the usual pro-illegal alien suspects, such as the ACLU and so-called Hispanic rights groups. Leftists in the Obama Justice Department also initiated a "civil rights" investigation that seems like straight-up intimidation and harassment. ¶**Judicial Watch Files Two New FOIA Lawsuits to Obtain Information on ACORN Scandals** ¶This week Judicial Watch pushed ahead with its aggressive investigation of ACORN, filing two new FOIA lawsuits on Monday. ¶We [filed the first](#) against the Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration

(EBSA). And it involves monies allegedly embezzled by Dale Rathke, the brother of ACORN founder Wade Rathke. ¶[The New York Times](#) has reported that, overall, Dale Rathke allegedly embezzled \$948,607.50 in 1999 and 2000. According to [a report](#) by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, a portion of these funds, \$215,000, allegedly came in the form of a "loan." . . . ¶[The second lawsuit](#) was filed against the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), which handles the programs and paperwork for national government grants, including funds distributed under the AmeriCorps umbrella. . . . ¶This has been a tough run for ACORN and deservedly so. Over the last several weeks, the U.S. Senate has voted to deny ACORN access to housing funds, while the House of Representatives voted to deny ACORN all federal funds. The U.S. Census Bureau, meanwhile, has severed its partnership with the organization related to the 2010 U.S. Census. The IRS also just severed a program relationship with ACORN. These actions were taken after videos surfaced depicting ACORN workers attempting to advise undercover journalists on how to evade tax, immigration and child prostitution laws. . . . It might just get a whole lot worse. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2009/40-welcome-right-wing-conspiracy> .

October 16, 2009 (+) Obama Administration Denies Judicial Watch FOIA

Request for White House Visitor Logs ¶Judicial Watch . . . announced today that the U.S. Secret Service (under the auspices of the Department of Homeland Security) has denied Judicial Watch's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for access to Obama White House visitor logs from January 20, 2009 to present. In refusing to abide by FOIA law, the Secret Service advanced the erroneous claim that the records belong to the Obama White House, not the agency, and therefore may be kept secret under the Presidential Records Act. A federal district court has ruled twice that all visitor records belong to the Secret Service and therefore should be available under the Freedom of Information Act. ¶The Obama administration announced in September that it would post some White House visitor log information on the White House website beginning on December 31, 2009. However, records from January 20, 2009 through September 15, 2009 will be kept secret, except in narrow specific circumstances. The Obama White House has yet to explain why visitor logs from its first eight months will be afforded special protection. ¶"Just because the Obama White House says FOIA law doesn't cover White House visitor logs doesn't make it so. The Obama administration is not above the law," said Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. "These visitor logs are subject to release under FOIA and the courts have affirmed this. Judicial Watch has no intention of abandoning its pursuit of these records. We will go to court, if necessary." Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2009/oct/obama-administration-denies-judicial-watch-foia-request-white-house-visitor-logs>.

October 16, 2009 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton

¶**Appellate Court Rules in Favor of Judicial Watch in SPP Lawsuit** ¶I have great news to report in Judicial Watch's ongoing effort to [bring transparency](#) to the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP). . . . A few weeks ago, Judicial Watch attorneys were in the DC Court of Appeals on September 21 in this matter, and their efforts paid off. Last Friday, the appellate court ruled that Judicial Watch indeed has standing to bring a lawsuit against the Commerce Department related to the North American Competitiveness Council (NACC), a group that advises the SPP. ¶Now we'll finally get our day in court and this is the essence of the argument we will make: The NACC must make its meetings open to the public and must release records relating to those meetings because it is subject to an open meetings law known as the [Federal Advisory Committee Act \(FACA\)](#). . . . ¶From the documents we've already uncovered, we do know that conversations are ongoing between the three participating nations at the highest levels of government regarding policies that impact all Americans, from healthcare to immigration. And until Judicial Watch got involved, these conversations were being conducted behind closed doors.

(Despite government stonewalling, Judicial Watch has already managed to force thousands of documents into the public domain. Click [here](#) to check them out.) ¶ And how does the NACC relate to the SPP? The American component of the NACC is made up of key corporations and was set up by the government to advise the SPP through the U.S. Chamber of Congress. So far, the NACC has provided over 50 recommendations for action to the SPP. Judicial Watch wishes to gain membership to the group and gain access to documents about its meetings and activities. The NACC most recently provided recommendations to the North American Leaders Summit (which is now what the SPP is called by the Obama administration). The last North American Leaders Summit was just this past August – so the process continues. . . . ¶ **Congressman Darrell Issa to Speak at Judicial Watch National Press Club Event** ¶ . . . On Monday, October 26, Judicial Watch will host an educational event entitled, "Oversight of the Obama Administration," featuring California Congressman Darrell Issa (R). . . . You may recall as the ranking minority member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, that Congressman Issa has spearheaded a number of corruption investigations, including those involving Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac as well as ACORN, so he is a key player in Obama administration oversight. . . . Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2009/42-towards-north-american-union>.

October 28, 2009 (+) Judicial Watch Statement on Allegations President Obama Rewarded Party Donors with White House Perks ¶ Judicial Watch . . . issued the following statement today in response to allegations reported by *The Washington Times* that during the first nine months of his administration "President Obama has quietly rewarded scores of top Democratic donors with VIP access to the White House, private briefings with administration advisers and invitations to important speeches and town-hall meetings." Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2009/oct/judicial-watch-statement-allegations-president-obama-rewarded-party-donors-white-house>.

October 29, 2009 (+) JW Obtains Documents Regarding NEA's Controversial 8/10 Conference Call Encouraging Artists to Promote Obama Agenda ¶ Documents Include Emails from Former NEA Communications Director Yosi Sergeant, who Resigned over the Scandal, and Former Actor and Associate Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement Kalpen Modi ¶ Judicial Watch . . . announced today that it has [obtained documents from the National Endowment for the Arts \(NEA\)](#) . . . The emails newly document detailed White House involvement in the controversial conference call. (The Corporation for National and Community Service, which runs the AmeriCorps program, also was represented during the call.) . . . ¶ While the names of the individuals on the conference call were redacted due to "privacy concerns," [some of their titles were disclosed](#), including: Green Blogger, Publisher, Musician, Music Writer, Film/Marketing, Actress/Director, Marketing, Magazine, Marketing/Magazine, Event Producer, and Actress. These individuals were described by Sergeant in an email as a "rad group, who can really get stuff done." ¶ "These emails shed new light on a very serious Obama administration scandal. The NEA is supposed to foster the arts, not serve as a propaganda machine for the Obama White House. We will continue our investigation so we can provide the truth to the American people about this scandal." Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2009/oct/jw-obtains-documents-regarding-neas-controversial-8-10-conference-call-encouraging-art>.

October 29, 2009 (+) Obama Administration Tells Federal Court Privacy Act Does Not Apply to White House ¶ Judicial Watch . . . announced today that the Obama administration argued in a recent court filing that the Privacy Act does not apply to the Executive Office of the President (EOP). This court filing came in a Judicial Watch lawsuit filed in 1996

against the Clinton White House related to a scandal known as "Filegate," where the Clinton White House obtained and maintained the private FBI files of hundreds of former Reagan and Bush officials [*Alexander v. Federal Bureau of Investigation*, Civil Action No. 96-2123/97-1288 (RCL)]. . . . ¶U.S. District Court Judge Royce Lamberth had repeatedly rejected this same legal argument, most recently in 2008 when the court ruled against a government motion that would have dismissed the lawsuit: "...This court holds that under the Privacy Act, the word 'agency' includes the Executive Office of the President, just as the Privacy Act says." ¶While the Obama administration continues to advance the legal and political argument that the White House and the FBI should not be held accountable for the Filegate scandal, former President Bill Clinton apparently disagrees. Clinton told historian Taylor Branch in preparation for a recently published book, "Those files did not belong at The White House," and that they "should have been isolated and returned immediately." According to Branch, Clinton also said "[H]is administration should and would be held accountable." ¶"What the Obama administration is effectively saying here is that if the White House decides to illegally compile FBI files and violate your privacy rights, tough luck," said Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. "It is disturbing that the Obama administration has taken the legal position that the Privacy Act does not apply to the White House and the Clinton FBI files scandal was not a scandal. It is worrying to those of us concerned about the Obama White House's collecting 'fishy' emails and compiling an enemies list of new organizations, radio hosts, businesses, and industry associations to attack and smear. Is the Obama defense of the FBI files' scandal less about that Clinton scandal and more about what his White House is up to now?" Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2009/oct/obama-administration-tells-federal-court-privacy-act-does-not-apply-white-house>.

November 2, 2009 (+) JW Obtains More Documents Regarding NEA's Conference Call Encouraging Artists to Promote Obama Political Agenda

¶Documents Show Idea for Propaganda Effort Grew out of Obama Campaign ¶The documents consist of internal NEA emails indicating the idea for the NEA propaganda effort grew out of the Obama campaign while also providing new details regarding White House involvement. The Corporation for National and Community Service, which runs the AmeriCorps program, was represented during the call. The agencies and the White House were supposedly promoting the administration's United We Serve political initiative. . . . (The controversial call was first uncovered by www.BigGovernment.com. Other documents about the call were first released last week by Judicial Watch.) . . . ¶The documents also detail the use of the 9/11 anniversary as a vehicle for this political effort. ¶"These new documents leave little doubt that the NEA conference call and the ongoing United We Serve effort are direct extensions of the Obama presidential campaign. Taxpayers should be outraged that their tax dollars were used to promote political 'art' for the Obama big government agenda," stated Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. . . . ¶A number of federal laws could have been broken by this White House fundraising program. Attorney General Holder can demonstrate his independence by appointing a special counsel to conduct an independent investigation of these serious allegations. In the meantime, the Obama White House needs to respond to our and others' requests for information about White House visitors." Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2009/nov/jw-obtains-more-documents-regarding-neas-conference-call-encouraging-artists-promote-o>.

November 3, 2009 (+) Judicial Watch Obtains New CIA Documents on Terrorist Interrogations

¶New CIA report concludes: "Detainee reporting accounts for more than half of all HUMINT reporting on al-Qa'ida since the program began..." ¶The documents, obtained by Judicial Watch . . . include two new versions of a report previously released to Judicial Watch in August, entitled, "Detainee Reporting Pivotal for the War Against Al-Qa'ida." ¶These new reports, dated June 1, 2005 and July 12, 2005, contain some different information than the

previously released report, dated June 3, 2005. Notably, the June 1, 2005 report concludes that "Detainee reporting accounts for more than half of all HUMINT reporting on al-Qa'ida since the program began..." This fact is missing from the other two later reports. ¶ . . . In March, President Obama overruled objections from national security officials and released documents detailing the government's enhanced interrogation program of terrorists (the so-called "torture" memos). However, President Obama initially withheld information detailing the results of this program, including alleged terrorist plots that the program prevented. ¶ "All of these CIA documents come to the same conclusion: Detainee interrogations are effective and have helped save lives in the United States and overseas," said Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. "¶ The Obama administration initially attempted to conceal the effectiveness of detainee interrogations by cherry picking documents to support its view on the interrogation program. We're pleased we have been able to provide the American people with more of the truth about the effectiveness of terrorist detainee interrogations." Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2009/nov/judicial-watch-obtains-new-cia-documents-terrorist-interrogations>.

November 12, 2009 (+) JW Filed FOIA Lawsuit against Chicago Mayor Daley's Office to Obtain Records Related to Olympics Bid ¶ Records Sought on Contacts with President Obama, "Olympics Czar" Valerie Jarrett and Other Top White House Officials ¶ Judicial Watch . . . announced today that it filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit against Chicago Mayor Richard Daley's office to obtain records related to the Obama administration's failed bid to bring the Olympics to Chicago. President Obama tapped White House Senior Advisor Valerie Jarrett to lead the Olympics effort, despite her personal and business ties to Chicago, which included a stint working for Mayor Daley. The Obama White House granted Jarrett a conflict of interest "ethics waiver" to allow her to serve as "Olympics Czar," despite her having personally led the Olympics bid for Chicago before entering the White House. (Other potentially conflicted White House officials with Chicago-ties include Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel and Senior Advisor David Axelrod.) ¶ . . . "The Obama White House's failed Olympics bid is a scandal. Why else would Obama's 'Olympics Czar' Valerie Jarrett need an 'ethics waiver' to lead the campaign to bring the Olympics to Chicago? Mayor Daley's illegal refusal to release documents about the Olympics bid is a rather transparent effort to protect President Obama and other key White House officials," said Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2009/nov/jw-will-file-foia-lawsuit-against-chicago-mayor-daleys-office-obtain-records-related-o>.

November 18, 2009 (+) JW Files Two New FOIA Lawsuits against Treasury and Federal Reserve for Documents on Taxpayer Bailouts ¶ Obama Transparency Promises Not Being Kept ¶ Judicial Watch . . . announced today that it has filed two separate Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuits against the Department of the Treasury and the Federal Reserve in its continuing efforts to bring transparency to the federal government's massive taxpayer bailouts. ¶ Judicial Watch's request filed with the Treasury Department on June 19, 2009, relates to a congressional briefing on the financial crisis held by former Secretary of the Treasury Henry Paulson and Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke on September 18, 2008, as they sought congressional approval for their financial bailout plan. ¶ . . . "We are now more than a year and trillions of dollars into the government bailout and answers are in short supply. What was Congress told about the so-called financial crisis and who was lobbying the Fed for taxpayer cash? The taxpayers are paying for this bailout and they deserve to know the truth. Many Americans are growing tired of President Obama's broken promises of transparency," stated Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. ¶ Judicial Watch has filed at least 53 Freedom of Information requests related to government bailouts and filed at least five related Freedom of

Information lawsuits against the Obama administration. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2009/nov/jw-files-two-new-foia-lawsuits-against-treasury-and-federal-reserve-documents-taxpayer>.

November 18, 2009 (+) JW Obtains Documents on Obama FCC "Diversity Czar" Mark Lloyd's Official Mission, Duties and Responsibilities ¶Judicial Watch . . . announced today that it has obtained documents from the . . . FCC regarding President Obama's "Diversity Czar" Mark Lloyd's official mission and responsibilities. ¶According to the documents, provided . . . Lloyd's mission is "to open up opportunities for all Americans, in particular women, minorities, small business owners, to participate in and benefit from a robust communications marketplace." . . . ¶In May 2009, Judicial Watch uncovered documents that demonstrate the FCC plans to use the professed goal of "diversity" to regulate free speech in the media. . . . ¶Some legal analysts have said such "localism" policies represent a back-door into the controversial Fairness Doctrine, which the Obama administration claims to oppose. ¶Lloyd, meanwhile, has been criticized heavily for making a number of controversial statements on race. For example, during a conference in 2005, Lloyd said, "There's nothing more difficult than this. Because we have really, truly good white people in important positions. And the fact of the matter is that there are a limited number of those positions. And unless we are conscious of the need to have more people of color, gays, other people in those positions we will not change the problem. . . . ¶During a 2008 National Conference for Media Reform, Lloyd also said Venezuelan dictator Hugo Chavez's rise to power was "really an incredible revolution - a democratic revolution." ¶Judicial Watch's FOIA request regarding Mark Lloyd is part of the organization's comprehensive investigation of all Obama administration czars. . . . Article II section 2 of the Constitution, states that, "...[the President] shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the Supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States, whose Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by Law." ¶Unlike the heads of other executive departments (such as the Secretaries of Energy, Transportation, etc.), most of Obama's "czars" have not been confirmed by the U.S. Senate or have had their positions authorized by Congress. Some of these appointees might not have even been subjected to a basic FBI background check.... Importantly, some of the "czars" work for the president in the White House -- these individuals could claim "executive privilege" if ever subpoenaed to testify before Congress. And they may not be subject to transparency laws. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2009/nov/jw-obtains-documents-obama-fcc-diversity-czar-mark-lloyds-official-mission-duties-and->.

November 19, 2009 (+) JW Calls on President Obama to Overrule Attorney General Holder's Decision on Khalid Sheikh Mohammed Trial ¶The decision to bring Mohammed and other Al Qaeda terrorists to New York for a civilian criminal trial is not Eric Holder's to make. President Obama is the commander in chief and he is ultimately responsible for the safety and security of this country. ¶Judicial Watch is representing a 9/11 victim in various litigation. And with respect to the military tribunal process, in 2008, Judicial Watch was selected by the Pentagon to monitor the arraignments at Guantanamo Bay of the five terrorist prisoners who are now set to be brought to New York. ¶ Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2009/nov/jw-calls-president-obama-overrule-attorney-general-holders-decision-khalid-sheikh-moha>.

December 8, 2009 (+) Judicial Watch Files Lawsuit against Obama Administration to Obtain White House Visitor Logs ¶During October 27 White

House Meeting Obama Administration Officials Sought to Make Deal with Judicial Watch on Records But Refuse to Abandon Erroneous Claim that Visitor Logs are not Subject to FOIA Law

Judicial Watch . . . announced today that it filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Secret Service for denying Judicial Watch's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for access to Obama White House visitor logs from January 20 to August 10, 2009. The Obama administration continues to advance the erroneous claim that the visitor logs are not agency records and are therefore not subject to FOIA. . . . Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2009/dec/judicial-watch-files-lawsuit-against-obama-administration-obtain-white-house-visitor-l>.

December 15, 2009 + A Judicial Watch Event: "ACORN Scandals: What's Next?"

Please join us for another Judicial Watch educational panel discussion where our invited policy experts will discuss recent scandals involving the controversial activist group ACORN. From a controversial partnership with the 2010 U.S. Census...to coming under multiple state investigations for election registration fraud...to journalist videos uncovering ACORN advice on how to evade tax, immigration and child prostitution laws — controversies about ACORN have gained unprecedented national attention. What's next for this group? Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2009/dec/judicial-watch-event-acorn-scandals-whats-next>.

December 16, 2009 + New Judicial Watch-SurveyUSA Poll Shows Deep Divide between Obama Administration and Likely Voters on Wide Range of Issues

Majority of Likely Voters (58%) Believe Obama Administration Decisions Have Been "Bad For America" Judicial Watch . . . today released the results of a new nationwide survey conducted in partnership with SurveyUSA concerning the American people's attitudes on a variety of subjects, including President Obama's job performance, political corruption, healthcare, transparency, ACORN, illegal immigration, and climate change. The poll was conducted by SurveyUSA December 11-14, 2009. . . . On virtually every single issue polled the Obama administration appears to be completely out of step with the prevailing views of the American people. . . . Overall, SurveyUSA interviewed 1,450 adults nationwide . . . 1,264 respondents identified themselves as being registered voters. Of the registered voters, 1,020 identified themselves as likely to vote in the 2010 elections for United States Congress. . . . Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2009/dec/new-judicial-watch-surveyusa-poll-shows-deep-divide-between-obama-administration-and-l>.

December 18, 2009 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton

Judicial Watch Files New Brief in "Joe the Plumber" Lawsuit This week Judicial Watch filed a [new brief](#) on behalf of "Joe the Plumber," Joe Wurzelbacher. You may recall Judicial Watch represents Mr. Wurzelbacher in a lawsuit filed against three Ohio state officials who violated his rights by going on a dirt-digging mission. . . . The Obama campaign's dismissive and disrespectful attitude toward an American citizen who did nothing more than ask a simple question was bad enough. (Joe Biden went so far as to take a [cheap shot](#) at Mr. Wurzelbacher during an interview on NBC's "Today Show.") But what happened behind the scenes, far away from the glare of the presidential election spotlight, was truly shocking. Shortly after the Obama-Wurzelbacher exchange, high-ranking officials of the State of Ohio (Obama supporters) began rummaging through confidential state databases looking for sensitive information on "Joe the Plumber." A [subsequent report](#) by the Ohio Office of Inspector General confirmed that this investigation of Mr. Wurzelbacher had "no legitimate agency function or purpose" and constituted a "wrongful act." These state employees were on a dirt-digging mission to try to discredit Mr. Wurzelbacher and help protect the Obama campaign! It's that simple. Judicial

Watch filed a lawsuit on March 5, 2009, on behalf of Mr. Wurzelbacher and just this week we filed a new court motion in the lawsuit (Plaintiff's Memorandum in Opposition to Defendants' Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings.) Here's [an excerpt](#) (the brief is worth reading in its entirety, by the way) ¶The State of Ohio seems to think that its government employees can rifle through citizen's confidential files with impunity to help a presidential candidate. As I've said in numerous press interviews surrounding this lawsuit, no American citizen should be subjected to such reprisals for simply asking a question of a candidate for office. Joe's lawsuit goes to the heart of the First Amendment and our right to petition our government. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2009/51-new-jw-poll-bad-news-obama>.

December 28, 2009 + Judicial Watch Announces List of Washington's "Ten Most Wanted Corrupt Politicians" for 2009

¶. . . "The list, in alphabetical order, includes:
7. President Barack Obama: During his presidential campaign, President Obama promised to run an ethical and transparent administration. . . . ¶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 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. . . . 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 "czars" 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 czars 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. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2009/dec/judicial-watch-announces-list-washington-s-ten-most-wanted-corrupt-politicians-2009>.

JW Obama Investigations FY 2010

January 8, 2010 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton

JW Files Appeal with Supreme Court in Legal Challenge to Hillary Clinton

Appointment ¶Judicial Watch has taken a lawsuit challenging Hillary Clinton's constitutional eligibility to serve as Secretary of State to the United States Supreme Court. On December 31,

2009, we officially filed our appeal. (Actually, the technical term for our court filing is a "Jurisdictional Statement," which you can read in its entirety [here](#)). ¶It has been almost a year since we originally filed this lawsuit against the Clinton appointment on behalf of Foreign Service Officer [David C. Rodearmel](#). Here's the crux of our argument: The Ineligibility Clause of the U.S. Constitution prohibits Clinton from serving as Secretary of State and Mr. Rodearmel cannot be forced to serve under the former U.S. Senator, as it would violate the oath he took as a Foreign Service Officer in 1991 to "support and defend" and "bear true faith and allegiance" to the Constitution of the United States ¶Here's why: The [Ineligibility Clause](#) clearly states: "No Senator or Representative shall, during the Time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil Office under the Authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the Emoluments whereof shall have been increased during such time." However, as Judicial Watch notes in its complaint, "the 'compensation and other emoluments' of the office of the U.S. Secretary of State increased during Mrs. Clinton's tenure in the U.S. Senate, including as many as three times during the second, six-year term to which she was elected." ¶Unfortunately, a three-judge panel of the U.S. District Court dismissed Judicial Watch's lawsuit on October 29, 2009, ruling that Mr. Rodearmel lacked "standing" to bring the lawsuit. However, the court did not address the constitutional merits of the lawsuit itself. We hope the Supreme Court will. ¶In other Special Order 40-related news, Judicial Watch Director of Litigation Paul Orfanedes was in court yesterday for a California Court of Appeal hearing in our lawsuit filed on behalf of California taxpayer Rudy Moreno (*Rudy Moreno v. William J. Bratton, et al.*). Like the Sturgeon lawsuit, this one also targets Special Order 40. But the Moreno lawsuit focuses on a California statute related to the communication between the LAPD and federal immigration officials when an individual is arrested for various narcotics offenses. (As you may recall, we earned a huge victory in a lawsuit filed against the City of San Francisco Police Department seeking enforcement of the same law.) ¶As President Obama plans to push forward with amnesty for illegal aliens, as well as other measures that undermine law enforcement, Judicial Watch's nationwide campaign seeking to enforce our laws against illegal immigration has taken on greater importance. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2010/01-you-cant-trust-aclu>.

January 15, 2010 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton

¶Clinton Corruption Front and Center — or The Latest Obama Administration Scandal

¶James Riady, who plead guilty in 2001 to a "conspiracy to defraud the United States" through illegal contributions to the campaigns of Bill Clinton and other Democrats, made it back in the United States last year, despite being previously barred from country for his crimes. ¶Apparently, the "disgraced" Riady was granted a visa waiver so he could receive an honorary doctorate from an Arkansas university and visit with Bill Clinton's foundation (to which he gave \$20,000). ¶*The Washington Post* asks the key question: "How and why did a foreign billionaire stained by Clinton-era scandals get a U.S. visa after being kept out for so long under the Bush administration?" ¶Those of you who have been with Judicial Watch for some time may recall that Riady was connected to one of the most serious crimes in our nation's history — a campaign by the Clintons to sell out our nation's security to Chinese government officials (and their front men) in exchange for millions of dollars in campaign contributions for the Clintons and the Democrats. (Otherwise known as the "Chinagate" scandal.) ¶Johnny Chung, a former Clinton donor (and Judicial Watch client), who was working with a Chinese general to give contributions to the Clintons, put it this way: "The [Clinton] White House is like a subway. You have to put in the coins to open the gates." ¶So a criminal with alleged ties to a foreign intelligence agency is allowed back into our country to try to visit our Secretary of State's husband (who is a former president and beneficiary of Riady's illegal largess)! . . . This is a scandal for both Hillary and Obama (not to mention Bill Clinton). . . . ¶**Obama: What Transparency Promise?** ¶It seems like every single week President Obama violates his own pledge to make transparency the

"cornerstone" of his administration. This time it's healthcare "reform". . . . ¶Brian Lamb, the founder and CEO of C-SPAN, made a serious effort to force transparency on these proceedings, consistent with President Obama's promise. He wrote a letter to House and Senate Democratic leaders on December 30th asking that the network's cameras be allowed into conference committee sessions as the details of this massive healthcare bill were being hammered out. Obama and the Democrats said no deal, prompting the highly respected and usually reserved Lamb to complain, and rightly so, that Obama had used his network as a "political football" during the campaign. ¶When asked whether he thought the Obama administration and congressional Democrats would change their minds and keep the president's promise, Lamb replied, "I don't have any great expectation." . . . ¶To say Obama secrecy is a trend would be an understatement. The Obama administration has repeatedly stonewalled Judicial Watch FOIA requests, including those related to White House visitor logs and the government's massive bailouts. So this "bait and switch" on healthcare is simply an extension of the administration's penchant for conducting its business on the most important issues of the day behind closed doors. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2010/02-obama-breaks-his-word-health-care>.

January 15, 2010 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton

¶**What did the Obama Administration Do to Prevent Great Britain's Release of Libyan Lockerbie Terrorist?** ¶What did the US government know about the UK's release of a convicted Libyan terrorist last summer? That's the question at the center of a new [Judicial Watch FOIA lawsuit](#) filed this week against the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). . . . ¶The terrorist, Abdel Baset al-Megrahi, was serving a life sentence for the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988. As you may recall, the UK came under heavy fire on August 20, 2009, for releasing the former Libyan intelligence officer from prison on "compassionate grounds" due to al-Megrahi's reported terminal prostate cancer . . . ¶Not only was the decision to release al-Megrahi from prison an affront to justice and an insult to the families of the [victims of the Pan Am tragedy](#), but it also served to rally terrorists around the world. And given the fact that most of the 270 people on board that Pan Am flight were Americans, we deserve to know what the U.S. government knew about this horrible decision to release a known terrorist from prison. The FBI has an obligation to the American people and the victims' families to release all relevant documents as soon as possible. ¶Frankly, given its lackadaisical and ideological approach to the terrorist threat, I'm concerned the Obama administration did not do enough to prevent this terrorist's release. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2010/03-message-obama-corruption-matters>.

January 19, 2010 (+) Judicial Watch Sues Treasury Department for Documents Related to Obama Administration Sale of Delaware GM Plant

¶Judicial Watch . . . announced today that it has a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit against the Obama Treasury Department to obtain documents related to automotive start-up Fisker's purchase of a former GM plant in Wilmington, Delaware, Vice President Biden's home state. The Department of Energy made possible the purchase of the plant with a \$528.7 million taxpayer-funded loan for Fisker. The company plans to use the plant to produce a new line of hybrid electric vehicles set to launch in 2012. ¶On October 27, 2009, in a press event announcing the plant reopening, Vice President Biden made news by inadvertently revealing Fisker's undisclosed plans to produce 100,000 plug-in hybrid sedans, coupes and crossovers. At the conclusion of his speech, Biden told the crowd of mostly UAW workers, who had previously worked at the plant when it was owned by General Motors, "imagine when this factory, when the floor we're standing on right now is making 100,000 plug-in hybrid sedans, coupes and crossovers every single year." ¶Fisker's selection of the plant, and Vice President's participation in the press conference

announcing the plant reopening as well as his intimate knowledge of Fisker's production plans, raised questions in the auto industry as to whether there was any quid pro quo arrangement with the Vice President related to the purchase, especially given the fact that a large government loan made the purchase possible. (Moreover, given that the federal government is the majority owner of GM, there are other potential conflicts of interest related to this deal that merit investigation.) Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/jan/judicial-watch-sues-treasury-department-documents-related-obama-administration-sale-de>.

January 29, 2010 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton

¶**Supreme Court Decimates McCain-Feingold** ¶If you're a fan of the First Amendment, then you're really going to like what the U.S. Supreme Court did this week. In a landmark decision the high court decimated the unconstitutional McCain-Feingold campaign finance law. ¶... According to [Fox News](#): ¶In a stunning reversal of the nation's federal campaign finance laws, the Supreme Court ruled 5-4 Thursday that free-speech rights permit groups like corporations and labor unions to directly spend on political campaigns, prompting the White House to pledge "forceful" action to undercut the decision. . . . ¶At issue in this lawsuit was a 90-minute documentary about Hillary Clinton produced by the conservative organization Citizens United. In 2008, the Federal Election Commission, citing McCain-Feingold, prohibited the program from airing on television stations during election season. This prompted Citizens United to file a lawsuit As Judicial Watch does . . . in legal matters of great importance, we filed an [amicus curiae](#) (friend of the court) brief with the Supreme Court in July 2009 on the side of Citizens United. Here's an excerpt from our brief: "The [Supreme] Court...was solicitous to protect political speech not only as a matter of individual liberty, and not only because it was the intention of the Framers, but because political speech is crucial to the survival of our representative government and its system of ordered liberty. This principle, in turn, presupposes that First Amendment protection of political speech is the precondition of all other freedoms protected by the Constitution." ¶In other words, we believe protecting political speech is especially important. Groups like Judicial Watch (which are organized as corporations) should be able to tell the truth about a candidate at any time. The First Amendment shouldn't shut down around election season. In fact, some could argue election season is the most important time to engage in the open exchange of ideas and opinions. ¶Thankfully, the Supreme Court agreed with Judicial Watch on almost every point. Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote the [majority opinion for the Court](#): "There is no basis for the proposition that, in the political speech context, the government may impose restrictions on certain disfavored speakers," he wrote. "The government may regulate corporate speech through disclaimer and disclosure requirements, but it may not suppress that speech altogether". . . . ¶President Obama . . . disagrees. And he wasted no time in [voicing his opposition](#) to the Supreme Court ruling: "Last week, the Supreme Court reversed a century of law to open the floodgates for special interests — including foreign corporations — to spend without limit in our elections. Well I don't think American elections should be bankrolled by America's most powerful interests, or worse, by foreign entities. They should be decided by the American people, and that's why I'm urging Democrats and Republicans to pass a bill that helps to right this wrong." ¶I don't recall any president ever attacking the Supreme Court so directly at a State of the Union address. Obama's attack was a disgrace that undermined the rule of law. It means that a Supreme Court justice might think twice about any ruling that could rankle President Obama — for fear of being attacked in person in front of a national audience. ¶And President Obama is wrong; the Supreme Court overturned a precedent that was 20 years old, not 100 years old. So Obama's statement was "not true," as Justice Alito seemed to indicate in response to Obama. The Supreme Court ruling also did not address foreign involvement in our elections, which is still illegal. (Obama may want to ask the Clintons and his own campaign about that.) ¶Intimidation, attacks, and end-runs around the Constitution are nothing new to this

President or this Congress. Nevertheless, the First Amendment was vindicated by the high court. Better enforcement of bribery and extortion laws is the key to fighting government corruption — not self-serving restrictions on free speech by politicians. Allowing full participation in our nation's political process for citizens acting through corporations will do more to hold corrupt politicians accountable than any campaign finance restriction or bureaucratic regulation. . . .

¶**Secrets in the Obama Administration** ¶President Obama provided a lot of fodder for discussion following Wednesday night's marathon State of the Union speech, but I'd like to focus on transparency and ethics. And here's what the President [said](#) on the subject: "To do that, we have to recognize that we face more than a deficit of dollars right now. We face a deficit of trust — deep and corrosive doubts about how Washington works that have been growing for years. To close that credibility gap we have to take action on both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue — to end the outsized influence of lobbyists; to do our work openly; to give our people the government they deserve. ¶That's what I came to Washington to do. That's why — for the first time in history — my administration posts our White House visitors online. That's why we've excluded lobbyists from policymaking jobs, or seats on federal boards and commissions. ¶Okay, so that's the *rhetoric*. The truth is that lobbyists do work in his administration — and do make policy. So the reality is that Obama is against hiring lobbyists except when he wants to hire lobbyists — hence his infamous "ethics waivers." If you don't believe me, the liberal [Politifact](#) rated this line in Obama's speech as "false" . . . ¶Indeed, on a wide range of key issues, from the White House visitor logs to bailout documents, the Obama administration has stonewalled just about every FOIA request Judicial Watch has filed. And on occasions when Judicial Watch has been forced to file FOIA lawsuits, the Obama administration fights those tooth and nail as well. ¶Transparency is perhaps the most important tool we have to guard against corruption. And I find it shameful that the President continues to use the issue of transparency to manipulate public sentiment in speeches while his administration frustrates the open records process on a daily basis. It kind of makes you wonder what they're trying to hide, doesn't it? And it makes our FOIA litigation and pursuit of moral and ethical government as important as ever. . . Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2010/04-pelosi-party-planes>.

February 19, 2010 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton

¶**Obama Administration Denies Public Access to Fannie and Freddie Documents**

¶Judicial Watch has been digging hard into the scandals behind the collapse of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and their role in helping trigger the global financial crisis. A key component of this investigation involves the role political corruption played in the failure of adequate congressional oversight and the catastrophic collapse of these "government sponsored entities" in 2008. That's why we filed a [Freedom of Information Act \(FOIA\) lawsuit](#) against the Obama administration to get hold of documents related to Fannie's and Freddie's campaign contributions over the last several election cycles. ¶We figure since American taxpayers are on the hook for trillions of dollars, potentially including \$400 billion alone for Fannie and Freddie, we deserve to know how and why this financial collapse occurred and who in Washington, D.C. is responsible. Unfortunately the Obama administration disagrees. . . . ¶Obama administration officials and their lawyers can argue until they are blue in the face that Fannie and Freddie are not federal agencies. But their reasoning is straight out of *Alice in Wonderland*. Remember how all of this went down? ¶. . . The Government's "deal" (was) to prop up Fannie and Freddie back in September 2008 when the sky was falling: "The government has formulated a plan to put troubled mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac *under federal control*, dismiss their top executives and prop them up financially..." [Emphasis added] ¶I don't see anything ambiguous about the government's relationship with Fannie and Freddie. The two agencies are now completely owned and operated by the federal government and are therefore subject to FOIA law. ¶Now, let's stop and think for a second. Why would the Obama administration be so intent on keeping records related to Fannie's

and Freddie's campaign contributions secret? Well, take a [look at this list](#) of the top recipients of Fannie and Freddie campaign contributions from 1989 through 2008 and I think you'll have a pretty good idea. President Obama is second on the list sandwiched between Democratic heavyweights Senator Chris Dodd (first) and Senator John Kerry (third). And the president rocketed to the near-top of the chart with only four years under his belt in the U.S. Senate! . . .

Do Terrorists Have the "Right to Remain Silent?" ¶In a recent blog for *The Hill* newspaper, I argued that President Obama's national security policies have made us less safe. You can read the article for yourself [here](#), but here's the gist: Obama has placed the American people at great risk by treating terrorism as a criminal act, rather than an act of war. This irresponsible policy not only sends a message to our enemies around the world that the U.S. is soft on terrorism, but it also allows war criminals access to the U.S. court system providing them the same legal rights as United States citizens. ¶Case in point, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, aka the Christmas bomber, who attempted to blow up a Northwest Airlines flight by detonating a bomb he had crammed in his underwear. . . . ¶Now the administration claims that Abdulmutallab was "Mirandized" only after he had decided not to continue cooperating with the FBI. But this completely misses the point. When you have a terrorist in custody you do what you can within the bounds of ethics and the law to extract information, you don't immediately give him the option to stop talking and let him lawyer up. ¶And Obama's official position regarding the timing notwithstanding, we know this: Before Abdulmutallab was read his Miranda rights he was talking ¶As Missouri [Senator Kit Bond](#), the highest ranking Republican on the Senate Intelligence Committee, said, "There's no changing the fact that Mirandizing Abdulmutallab gave terrorists a six-week head start to cover their tracks. We will never know what life-saving information on co-conspirators and future plots we missed out on. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2010/07-fannie-and-freddies-secrets>.

February 23, 2010 (+) Judicial Watch Sues for Records on "Climate Czar"

Carol Browner's Role in Crafting Policy ¶Browner Reportedly Led Negotiations with California to Craft Onerous Auto Emission Standards in Private and Instructed Participants to "Put nothing in writing, ever." ¶Judicial Watch . . . announced today that it filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit against the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to obtain documents related to President Obama's Special Assistant on Energy and Climate Carol Browner and her role in crafting official U.S. climate policy. Ms. Browner, who was never subjected to Senate confirmation, reportedly served as the Obama administration's point person in secret negotiations to establish automobile emission standards and also participated in negotiations involving cap and trade legislation. ¶According to press reports, Ms. Browner instructed individuals involved in auto emissions negotiations to "put nothing in writing, ever." *The New York Times* reported that Browner made every effort to "keep their discussions as quiet as possible." ¶Judicial Watch's FOIA requests involving Ms. Browner are part of a large-scale investigation of President Obama's so-called "czars" — especially those who have not been subject to the Senate confirmation process but who nonetheless seem to exercise authority in a way that raises constitutional questions. Judicial Watch has filed a FOIA request with the Office of Management and Budget as well as requests with each separate "czar" office as part of its investigation. ¶"Here we have an Obama administration 'czar' conducting secret meetings and instructing participants to avoid producing a written record. This is the perfect storm for corruption: concentrated executive power with no congressional oversight and no transparency," said Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. "This stonewall on the 'Climate Czar' documents seems yet another chapter in the Climategate scandal." Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/feb/judicial-watch-sues-records-climate-czar-carol-browners-role-crafting-policy>.

February 23, 2010 (+) Judicial Watch Sues Justice Department for Documents on Decision to Prosecute Khalid Sheikh Mohammed in New York Court; Holder Justice Department Shields Documents on Prosecution of 9/11 Terrorists.

Judicial Watch's November 19, 2009, FOIA request seeks the following information: ¶A. All records concerning the decision to prosecute Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and other conspirators in the September 11, 2001 attacks in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. . . . ¶The Obama administration has changed its position regarding the prosecution of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and his conspirators several times over the last few months. First, Attorney General Holder announced in November 2009, that the terrorists would be tried in a New York federal court. In January 2010, press reports suggested the White House had abandoned its plans for a New York trial after a "wave of protests" from the citizens of New York. In an interview with CBS News' Katie Couric that aired during the Super Bowl, President Obama said he had not "ruled out" holding the trials in New York. And then on February 12, *The Washington Post* reported that President Obama had inserted himself into the decision making process and that the military commission option is still on the table. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/feb/judicial-watch-sues-justice-department-documents-decision-prosecute-khalid-sheikh-moha>.

February 23, 2010 (+) Judicial Watch Obtains Documents Regarding

Congressional CIA "Torture Briefings"; CIA Briefed at least 68 Members of Congress on "Enhanced Interrogation Techniques" Between 2001 and 2007 ¶Judicial Watch . . . announced today that it has received the first batch of documents from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) regarding congressional "Torture Briefings." The CIA produced the documents pursuant to a previous court order in Judicial Watch's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit against the CIA (*Judicial Watch v. Central Intelligence Agency*, Case: 1:09-cv-01352). The court order stipulates that documents pertaining to congressional briefings on "enhanced interrogation techniques" must be provided to Judicial Watch by April 15. Additional documents are forthcoming. ¶According to the documents, previously marked "Top Secret," between 2001 and 2007, the CIA briefed at least 68 members of Congress on the CIA interrogation program, including so-called "enhanced interrogation techniques". . . . House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who previously denied she was briefed by the CIA on the use of these techniques, is specifically referenced in a briefing that took place on April 24, 2002, regarding the "ongoing interrogations of Abu Zubaydah." Zubaydah had been subjected to the enhanced interrogation techniques. . . . ¶Judicial Watch previously obtained documents from former Vice President Cheney's office in a separate lawsuit that detail the effectiveness of "enhanced interrogation techniques." According to a June 1, 2005, CIA report entitled, *Detainee Reporting Pivotal for the War Against Al-Qa'ida*, "Detainee reporting accounts for more than half of all HUMINT reporting on al-Qa'ida since the program began..." Interestingly, this fact was omitted in later versions of the report obtained by Judicial Watch. All versions, however, conclude: "One of the gains to detaining the additional terrorists has been the thwarting of a number of al-Qa'ida operations in the United States and overseas." ¶Despite the apparent effectiveness of "enhanced interrogation techniques," the federal government suspended their use in 2005 by passing the Detainee Treatment Act. President Obama officially banned the use of "enhanced interrogation techniques" during his first week in office in January 2009. Two months later, in March 2009, President Obama overruled objections from national security officials and released documents detailing the government's enhanced interrogation program (the so-called "torture" memos). However, President Obama initially withheld information detailing the results of this program, including alleged terrorist plots that the program prevented. . . . Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/feb/judicial-watch-obtains-documents-regarding-congressional-cia-torture-briefings>.

February 25, 2010 (+) Judicial Watch Asks Court to Order U.S. Secret Service to Release Hidden Logs of Obama's White House Visitors ¶

Judicial Watch . . . announced today that it has filed a "Motion for Partial Summary Judgment" in its lawsuit against the U.S. Secret Service asking the court to order the release of Secret Service logs of White House visitors from January 20, 2009, to August, 10, 2009. The Obama administration continues to advance the extraordinary and erroneous claim that the visitor logs "are not agency records subject to the FOIA [Freedom of Information Act]." As Judicial Watch noted in its complaint filed on December 7, 2009, this claim "has been litigated and rejected repeatedly." . . . ¶In 2009, the Obama White House began to release, in order to settle related litigation, a select number of Secret Service visitor logs to the public. However, tens of thousands of other records continue to be withheld in defiance of FOIA law. Only if visitor logs are released under the law (FOIA), can the American people be assured that the Obama White House is being forthright about who is visiting the White House. ¶On October 27, at the request of the White House, Judicial Watch staff visited with senior White House officials led by Norm Eisen, Special Counsel to the President for Ethics and Government, to discuss Judicial Watch's pursuit of the visitor logs. During the meeting, White House officials offered to make some accommodations to Judicial Watch on the visitor logs and encouraged Judicial Watch to publicly praise the Obama administration's commitment to transparency. However, the White House refused to abandon its legally indefensible contention that the visitor logs are not subject to FOIA law. In a November 30 letter, Norm Eisen reiterated the Obama administration's position and requested that Judicial Watch "focus and narrow your request," prompting Judicial Watch's lawsuit. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/feb/judicial-watch-asks-court-order-u-s-secret-service-release-hidden-logs-obamas-white-ho>.

March 2, 2010 (+) Judicial Watch Sues Treasury Department for Documents Detailing Meetings between Obama's "Pay Czar" Kenneth Feinberg and AIG; Obama Administration Stonewalls Release of Documents Regarding Management of Taxpayer-Funded TARP ¶

Judicial Watch, the public interest group that investigates and prosecutes government corruption, announced today that it has [filed a Freedom of Information Act \(FOIA\) lawsuit](#) against the Obama Treasury Department to obtain documents regarding meetings involving Kenneth Feinberg, special master for executive compensation under the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP); AIG Chairman Robert Benmosche; and New York Federal Reserve Bank President William Dudley. Feinberg, also known as the Obama administration's "pay czar". . . ¶In March 2009, AIG disbursed \$165 million in taxpayer-funded TARP funds to its top executives, prompting a massive public backlash. Obama officials reportedly lobbied Congress to insert legislative language allowing the AIG bonus payments and then apparently lied about their knowledge of the payment scheme. (As then-head of the New York Federal Reserve, current Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner helped craft the original AIG deal.) The meetings at issue in Judicial Watch's FOIA request took place in November 2009, just weeks after Feinberg publicly announced pay cuts and salary caps for AIG's top paid executives. According to press reports, despite the Obama administration's tough rhetoric on AIG, the insurance giant is set to pay out a fresh round of bonus payments to its executives in the amount of \$100 million in 2010. ¶"The Obama administration apparently believes that when it comes to doling out TARP funds, it's none of the American people's business," said Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. "The TARP disbursement process is apparently rife with corruption, cronyism and mismanagement. With trillions of taxpayer dollars on the line, it's time for the Obama administration to open the books to public scrutiny. Treasury's secrecy about the bailouts is an absolute scandal that is undermining our country." Found at

<http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/mar/judicial-watch-sues-treasury-department-documents-detailing-meetings-between-obamas-pa.>

March 3, 2010 (+) Judicial Watch Sues Homeland Security for Documents detailing Distribution of S Visas; Seeking Information Regarding the Distribution of Special Visas to Alien Informants and their Families

¶Judicial Watch . . . announced today that it has filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit against the Obama Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to obtain information regarding the Obama administration's distribution of S Visas. S Visas are granted to alien informants who help U.S. law enforcement officers to investigate and prosecute criminal and terrorist activities. . . . ¶The time frame for the request is from January 2008 to the present. ¶The S Visa provision was added to the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act in 1994 in response to the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, and allows aliens who possess "critical information on criminal or terrorist organizations to come into the United States in order to provide information to law enforcement officials." Since 1995, the government has issued 900 S Visas. ¶According to the law, 200 S Visas can be distributed annually for information related to criminal activity (known as S-5 status), while 50 S Visas can be distributed annually for information related to terrorist activity (known as S-6 status). However, there is no cap on the number of family members of informants eligible for S Visa status. S Visas are intended to be temporary with a maximum stay of three years. However, S Visa holders can achieve permanent visa status at the discretion of the Attorney General. ¶"There seems to be very little oversight of this program and even less information available to the public regarding the criteria used to determine who receives an S Visa and under what circumstances. I don't think it is a stretch to suggest that alien informants with inside information on criminal or terrorist activity might themselves be dangerous individuals. We're hoping our FOIA request and lawsuit will shed some light on this little understood program," stated Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/mar/judicial-watch-sues-homeland-security-documents-detailing-distribution-s-visas.>

March 8, 2010 (+) Judicial Watch Obtains Top Secret Memorandum Detailing Closed Congressional Hearing on Enhanced Interrogation Techniques; Testimony by DOD Official:

"...the most important factor in the capture of Saddam Hussein was interrogation. ¶Judicial Watch . . . announced today that it has received a Memorandum from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) marked "Top Secret" that includes a detailed report of a House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI) closed hearing regarding the subject of enhanced interrogation techniques. The CIA produced the document pursuant to a previous court order in Judicial Watch's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit against the CIA (*Judicial Watch v. Central Intelligence Agency*, Case: 09-1352). The court order stipulates that documents pertaining to congressional briefings for Speaker Pelosi and other members of Congress on "enhanced interrogation techniques" must be provided to Judicial Watch by April 15th. The following are excerpts from the Memorandum, dated July 14, 2004 . . . ¶John Pistole, Witness for the FBI: "In my view the benefits are huge and the costs are insignificant. Very few detainees don't provide us with good information..." ¶The document also recounts an allegation by Rep. Jane Harman (D-CA) that the CIA had not been giving the committee "full and candid testimony on the detainee issue." Testimony also suggests that interrogators at Fort Bragg believed that "unobtrusive forms of interrogation are the best." ¶"We are now beginning to get a very clear picture of what members of Congress knew about so-called enhanced interrogation techniques and when they knew it," said Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. "Intelligence officials repeatedly informed members of Congress that enhanced interrogation techniques are effective and save lives. It is little wonder why the Obama administration would try to keep these

documents hidden, given the administration's ideological hostility to these effective interrogation techniques." ¶ "The documents include the dates of all congressional briefings and, in some cases, the members of Congress in attendance and the specific subjects discussed. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who previously denied she was briefed by the CIA on the use of these techniques, is specifically referenced in a briefing that took place on April 24, 2002, regarding the "ongoing interrogations of Abu Zubaydah" Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/mar/judicial-watch-obtains-top-secret-memorandum-detailing-closed-congressional-hearing-en>.

March 9, 2010 (+) Obama Administration Tells Court Government-Run Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac Not Subject to Open Records FOIA Law; Judicial Watch Battles in Federal Court to Release Fannie and Freddie Political Contribution Information

¶ Judicial Watch . . . announced today that it has filed a new motion in its Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit against the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) that would force the Obama administration to release documents related to political contributions made by the mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. . . . ¶ However, the agency claims it is not obligated to release such documents to the public. Judicial Watch maintains that since Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are now wholly operated by the federal government they are subject to FOIA law. . . . ¶ "At issue in this Freedom of Information Act ('FOIA') lawsuit is whether FHFA, the federal agency that has custody and control of the records of Federal National Mortgage Association ('Fannie Mae') and Federal Home Loan Mortgage Company ('Freddie Mac'), must comply with a FOIA request for records relating to those previously independent entities. Until they were seized by FHFA in September 2008, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac were private corporations with independent directors, officers, and shareholders. Since that time, FHFA, a federal agency subject to FOIA, has assumed full legal custody and control of the records of these previously independent entities. Hence, these records are subject to FOIA like any other agency records." ¶ . . . "According to a review of the top recipients of Fannie and Freddie campaign contributions from 1989 through 2008, President Obama is second on the list, sandwiched between Democratic Senators Chris Dodd (first) and Senator John Kerry (third). The president achieved this ranking during his relatively brief three-year stint in the U.S. Senate. . . . Judicial Watch's effort to open up Fannie and Freddie to public scrutiny as the law requires is not just about political corruption — it also about accountability. ¶ Largely through Freddie and Fannie, the Obama administration essentially has taken government control of the United States mortgage market and its attendant liabilities. This unprecedented takeover of the private sector is being executed by government entities that the Obama administration says are not subject to *any* open records request. . . . Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/mar/obama-administration-tells-court-government-run-fannie-mae-and-freddie-mac-not-subject>.

March 11, 2010 (+) Obama Justice Department Shut Down Federal ACORN Investigation According to Documents Obtained by Judicial Watch

¶ Judicial Watch . . . announced today that it has obtained documents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) detailing federal investigations into the alleged corrupt activities of Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN). The documents reference serious allegations of corruption and voter registration fraud by ACORN as well as the Obama administration's decision to shut down a criminal investigation without filing criminal charges. . . . ¶ The documents include background information on two specific complaints ¶ The FBI and Department of Justice opened an investigation. However, the Obama Justice Department, while noting that ACORN had engaged in "questionable hiring and training practices," closed down the investigation in March 2009, claiming ACORN broke no laws. ¶ Other documents show that the Bush Justice Department failed to prosecute ACORN voter registration fraud of non-citizens in

Phoenix, Arizona, in 2007 because the allegations that led to the opening of the investigation were “unverifiable.” Notably, the FBI document detailing this questionable decision reveals that a “draft Intelligence Bulletin . . . concludes that ACORN’s employment practices perpetuate fraudulent voter registration.” ¶The ACORN documents uncovered by Judicial Watch include internal FBI memoranda, signed affidavits, subpoenas, fraudulent voter registration cards, and publications describing ACORN’s policies and practices. The documents also include details regarding numerous allegations of corruption extending beyond voter registration fraud, to include attempts by ACORN employees to coerce workers to participate in campaign activities on behalf of Democratic candidates. ¶“These documents reflect systematic voter registration fraud by ACORN,” said Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. “It is a scandal that there has been no comprehensive criminal investigation and prosecution by the Justice Department into this evident criminal conduct. Given President Obama’s close connections to ACORN, including his campaign’s hiring of an ACORN affiliate, it seems rather obvious why Attorney General Holder has failed to seriously investigate these and other alleged ACORN criminal activities.” Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/mar/obama-justice-department-shut-down-federal-acorn-investigation-according-documents-obt>

March 18, 2010 (+) Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton to Testify before Congress “Administration of the Freedom of Information Act: Current Trends”

¶The House Government Reform and Oversight Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census, and National Archives will hold a hearing entitled “Administration of the Freedom of Information Act: Current Trends.” Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton has accepted the committee’s invitation to testify. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/mar/judicial-watch-president-tom-fitton-testify-congress>.

March 18, 2010 (+) Judicial Watch Sues HHS to Obtain Documents Related to President Obama’s Closed-Door Health Care Meetings;

President Broke Campaign Promise to Broadcast Health Care Meetings on C-SPAN; Held Private Health Care Discussions with Vice President Biden, HHS Secretary Sebelius, Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Reid and Union Officials. . . . ¶Judicial Watch . . . filed a lawsuit against the Obama Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to obtain documents related to President Obama’s closed-door health care meetings with Vice President Biden, HHS Secretary Sebelius, Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Reid and union officials in violation of a campaign promise to broadcast all health care discussions on C-SPAN. ¶According to Judicial Watch’s lawsuit, filed on March 17, 2010: ¶At an August 21, 2008 town hall meeting in Chester Virginia, presidential candidate Barack Obama promised the nation that, to achieve health care reform, “I’m going to have all the negotiations around a big table. We’ll have doctors and nurses and hospital administrators. Insurance companies, drug companies – they’ll get a seat at the table, they just won’t be able to buy every chair. But what we will do is, we’ll have the negotiations televised on C-Span, so that people can see who is making arguments on behalf of their constituents, and who are making arguments on behalf of the drug companies or the insurance companies. And so, that approach, I think is what is going to allow people to stay involved in this process.” ¶In a startling breach of his campaign promise, between January 1, 2010, and January 15, 2010, President Obama, Vice President Biden, Health and Human Services Secretary Sebelius, and White House Office of Health Reform Director DeParle met behind closed doors with various groups to reach accord on health care reform before a final vote occurred in the U.S. House of Representatives. One group of individuals was senior officials of major unions. A second group consisted of Senate Majority Leader Reid and House Speaker Pelosi and other members of Congress. ¶Because President Obama and Secretary Sebelius held closed door negotiations at the White House, the public was denied the transparency President Obama had promised as a candidate. . . . ¶“First President

Obama breaks his promise on making health care negotiations public and now his administration is stonewalling the release of records from his secret health care meetings. The President and liberals in Congress are on the verge of staging a government takeover of our health care system, and the American people, at this key moment, are completely in the dark. This lawsuit is designed to hold President Obama to his promises of transparency. It is shameful that the Obama administration would violate FOIA law to help ensure passage of Obamacare,” stated Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/mar/judicial-watch-sues-hhs-obtain-documents-related-president-obama-s-closed-door-health->.

March 19, 2010 (+) Judicial Watch: Slaughter Rule Unconstitutional. ¶Judicial Watch . . . issued the following statement today in response to plans by the House of Representatives to use the so-called Slaughter Rule to “deem” the Senate health care bill passed without an actual up-or-down vote: ¶A constitutional crisis is upon us. The Democratic leadership’s plan to use the “Slaughter Rule” to pass the Senate health care bill without an explicit “yea or nay” vote by the House is an absolute violation of the U.S. Constitution (Article 1, Section 7). . . . ¶Simply put, the House can’t pretend to vote on a bill and expect that the result will pass constitutional muster. No House member can keep true to his oath of office to “support and defend the Constitution” and approve the use of the Slaughter Rule to avoid a direct vote on the Senate health care bill. And the U.S. Constitution would also seem to require that President Obama veto any resulting “bill” sent to him for signature, as the document that results from any House action under the Slaughter Rule is a constitutional nullity. ¶But concerned Americans should not assume that the courts will uphold the Constitution and throw out any government health care takeover because of the Slaughter Rule. The best defense against the Slaughter Rule’s usurpation of the Constitution is to stop it legislatively this weekend. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/mar/judicial-watch-slaughter-rule-unconstitutional>.

March 19, 2010 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton
¶Judicial Watch Obtains Top Secret Memo Detailing Closed Congressional Hearing on Enhanced Interrogation Techniques ¶For quite a while now, Judicial Watch has been trying to piece together the evidence regarding what members of Congress (Nancy Pelosi in particular) knew about the use of enhanced interrogation techniques (EITs) and when they knew it. . . . The Obama administration, which is ideologically hostile to the use of these techniques, has been stonewalling the release of documents that would shed light on the whole story. . . . ¶Recently our determination paid off when we obtained a memo from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) marked “[Top Secret](#)” that includes a detailed report of a House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI) closed hearing regarding the subject of enhanced interrogation techniques. ¶The CIA produced the document pursuant to a previous court order in Judicial Watch’s Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit against the CIA. The court order stipulates that documents pertaining to congressional briefings for Speaker Pelosi and other members of Congress on “enhanced interrogation techniques” must be provided to Judicial Watch by April 15th. . . . ¶You may recall that in February, Judicial Watch [released a separate batch of documents](#), previously marked “Top Secret,” indicating that between 2001 and 2007, the CIA briefed at least 68 members of Congress on the CIA interrogation program, including so-called “enhanced interrogation techniques.” The documents include the dates of all congressional briefings and, in some cases, the members of Congress in attendance and the specific subjects discussed. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who previously denied she was briefed by the CIA on the use of these techniques, is specifically referenced in a briefing that took place on April 24, 2002, regarding the “ongoing interrogations of Abu Zubaydah.”
<http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2010/11-slaughter-rule-unconstitutional>.

March 24, 2010 (+) Judicial Watch Letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee

Regarding Goodwin Liu ¶Judicial Watch . . . (has) grave concerns about the pending nomination of Goodwin Liu to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit. ¶In a book he co-authored, *Keeping Faith with the Constitution*, Mr. Liu suggests that the Constitution should be interpreted using the “evolving norms and traditions of our society.” This activist theory for interpreting the Constitution would substitute the whims of individual judges over the text and original meaning of the U.S. Constitution. . . . ¶Mr. Liu joined an amicus brief that suggests that the Constitution’s equal protection clause requires allowing same-sex couples to marry. (Brief of Amici Curiae Professors of Constitutional Law In Support of Respondents Challenging the Marriage Exclusion, *In Re Marriage Cases*, Case No. S147999 (CA Supreme Court)) ¶Mr. Liu has a radical and expansive view of judicially-enforceable rights to “welfare,” and seems to oppose the notion that the Constitution is colorblind. . . . ¶Judicial Watch requests that the Committee thoroughly examine Mr. Liu’s record and judicial philosophy. The rule of law is harmed when activist judges substitute their own will for the plain text and meaning of the U.S. Constitution. The Committee should be prepared to oppose his nomination if such an examination confirms that he embraces an activist judicial philosophy. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/mar/letter-senate-judiciary-committee>.

March 25, 2010 (+) Judicial Watch Asks Court to Force Release of Documents on Bailout of The Bear Stearns Companies, Inc.; Separate FOIA Lawsuit Targets Citigroup and Bank of America Bailouts; FOIA Lawsuits Investigate Government’s Legal Basis for Financial Bailouts

¶Judicial Watch . . . announced today that it filed a memorandum of law on March 8, 2010, in its Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit against the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System on behalf of former FDIC employee Vern McKinley to obtain documents related to the bailout of Bear Stearns Companies, Inc. Judicial Watch filed a FOIA lawsuit against the FDIC on behalf of Mr. McKinley on March 15, 2010, seeking information related to the Citigroup and Bank of America bailouts. Both lawsuits are part of Judicial Watch’s comprehensive investigation to determine under what legal authorities and lawful rationales the federal government initiated these financial bailouts. ¶The Bear Stearns’ lawsuit, originally filed by Mr. McKinley in July 2009, seeks records related to the Board’s unprecedented departure from standard procedure in authorizing the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (FRBNY) to provide “temporary emergency financing” to The Bear Stearns Companies, Inc., on March 14, 2008 (*McKinley v. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, et al.*, Civil Action No. 09-1263 ESH). Specifically, the Board authorized the FRBNY to extend a “nonrecourse loan” to JP Morgan, which in turn provided the financing to Bear Stearns. . . . ¶According to Judicial Watch’s memorandum of law, filed on March 8, 2010, “This case . . . implicates the quintessential purpose behind FOIA — piercing the veil of government secrecy and opening agency action to the light of public scrutiny.” Calling attention to the extraordinary nature of the action taken by the FDIC Judicial Watch noted, “Not since the Great Depression had the Board exercised its authority . . . to authorize a loan to a non-banking entity.” ¶Judicial Watch also filed a second lawsuit on March 15, 2010, seeking records related to the FDIC’s decision to guarantee \$306 billion of loans and securities held by Citigroup, Inc., and \$118 billion held by Bank of America (*McKinley v. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation*, Case 1:10-cv-00420). . . . ¶Ironically, the Obama administration has refused to release documents that were generated by the Bush administration. The documents also relate to decisions made by FRBNY president Tim Geithner, who is now Treasury Secretary. ¶“These lawsuits go to the heart of the government’s decision to commit hundreds of trillions of dollars in massive corporate bailouts. The government’s response to the so-called financial crisis was extreme and unprecedented and we deserve to know how and why these decisions were made. . . . “The Obama administration’s stonewalling on these key bailout

documents blows out of the water the notion that this president is truly committed to government transparency.” Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/mar/judicial-watch-asks-court-force-release-documents-bailout-bear-stearns-companies-inc>.

March 26, 2010 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton

¶**The Battle against Obamacare Has Just Begun** ¶On Tuesday, March 23, 2010, President Obama completed his hostile government takeover of our nation’s health care system. Just two days after liberals led by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi hammered his Obamacare package through Congress, the President signed the legislation into law. . . . ¶Did Obama really just criticize his opponents for punditry, lobbying and game-playing? Obama and his liberal allies used these tactics profusely to smash Obamacare down our throats. And, by the way, you can also add obfuscation, secrecy, bullying and manipulation to the list as well. ¶Of course, as regular readers of the *Weekly Update* know well, Judicial Watch has been investigating Obamacare since August 2009. And you can expect us to kick this battle up a notch and then some. We’ve already [filed more than 20 Freedom of Information Act \(FOIA\) requests](#) in order to unearth the details of the sordid backroom deals that led to the government takeover of the healthcare system. ¶It is worth noting that in our recent SurveyUSA poll, 62% of likely voters thought an increased government role in the health care system would lead to more corruption.

April 2, 2010 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton

¶**Explosive Treasury Emails Put Barney Frank in the Ethics Hot Seat**

¶When Barney Frank was asked about intervening on behalf of a home state bank for Troubled Assets Relief Program (TARP) funds, 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.” ¶According to explosive new Treasury Department emails uncovered by Judicial Watch, it appears this nameless bureaucrat is none other than then-Treasury Secretary Henry “Hank” Paulson! ¶These documents, which we obtained in response to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit, indicate that Frank personally called former Secretary Paulson regarding a TARP cash infusion for the Boston-based OneUnited Bank. And it worked. On November 25, 2008, following Frank’s intervention, the Treasury Department awarded \$12,063,000 in bailout funds to OneUnited, which is located in Frank’s district. ¶Moreover, according to these documents, Frank is not the only Democratic Congressman with dirty hands in the OneUnited bank scandal. Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA), whose husband, Sidney Williams, served on the OneUnited Board of Directors, also intervened on behalf of the Massachusetts Bank. (Williams resigned shortly after Waters approached federal regulators regarding the OneUnited TARP grant.). . . . ¶The fact that Frank and Waters improperly intervened to score some TARP cash for OneUnited does not shock me. This is exactly the kind of corrupt deal-making I expected when the federal government decided to throw massive amounts of taxpayer dollars at private institutions. But I have to say, it is a rare case indeed when the documented evidence of impropriety is so clear. ¶The Treasury Department indicated it would only provide funds to healthy banks in order 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.” The bank continues to flounder and is one of the few financial institutions to have not paid dividends to the federal government in exchange for the TARP cash infusion. Found out <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2010/13-barney-franks-ethics-mess>.

April 23, 2010 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton

¶Obama Administration Tries to Roll Back Open Records Reform ¶On April 19, Judicial Watch lawyers presented oral arguments to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit against the Obama administration's subversion of the transparency law known as the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). ¶Here's the bottom line. According to changes in FOIA law signed by President Bush in 2007 under the Open Government Act, the federal government owes Judicial Watch attorneys' fees for dragging its feet in releasing documents related to a [suspicious real estate deal](#) involving Senator Harry Reid. Lawyers for the Obama administration don't want to pay up and they have taken their battle to the appellate court. Now the total amount owed to Judicial Watch is only \$3,605.57. But it's not the money that is important here. It's the principle.¶The Obama administration, once again demonstrating hostility toward open records law, wants to make it more difficult for petitioners to recover their costs when the government improperly withholds records. The administration seems to hope that the prospect of expending resources fighting the government will dissuade Americans from pursuing open records requests. And the administration can therefore continue to operate in secret. ¶In this particular case, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) stonewalled Judicial Watch's open records request for six months, promising time and time again to produce the records. They never did. Not until Judicial Watch filed a lawsuit. And then, lo and behold, records showed up on Judicial Watch's doorstep two weeks later. But the point is Judicial Watch should not have had to expend the resources to force BLM to do its job. . . . ¶This is a clear cut case of cause (lawsuit) and effect (documents released), and we hope the court sees it that way. Ironically, if the Obama administration loses, it may end up owing Judicial Watch nearly 10 times the amount in attorneys' fees we asked for at the start of this dispute. ¶This latest Judicial Watch court battle is more evidence of Obama's "big lie" about his supposed commitment to transparency. The Obama crowd is now trying to roll back an expansion of FOIA by President Bush! I'll be sure to let you know what the court rules. Found out <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2010/16-beware-obama-financial-reform>.

April 29, 2010 (+) Obama Justice Department Tells Court to Shield White House Visitor Logs from Full Disclosure and FOIA Law; Court Precedent Contradicts Obama Administration Position Justice Department Lawyers Claim Previous Court Cases "Incorrectly Decided" ¶Judicial Watch . . . announced today that the Obama Justice Department advanced the erroneous claim in an April 21, 2010, court filing that the Secret Service's logs of White House visitors are not subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). As Judicial Watch noted in its original complaint filed on December 7, 2009, this claim "has been litigated and rejected repeatedly" by the courts. . . . ¶"At issue here is whether Secret Service visitor logs are agency records subject to the Freedom of Information Act ('FOIA'), 5 U.S.C. § 552. To date, every court that has reached this issue has concluded that the requested documents are agency records and must be processed in response to a properly submitted FOIA request. As no disputes of material fact exist as to the nature of the records, summary judgment as to this straightforward legal issue should be entered now". . . . ¶On October 27, at the request of the White House, Judicial Watch staff visited with senior White House officials . . . to discuss Judicial Watch's pursuit of the visitor logs. During the meeting, White House officials offered to make some accommodations to Judicial Watch on the visitor logs and encouraged Judicial Watch to publicly praise the Obama administration's commitment to transparency. However, the White House refused to abandon its legally indefensible contention that the visitor logs are not subject to FOIA law, prompting Judicial Watch's lawsuit. . . . ¶"The Obama administration would undermine a key transparency law in order to keep White House visitor logs secret," said Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. "Only the Obama administration could offer to release pre-scrubbed White House visitor logs while withholding tens of thousands of other records and call it transparency. President Obama has violated his campaign promises of openness and transparency.

We hope the court will do what it has done on previous occasions and uphold FOIA law.” Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/apr/obama-justice-department-tells-court-shield-white-house-visitor-logs-full-disclosure-a>.

April 30, 2010 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton

¶Arizona Draws Line in the Sand on Immigration (and Obama is on the other side)

¶On April 23rd, citing the federal government’s dismal failure to deal with the illegal immigration crisis, Arizona Governor Jan Brewer signed into law a new bill that tries to address the illegal alien crisis that is disproportionately impacting Arizona. ¶And, as you might expect, the reaction from illegal immigration activists and radical leftists was swift and severe, starting with the Obama White House, which is looking for any opportunity it can to shore up the so-called “Hispanic vote” for November. Obviously ignorant of both the details of Arizona law and federal immigration law, Obama irresponsibly [criticized](#) the legislation as “misguided” and suggested his politically-pliant Justice Department would consider [suing the State of Arizona](#) to prevent the law from going into effect. Liberal political leaders immediately called for an [economic boycott](#) of the state. Illegal immigration proponents vowed protests across the country this weekend in at least 70 cities. . . . ¶Rampant crime, violent drug cartels operating with impunity, and human trafficking – this is the reality that Arizona legal residents, both Hispanic and non-Hispanic face every day. Rather than doing as the law requires – cooperate with state officials to fully enforce our immigration laws – Obama and his “law-enforcement” team (to include the ethically-challenged Attorney General Eric Holder and the soft-on-border-security Janet Napolitano, the Department of Homeland Security Chief) are attacking Arizona and seeking to undermine the rule of law. ¶While there is a calculated effort to demonize Governor Brewer, Sheriff Joe and anyone else who supports this bill as intolerant racists, let’s keep this in mind, according to a [Rasmussen poll](#), nearly two-thirds of Arizona citizens support the legislation! And the same is true for citizens all across the country. According to a [national survey](#) Judicial Watch conducted last December in partnership with SurveyUSA: The vast majority (77%) of likely voters are opposed to local governments providing sanctuary to illegal aliens, and a majority (61%) want local law enforcement to be more involved in enforcing immigration laws. ¶The bottom line is most Americans want our immigration laws enforced. And here’s why: According to the [Associated Press](#) illegal aliens are not waiting for the law to take effect this summer to “get out of Dodge.” They’re leaving now. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2010/17-obama-wrong-side-law-arizona>.

May 10, 2010 (+) Judicial Watch Statement Regarding Solicitor General Elena Kagan’s Nomination for the Supreme Court.

Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton issued the following statement in response to today’s announcement of the nomination of Elena Kagan to the Supreme Court of the United States: “President Obama’s nomination of Elena Kagan to the Supreme Court is irresponsible. Ms. Kagan is a liberal activist and political operative with no experience as judge. A Supreme Court nominee ought to have significant practical experience as a lawyer or a judge — especially a nominee for the nation’s highest court. Her decision to throw military recruiters off the campus of Harvard Law School during a time of war shows she is far to the left of mainstream America. The fact that she continued to work in the Clinton White House after it became clear that President Clinton lied under oath raises questions about her ethical judgment. And her record, as spotty as it is, shows that Ms. Kagan is a committed liberal judicial activist. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/may/judicial-watch-statement-regarding-solicitor-general-elena-kagan-s-appointment-supreme>.

May 11, 2010 (+) Judicial Watch Announces a Special Presentation: "Is

Obamacare Constitutional?" Judicial Watch . . . announced it will host a panel discussion on the serious constitutional questions surrounding the recently passed health care legislation. Location: National Press Club, Confirmed Panelists: Representative F. James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) House Judiciary Committee Ranking Member on the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties. Former Chairman of the Judiciary Committee and Randy E. Barnett, Professor of Constitutional Law, Georgetown University Law Center, 2008 Winner of the Guggenheim Fellowship in Constitutional Studies. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/may/judicial-watch-announces-special-presentation-obamacare-constitutional>.

May 14, 2010 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton

¶**Rumors of ACORN's Decline "Greatly Exaggerated"** ¶The liberal media has crafted a pretty compelling obituary for the disgraced "civil rights" organization ACORN, declaring the organization bankrupt, disbanded, and out of business. But according to a [recent report](#) from the House Committee on Government Oversight and Reform, led by Ranking Member Darrell Issa, ACORN's alleged decline is yet another sleight of hand . . . ¶As you may know, we recently uncovered [explosive documents](#) proving the Obama Justice Department has already shut down federal investigations into ACORN voter registration fraud. Remember, President Obama served as a lawyer for ACORN and his campaign hired an ACORN affiliate to do its "community organizing." And if not for Judicial Watch's efforts to expose ACORN corruption, the organization may have played a role in the [2010 U.S. Census](#). (I was on *Fox News* twice to discuss the scandal, which was covered by the *Fox News Channel's Glenn Beck Program*.) ¶Judicial Watch is on the front lines investigating ACORN corruption with over [two dozen FOIA requests](#) related to the organization and a number of active lawsuits. And on April 22, 2010, we delivered 6,907 member petitions to Attorney General Eric Holder demanding an investigation of the scandal-ridden "community organization." Judicial Watch also asked Holder to "forcefully resist" any political pressure brought upon him to turn a blind eye to ACORN corruption. ¶ACORN's name may change, but Judicial Watch will continue to seek to hold it accountable — whatever alias it uses! Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2010/19-elena-kagan-inexperienced-liberal>.

May 20, 2010 (+) Judicial Watch Files Lawsuit against Federal Reserve to Obtain AIG and Lehman Brothers Bailout Documents. Lawsuit Filed on Behalf of Former Federal Reserve Employee Seeks Information Regarding Government's Legal Basis for Financial Bailouts.

¶Judicial Watch . . . announced today that it [filed a Freedom of Information Act \(FOIA\) lawsuit](#) on May 11 against the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for documents related to the bailout of American International Group (AIG) and the bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers. The lawsuit was filed on behalf of former Federal Reserve employee Vern McKinley. The lawsuit is part of Judicial Watch's [comprehensive investigation](#) to determine under what legal authorities and lawful rationales the federal government initiated the Wall Street bailouts . . . ¶With his March 21, 2010, FOIA request targeting information related to the AIG bailout . . . (and) his March 28, 2010, FOIA request targeting information related to Lehman Brothers. . . ¶The Board of Governors acknowledged receipt of both FOIA requests but failed to respond within the statutory allotted time period, prompting McKinley's lawsuit. ¶"We are now trillions of taxpayer dollars into these financial bailouts and a fundamental question remains unanswered: Under what authority did the federal government take such a radically intrusive approach to the financial crisis? How were the bailout winners and losers

chosen? The Federal Reserve and the Obama administration owe the American people an explanation,” said Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/may/judicial-watch-files-lawsuit-against-federal-reserve-obtain-aig-and-lehman-brothers-ba>.

May 25, 2010 (+) JW Sues DOJ for Documents Regarding Decision to Dismiss of Lawsuit against New Black Panther Party for Self-Defense ¶ Judicial Watch . . .

announced today that it has filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit against the Obama Justice Department to obtain documents related to the agency’s decision to dismiss the claims against several members of the New Black Panther Party for Self-Defense who were accused of engaging in voter intimidation during the 2008 presidential campaign (*U.S. v. New Black Panther Party for Self-Defense*). . . . ¶The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, an independent, bipartisan unit of the federal government charged with investigating and reporting on civil rights issues, has also initiated a probe of the Justice Department’s decision to dismiss its lawsuit. ¶The Justice Department originally filed its lawsuit against the New Black Panther Party for Self-Defense and several of its members following an incident that took place outside of a Philadelphia polling station on November 4, 2008. A video of the incident showing a member of the New Black Panther Party for Self-Defense brandishing police-style baton weapons was widely distributed on the Internet. According to multiple witnesses, members of the New Black Panther Party for Self-Defense attempted to block access to polling stations, harassed voters and hurled racial epithets. Nonetheless, the Justice Department ultimately allegedly overruled the recommendations of its own staff and dismissed the majority of its claims. ¶“The Obama administration owes the American people an explanation. How can the Justice Department dismiss a clear-cut case of voter intimidation involving the use of a weapon? Are voting rights important at the Justice Department? If there is nothing to hide, then Eric Holder should release this information as the law requires. And this is just one more example of how Obama’s promises of transparency are a big lie,” said Judicial Watch Tom Fitton. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/may/jw-sues-doj-documents-regarding-decision-dismiss-lawsuit-against-new-black-panther-par>.

May 27, 2010 (+) Judicial Watch Statement on Sestak Scandal ¶ Judicial Watch . . .

issued the following statement today regarding the federal position allegedly offered by the Obama White House to Rep. Joe Sestak (D-PA). Rep. Sestak has claimed repeatedly that the Obama White House tried to persuade him to abandon his Democratic primary challenge to Senator Arlen Specter by offering a high-level position in the Obama administration. ¶Rep. Sestak’s allegations are extremely serious and yet we’ve heard nothing from the Obama White House so far but vague denials of wrongdoing and outright stonewalling. . . . ¶And we still don’t have answers about the charge that Obama Deputy Chief of Staff Jim Messina offered a federal job to Colorado Democratic Senate candidate Andrew Romanoff to keep him out of the Senate race. There is also the report that President Obama tried to push disgruntled White House Counsel Greg Craig out of the White House by offering a federal judgeship on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. And now we have Joe Sestak. . . . ¶According to Judicial Watch, the following laws (among others) may have been violated in the Sestak matter: 18 USC 210: Offer to procure appointive public office; 18 USC 211: Acceptance of solicitation to obtain appointive public office; 18 USC 595: Interference by administrative employees by Federal, State or Territorial Governments; and 18 USC 600: Promise of employment or other benefit for political activity. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/may/judicial-watch-statement-sestak-scandal>.

June 9, 2010 (+) Judicial Watch Obtains New FBI Documents Regarding

ACORN Voter Fraud Investigation ¶“ACORN HQ is wkg [working] for the Democratic Party” ¶Judicial Watch . . . announced today that it has obtained documents from the . . . (FBI) related to the 2007 investigation and arrest of eight St. Louis, Missouri, workers from the “community organization” Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) for violation of election laws and voter fraud. ¶The documents include handwritten notes from FBI investigators interviewing canvassers working with Project Vote, an ACORN affiliate. Among the highlights from the FBI handwritten notes: ¶* [ACORN] “Told employees not to talk to the FBI. ‘FBI trying to intimidate you.’”; * Fraudulent cards: . . . * Project Vote will pay them whether cards fake or not – whatever they had to do to get the cards was attitude; * Constantly threatened; * Staff restricted on what to say to FBI * “Poverty pimpin” (sic) ACORN; * ACORN HQ is wkg for the Democratic Party.; * PV [Project Vote] pays ACORN \$6.00 per card... Said “You treat the cards like (cash) \$”; * Some [names] went right from the phone book and made up the rest.; * canvassers: homeless, volatile, drug users, drunks...; * Anyone who was against PV (Project Vote) or ACORN’s goals “right wing”; * She thought if she used a completely fake name it would be less like ID Theft...”Yeah, it’s against the law, I know”. . . ¶In April 2008, all eight ACORN employees involved in the scandal pled guilty to voter registration fraud. . . . ¶The FBI and Department of Justice initiated investigations. However, the Obama Justice Department, while noting that ACORN had engaged in “questionable hiring and training practices,” closed down the investigation in March 2009, claiming ACORN broke no laws. ¶“These documents show the need for a national criminal investigation by the Obama Justice Department into ACORN. Is Attorney General Holder doing nothing because of Obama’s close connections to ACORN and Project Vote? The information in these new documents has national implications that cry out for further investigation,” stated Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/jun/judicial-watch-obtains-new-fbi-documents-regarding-acorn-voter-fraud-investigation>.

June 11, 2010 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton

¶Mexican Government Border Incursions on the Rise According to New Documents

Uncovered by JW ¶A few weeks ago, Mexican President Felipe Calderon had the gall to criticize Arizona’s tough new illegal immigration law from the well of Congress before a joint session. Maybe he should have taken some time to explain why Mexican government officials, including members of the Mexican military, continue to flood across the border and attack U.S. Border Patrol agents. ¶On March 22, 2010, we received [records from Customs and Border Protection \(CBP\)](#) concerning Mexican government incursions and encounters along the U.S. border. The documents were incomplete and included huge gaps in the data, but nonetheless indicate an increase in the number of incursions in 2008 and 2009. . . . ¶In addition to the incursion data, the CBP also records the number of tunnels discovered along the border which are allegedly used for smuggling and human trafficking . . . and March 2009, CBP discovered 103 tunnels along U.S. borders — one along the U.S. border with Canada and 102 along the U.S. border with Mexico. . . . ¶(If you want to get an idea of the gravity of the human trafficking problem on the Southern border, check out some of Judicial Watch’s investigative work in Phoenix, widely considered the “kidnapping capital of the U.S.” by clicking [here](#). As you’ll see, Mexican drug cartels and gangs are kidnapping unsuspecting illegal aliens and keeping them holed up in drop houses in the suburbs of Phoenix, the nation’s fifth largest city, so they can extort more money from their hostages.) ¶Now, as I mentioned, the most recent batch of documents obtained by Judicial Watch from the CBP is missing large amounts of data. Through FOIA, Judicial Watch [requested incursion and encounter reports from January 2008 to present](#). However, CBP provided full statistical reports for the first six months of 2008 only. The remaining reports only include the numbers of incursions. Moreover, data for February 2009 is

missing entirely. We've already [filed an appeal](#) with CBP to obtain the missing information. ¶Previous Mexican government [incursion documents](#) obtained by Judicial Watch describe incidents involving shots fired on both sides of the border, unmarked helicopters invading U.S. airspace, drug smuggling, and confrontations between U.S. Border Patrol agents and members of the Mexican military. Agents of the Mexican government violate our sovereign border on a regular basis, and something needs to be done about it. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2010/23-more-trouble-acorn-and-pelosi>.

June 16, 2010 (+) Judicial Watch Files Complaint with Office of Special Counsel Requesting Investigation of Obama White House "Bribery Scandals" ¶Alleges White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel and Deputy Chief of Staff Jim Messina Violated the Hatch Act by Using Their Positions to Influence Federal Elections

¶Judicial Watch . . . announced today that it has filed an official complaint with the Office of Special Counsel requesting an investigation into violations of the Hatch Act by White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel and Deputy Chief of Staff Jim Messina. Emanuel and Messina allegedly interfered with Senate elections in Pennsylvania and Colorado respectively by offering federal appointments to Rep Joe Sestak and Andrew Romanoff in order to persuade the Senate candidates to abandon their campaigns. . . . ¶“Top Obama White House officials attempted to manipulate federal elections in at least two states, which is a clear violation of the law. An investigation by the Office of Special Counsel is a first step. It is an absolute disgrace that Attorney General Holder has not appointed a special counsel to investigate these scandals. And the fact that Congress is largely silent on this serious Obama scandal is one more reason why the public holds it in such low esteem,” stated Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/jun/judicial-watch-files-complaint-office-special-counsel-requesting-investigation-obama-w>.

June 18, 2010 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton ¶Good News for Arizona: Appellate Court Upholds Redondo Beach Ordinance Banning Job Solicitation by Illegals in City Streets ¶I have good news to report in the battle against illegal alien sanctuary cities. A California appellate court ruled that an ordinance in Redondo Beach, CA, that prohibits street-side solicitation by illegal aliens is consistent with the First Amendment and may be enforced. ¶Of course, this is exactly the outcome we hoped for when we filed [an amicus curiae brief](#) with the appellate court back in June 2007. Like the appellate court, we agreed that the Redondo Beach ordinance was fully consistent with the First Amendment. However, we used a different legal analysis in our brief supporting Redondo Beach's efforts to rein in the problem of illegal aliens seeking illegal work ¶Judicial Watch argued in its brief that the ordinance is consistent with the First Amendment because “commercial” speech, such as soliciting employment, is not entitled to the same level of protection as “political or expressive speech”. . . . ¶The decision will not only apply to Redondo Beach, but also to [SB-1070](#), the Arizona immigration law under coordinated attack by the Obama administration and its leftist allies, which has an anti-solicitation provision. This provision should survive any challenge to it as a result of this Ninth Circuit decision. (The Ninth Circuit covers Arizona, California, Nevada, Washington, Oregon, Montana, and Idaho.) And you can be sure [that jurisdictions in other parts of the country](#) will feel more confident in addressing the problem of illegal aliens seeking illegal work in their towns and cities. ¶Join Us in Person or On the Web: “Conservative Preview of the Kagan Confirmation Battle” ¶Please join us for a special educational event: Tuesday, June 22, beginning at 2 pm in the National Press Club's Murrow Room, 529 14th Street, NW, Washington, DC. ¶Our goal is to provide a preview of concerns that conservatives are raising about President Obama's nomination of Elena Kagan to the Supreme Court. Our

esteemed panelists are: Brian Darling, Director of Senate Relations for The Heritage Foundation; Carrie Severino, Chief Counsel and Policy Director for The Judicial Crisis Network and Curt A. Levey, Executive Director of the Committee for Justice. ¶This program is part of Judicial Watch's "[Judicial Nominations Project](#)" to monitor appointments for the federal judiciary bench and oppose liberal judicial activism. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2010/24-jw-acts-white-house-bribery-scandal>.

June 21, 2010 (+) Judicial Watch Files House Ethics Complaint against Rep. Bob Etheridge for Alleged Assault ¶"Congressman Etheridge Acted Out in a Violent and Threatening Manner" ¶Judicial Watch . . . announced today that it has filed an official complaint with the Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE) against Rep. Bob Etheridge (D-NC) for allegedly assaulting a man on a Washington, DC, sidewalk on June 9th. According to press accounts, after the man asked Rep. Etheridge "Do you fully support the Obama agenda?" Etheridge allegedly grabbed the man by the wrist and by the "scruff" of the neck, pulling him into "an awkward clinch." A video of the incident was widely distributed on the Internet and aired nationwide on major television networks. ¶According to Judicial Watch's complaint, sent to the OCE's Staff Director and Chief Counsel Leo Wise on June 18, 2010: ¶It is essential that the House hold Congressman Bob Etheridge to the high standards of behavior expected of a Member of the House. Congressman Etheridge acted out in a violent and threatening manner in response to an unremarkable inquiry by a member of the public. The public confidence in Congress has been diminished as a result. . . . ¶According to the manual, the U.S. Constitution authorizes Congress to punish members for disorderly behavior. Such punishments include: expulsion (with concurrence by two-thirds of the House), censure, reprimand, reduction of seniority, or "other sanction determined to be appropriate". . . . ¶Rep. Etheridge could also face criminal sanctions for assault under the laws of the District of Columbia and could be subject to penalties of up to \$1,000 and 180 days in jail. ¶"As impotent as the House Ethics process has been, I cannot imagine Congress is going to allow one of its members to assault someone with video evidence without punishment," said Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. "Without a doubt, Congressman Etheridge brought shame upon the institution of Congress with his appalling and violent outburst. He ought to be punished to the full extent of law and in accordance with the rules of conduct for members of Congress." Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/jun/judicial-watch-files-house-ethics-complaint-against-rep-bob-etheridge-alleged-assault>.

June 30, 2010 (+) White House Interferes with New York Times Investigation of Supreme Court Nominee Elena Kagan ¶Sought to Deny Reporter Access to Kagan's Brother Irving, Teacher at Hunter College High School ¶Judicial Watch . . . announced today that it has obtained documents from Hunter College High School regarding a White House effort to deny *New York Times* education reporter Sharon Otterman access to Supreme Court nominee Elena Kagan's brother Irving, who currently teaches at the New York school. Otterman requested and received permission from both the school and Irving Kagan to attend one of Mr. Kagan's constitutional law classes before White House Deputy Press Secretary Joshua Earnest intervened. "I'm definitely not comfortable with that at this point," Earnest wrote to Ms. Otterman on May 11, 2010. ¶Earnest instructed Irving Kagan in an email on May 11 to direct press inquiries directly to the White House: ¶This reporter says she has permission from you and from the school to sit in on your class. I've articulated my concerns to the [Hunter College public relations representative] Meredith [Halpern] – who now says she agrees with me. I've articulated my concerns to the reporter, who's feeling misled that we're telling her no and she says she was told yes. ¶In the future, it's important to direct all reporter inquiries to the White House. It'll be easier for you to stay out of the middle of these conversations if you send them directly to us without responding. ¶Irving Kagan appeared to have no issues with Ms. Otterman's presence in

his classroom. “I told my folks at school I was willing to participate, but only with your agreement. Was that a mistake? If I hadn’t [been] willing to do it, I would have just said no, and not wasted your time.” ¶There was no indication in any of the documents regarding the White House’s specific objections to Ms. Otterman’s request. ¶“The Obama White House has no business interfering with independent press investigations of Ms. Kagan,” said Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. “These documents show that the Obama White House could care less about transparency on the Kagan nomination and is no friend of an independent media.” Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/jun/white-house-interferes-new-york-times-investigation-supreme-court-nominee-elena-kagan>.

July 2, 2010 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton ¶Blago Trial Sends Shock Waves to Obama White House ¶ . . . Judicial Watch, of course, has not forgotten about Blagojevich and, in fact, we sent our blogger [Irene Garcia](#) to Illinois to cover the trial. . . . ¶While all of the action in the Blagojevich trial is taking place in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, shock waves from testimony this week reached the Obama White House. As you may recall, Blagojevich is charged with [dozens of crimes](#) including attempting to “sell” the Illinois Senate seat left vacant when President Obama ascended to the White House. And the question on everyone’s mind from the beginning is this: What did President Obama know about this scheme and when did he know it? . . . ¶As regular readers of the *Update* know well, Judicial Watch has been investigating Blagojevich corruption for years. In 2007 Judicial Watch filed an [open records lawsuit](#) in Cook County court to obtain documents related to the federal investigation of Blagojevich. And just last year Judicial Watch obtained [public records](#) that prove Obama and Blagojevich had repeated contact after Obama became president even though the White House strongly denied it. ¶Remember to keep reading [Irene’s Corruption Chronicles blog](#) for regular updates and I’ll be sure to keep you posted in future installments of the *Weekly Update*. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2010/26-filibuster-kagan>.

July 6, 2010 (+) Judicial Watch Statement on the Obama Administration's Suit over Arizona's Illegal Immigration Law (SB 1070) ¶Judicial Watch . . . issued the following statement in response to today’s lawsuit filed by the Obama Justice Department against Arizona over its illegal immigration law set to go into effect on July 29: ¶“The Obama administration admits in today's lawsuit that it doesn't want to fully enforce our laws against illegal immigration — and that Arizona's law, SB 1070, gets in the way of this. In the end, this fight comes down to those who want our laws against illegal immigration enforced and those who don't,” said Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/jul/judicial-watch-statement-obama-administrations-suit-over-arizonas-illegal-immigration->.

July 8, 2010 (+) Judicial Watch Files Congressional Ethics Complaint Against Rep. Joe Sestak Over Obama White House Jobs Scandal ¶Judicial Watch . . . announced today that it has filed a congressional ethics complaint against Pennsylvania Rep. Joe Sestak for allegedly conspiring with the Obama White House to “cover up criminal conduct regarding job offers made to Congressman Sestak in exchange for leaving a political campaign.” As Judicial Watch notes in its complaint, Rep. Sestak changed his story regarding the details of the job offer “after consulting with the White House”. . . . ¶After the White House issued its public statement, Rep. Sestak then changed his account suggesting he was not offered “a federal job,” but rather the White House made an “advisory board offer.” One day before the White House released its statement, Sestak admitted in a press interview the Obama White House contacted his brother to

tell him “what’s going to occur.” ¶18 USC Section 371 states: “If two or more persons conspire either to commit any offense against the United States or to defraud the United States, or any agency thereof in any manner or for any purpose, and one or more of such persons do any act to effect the object of the conspiracy, each shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.” ¶“It sure looks as though Congressman Sestak and the Obama White House conspired to get their stories straight. They knew they were on the wrong side of the law and seem to have engaged in a cover up. Why else would Congressman Sestak change his story so drastically? We hope the Office of Congressional Ethics will respond to our complaint and conduct a thorough and independent investigation so the record may be clear,” said Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/jul/judicial-watch-files-congressional-ethics-complaint-against-rep-joe-sestak-over-obama->.

July 9, 2010 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton ¶Obama Installs Health Czar Who Favors Government “Rationing” ¶President Obama named a new Health Czar this week: Donald Berwick, an academic from Harvard. No surprises there. Of course the President didn’t bother with the pesky confirmation process proscribed by the U.S. Constitution. Instead he bypassed the Senate by making Berwick a “recess appointment,” an authority that is supposed to be exercised on rare occasions when the Senate is out of session for a long period of time. Berwick will have the job until the end of 2011. Other presidents have used recess appointments excessively, but usually the nominee has filled out the paper work, had a hearing scheduled, and has been under consideration for a good while. None of this is true of Berwick. (Democrats hadn’t even scheduled a hearing, despite a specific request several weeks ago from a leading Republican.) ¶And how radical is Berwick? . . . ¶Regarding Berwick’s views on rationing, [here’s a gem](#) from the Harvard professor: “The decision is not whether or not we will ration care, the decision is whether we will ration with our eyes open.” ¶And remember all of that talk about Obama’s death panels, where the federal government gets to decide who lives and who dies? Statements like the following will send chills down your spine once you cut through the bureaucratic lingo. ¶“The social budget is limited — we have a limited resource pool. It makes terribly good sense to at least know the price of an added benefit, and at some point we might say nationally, regionally, or locally that we wish we could afford it, but we can’t”. . . . ¶Berwick describes himself as a “romantic for the National Health Service.” And perhaps that’s one reason why they call him [“death panel Donald.”](#) And another reason Obama doesn’t want a debate about this appointee and the [already failing](#) Obamacare government takeover of our nation’s healthcare system. ¶Berwick is not the first radical Obama czar. And he won’t be the last. The President knows these people would not likely earn Senate confirmation, or at least not without a public battle. So instead he abuses his office and simply installs them to their positions of power with no congressional oversight. ¶Judicial Watch is conducting a comprehensive investigation of Obama’s czars. You can read more [here](#). Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2010/27-obama-rejects-rule-law-arizona>.

July 14, 2010 (+) Judicial Watch Files Lawsuit against Federal Housing Finance Agency over Key Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac Documents ¶Judicial Watch . . . filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit on July 12 (*McKinley v. Federal Housing Finance Agency*, Civil Action No. 10-1165 (HHK)). . . . ¶On September 7, 2008, in a joint press conference with former FHFA Director Jim Lockhart, then-Treasury Secretary Henry “Hank” Paulson announced that after examining “all options available,” Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac would be placed under “conservatorship” by the federal government. “Based on what we have learned about these institutions over the last four weeks — including what we learned about their capital requirements — and given the condition of financial markets today, I concluded that it would not have been in the best interest of the taxpayers for Treasury to simply make an equity

investment in these enterprises in their current form,” Paulson said. Lockhart expressed support for the Treasury Secretary’s decision, indicating that he told the Treasury Secretary “conservatorship was the only form in which I would commit taxpayer money to [Fannie and Freddie].” ¶“To date, there has been little information released regarding the internal assessments used by federal officials to justify the takeovers. . . . ¶“For example, nothing has been detailed regarding why the option of conservatorship was chosen over another option under law: placement of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac into receivership, a form of outright liquidation. Meanwhile, taxpayers have “invested” \$145 billion dollars in Fannie and Freddie so far, with some analysts estimating the total cost could ultimately be hundreds of billions of dollars higher. The FHFA requested additional funding for Fannie and Freddie in its recent report to Congress. Last December, the Obama administration pledged an unlimited amount of taxpayer dollars to keep Fannie and Freddie afloat, a commitment that was formerly capped at \$400 billion... ¶“The Obama administration owes the American taxpayer the full details regarding the government’s decision to seize control of Fannie and Freddie. The FHFA should stop stonewalling and release all documents requested by Mr. McKinley,” said Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton.” Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/jul/judicial-watch-files-lawsuit-against-federal-housing-finance-agency-over-key-fannie-ma>.

July 15, 2010 (+) State Senator Russell Pearce, Author of Arizona’s SB 1070, Seeks to Intervene in Federal Lawsuit to Defend AZ Immigration Law ¶Judicial Watch to Represent State Senator Pearce in “Legal Battle of Epic Proportions” against Obama Justice Department ¶Judicial Watch . . . announced today that it has filed a “Motion to Intervene” (Case No. 10-cv-01413-SRB) on behalf of Arizona State Senator Russell Pearce, author of Arizona’s new illegal immigration law, SB 1070, in an Obama Justice Department lawsuit challenging the law which is set to take effect on July 29th. On July 6, the Obama Justice Department filed a lawsuit against the State of Arizona and Governor Jan Brewer and requested a preliminary injunction preventing the law from being enforced. . . . ¶“Senator Pearce’s efforts came to fruition when Governor Brewer signed SB 1070 and HB 2762 into law. ¶“As the author and driving force behind the enactment of SB 1070, Senator Pearce has the right to defend it”. . . . ¶“State Senator Pearce issued the following statement today on his legal effort to defend SB 1070: ¶“The purpose of SB 1070 is to protect the citizens of Arizona from the devastating and deadly impact of rampant illegal immigration. And it is outrageous that the Obama administration would attack Arizona for simply protecting its own citizens, especially when it has failed so miserably to do its constitutional duty and secure the border. This is a legal battle of epic proportions. . . . ¶Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton issued the following statement today on the new push to defend SB 1070: ¶Our work to defend SB 1070 for Senator Pearce may be the most important piece of litigation that Judicial Watch has undertaken in its 16-year history. In many ways, this comes down to a fight between those who want to enforce the law and those who do not. The Obama White House wants to kill this law because it does not want to bear its constitutional responsibility to secure the border and enforce the law. We are proud to stand with Arizona State Sen. Pearce, Governor Brewer and the citizens of Arizona in support of the rule of law.” Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/jul/state-senator-russell-pearce-author-arizona-s-sb-1070-seeks-intervene-federal-lawsuit->.

July 20, 2010 (+) Judicial Watch Letter to Committee on the Judiciary Calls for Rejection of Kagan Nomination ¶Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton submitted the following letter to the Judiciary Committee regarding the nomination of Elena Kagan to the Supreme Court of the United States: ¶Dear Chairman Leahy and Senator Sessions: . . . ¶President Obama’s nomination of Elena Kagan to the Supreme Court is irresponsible. Ms. Kagan is a liberal activist and political operative with no experience as a judge. A Supreme Court nominee ought to

have significant practical experience as a lawyer or a judge — especially a nominee for the nation's highest court. Her decision to throw military recruiters off the campus of Harvard Law School during a time of war shows she is far to the left of mainstream America. . . . ¶The United States Senate should ensure that only a justice who will strictly interpret the U.S. Constitution is approved. There's no reason to believe that Ms. Kagan meets this standard. ¶Her biography includes work for the campaigns of ardent liberals Elizabeth Holtzman and Michael Dukakis. She only practiced law a total of three years, one of them for the Clinton White House. She also clerked for the late Thurgood Marshall, one of the most activist Supreme Court members in recent history. ¶The rest of her career was spent working as a domestic policy aide in the Clinton White House and in academia, where she became the first female dean of Harvard Law School. Accordingly, barely four years (if one includes her on-the-job training as United States Solicitor General) of practical legal experience—and a few years clerking in the federal courts—is too little experience for the High Court. ¶And frankly, that she continued to work for former President Bill Clinton after he lied under oath is highly questionable. It may not be politically correct here in Washington to note that he abused his office and lied under oath. However, Judicial Watch believes that lawyers like Kagan need to account for why they continued to work for the impeached former President despite his contempt for the rule of law. Details of her work defending Clinton on his various scandals have been largely withheld from the public. . . . Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/jul/judicial-watch-letter-committee-judiciary-calls-rejection-kagan-nomination>.

July 20, 2010 (+) State Sen Russell Pearce, Author of Arizona SB 1070, Asks Court to Decline Obama Attempt to Prevent AZ Law from Taking Effect ¶Obama Justice Department “asks that this Court ignore Congress’ intentions that states and localities play a vital role in immigration enforcement efforts.” ¶Judicial Watch . . . announced today that Arizona State Senator Russell Pearce has filed a memorandum with the United States Court for the District of Arizona opposing the Obama Justice Department’s “Motion for Preliminary Injunction,” which would prevent sections of Senator Pearce’s SB 1070 from taking effect on July 29. Senator Pearce, author of the new enforcement measure, filed a “Motion for Intervention” with the Court on July 14 seeking to uphold the law. Unsurprisingly, the Obama administration objects to Sen. Pearce’s legal effort to allow him the opportunity to defend the law he authored. . . . ¶By seeking to enjoin Sections 1-6 of SB 1070 from taking effect, Plaintiff seeks to overturn 20 years of precedent. Plaintiff also asks that this Court ignore Congress’ intentions that states and localities play a vital role in immigration enforcement efforts ¶Sen. Pearce crafted the language in the bill consistent with federal law. However, the Obama Justice Department filed a lawsuit challenging the law and requested a preliminary injunction preventing the law from taking effect ¶State Senator Pearce issued the following statement on his new court filing to defend SB 1070: “As I’ve said all along, SB 1070 makes no new immigration law, it simply enforces the laws already on the books. Barack Obama has put politics before the safety of citizens of Arizona who are under the gun from the illegal alien crisis in our state. I refuse to apologize for standing up for America and the rule of law. I hope the Court does not allow the Obama administration to run roughshod over the rule of law.” Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton issued the following statement today on the new push to defend SB 1070: ¶“The Obama Justice Department’s lawsuit has absolutely nothing to do with the rule of law. The Obama White House is desperate to kill this law because the President knows if it is allowed to stand, other states will follow suit, and the federal government may finally have to do its job and secure the border. And securing the border is something President Obama is loath to do. President Obama and his appointee Eric Holder are letting politics get in the way of enforcing the law. Let’s hope, for the sake of Arizona and the sake of the country, the Court allows this immigration law to take effect next week,” stated Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. Found at

<http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/jul/state-sen-russell-pearce-author-arizona-sb-1070-asks-court-decline-obama-attempt-preve>.

July 22, 2010 (+) Judicial Watch Sues Pasadena Police Department for Records Detailing Illegal Alien Sanctuary Policy ¶PPD Reportedly “not asking about anybody’s legal status unless it is a matter of national security” ¶Judicial Watch . . .

announced today that it has filed an open records lawsuit against the Pasadena Police Department (PPD), and PPD Police Chief Christopher Vicino, to obtain documents related to the department’s alleged illegal alien sanctuary policy. Chief Vicino reportedly indicated that the department prevents his officers from “asking about anybody’s legal status unless it is a matter of national security,” which may be a violation of federal immigration law. ¶On June 4, Judicial Watch sent the PPD a request under the California Public Records Act seeking access to the following: ¶* Any and all records of PPD’s policies, procedures, or directives concerning, regarding, or relating to undocumented (illegal) aliens. . . . To date, the PPD has not provided any documents responsive to this request, nor has the department indicated when a response is forthcoming. . . . ¶In 1996, Congress enacted legislation that specifies that a Federal, State, or local government entity or official may not prohibit, or in any way restrict, any government entity or official from sending to, or receiving from, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) information regarding the citizenship or immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of any individual. However, the Obama administration recently announced that it will not penalize so-called sanctuary cities, such as Pasadena, that prevent the police from communicating freely with ICE. . . . ¶Judicial Watch’s lawsuit against the PPD is part of its nationwide campaign to enforce our nation’s immigration laws. . . . Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/jul/judicial-watch-sues-pasadena-police-department-records-detailing-illegal-alien-sanctua>.

July 28, 2010 (+) Judicial Watch Statement regarding Today’s Ruling on Arizona’s Illegal Immigration Law SB 1070 ¶Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton issued the following statement in response to today’s ruling by U.S. District Judge Susan Bolton on Arizona’s Illegal Immigration Law SB 1070: ¶“We are disappointed with today’s court decision, though heartened that ‘sanctuary cities’ will be banned in Arizona as of tomorrow. Judicial Watch will work with SB 1070 author Arizona State Sen. Pearce to continue to defend this law in the courts. And ‘sanctuary cities’ in Arizona should know that they will be subject to lawsuits if they don’t start complying with federal law. The Obama administration is oblivious to the lawlessness and danger to the public safety caused by its failure to secure the borders and enforce the law,” said Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. Found at

<http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/jul/judicial-watch-statement-regarding-today-s-ruling-arizona-s-illegal-immigration-law-sb>.

July 29, 2010 (+) Documents Uncovered by JW Detail Meeting between DHS Secretary Napolitano and Controversial Islamic “Community Leaders” ¶Judicial Watch . . . announced today that it has uncovered [documents from the Department of Homeland Security \(DHS\)](#) that detail a two-day meeting on January 27 and 28, 2010, between DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano and Arab, Muslim, Sikh, and South Asian “community leaders.” The documents include a list of participating individuals and organizations, some with controversial radical ties ¶One of the organizations that attended the meeting, the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA), was named as an unindicted co-conspirator by the federal government in a plot by the now-defunct Holy Land Foundation to fund the terrorist group Hamas. ¶“I fail to see how consorting with radicals helps the DHS protect the United States,” said Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. “The Obama administration is bending over backward to cater to radical Muslim

organizations in the name of political correctness. This is a dangerous political game that could put American citizens at risk. Some of these meeting participants have no business helping Janet Napolitano establish our homeland security policies.” Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/jul/documents-uncovered-jw-detail-meeting-between-dhs-secretary-napolitano-and-controversi>.

August 5, 2010 (+) Judicial Watch Statement on Federal Court Decision to Dismiss Civil Rights Lawsuit Filed by “Joe the Plumber” ¶“The implications of this court decision are frightening.” ¶Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton issued the following statement today regarding a decision by the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio to dismiss Judicial Watch’s civil rights lawsuit filed on behalf of Joe Wurzelbacher, who is otherwise known as “Joe the Plumber”. . . . ¶Essentially the court has said that government officials can feel free to rifle through the private files of citizens without fear of being held accountable in court. How can the American people feel comfortable exercising their First Amendment rights when they may be subject to secret searches by politicized bureaucrats in return? . . . ¶Judicial Watch’s lawsuit alleges that officials of the State of Ohio violated Mr. Wurzelbacher’s constitutional rights by illegally accessing confidential information from its official databases. . . . ¶On Sunday, October 12, 2008, Mr. Wurzelbacher was throwing a football with his son in the front yard of his home when then-presidential candidate Barack Obama and his campaign entourage appeared on his street. Mr. Wurzelbacher, an employee of a small plumbing business, subsequently had the opportunity to ask Obama about the impact of his tax proposals on small businesses. Obama responded by saying, “It’s not that I want to punish your success; I just want to make sure that everybody who is behind you that they’ve got a chance at success, too. I think when you spread the wealth around, it’s good for everybody.” The exchange between Obama and Mr. Wurzelbacher resulted in widespread media attention and references to “Joe the Plumber” in the third presidential debate held on October 15, 2008. ¶According to a subsequent investigation by the Ohio Inspector General, on October 16, 2008, just four days after Mr. Wurzelbacher questioned Obama, Jones-Kelley, Williams and Thompson held a meeting and specifically discussed “Joe the Plumber.” Following the meeting the defendants authorized and instructed agency personnel to search confidential office databases to retrieve information about Mr. Wurzelbacher. All three defendants are believed to have been supporters of Obama’s presidential campaign. ¶The Inspector General found “no legitimate agency function or purpose for checking on [Mr. Wurzelbacher’s] name through the [confidential databases] or for authorizing these searches,” which he labeled a “wrongful act.” The Inspector General also determined that one of the defendants, Helen Jones-Kelley, misused state resources to conduct political activities on behalf of Obama. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/aug/judicial-watch-statement-federal-court-decision-dismiss-civil-rights-lawsuit-filed-joe>.

August 6, 2010 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton
Obama to Bypass Congress and Grant Amnesty through Executive Fiat? ¶Over the last month, conservatives have speculated that President Obama might bypass Congress and grant blanket amnesty to millions of illegal aliens currently residing in the United States by way of executive fiat. According to a controversial new “draft” report crafted by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS), this lawless Obama administration scheme is more than mere rumor. It is a detailed and well-thought-out strategy. ¶According to FoxNews.com: ¶Sen. David Vitter, R-La., on Sunday said he and his colleagues are still looking for answers on whether the administration has seriously considered mass legalization for illegal immigrants, after an administration memo surfaced outlining ways to grant legalization without going through Congress. ¶The draft memo, first obtained by Iowa Republican Sen. Chuck Grassley’s office

from the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services, outlines ways the administration was exploring to legalize swaths of illegal immigrants “in the absence of Comprehensive Immigration Reform.” The memo describes how to, “reduce the threat of removal for certain individuals present in the United States without authorization.” ¶Of course the Obama administration is trying to downplay the significance of the memo. But these denials ring hollow. And no one can deny the intent of the memo. . . . ¶Let’s sum up. Obama’s top political appointees in the agency charged with enforcing our immigration laws are spending their time thinking of ways not to enforce the law and how to bypass the elected representatives of the people to grant mass amnesty through a raw abuse of executive power. ¶Obama and his appointees are obviously impatient with the niceties of the U.S. Constitution and the rule of law. We already knew they’re against the rule of law with their coordinated and dishonest attack on Arizona’s SB 1070. This latest memo shows they’d be happy to throw the rule of law out entirely when it comes to immigration. ¶Judicial Watch is hard at work. We already had a Freedom of Information Act request in place on the secret amnesty plan, and we plan to expand our investigation in light of the new memo. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2010/31-obamas-secret-amnesty-plan>.

August 10, 2010 (+) Judicial Watch Files Lawsuit to Obtain Records of Phoenix Police Chief’s Involvement in Obama Administration Lawsuit Challenging SB 1070
¶Judicial Watch . . . announced today that it filed a lawsuit on August 4, 2010, against the City of Phoenix pursuant to Arizona Public Records Law to obtain records related to Phoenix Police Chief Jack Harris’ sworn declaration in the Obama administration’s lawsuit challenging Arizona immigration law SB 1070 (*Judicial Watch v. City of Phoenix*, Case No. CV 2010 052443 (Superior Court of AZ Maricopa County)). . . . ¶Judicial Watch is also seeking documents regarding communications between Harris and the Obama administration, including the Department of Justice. The Phoenix Police Department received Judicial Watch’s request on July 13, 2010, but has failed to produce any documents or indicate when documents will be forthcoming. ¶On or before June 25, 2010, Chief Harris prepared and/or signed a declaration to be submitted on behalf of the U.S. government in its lawsuit challenging SB 1070. On July 6, 2010, the U.S. government attached Chief Harris’ declaration to its motion in support of a preliminary injunction. ¶The Phoenix City Council, however, made the decision in May 2010 to stay neutral in the legal battle between the State of Arizona and the federal government over SB 1070. According to the *Arizona Daily Star*, in response to a threat by Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon to challenge the new illegal immigration law, “Phoenix City Attorney Gary Verburg said only the City Council has the power to authorize lawsuits.” The City of Phoenix Administrative Regulation (AR) 2.16 specifically states: “It is the public policy of the City, reflected in this AR, that . . . Employees not engage in activities that are inconsistent, incompatible, in conflict with, or are harmful to their duties as City employees.” ¶“Chief Harris had no business sticking his nose in the middle of the federal government’s lawsuit against the State of Arizona. The City of Phoenix adopted a position of neutrality regarding the litigation. And as a City employee, Police Chief Harris was required to stay out of it. The City of Phoenix has an obligation to shed light on Chief Harris’ declaration and it can start by releasing these records,” stated Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. ¶In October 2009, Judicial Watch filed a taxpayer lawsuit against the Phoenix Police Pension Board, its five members, and City of Phoenix Chief of Police Harris to stop the illegal payment of pension benefits to Chief Harris valued at approximately \$90,000 per year. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/aug/jw-files-lawsuit-obtain-records-phoenix-police-chief-s-involvement-obama-administratio>.

August 13, 2010 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton ¶Ground Zero Mosque Gains Traction behind Radical Imam ¶A major controversy has erupted over plans to construct a mammoth mosque in the shadow of Ground Zero. The outfit called [The Cordoba Initiative](#), which seeks to build the mosque, is led by a radical Islamic extremist, who blames America for the terrorist attacks that murdered 3,000 innocents on American soil. Unfortunately, it's looking more and more likely that the mosque is going to be built. ¶As you might expect, the majority of Americans are [opposed](#) to the Ground Zero mosque. But where does the Obama White House stand on the issue? No straight answers yet. White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs deflected the question recently when he said the mosque is "rightly a matter for New York City" . . . ¶Still, we do know something about how the Obama administration feels about Rauf. According to [The Associated Press](#): ¶The imam behind controversial plans for a mosque near the site of the Sept. 11 attacks is being sent by the State Department on a religious outreach trip to the Middle East, officials said Tuesday, in a move that drew criticism from conservative lawmakers. ¶The department is sponsoring Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf's visit to Qatar, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, where he will discuss Muslim life in America and promote religious tolerance, spokesman P.J. Crowley said. He said the imam had been on two similar trips and that plans for the upcoming tour predated the mosque controversy. ¶Remember, just two weeks ago I told you Judicial Watch had uncovered documents detailing [meetings](#) between Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and radical Islamic extremists. So are we really surprised to learn that the Obama administration is bankrolling a "good will" international tour for a terrorist apologist? ¶Regarding the Ground Zero mosque, Judicial Watch has launched a full investigation and sent a [detailed open records request](#) to Mayor Bloomberg's office for his contacts with Islamic radicals pushing this outrage. I will be sure to keep you posted on any further developments. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2010/32-whos-behind-ground-zero-mosque>.

August 20, 2010 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton ¶Obama Steps in Ground Zero Mosque Mess ¶For months President Obama managed to stay out of the controversy over a plan to build a 13-story mosque in the shadow of Ground Zero, where radical Islamic terrorists murdered 3,000 innocents. . . . ¶But last Friday night, during a White House dinner celebrating the start of Ramadan (the Muslim month of fasting) President Obama couldn't resist the temptation to weigh in: "Let me be clear: As a citizen and as President I believe that Muslims have the same right . . . to build a place of worship and a community center on private property in Lower Manhattan." ¶As you might expect, the backlash from families of 9/11 victims was intense and immediate, forcing the president to offer a "retraction" the next day. "I was not commenting and I will not comment on the *wisdom* of making a decision to put a mosque there," President Obama said a day later. [Emphasis added.] . . . ¶However, one of the men behind the mosque, Sharif El-Gamal, says this is all news to him and he insists he won't budge: "This is not a debate. This is not a debate. This is us as Muslim Americans giving back to our community." ¶No, this is a group of Muslim Americans (and their foreign government benefactors) who are trying to force the community to accept something it doesn't want. And contrary to Obama's intellectually dishonest remarks, I fail to see how Americans exercising their First Amendment rights to oppose the mosque somehow impinges the First Amendment rights of the mosque proponents. I know this president likes to apologize to our enemies, but to suggest that opponents of the mosque are opponents of the First Amendment takes his anti-Americanism to a new low. Sure enough, Obama's Big Government ally Nancy Pelosi wants to investigate the 9/11 families and others opposing the mosque. ¶In the meantime, Judicial Watch continues its investigations of the controversy, launching a Freedom of Information Act request this week to the State Department concerning its [taxpayer-financed junket](#) for the Ground Zero Mosque Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf. ¶**Judicial Watch Uncovers Key**

Documents Detailing Secret Obamacare Meetings ¶You may recall that back in March Judicial Watch [filed a lawsuit](#) against the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regarding closed-door health care meetings with Vice President Biden, HHS Secretary Sebelius, House Speaker Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Reid, Obamacare Czar Nancy-Ann Min DeParle and union officials. ¶Importantly, these secret meetings violated one of the president’s key campaign promises — to televise all health care discussions on *CSPAN*. And I think it’s worth reviewing what candidate Obama said about the health care debate during the campaign. . . . ¶The complete lack of transparency on the part of the Obama White House regarding the health care reform discussions is a scandal worthy of investigation. . . . The January 13 meeting with Big Labor was reported on at the time. “Key labor leaders are back at the White House this afternoon for negotiations on health care, according to two sources,” Politico reported. “Their return suggests potential progress, or maybe a counteroffer, on resolving the standoff over taxing expensive insurance plans — one of the biggest remaining threats to the bill.” ¶The day after the meeting took place, *The Washington Post* reported that “The White House has reached a tentative agreement with labor leaders to tax high-cost health insurance policies. . . . The agreement clears one of the last major obstacles on the path to final passage of comprehensive health care legislation.” ¶So there is no question this was a significant meeting, as a deal was struck. And it helped pave the way for the Obamacare monstrosity. ¶Secret meetings like this, involving constitutionally-suspect czars, are one of the reasons that Americans are so concerned by this administration’s unethical approach to governing. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2010/33-obama-steps-ground-zero-mosque-mess>.

August 25, 2010 (+) Judicial Watch Obtains New Documents Related to Closed-Door Obamacare Meetings

¶Judicial Watch . . . announced today that it has obtained new documents from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regarding closed-door health care meetings with Vice President Joe Biden, HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, Obamacare Czar Nancy-Ann Min DeParle and union officials. The following are highlights from the documents obtained by Judicial Watch through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit filed on March 17, 2010... ¶*An agenda for a January 13 meeting between union leaders and White House staff, including Vice President Biden. Importantly, this agenda (which focused on labor concerns) was redacted in the original . . . document shows that the meeting was paused so that Richard Trumka, President of the AFL-CIO, could go up to Capitol Hill to meet with “progressive” House members. ¶*A copy of Kathleen Sebelius’ schedule . . . with a January 15 meeting specifically designated for a “POTUS MEETING ON HEALTH REFORM.” The meeting was scheduled from 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm in the White House Cabinet Room. ¶*A list of all of the labor union leaders who attended a meeting with President Obama . . . The list included: Richard Trumka; Andy Stern, President of the Service Employees International Union; and Jim Hoffa, President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, among other Big Labor leaders. ¶These secret meetings violated one of the president’s key campaign promises — to televise all health care discussions on C-SPAN “Secret meetings with special interests to hammer out backroom deals are one of the reasons that Americans oppose Obamacare and this administration’s unethical approach to governing,” said Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/aug/judicial-watch-obtains-new-documents-related-closed-door-obamacare-meetings>.

August 26, 2010 (+) Judicial Watch Obtains New Statistics on Human Smuggling in Arizona's "Tucson Sector" of the Mexican Border

¶Judicial Watch . . . announced today that it has obtained documents from U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) detailing statistics related to human smuggling in Arizona's "Tucson Sector." The Tucson Sector is the Border Patrol's busiest sector on the Southwest Border and covers 262 miles of linear border.... ¶The documents also include data related to the number of "Other than Mexicans" smuggled and apprehended by Border Patrol . . . the number of individuals from the People's Republic of China smuggled across the border and apprehended increased from 15 in FY2008 to 79 in FY2009, nearly a five-fold increase. . . . ¶Judicial Watch filed its original FOIA request on January 26, 2010 and appealed the CBP's contention that the agency does not maintain human smuggling data on April 23, 2010. Judicial Watch ultimately received the requested data on August 19, 2010. ¶"These statistics show that human smuggling continues to be a crisis on the nation's southern border. And the problem is only going to get worse as a result of the Obama administration's hostility to the strong enforcement of our nation's immigration laws, especially in Arizona," stated Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton.

August 27, 2010 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton

¶**Obama Amnesty Is Here ¶Concerned about the Obama administration's plan to grant amnesty to illegal aliens? Guess what. It's already happening.** . . . ¶According to *The Houston Chronicle*: ¶The Department of Homeland Security is systematically reviewing thousands of pending immigration cases and moving to dismiss those filed against suspected illegal immigrants who have no serious criminal records, according to several sources familiar with the efforts. ¶Culling the immigration court system dockets of noncriminals started in earnest in Houston about a month ago and has stunned local immigration attorneys, who have reported coming to court anticipating clients' deportations only to learn that the government was dismissing their cases. ¶In some instances, the article notes, illegal aliens who have been convicted of crimes will be allowed to stay in the country as long as these crimes do not involve a DWI, family violence or sexual assault. But other than those specific circumstances, right now it appears the other deportation candidates are in the clear. (Most of these folks are in the system because they were arrested for committing crimes, so to release those who have only been "convicted" means that illegal alien violent criminals are being set free.) ¶The court "was terminating all of the cases that came up," said one immigration attorney who was notified that the government requested dismissals in three of his deportation cases. "It was absolutely fantastic." ¶According to an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) memo, this new policy could impact up to 17,000 cases. . . . What an ugly mess caused by the Obama administration's radical hostility to the rule of law! And U.S. citizens and legal alien residents suffer as a result. ¶Judicial Watch's investigations team is on top of this burgeoning scandal, trying to uncover the details behind this de facto amnesty. . . . ¶**Judicial Watch Counters Obama Legal Assault on SB 1070 in New Court Brief** ¶While the Obama White House continues with its stealth illegal alien amnesty strategy, the administration's legal assault against SB 1070, Arizona's tough new illegal immigration law, continues. Just this week, Judicial Watch filed a brief with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit [on behalf of our client Arizona State Senator Russell Pearce](#), the author of the SB 1070. (You'll recall Judicial Watch filed a [motion to intervene](#) on behalf of State Senator Pearce in the Obama administration's lawsuit seeking to invalidate the law altogether.) ¶Here's how we summarize Senator Pearce's argument in our brief: "Even though the Arizona Legislature has done nothing more than enact a series of law enforcement provisions under its well-recognized police powers to protect its citizens from serious public safety concerns, the district court has denied Arizona law enforcement officials the opportunity to reasonably interpret and apply the provisions in a constitutionally valid manner." ¶In other words, SB 1070 is completely consistent with federal law. . . . ¶We conclude by asking the appellate court to lift the

preliminary injunction and to allow all of the provisions of SB 1070 to be enforced immediately. State Senator Pearce specifically crafted SB 1070 to be entirely consistent with federal law. The district court jumped the gun by invalidating components of the law on a purely speculative basis. It is shameful that the Obama administration has chosen to mount a legal assault against the State of Arizona for simply trying to protect its citizens. It is little wonder that the situation at the border continues to deteriorate given the Obama administration's unwillingness to secure the border and enforce the law. We hope the appellate court respects the rule of law and allows SB 1070 to be put into full force. ¶State Senator Pearce agrees, saying: ¶This ought to be a no-brainer for the courts. I hope the appeals court allows our state to enforce the rule of law because the Obama administration doesn't seem to care one whit for the safety of the citizens of Arizona. SB 1070 simply reflects federal immigration law. This Obama team doesn't want immigration laws enforced — but that doesn't mean that Arizona can't take common sense steps to protect its own citizens. ¶According to the *Phoenix Journal*, [22 states](http://www.phoenixjournal.com/stories/2010/03/24/24-arizona-immigration-law-20100324) are currently considering legislation modeled after Arizona's SB 1070. So this battle, which began in Arizona, has gone national. And you can be sure that Judicial Watch will be right in the middle of it fighting on the side of the rule of law. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2010/34-obama-amnesty-here>.

September 3, 2010 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton

¶Special Prosecutor Needed for ACORN ¶Following the release of videos last year showing ACORN employees advising investigative journalists on how to skirt housing, child prostitution and tax laws, many speculated that the scandal would finally spell the end of the corrupt “community organization.” ¶But today ACORN is alive and well, splintered into rebranded local chapters across the country. ¶“The letters A, C, O, R and N are coming off office doors from New York to California,” *The Associated Press* reported recently. “Business cards are being reprinted. New signs with new names are popping up in front of offices.” ¶Meanwhile, ACORN's “partner in crime,” Project Vote, has just launched a new “non-partisan” voter registration campaign in partnership with the Sierra Club. Under the auspices of its “Voting for America” program, Project Vote will handle “the development of voter registration and quality control protocols; assistance with recruitment, training, and supervision of canvassers; training and materials; and legal services.” ¶Apparently the Sierra Club is unconcerned that Project Vote employees have been under investigation — and convicted — in a number of states for voter registration fraud. The goal of the voter drive is to “help over 50,000 students of community and four-year colleges in seven states register to vote for the 2010 election.” ¶Vote for whom, you might ask? We all know the answer to that. ¶In April 2008, all eight ACORN employees involved in the scandal pled guilty to voter registration fraud. . . . ¶In March 2010, Judicial Watch obtained a separate batch of FBI documents detailing federal investigations into alleged ACORN corruption and voter registration fraud in Connecticut. The FBI and Department of Justice initiated these investigations. ¶However, the Obama Justice Department, while noting that ACORN had engaged in “questionable hiring and training practices,” closed down the investigation in March 2009, claiming ACORN broke no laws. ¶Remember, this is the same organization that paid “lazy crack heads” to fraudulently register voters, including names like “Mickey Mouse” and “Donald Duck.” ¶Given all of this evidence, much of it contained in the files of various government agencies, why has there been no comprehensive Obama Justice Department investigation of an organization deemed by at least one congressional report to be a “criminal enterprise?” ¶Perhaps it has something to do with President Obama's close ties to ACORN, which is detailed on Obama's own 2008 campaign website. ¶When Obama met with ACORN leaders in November, he reminded them of his history with ACORN and his beginnings in Illinois as a Project Vote organizer, a nonprofit focused on voter rights and education. Senator Obama said, “. . . I've been fighting alongside ACORN on issues you care about my entire career. Even before I was an elected official, when I ran Project Vote voter registration drive in Illinois

[sic], ACORN was smack dab in the middle of it, and we appreciate your work.” ¶Well, now ACORN is smack dab in the middle of a massive political corruption scandal. ¶The calls for the Obama Justice Department to launch a comprehensive probe of ACORN’s activities have been loud and persistent. And they have fallen on deaf ears. ¶Now is the time for a special prosecutor to do the job the Obama administration is unwilling to do: protect our elections from fraud and hold ACORN and its ally Project Vote accountable to the rule of law. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2010/35-special-prosecutor-needed-acorn>.

September 9, 2010 (+) Obama’s Executive “Pay Czar” Feinberg Received Six-Figure Salary According to Documents Uncovered by Judicial Watch

¶Treasury Documents Contradict Press Reports that Feinberg “is receiving no compensation for his role” ¶Judicial Watch . . . announced today that it has [uncovered U.S. Treasury Department documents](#) that reveal President Obama’s “Special Master for TARP Executive Compensation” Kenneth Feinberg received a \$120,830 annual salary to establish executive compensation levels at companies bailed out by the federal government. These documents contradict multiple press reports that Feinberg would not be compensated for this work for the Treasury Department. Judicial Watch received the documents pursuant to its Freedom of Information Act request filed July 20, 2010. ¶When President Obama appointed Washington lawyer Kenneth Feinberg “Pay Czar” in 2009, the press reported that he would perform his duties *pro bono*. Dozens of mainstream media stories confirmed that Feinberg, founder and managing partner of the Washington, D.C., firm Feinberg Rozen LLP, would not receive a salary to set pay limits for more than two dozen executives at companies receiving government bailouts. For example, *Reuters* [reported in August 2009](#), “Feinberg is receiving no compensation for his role.” ¶However, Judicial Watch has obtained the Treasury Department’s June 8, 2009, welcome letter to Feinberg, congratulating him for being selected “Special Master of Executive Compensation” and listing his annual salary at \$120,830. Judicial Watch has also uncovered a “Notification of Personnel Action,” from the U.S. Office of Personnel Management dated June 8, 2009, also establishing Feinberg’s salary level at \$120,830. . . . ¶“This is yet another reason why more of these Obama czars should go through the Senate confirmation process, rather than being simply installed into power by Obama,” said Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/sep/obama-s-executive-pay-czar-feinberg-received-six-figure-salary-according-documents-unc>.

September 10, 2010 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton

¶“Government Motors” Fills Political Coffers ¶So much for GM’s self-imposed ban on political contributions. According to [The Washington Post](#): ¶General Motors reported making \$47,000 in contributions to lawmakers and congressional candidates in July, the first it has made since November 2008. The company stopped giving through its political action committee just as it began to seek government assistance to stay in business. ¶The U.S. government provided support but also steered the company through bankruptcy. Today, the Treasury owns a 60 percent stake in the company, which recently announced plans to go public with a stock sale. ¶GM earlier gave \$41,000 to groups and causes associated with lawmakers. The latest contributions were made directly to lawmakers’ campaigns. ¶The *Post* notes the fact that GM is spreading the wealth around to both political parties: \$26,000 to Republicans and \$21,000 to Democrats. I found for you the list of the GM PAC recipients from the [Federal Election Commission](#) ¶Now it should go without saying that a company that is owned and operated by the government has no business making campaign contributions to members of Congress, no matter how the company tries to spin it. But this is exactly the kind of suspicious, shady and corrupt arrangement we can expect now that the government has decided to meddle so obtrusively into the private sector. ¶I checked with a spokesman for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), another “private”

corporation funded and controlled by the federal government. He told me that CPB does not have a PAC. ¶You may remember that I called attention to another [conflict of interest](#) when the government provided a \$527 million loan to the auto company Fisker, which then used the funds to purchase a former GM plant. (Vice President Biden was also caught up in the controversy, as the plant is located in Delaware, Biden's home state. Read more [here](#).) ¶While the political activities of GM are particularly offensive given the government's considerable ownership stake, other companies bailed out with taxpayer dollars also continue to fill the political coffers according to [Fox News](#): ¶. . . General Motors, Chrysler and Citigroup are just three of the biggest bailout recipients who have continued to remain politically active, through their political action committees, federal lobbying or direct donations to the pet projects of lawmakers. ¶Getting back to GM, its ban on political contributions ought to be made permanent, at least until such time as the government has relinquished its ownership stake. Politicians on both sides of the aisle, such as Rep. Eric Cantor (R-VA) and Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY), who received GM PAC contributions, should return them immediately. ¶Government corporations giving money to politicians to help them run for government office: Does it get any more corrupt than that? ¶Your Judicial Watch is on the case. Our investigators sent a [Freedom of Information Act request](#) August 26 to GM's overlords at the Treasury Department about these scandalous contributions. I'll be sure to let you know what we find out. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2010/36-what-obama-s-pay-czar-s-pay>.

September 15, 2010 (+) New Waters/Frank Scandal Documents Uncovered by JW: OneUnited Bank Received "Less than Satisfactory" Assessment Prior to Bailout ¶Judicial Watch . . . announced today that it has received new documents from the U.S. Department of Treasury related to the controversial \$12 million bailout grant provided to the Boston-based OneUnited Bank. The documents, obtained in response to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit filed against Treasury, include internal Treasury Department emails describing the substandard condition of OneUnited prior to the taxpayer-funded bailout, which allegedly occurred at the behest of Reps. Maxine Waters and Barney Frank. . . . ¶As reported in the January 22, 2009, edition of *The Wall Street Journal*, the Treasury Department indicated it would only provide bailout funds to healthy banks to jump-start lending. . . . ¶The Treasury documents also include a memorandum entitled "Regulatory Financial Highlights" that contains detailed financial information related to OneUnited, as well as a summary of information collected by Treasury during its investigation of the bank. According to these documents OneUnited sought government assistance in part because the company owned \$52 million in Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac stock which was "irrevocably impaired" when the government seized control of the two GSEs. However, as noted by one Treasury email from Michael Scott, OneUnited "purchased their Fannie/Freddie stock in the first quarter of 2008," long after the problems cited in the government's two CRA assessments. The official commented, "Interesting, huh?" ¶"These emails suggest that without the corrupt intervention of Barney Frank and Maxine Waters, OneUnited would not have gotten a \$12 million taxpayer bailout," stated Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. "And these documents show that this so-called community bank wasn't actually lending much to the 'community' that Frank and Waters were purporting to help." ¶The Obama administration has thus far produced 639 pages in response to Judicial Watch's FOIA investigation of the Waters/Frank bailout scandal, but is withholding in full 203 pages. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/sep/new-waters-frank-scandal-documents-uncovered-jw-oneunited-bank-received-less-satisfact>.

September 17, 2010 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton

¶**New Waters/Frank Scandal Documents** ¶Remember at the outset of the financial crisis when the government told us only “healthy banks” were going to receive bailout funds? Well apparently that requirement does not apply to banks with friends in high places. ¶This week we received [new documents](#) from the U.S. Department of Treasury about the controversial \$12 million bailout grant provided to Boston-based OneUnited Bank. ¶We got the documents through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit we filed against Treasury. Included are internal Treasury emails describing the substandard condition of OneUnited prior to the taxpayer funded bailout, which allegedly occurred at the behest of Reps. Maxine Waters and Barney Frank.

¶Here’s what we found out in a nutshell: OneUnited Bank was in deep trouble due to incompetence and mismanagement. Government officials knew all about it. And yet, they bent the rules for Waters and Frank and “invested” taxpayer funds in the floundering enterprise. . . .

¶Judicial Watch also uncovered a memorandum entitled [“Regulatory Financial Highlights”](#) that includes detailed financial information related to OneUnited as well as a summary of information collected by Treasury during its investigation of the bank. ¶According to these documents, OneUnited sought government assistance in part because the company owned \$52 million in Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac stock that was “irrevocably impaired” when the government seized control of the two GSEs. However, as noted by one Treasury email from Michael Scott, OneUnited “purchased their Fannie/Freddie stock in the first quarter of 2008,” long after the problems cited in the government’s two CRA assessments. The official commented, [“Interesting, huh?”](#) ¶Yes, it certainly is . . . ¶In light of these documents, I do not think there is any question that, if not for the corrupt intervention by Barney Frank and Maxine Waters, OneUnited would not have gotten a \$12 million taxpayer bailout. And this so-called community bank wasn’t actually lending much to the “community” that Frank and Waters were purporting to help.

¶Today’s [Washington Post](#) adds more devastating detail to this scandal (and references documents first obtained by Judicial Watch). The paper reports that regulators knew that OneUnited could not get aid under law. So Frank, for Waters, inserted a provision into the TARP legislation designed to help OneUnited. But that wasn’t enough because the bank was so poorly run. And the rules were bent further . . . The report said these reviewers decided that the bank’s viability could be assessed “with applied-for TARP funds taken into account” as an existing capital asset on its balance sheet. In short, the reviewers assessed the bank as though it already had the money, to make it eligible for the aid. . . . ¶The resulting \$12 million boost to OneUnited’s bottom line - again without a penny moving anywhere - finally allowed it to look healthy enough to win the loan. . . . ¶The Obama administration has thus far produced 639 pages in response to Judicial Watch’s FOIA investigation of the Waters/Frank bailout scandal. But they’re still keeping 203 pages under lock and key. It is not hard to see why. ¶For politicians, reporters, and political consultants trying to figure out the Tea Party and why so many Americans are angry at Washington corruption – they might want to look at this corrupt mess in TARP uncovered by Judicial Watch. ¶**Constitutional Government Under Assault with New**

¶**Consumer Czar** ¶There’s a new Wall Street Sheriff in town. Her name is Elizabeth Warren, and she’s President Obama’s pick to help set up (control) a brand new Big Government agency called the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection. (Just so you know, this new agency was the brainchild of the corrupt Fannie and Freddie twins, Barney Frank and Chris Dodd. The laughably named [Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act](#) effectively gives the federal government control of our nation’s financial sector. (Think of it as Obamacare for Wall Street, the stock market, and credit cards.) ¶Obama and his allies have been big promoters of Warren, who is the left-wing patron saint of so-called consumer protection. ¶There’s only one problem. In the dubious tradition of Obama czars, Warren is a leftist radical with a [“penchant for provocative statements”](#) and has very little chance of being confirmed by even a Democratic Senate. How anti-business? Well, in [a blog](#) she crafted for TPMCafe.com in 2005, Warren said:

“...big corporate interests, led by the consumer finance industry, are devouring families and spitting out the bones”. . . . ¶Judicial Watch has an ongoing, thorough investigation of Obama’s czars. You can read all about it by clicking [here](#). By our count, Obama has appointed 42 czars, with Warren’s appointment perhaps being the most striking example of Obama’s abuse of office, his contempt for Congress, and his disrespect for our republican form of government. ¶**AZ Illegal Immigration Update** ¶As I’ve noted in recent weeks, Judicial Watch is smack-dab in the middle of the nation’s most critical and contentious legal battle – the Obama administration’s full-scale assault on SB 1070, Arizona’s strong, new illegal immigration law. ¶First, we filed a [“Motion to Intervene”](#) on behalf of Arizona State Senator Russell Pearce, who authored the legislation. And we then [filed a brief](#) on behalf of Sen. Pearce with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit asking the court to lift an injunction granted by the lower court that had put a hold on key components of the law. ¶Most recently Judicial Watch assisted a national group of state legislators who support the law and want the preliminary injunction lifted. . . . ¶“It is beyond unconscionable for the Obama administration to launch a taxpayer-funded lawsuit against the state of Arizona for passing a common sense law that is in full accordance with Article 4, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution” said Rep. Metcalfe. ¶Unconscionable, yes, but not unexpected. Obama and his constituencies have shown that they are dead set against enforcing the rule of law. ¶And when the courts don’t work quickly enough, they find another way. . . For example, *The Houston Chronicle* published [this story](#) on August 24: The Obama Department of Homeland Security is “systematically reviewing thousands of pending immigration cases and moving to dismiss those filed against suspected illegal immigrants who have no serious criminal records....” ¶And then there was the [scandalous Obama administration internal memo](#) outlining a potpourri of “administrative” strategies to grant amnesty without approval by Congress. . . . ¶But, as it turns out, liberals in Congress, led by Nevada Senator Harry Reid, are still working hard to pass amnesty legislation and render these “administrative” strategies unnecessary. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2010/37-another-unconstitutional-obama-czar>.

September 20, 2010 (+) Political Appointee Involved in Obama Justice Department Decision to Drop Black Panther Case According to Documents

¶Records Contradict Testimony by Assistant Attorney General Thomas Perez

¶Judicial Watch . . . announced today that it has forced disclosure of the existence of documents from the Department of Justice (DOJ) indicating Democratic election lawyer Sam Hirsch was involved in the DOJ decision to dismiss its voting rights case against the New Black Panther Party for Self Defense. The records, described in a *Vaughn* index produced pursuant to a Judicial Watch Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit, contradict sworn testimony by Thomas Perez, Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division, who testified before the U.S. Civil Rights Commission that no political leadership was involved in the decision (*Judicial Watch v. Department of Justice* (No. 10-851)). . . . ¶The “*Vaughn* index” describes documents responsive to the lawsuit currently being withheld in their entirety by the Justice Department. The index details a series of emails between Assistant Deputy Attorney General Steve Rosenbaum and Deputy Associate Attorney General Sam Hirsch, who was described by *Slate* magazine as a “DC election lawyer who represents a lot of Democrats” prior to joining the Justice Department. . . . ¶The records disclosed to Judicial Watch seemingly contradict testimony by Assistant Attorney General Thomas Perez, before the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights on May 14, 2010. The Commission, an independent, bipartisan unit of the federal government charged with investigating and reporting on civil rights issues, initiated a probe of the Justice Department’s decision to drop its lawsuit. During the hearing, Perez was asked directly regarding the involvement of political leaders in the decision to dismiss the Black Panther case.

¶COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Was there any political leadership involved in the decision not to pursue this particular case any further than it was? ¶ASST. ATTY. GEN. PEREZ: No. The

decisions were made by Loretta King in consultation with Steve Rosenbaum, who is the Acting Deputy Assistant Attorney General. ¶The Justice Department originally filed its lawsuit against the New Black Panther Party following an incident that took place outside of a Philadelphia polling station on November 4, 2008. . . . Nonetheless, the Justice Department ultimately overruled the recommendations of its own staff and dismissed the majority of its charges. ¶“These documents show the Obama Justice Department’s decision to drop the Black Panther case was certainly political and potentially corrupt,” said Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton.... “Assistant Attorney General Perez seems to have been less than candid in his sworn testimony when he said no political appointees were involved in the decision. This scandal has just gotten a whole lot worse for the Obama Justice Department.” Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/sep/political-appointee-involved-obama-justice-department-decision-drop-black-panther-case>.

September 22, 2010 (+) Judicial Watch Sues DOJ for Documents Detailing White House Involvement in Black Panther Case Dismissal ¶DOJ Claims No Records Exist; Press Reports Document Nine Meetings between Associate Attorney General Perrelli and White House between March 25 and May 27, 2009 ¶Judicial Watch . . . announced today that it [filed a Freedom of Information Act \(FOIA\) lawsuit](#) (*Judicial Watch v. Department of Justice* (CV 10-0160)) against the Obama Department of Justice (DOJ) to obtain records related to meetings between Associate Attorney General Thomas Perrelli and White House officials regarding DOJ’s decision to dismiss its voter intimidation case against the New Black Panther Party for Self Defense (NBPP). ¶On March 26, 2010, the DOJ informed Judicial Watch that it had conducted a search for documents, but found “no records responsive to your request.” Judicial Watch appealed the decision on March 31, 2010, based on “various media accounts in which it was reported that Associate Attorney General Perrelli visited the White House on nine occasions between March 25, 2009, and May 27, 2009, to discuss Defendant’s voter intimidation case against the New Black Panther Party.” ¶The DOJ was required to make a determination on Judicial Watch’s appeal within 20 working days, or by May 3, 2010. To date, no such determination has been made. ¶On September 20, Judicial Watch released a draft *Vaughn* index from the DOJ pursuant to a [separate lawsuit](#) indicating that Perrelli and other top political appointees were involved in the decision to dismiss the Black Panther case despite sworn testimony of Thomas Perez, Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division, to the contrary. ¶The *Vaughn* index (privilege log) produced to Judicial Watch describes documents that continue to be withheld by the Justice Department. The index details 122 documents (totaling at least 611 pages) that the Obama DOJ is withholding from the public in their entirety. A federal court hearing in the matter is scheduled on October 5, 2010, in Washington, DC, before U.S. District Court Judge Reggie B. Walton. . . . ¶“Why should anyone believe the Justice Department’s story regarding these records? We now know Justice officials falsely stated that no political appointees were involved in the Black Panther decision. The Justice Department continues to withhold hundreds of pages of records that could shed light on this scandal. And despite multiple press reports documenting Perrelli’s White House meetings, the Justice Department cannot find a single record related to these meetings. We’re tired of getting the run-around and that’s why we sued,” stated Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/sep/judicial-watch-sues-doj-documents-detailing-white-house-involvement-black-panther-case>.

September 23, 2010 (+) JW Sues Labor Department for Records Regarding Program to Help Workers Earn a “Rightful Wage” “Regardless of Immigration Status” ¶Government’s Taxpayer Funded “We Can Help” Program Assists Illegal

Aliens Who are “Vulnerable and Underpaid” ¶Judicial Watch . . . announced today that it has filed a lawsuit against the Obama Department of Labor to obtain records regarding a federal program designed to help “vulnerable and underpaid” illegal alien workers obtain fair wages “regardless of immigration status.” The campaign, launched by the Labor Department under the auspices of the Wage and Hour Division in April 2010, encourages illegal aliens to contact the government for assistance in earning fair wages from employers. ¶According to a Department of Labor press release announcing the We Can Help campaign, “The campaign . . . underscores that wage and hour laws apply to all workers in the United States, regardless of immigration status.” The release also indicates that 250 new field investigators had been added to the government payroll to target employers who deny workers their “rightful wage.” ¶In a public service announcement promoting the campaign, available in both English and Spanish, Labor Secretary Hilda Solis says, “Remember, every worker in America has a right to be paid fairly whether documented or not.” She then encourages workers to contact the government’s new toll-free hotline for a “confidential” consultation. The government also has an Internet site dedicated to the We Can Help Program as well and has recruited celebrity spokespersons such as actor Jimmy Smits to help promote the campaign. ¶“This campaign demonstrates just how backward the Obama administration’s approach to illegal immigration is. The Obama White House attacks the State of Arizona for passing a law to enforce federal immigration law, while using taxpayer funds to help illegal aliens work illegally in the United States. No wonder the Obama Labor Department is stonewalling the release of any documents that could shed light on this scandalous waste of taxpayer resources,” stated Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/news/2010/sep/jw-sues-labor-department-records-regarding-program-help-workers-earn-rightful-wage-reg>.

September 24, 2010 (~) From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton
¶Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr. Nabbed in Double Scandal ¶The trial of scandal-ridden former Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich came to an unjust conclusion weeks ago, as Blago was largely let off the hook for his crimes. But as the government plans its second attempt to prosecute the case, news continues to break regarding Blagojevich’s scheme to sell President Obama’s then-vacant Senate seat to the highest bidder. ¶According to the [Chicago Sun-Times](#): ¶U.S. Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. (D-Ill.) said Tuesday he is “deeply sorry” for having “disappointed some supporters” regarding his relationship with a female “social acquaintance.” ¶As you may recall, Jackson’s connections to the Blagojevich scandal landed him on Judicial Watch’s list of Washington’s [“Ten Most Wanted Corrupt Politicians”](#) for 2009. As the [Chicago Sun-Times](#) reported back then, 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. And three days later federal authorities arrested Blagojevich. . . . ¶What is new, however, is that Jackson Jr.’s fundraiser, Raghuvver Nayak, has come forward to personally tell investigators that Jackson Jr. asked him to offer not \$1.5 million, but a whopping \$6 million in campaign cash to Blagojevich to secure the Senate seat! ¶And here’s something else new that emerged this week. Apparently Jackson asked Nayak to “[pay to fly](#) a Washington, D.C., restaurant hostess named Giovana Huidobro — described as a ‘social acquaintance’ of the Democratic congressman — to Chicago to visit him.” Nayak reportedly did so twice. ¶We all know what “social acquaintance” means under these circumstances. Jackson Jr. says this is a “private and personal matter between me and my wife.” But not if it involved public funds, an issue that remains unsettled. . . . ¶Now that Jackson Jr.’s political stock is dropping . . . the [press is chattering](#) about the possibility of Chicago native and current White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel leaving the White House and throwing his hat into the ring to serve as Chicago’s next mayor. ¶But here’s the thing. Emanuel also has a Blagojevich problem. ¶As I’ve told you previously, the government cut short its Blagojevich prosecution to avoid implicating White

House officials at the highest levels, including Emanuel. According to Judicial Watch blogger Irene Garcia, who did some [excellent reporting](#) from the trial, Blagojevich repeatedly ferried messages to President Obama through Emanuel. For example, Blagojevich's former Chief of Staff John Harris testified that Blagojevich asked him to call Emanuel to see if the president was "still in agreement" that the Senate seat should go to . . . ¶You guessed it, Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr. ¶Only in Chicago. Found at <http://www.judicialwatch.org/weeklyupdate/2010/38-black-panther-scandal-roars-back-life>.

September 30, 2010 (+) Judicial Watch Statement Regarding Denial by the Court for Access to Fannie and Freddie's Political Activity Documents ¶Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton issued the following statement in response to a recent court decision to deny access to documents pertaining to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac's political campaign contributions and policies related to such contributions: ¶This shows that the Obama Administration's commitment to transparency is a big lie. It is incredible that taxpayers are on the line for at least \$400 billion, yet cannot access one document from these agencies under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). ¶Judicial Watch filed a [lawsuit against the Federal Housing Financial Authority \(FHFA\)](#) to force the agency's compliance with a FOIA request, which Judicial Watch submitted on May 29, 2009. ¶According to Judicial Watch's motion filed on March 5, 2009, Fannie and Freddie are no longer private enterprises, and therefore their records should be subject to FOIA law: ¶Until they were seized by FHFA in September 2008, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac were private corporations with independent directors, officers, and shareholders. Since that time, FHFA, a federal agency subject to FOIA, has assumed full legal custody and control of the records of these previously independent entities. Hence, these records are subject to FOIA like any other agency records. ¶Judicial Watch is currently considering its option to appeal.