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Court Orders Discovery On Clinton Email, Top Officials To Respond To JW Questions



AP PHOTO/SUSAN WALSH

Hillary Clinton and Susan Rice

Judicial Watch announced that United States District Judge Royce C. Lamberth ruled that discovery can begin in Hillary Clinton's email scandal. Obama administration senior State Department officials, lawyers and Clinton aides will now be deposed under oath. Senior officials — including Susan Rice, Ben Rhodes, Jacob Sullivan and FBI official E.W. Priestap — will now have to answer Judicial Watch's written questions under oath. The court rejected the Justice Department's and State Department's objections to Judicial Watch's court-ordered discovery plan. (The court, in ordering a discovery plan last month, ruled that the Clinton email system was "one of the gravest modern offenses to government transparency.")

Judicial Watch's discovery seeks answers to:

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JW Sues For FBI Communications With Anti-Trump Dossier Group

Seeks records of communication of six key figures tied to Trump dossier

Judicial Watch filed a lawsuit against the Department of Justice on January 25, 2019 for all records of communication from January 2016 to January 2018 between former FBI General Counsel James Baker and anti-Trump dossier author Christopher Steele.

Judicial Watch filed the lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, seeking to compel the FBI to comply with a January 5, 2018 FOIA request (*Judicial Watch v. U.S. Department of Justice* (No. 1:19-cv-00177)). The lawsuit seeks:

"Any and all records of communication, including but not limited to emails, text messages and instant

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Former FBI General Counsel James Baker

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- “Whether Clinton intentionally attempted to evade the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) by using a non-government email system;
- “whether the State Department’s efforts to settle this case beginning in late 2014 amounted to bad faith; and
- “whether the State Department adequately searched for records responsive to Judicial Watch’s FOIA request.”

Discovery is scheduled to be completed in May. The court will hold a post-discovery hearing to determine if Judicial Watch may also depose additional witnesses, including Clinton and her former chief of staff, Cheryl Mills.

Judge Lamberth ordered written responses under oath to Judicial Watch’s questions from Obama administration senior officials Rice, Rhodes and Sullivan and former FBI official Priestap. Rice and Rhodes were ordered to answer interrogatories under oath on the Benghazi scandal. Rejecting the State and

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In ordering a discovery plan, the court ruled that the Clinton email system was “one of the gravest modern offenses to government transparency.”

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Justice Department objections to discovery on the infamous Benghazi talking points, Judge Lamberth reiterated:

“Yet Rice’s talking points and State’s understanding of the attack play an unavoidably central role in this case: information about the points’ development and content, as well as their discussion and dissemination before and after Rice’s appearances could reveal unsearched, relevant records; State’s role in the points’ content and development could shed light on Clinton’s motives for shielding her emails from FOIA requesters or on State’s reluctance to search her emails.”

Judicial Watch also may serve interrogatories on Monica Hanley, a former staff member in the State Department’s Office of the Secretary, and on Lauren Jiloty, Clinton’s former special assistant.

According to Lamberth’s order, regarding whether Clinton’s private email use while secretary of state was an intentional attempt to evade FOIA, Judicial Watch may depose:

1. “Eric Boswell, the former Assistant Secretary for Diplomatic Security... Boswell’s March 2009 memo to Mills ... discusses security risks Clinton’s Blackberry use posed more generally. And, Boswell personally discussed the



AP PHOTO/SUSAN WALSH

Former Clinton Chief of Staff Cheryl Mills

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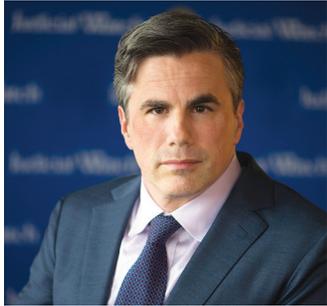
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Docs Reveal FBI Cover-Up Of ‘Chart’ Of Potential Violations Of Law By Hillary Clinton

By Tom Fitton



JUDICIAL WATCH

Judicial Watch received 186 pages of records from the Department of Justice that include emails documenting an evident cover-up of a chart of potential violations of law by former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

We obtained the records through a January 2018 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit filed after the Justice Department failed to respond to a December 4, 2017 FOIA request (*Judicial Watch v. U.S. Department of Justice* (No. 1:18-cv-00154)) seeking all communications between FBI official Peter Strzok and FBI attorney Lisa Page.

The newly obtained emails came in response to a May 21 order by U.S. District Judge Reggie B. Wal-

ton to the FBI to begin processing 13,000 pages of records exchanged exclusively between Strzok and Page between February 1, 2015 and December 2017. The FBI may not complete review and production of all the Strzok-Page communications until at least 2020.

Three days after then-FBI Director James Comey’s press conference announcing that he would not recommend a prosecution of Mrs. Clinton, a July 8, 2016 email chain shows that the Special Counsel to the FBI’s executive assistant director in charge of the National Security Branch, whose name is redacted, wrote to Strzok and others that he was producing a “chart of the statutory violations considered during the investigation [of Clinton’s server], and the reasons for the recommendation not to prosecute...”

[Name redacted] writes: “I am still working on an additional page for these TPs that consist of a chart of the statutory violations considered during the investigation, and the reasons for the recommendation not to prosecute, hopefully in non-lawyer

friendly terms...”

Strzok forwards to Page, Jonathan Moffa and others:

“I have redlined some points. Broadly, I have some concerns about asking some our [sic] senior field folks to get into the business of briefing this case, particularly when we have the D’s [Comey’s] statement as a kind of stand-alone document. In my opinion, there’s too much nuance, detail, and potential for missteps. But I get they may likely be asked for comment.”

[Name redacted] writes to Strzok, Page and others:

“The DD [Andrew McCabe] will need to approve these before they are pushed out to anyone. At the end of last week, he wasn’t inclined to send them to anyone. But, it’s great to have them on the shelf in case they’re needed.”

[Name redacted] writes to Strzok and Page:

“I’m really not sure why they continued working on these [talking points]. In the morning, I’ll make sure Andy [McCabe] tells Mike [Kortan] to keep these in his pocket. I guess Andy just didn’t ever have a moment to turn these off with Mike like he said he would.”

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Judicial Watch caught the FBI in another cover-up to protect Hillary Clinton.

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Fired FBI Director James Comey

AP PHOTO/J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE

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Discovery

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memo with Clinton. So, he plainly has relevant information about that conversation and about his general knowledge of Clinton's email use. Judicial Watch may depose Boswell.

2. "Justin Cooper, the Clinton Foundation employee who created the clintonemail.com server. In its proposal, Judicial Watch noted Cooper's prior congressional testimony 'appears to contradict portions of the testimony provided by Huma Abedin in the case before Judge Sullivan.' ... Cooper repeatedly told Congress that Abedin helped set up the Clintons' private server, e.g., Examining Preservation of State Department Federal Records: [before a Congressional hearing] Abedin testified under oath she did not know about the server until six years later.... Judicial Watch may depose Cooper.
3. "Clarence Finney, the former deputy director of State's Executive Secretariat staff.... [T]his case's questions hinge on what specific State employees knew and when they knew it. As the principal advisor and records management expert responsible for controlling Clinton's official correspondence and records, Finney's knowledge is particularly relevant. And especially given the concerns about government misconduct that prompted this discovery, Judicial Watch's ability to take his direct

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This Judicial Watch FOIA lawsuit led directly to the disclosure of the Clinton email system in 2015.

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U.S. Department of State headquarters, Washington, D.C.

testimony and ask follow-up questions is critical.

"Judicial Watch seeks to go beyond cursory, second-hand testimony and directly ask Finney what he knew about Clinton's email use. This includes asking about emails suggesting he knew about her private email use in 2014, and emails he received concerning a December 2012 FOIA request from Citizens for Responsible Ethics in Washington (CREW) regarding senior officials' personal email use — topics State's 30(b)(6) deposition in Judge Sullivan's case never addressed. Judicial Watch may depose Finney.

4. "Heather Samuelson, the former State Department senior advisor who helped facilitate State's receipt of Hillary Clinton's emails.... [T]his case turns on what specific government employees knew and when they knew it. Judicial Watch must be able to take their direct testimony and ask them follow-up questions. Judicial Watch may depose Samuelson.
5. "Jacob Sullivan, Secretary Clinton's former senior advisor and deputy Chief of Staff. The govern-

ment does not oppose Sullivan's deposition."

Regarding whether the State Department's settlement attempts that began in late 2014 amounted to "bad faith," Judicial Watch was granted depositions from the State Department under Rule 30(b)(6); Finney; John Hackett, the former deputy director of State's Office of Information Programs & Services; Gene Smilansky, an attorney-advisor within State's Office of the Legal Advisor; Samuelson; and others.

Judicial Watch was also granted interrogatories on whether the State Department adequately searched for responsive records, as well as several document requests.

"In a major victory for accountability, Judge Lamberth today authorized Judicial Watch to take discovery on whether the Clinton email system evaded FOIA and whether the Benghazi scandal was one reason for keeping Mrs. Clinton's email secret," said Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. "Judicial Watch immediately issued document requests and other discovery to the State Department about the Clinton email scandal. Next up, we will begin questioning key witnesses under oath."

The court-ordered discovery is the latest development in Judicial

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Message from the President

Message

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Page replies: “Yes, agree that this is not a good idea.”

Neither these talking points nor the chart of potential violations committed by Clinton and her associates have been released.

On May 15, 2016, James Rybicki, former chief of staff to Comey, sends FBI General Counsel James Baker; Bill Priestap, former assistant director of the FBI’s counterintelligence division; McCabe; Page; and others an email with the subject line, “Request from the Director.” Rybicki writes:

“By NLT [no later than] next Monday, the Director would like to see a list of all cases charged in the last 20 years where the gravamen of the charge was mishandling classified information.

“It should be in chart form with: (1) case name, (2) a short summary for content (3) charges brought, and (4) charge of conviction.

“If need be, we can get it from NSD [National Security Division] and let them know that the Director asked for this personally.

“Please let me know who can take the lead on this.

“Thanks!

“Jim”



Page forwards to Strzok: “FYSA [For your situational awareness]” Strzok replies to Page:

“I’ll take the lead, of course — sounds like an espionage section question... Or do you think OGC [Office of the General Counsel] should?”

“And the more reason for us to get feedback to Rybicki, as we all identified this as an issue/question over a week ago.”

Page replies:

“I was going to reply to Jim [Rybicki] and tell him I can talk [sic] to you about this already. Do you want me to?”

A July 22, 2016 email exchange, among Strzok, Page, Moffa and other unidentified FBI and DOJ officials, shows that Beth Wilkinson, an attorney for several top Clinton aides during the server investigation, wanted a conference call with the FBI/Justice Department.

“We wanted to follow up on our conversation from a few days ago. We would like to schedule a time to speak with both you and [Redacted] early next week. Is there a time on Monday or Tuesday that could work on your end?”

[Name redacted], FBI National Security Division official emails:

“See below. I am flexible on Monday and Tuesday. [Redacted] can chime in with her availability. It is my understanding that Toscas [George Toscas, who helped lead Midyear Exam] may have called over to Jim or Trisha [former Principal Deputy General Counsel Trisha Anderson] regarding some high-level participation for at least the first few such calls. I am

happy to discuss further but wanted to send you this so you could raise within the OGC [Office of the General Counsel] and give me a sense of scheduling options. I am around if you want to talk.”

[Name redacted], FBI National Security Division official writes:

“In the meantime, I’ll tell Hal that we will certainly schedule a call and will get back to him as to timing. Since he knows Beth [Wilkinson] personally, it could be useful to have Jim on the phone if she is going to be haranguing us re: the laptops.”

[Name redacted], FBI Office of the General Counsel writes:

“More...I guess this is [redacted’s] rationale for why we need to have the GC on the call to discuss the fact that we will be following all of our legal obligations and FBI policies/procedures with regard to the disposition of the materials in this case.”

Strzok writes:

“You are perfectly competent to speak to the legal obligations and FBI policy/procedures. We should NOT be treating opposing counsel this way. We would not in any other case.”

In an April 12, 2016 email exchange initiated by an email from Strzok to [name redacted] within the Justice Department’s National Security Division (NSD), Strzok asks the NSD official if he’d like to add anything to the agenda of a meeting to occur three days later between FBI and Justice Department attorneys. [Name redacted], NSD official responds:

“Would like to see what you have

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Cover Story

Discovery

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Watch's July 2014 FOIA lawsuit filed after the U.S. Department of State failed to respond to a May 13, 2014 FOIA request (*Judicial Watch v. U.S. Department of State* (No. 1:14-cv-01242)). Judicial Watch seeks:

- “Copies of any updates and/or talking points given to Ambassador Rice by the White House or any federal agency concerning, regarding, or related to the September 11, 2012 attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya.
- “Any and all records or communications concerning, regarding, or relating to talking points or updates on the Benghazi attack given to Ambassador Rice by the White House or any federal agency.”

The Judicial Watch discovery plan was in response to a December 6, 2018 ruling by Judge Lamberth.

Incredibly, Justice Department attorneys admit in a filing opposing Judicial Watch's limited discovery that “Counsel for State contacted the counsel of some third parties that Plaintiff originally included in its draft discovery proposal to obtain their client's position on being deposed.” This collusion occurred

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Justice Department attorneys admit in a filing opposing Judicial Watch's limited discovery that “Counsel for State contacted the counsel of some third parties that Plaintiff originally included in its draft discovery proposal to obtain their client's position on being deposed.”

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despite criticism from the Court that the Justice Department engaged in “chicanery” to cover up misconduct and that career employees in the State and Justice Departments may have “colluded to scuttle public scrutiny of Clinton, skirt FOIA, and hoodwink this Court.”

Judicial Watch countered that “[the] government's proposal, which is really nothing more than an opposition to [Judicial Watch's] plan, demonstrates that it continues to reject any impropriety on its part and that it seeks to block any meaningful inquiry into its ‘outrageous misconduct.’”

This Judicial Watch FOIA lawsuit led directly to the disclosure of the Clinton email system in 2015. **JW**



Department of Justice building, Washington, D.C.

WIKIPEDIA

Message

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on your agenda so we could see what we might want to add on our end. I will mention to [name redacted]. Also interested in understanding FBI OGC's analysis of the privilege and ethics issues we are facing."

Strzok forwards to Page: "Pretty nonresponsive..."

Page responds:

"Why provide them an agenda? I wouldn't do that until you have a sense of how Andy [McCabe] wants to go. So no. We'll talk about what we're going to talk about and then they can talk about what they want to talk about. Also, seriously Pete. F him. OGC needs to provide an analysis? We haven't done one. But they seem to be categorical that it's just impossible, I'd just like to know why.

"And now I'm angry before bed again?"

"Total indulgence, there's a TV in here. Here's hoping I can find something to sufficiently melt my brain???"

Strzok replies:

"Because I want to make this productive! Why NOT provide them an agenda!?!? We all talk about what we want to talk about and that's a waste of time.

"They haven't done one either (legal analysis)

"Assume noble intent.

"How do we maximize this use of time?"

Page writes: "I'm ignoring all this and going to bed."

Strzok and Page were discussing a meeting that the Justice Department

and FBI were about to have concerning, among other things, "privilege and ethics issues we are facing."

On July 12, 2016, Eugene Kiely, the director of FactCheck.org, emailed the FBI about inconsistencies he'd identified between Comey's congressional testimony and statements by Clinton and her campaign about her deletion of emails. Kiely noted that Comey testified to the House that Clinton did not give her lawyers any instructions on which of her emails to delete, whereas Clinton herself told the press that she made the decision on which emails should be deleted. Kiely also pointed out that Comey said in his testimony that there were three Clinton emails containing classification "portion markings," whereas the State Department had said there were only two Clinton emails with classification markings. Kiely's inquiry set off an internal discussion at the top of the FBI on how to respond to his questions. Strzok writes:

"We're looking into it and will get back to you this afternoon; the answer may require some tweaking, the question is whether this is the forum to do it." (The email is addressed to FBI intelligence analyst Moffa; Rybicki; Michael Kortan, FBI assistant director for public affairs, now retired; Lisa Page and others.)

Strzok's suggested press response is fully redacted, but included is his deferral to the "7th floor as to whether to release to this reporter or in another manner."

When asked "should we provide any additional information to FactCheck.org or would any updates more appropriately be give [sic] directly to Congress?" Strzok defers to "Jim/Lisa [Page]" and [name redacted].

In response to a March 29, 2016 article in *The Hill*, forwarded by

Strzok to Page, reporting that Judge Royce Lamberth ordered limited discovery for Judicial Watch in its lawsuit against the State Department for Clinton's emails (related to the Benghazi attack) — and thus opening Clinton up to possible depositions by Judicial Watch — Page responds simply: "Oh boy."

I said at the time that Judicial Watch had caught the FBI in another cover-up to protect Hillary Clinton because these records show that the FBI is hiding a chart detailing possible violations of law by Hillary Clinton and the supposed reasons she was not prosecuted.

In another blockbusting discovery, we recently released 215 pages of records from the Justice Department revealing former FBI General Counsel James Baker discussed the investigation of Clinton-related emails on Anthony Weiner's laptop with Clinton's lawyer, David Kendall. Baker then forwarded the conversation to his FBI colleagues. The documents also further describe a previously reported *quid pro quo* from the Obama State Department offering the FBI more legal attaché positions if it would downgrade a redaction in an email found during the Hillary Clinton email investigation "from classified to something else." **TF**

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FBI

From page 1

chats, sent between Baker and any of the following individuals: former British intelligence officer Steele; principal of Orbis Business Intelligence, Ltd., Glenn Simpson of Fusion GPS; former GPS contractor Nellie Ohr; and/or David Corn, a reporter with *Mother Jones* magazine.”

The FBI claimed it had no responsive records, but Baker was deeply involved with the FBI’s investigation of the Trump campaign and is currently the subject of a criminal investigation for leaking to the media.

The FBI’s “no-records” response is belied by Baker’s closed-door congressional testimony in October 2018, in which he reportedly testified that David Corn, a reporter at the far-left *Mother Jones* magazine, had provided him with a copy of the anti-Trump dossier the day after President Trump’s 2016 election victory. Baker also reportedly testified that he believed, at the time, Corn received the dossier from Simpson, the co-founder of Fusion GPS.

Fusion GPS employee Nellie Ohr is the wife of former Associate Deputy Attorney General Bruce Ohr, who was a key conduit between dossier author Christopher Steele and the FBI. Former FBI Director James Comey himself called the dossier “salacious and unverified.”



FBI building, Washington, D.C.

WIKIPEDIA

Judicial Watch in August 2018 filed a related lawsuit seeking records about the Ohrs’ involvement in the anti-Trump dossier and the FBI’s meetings with the Democratic National Committee’s law firm, Perkins Coie. In November, Judicial Watch filed a lawsuit about the firm itself.

Perkins Coie had hired Fusion GPS to dig into President Trump’s background. Baker reportedly told congressional investigators that Perkins Coie lawyer Michael Sussmann “initiated contact with [Baker] and provided documents and computer storage devices on Russian hacking.” The contact was made in late 2016 as federal investigators prepared a Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) warrant to spy on Trump campaign aide Carter Page.

In August 2018, Judicial Watch

released FBI records showing that Steele was cut off as a “Confidential Human Source” after he disclosed his relationship to the FBI to a third party. The documents show at least 11 FBI payments to Steele in 2016.

Baker also advised top FBI officials during the Hillary Clinton email scandal. He left his role as general counsel in January 2018 and resigned from the FBI in May 2018.

“The real collusion scandal of the 2016 election is the effort by the Clinton campaign and the Obama DOJ/FBI to spy on and destroy President Donald Trump,” Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton said. “And it looks like the FBI is covering up documents on this Russiagate scandal, which is why Judicial Watch is again in federal court.” JW

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“The real collusion scandal of the 2016 election is the effort by the Clinton campaign and the Obama DOJ/FBI to spy on and destroy President Donald Trump.”

~ Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton

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Court Report

FBI Talked To Hillary's Lawyer About Comey's Letter On Weiner-Laptop Emails

Judicial Watch received 215 pages of records from the U.S. Department of Justice revealing former FBI General Counsel James Baker discussed the investigation of Clinton-related emails on Anthony Weiner's laptop with Clinton's lawyer, David Kendall. Baker then forwarded the conversation to his FBI colleagues.

The documents also further describe a previously reported *quid pro quo* from the Obama State Department offering the FBI more legal attaché positions if it would downgrade a redaction in an email found during the Hillary Clinton email investigation “from classified to something else.”

The newly obtained emails came in response to a May 21, 2019 order in a January 2018 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit filed after the Justice Department failed to respond to a December 4, 2017 FOIA request (*Judicial Watch v. U.S. Department of Justice* (No. 1:18-cv-00154)). Judicial Watch seeks:

- “All records of communications, including but not limited to, emails, text messages and instant chats, between FBI official Peter Strzok and FBI attorney Lisa Page;
- “All travel requests, travel authorizations, travel vouchers and expense reports of Peter Strzok; and
- “All travel requests, travel authorizations, travel vouchers and expense reports of Lisa Page.”

On October 28, 2016, the day that Comey sent a letter to Congress



David Kendall, personal attorney for Democratic presidential candidate and former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, 2015

regarding the FBI's discovery that the Weiner laptop contained Clinton's emails, Hillary Clinton's personal lawyer David Kendall, within hours, emails Baker requesting a call “ASAP” about the Comey letter. Baker describes his follow-up call to senior FBI officials:

“I received the email below from David Kendall, and I called him back. Before doing so I alerted DOJ via email that I would do that.

“[Redacted paragraph]

“He said that our letter was “tantalizingly ambiguous” and made statements that were “inchoate and highly ominous” such that what we had done was worse than transparency because it allows people to make whatever they want to make

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The documents reveal the Obama State Department urgently gathering classified Russia investigation information and disseminating it to members of Congress within hours of Donald Trump's taking office.

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 out of the letter to the prejudice of Secretary Clinton.

“I told him that I could not respond to his requests at this time but that I would discuss it with others and get back to him.

“I suggest that we have some kind
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Lawyer

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of follow-up meeting or phone call with this group either this evening or over the weekend to address this and probably other issues/questions that come up in the next 24 hours. Sound reasonable?”

Baker’s heads up on the Kendall call was sent to:

- Then-Director James Comey, since fired;
- Then-Associate Deputy Director David Bowdich, who later replaced Andrew McCabe as deputy director;
- Michael Steinbach, the FBI’s former executive assistant director for national security;
- Then-Assistant Director of Counterintelligence E.W. Priestap, now retired;
- James Rybicki, former chief of staff to Comey;
- FBI intelligence analyst Jonathan Moffa;
- Former Acting Assistant Director Jason V. Herring;
- Michael Kortan, FBI assistant director for public affairs, now retired;
- Former Principal Deputy General Counsel Trisha Anderson; and
- Peter Strzok and Lisa Page.

The emails show that a conference call for the above senior officials was set up for the next day by Peter Strzok. (Two days before the election, on November 6, Comey sent a second letter reporting that the FBI’s review of the Weiner laptop material would not change his “conclusion” that Hillary

Clinton should not be prosecuted.)

On October 13, 2016, former FBI attorney Lisa Page sent an email, which apparently references a related Judicial Watch FOIA lawsuit and further discusses a previously reported *quid pro quo* offer from the State Department:

“Jason Herring will be providing you with three 302s of current and former FBI employees who were interviewed during the course of the Clinton investigation. These 302s are scheduled to be released to Congress in an unredacted form at the end of the week, and produced (with redactions) pursuant to FOIA at the beginning of next week. As you will see, they describe a discussion about potential **quid pro quo arrangement** between then-DAD in IOD [deputy assistant director in International Operations Division] and an Undersecretary at the State Department whereby IOD would get more LEGAT [legal attaché] positions **if the FBI could change the basis of the FOIA withhold re a Clinton email from classified to something else.**” [Emphasis added.]

The lawsuit also forced the release of a November 6, 2016 email by then-FBI official Peter Strzok telling Bowdich, Priestap, Rybicki, Page, former FBI General Counsel James Baker and others:

“[Redacted], Jon and I completed our review of all of the potential HRC work emails on the [Anthony Weiner] laptop. We found no previously unknown, potentially classified emails on the media.”

As Judicial Watch previously reported, there were at least 18 classified emails found on the Weiner laptop by the FBI. Paul Sperry’s RealClear Investigations report revealed that

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“These documents further underscore that the fix was in for Hillary Clinton. When will the Justice Department and FBI finally do an honest investigation of the Clinton email scandal?”

~ **Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton**

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only 3,077 of the 340,000 emails “were directly reviewed for classified or incriminating information.”

The new records also include a September 2, 2016 email that Comey forwards containing a press release issued that day by Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA), in which Grassley criticized the FBI for not publicly releasing many unclassified records related to the Clinton email-server investigation, as demanded by Congress. In his cover note responding to Grassley’s charge, Comey tells his top aides, “To be great is to be misunderstood.” Page then responds with, “Outstanding.”

On October 23, 2016, Strzok forwarded to Page and others the *Wall Street Journal* article revealing that Andrew McCabe’s wife had received a half million dollars for her Democratic state senate campaign. Page responded that the article, “shaded or omitted or mischaracterized” facts “in order to get out the story [the reporter] wanted to tell.” She claimed the WSJ story was just “another depressing chapter in this whole post-investigation saga.”

“It is big news that just days before the presidential election, Hillary Clinton’s personal lawyer pressured the top lawyer for the FBI on the infamous Weiner laptop emails,” said Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. “These documents further underscore that the fix was in for Hillary Clinton. When will the Justice Department and FBI finally do an honest investigation of the Clinton email scandal?” 

JW Asks Justice IG To Investigate Any Leaks To CNN On Stone Raid And Leaks

Judicial Watch sent an official complaint to the Justice Department's Office of Inspector General (IG) on February 8 calling for investigations into leaks of information about Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation. The complaint asks for an investigation of any leaks to CNN about the controversial raid on the home of Roger Stone and for leaks to BuzzFeed suggesting that President Trump directed Michael Cohen to lie to Congress.

On January 25, 2019, CNN was the only media outlet to be present and shooting exclusive footage of the pre-dawn, SWAT-team-type raid by the FBI when it arrested former Trump associate Roger Stone at his home in Florida. Though CNN has claimed that its being on-site in the dark of night was merely a matter of "good instincts," then-Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker told a congressional committee in early February, "It was deeply concerning to me as to how CNN found out about that."

In its complaint, Judicial Watch points out that an inspector general

investigation is required due to an apparent violation of "Limited Official Use" information, which is "unclassified information of a sensitive, proprietary or personally private nature which must be protected against release to unauthorized individuals, and this term is prescribed for use within the Department to signify such information."

On January 17, 2019, BuzzFeed published an article titled, "President Trump Directed His Attorney Michael Cohen To Lie To Congress About The Moscow Tower Project." In the article, the authors reveal that they were given information, "according to two federal law enforcement officials involved in an investigation of the matter." Mueller's office, in a rare public rebuke, later disputed the story:

"BuzzFeed's description of specific statements to the Special Counsel's Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen's Congressional testimony are not accurate."

In its complaint, Judicial Watch asks for an investigation into the BuzzFeed question and "equal application of the law," considering "former FBI Director James Comey launched a federal leak investigation following comments made by former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani ... suggesting that he had advance knowledge gleaned from federal agents of the reopening of the Hillary Clinton email server investigation resulting from the discovery of Mrs. Clinton's emails on Anthony Weiner's laptop."

"The Justice Department IG must immediately investigate leaks that place law enforcement at risk and are designed to lawlessly destroy President Trump," stated Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. "Deep State opponents of President Trump shouldn't be allowed to break the law to advance their effort to overthrow the president."

The Judicial Watch complaint is reprinted below:

"Dear Sir:

"Judicial Watch, Inc. is a non-profit, non-partisan educational foundation that promotes transparency, accountability and integrity in government and fidelity to the rule of law. We regularly monitor the operations of the federal government as part of our anti-corruption mission.

"This letter serves as our formal complaint for you to open investigations into two (2) matters related to Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation that we believe may involve violations of federal law and/or Department of Justice regulations.

"The first matter involves

See LEAKS on page 12



AP PHOTO/ANDREW HARNIK

Special Counsel Robert Mueller

Leaks

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reported leaks by federal law enforcement officials to reporters at BuzzFeed News, an online news outlet, alleging President Trump directed his former legal counsel, Michael Cohen, to lie to members of Congress in sworn testimony. Specifically, BuzzFeed reporters Jason Leopold and Anthony Cormier published an article titled, “President Trump Directed His Attorney Michael Cohen To Lie To Congress About The Moscow Tower Project.”

“The opening paragraph of the article, published on January 17, 2019, stated:

‘President Donald Trump directed his longtime attorney Michael Cohen to lie to Congress about negotiations to build a Trump Tower in Moscow, according to two federal law enforcement officials involved in an investigation of the matter.’

<http://jwatch.us/buzzfeed-cohen-tower>

“We note that, according to public reporting, former FBI Director James Comey launched a federal leak investigation following

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“The close proximity of civilians in the form of CNN journalists to the scene of an arrest that apparently required upwards of two dozen heavily armed federal agents would seem to pose a physical risk to those individuals.”

~ JW official complaint to Justice Department Inspector General

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comments made by former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani in a Fox News interview in 2016 suggesting that he had advance knowledge gleaned from federal agents of the reopening of the Hillary Clinton email server investigation resulting from the discovery of Mrs. Clinton’s emails on Anthony Weiner’s laptop.

<http://jwatch.us/giuliani-fbi-surprise>

“Therefore, as a matter of equal application of the law, we request that a leak investigation related to the BuzzFeed reporters’ claims be undertaken.

“The second matter to which we bring your attention that requires an Inspector General investigation relates to the apparent advance unauthorized disclosure or notice provided to CNN of the FBI arrest of former Trump associate Roger Stone on January 25, 2019.

“Specifically, information related to the pending arrest of a suspect would be considered Limited Official Use (LOU) information, which is governed by DOJ Regulation 2620.7, to wit:

‘Limited Official Use information is unclassified information of a sensitive, proprietary or personally private nature which must be protected against release to unauthorized individuals, and this term is prescribed for use within the Department to signify such information.’

“Among those categories of information, the Department recommends be on that could result in physical risk to individuals.”

<http://jwatch.us/doj-official-use-information>

“The close proximity of civilians in the form of CNN journalists to the scene of an arrest that apparently required upwards of two dozen heavily armed federal agents would seem to pose a physical risk to those individuals.

“Therefore, the apparent advance unauthorized disclosures or notice provided to CNN by federal officials of the pending arrest of Mr. Stone would appear to violate DOJ guidelines. Regulation 2620.7 also stipulates:

‘UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE. Heads of Departmental organizations shall ensure that prompt and appropriate administrative action is taken against personnel responsible for disclosure of Limited Official Use material to unauthorized individuals and issue appropriate directives, if needed, to affect this action.’

“We hereby request that the Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General undertake investigations into both aforementioned apparent violations of federal law and/or regulations.

“Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

“VERIFICATION

“The individual submitting this complaint acknowledges that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of his knowledge and belief, pursuant to 18 u.s.c. § 1001.

“Submitted by,
Thomas Fitton
President
JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.” 

Chronicles

Migrants From Terrorist Nations Try To Enter U.S. Via Mexico At Record Rates

Federal agents along the Southern Border routinely encounter individuals from terrorist nations, and the Department of Homeland Security considers them one of the top threats to the United States, according to a congressional report made public in January. Titled, “Stopping Terrorist Travel Through Illicit Pathways to the Homeland,” the document outlines the findings of a lengthy investigation involving Special Interest Aliens (SIA) by the House Homeland Security Committee. SIAs are individuals from countries outside the Western Hemisphere — mostly the Middle East, Asia and Africa — that pose a national security risk to the U.S. In Laredo, Texas, alone there was an astounding 300 percent increase in immigrants from Bangladesh, a South Asian Islamic country well-known as a recruiting ground for terrorist groups such as ISIS and al-Qaida Indian Subcontinent (AQIS).

Congressional investigators found that the number of SIAs flowing north via Latin America has increased tremendously in the last few years thanks to established Transitional Criminal Organizations (TCO) that facilitate travel along drug- and migrant-smuggling routes. “On a recent Committee staff-delegation trip to Latin America, Panamanian officials communicated to Committee staff that tens of thousands of SIAs have entered Panama since 2014.” The report continues:

“Colombian officials communicated similar numbers to Committee staff, stating that



Migrants cross the river at the Mexico-U.S. border after pushing past a line of Mexican police, 2018

hundreds of SIAs have entered Colombia each year for the past few years. In both countries, nearly all the SIA migrants were headed to the United States and originated from the Middle East, Asia and Africa — including Syria, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Somalia, Bangladesh, India, Eritrea and many others. Additionally, encounters with these

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“Latin America and the Caribbean are the major initial entry points to the Western Hemisphere for SIAs [Special Interest Aliens].”

~ *House Homeland Security Committee Report*

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special interest individuals resulted in the seizure of tens of thousands of fraudulent documents — including passports and visas — that facilitated travel from their countries of origin through the Americas.”

The report includes several disturbing cases of Islamic terrorists who made it to the United States via Mexico. Among them are Mohammad Aldairi, a Jordanian arrested last summer in New York for illegally smuggling SIAs from Yemen across the U.S.-Mexico border into Texas. Others, according to information included in the report include: Pakistani Sharafat Ali Khan, convicted for smuggling fellow Pakistanis with terrorism ties into the United States; Somalian Abdullah Omar Fidse, a member of the al-Shabab

See **MIGRANTS** page 14

Migrants

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terrorist group; Somalian Ahmed Muhammed Dhakane, a member of al-Qaida-linked Al-Barakat and Al-Ittihad al-Islami; and Lebanese Mahmoud Yousef Kourani, a fighter, recruiter and fundraiser for Hezbollah. Kourani paid a Beirut consular officer \$3,000 for a Mexican visa and an additional \$4,000 to be smuggled across the U.S.-Mexico border. Some of the other SIAs also operated smuggling rings through South and Central America.

“Latin America and the Caribbean are the major initial entry points to the Western Hemisphere for SIAs,” the House Homeland Security Committee report states. It concludes:

“Many countries in the region continue to face economic and governance challenges, as well as consistently high levels of violent crime. Additionally, many of the countries in the Americas have lenient visa and immigration policies

in place, even for individuals from ‘special interest’ countries. Lastly, the frequency of international flights from ‘special interest’ regions around the world into Latin America and the Caribbean continues to increase. These regional issues create an attractive environment for illicit travel of SIAs and other nefarious actors into the Western Hemisphere with the end goal of reaching the United States.”

Adding to the problem is that Hezbollah is “growing at an alarming rate in Latin America,” according to Committee investigators. “Designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) by the State Department, Hezbollah has been operating in Latin America since the early 1990s when it worked with Iran to carry out the 1994 bombing of a Jewish Community Center in Argentina,” according to the report.

The House investigation found that, as of September 2018, a record

630 Bangladeshi nationals have been arrested trying to enter the U.S. illegally in Laredo, Texas alone. That marks a 300-percent increase from the previous year. “The routes facilitating the illicit travel of these Bangladeshis are mostly controlled by TCOs and drug cartels, which charge tens of thousands of dollars to smuggle SIAs and other migrants across the U.S.,” the Committee writes. It also confirms what Judicial Watch reported months ago, that the recent migrant caravan has included several SIAs and suspected terrorists. Judicial Watch traveled to the Guatemala-Honduras border back in October, and government sources in Guatemala confirmed that SIAs waiting to get smuggled into the United States through Central America integrated with poor Hondurans in the caravan. Among them were nationals of Bangladesh, which appears on the Treasury Office of Foreign Asset Control’s Counter Terrorism Designations list. **JW**

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JW INVESTIGATIVE BULLETIN

Clinton Collusion

By Micah Morrison
JW Chief Investigative Reporter
February 20, 2019



JUDICIAL WATCH

Special Counsel Robert Mueller's probe into possible collusion with Russia by the Trump presidential campaign dominates the news, but behind the scenes another bombshell story is coming together piece by piece. Was the Clinton network knee-deep in Russians, and did the FBI shut down an investigation that would have provided answers about Clinton collusion?

Judicial Watch is one of the few organizations in pursuit of the story. We filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit against the Justice Department after it failed to respond to our request for "all communications" related to "the closure or possible closure of an investigation into the Clinton Foundation" in 2016. In February, in a separate lawsuit, we uncovered evidence pointing to undisclosed documents related to controversial FBI official Andrew McCabe and potential charges against Mrs. Clinton. We sued for records of a meeting between a top FBI official and an attorney for a Clinton-connected law firm related to then-candidate Trump and Russia, a story first reported by Fox News. And, we've taken a skeptical look at the appointment by then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions of U.S. Attorney John Huber to "evaluate certain issues" rising from the 2016 election.

One of those issues is the Uranium One controversy. Russia's Rosatom



AP PHOTO/MIKHAIL METZEL, POO

Russian President Vladimir Putin meets with then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in Vladivostok, Russia, 2012

atomic energy corporation in 2010 received U.S. permission, including a sign-off from Hillary Clinton's State Department, to buy Uranium One, a Canadian company that owned significant American uranium assets. Was the Russian purchase of Uranium One connected to payments to the Clinton network and improper actions by Secretary of State Clinton?

Judicial Watch is lonely on the story but not alone. *The Hill's* indefatigable John Solomon a year ago broke the news that the Clinton Foundation

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"The Clintons financially benefited from Russia – personally and inside their charity – at the same time they were involved in U.S. government actions that rewarded Moscow and increased U.S. security risks."

~ John Solomon, *The Hill*

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was under FBI investigation. "The Justice Department has launched a new inquiry into whether the Clinton Foundation engaged in any pay-to-play politics or other illegal activities while Hillary Clinton served as secretary of state," Solomon reported.

In early February, Solomon was at it again. Revisiting an episode that has "escaped significant attention," Solomon reports that there is "clear evidence now that shows Hillary Clinton's family and charity profited from Moscow and simultaneously facilitated official government actions benefitting Russia."

The episode centers on the Skolkovo Innovation Center, a high-tech business center launched in Moscow in 2009. Five years later, as Skolkovo entities expanded in the United States, the FBI issued an extraordinary public warning, saying that the Skolkovo connection "may be a means for the Russian government to access our nation's sensitive or classified research development facilities and dual-use technologies."

Solomon notes that Secretary

See **COLLUSION** page 16

Collusion

From page 15

of State Clinton’s “handprint was everywhere” on the Skolkovo project, part of an attempt by the United States to reboot Russia relations. Leading the Russian side of the project was oligarch Viktor Vekselberg, a Putin-connected billionaire and Clinton Foundation donor. Firms connected to the oligarch donated at least \$75,000 to the foundation. As the Skolkovo collaboration got underway, Solomon reminds us, Bill Clinton made his way to Moscow and was paid a jaw-dropping \$500,000 for a

speech to a Russian investment bank, Renaissance Capital.

Solomon reports that Bill Clinton sought permission from the State Department to meet with Vekselberg and “Arkady Dvorkovich, a senior official of Rosatom,” during the Moscow trip. This was at the time Rosatom was “seeking State’s permission to buy Uranium One.” *The Washington Examiner* notes that the Clintons’ “relationship to Vekselberg continued throughout Hillary Clinton’s time at the State Department.”

Solomon adds additional details on possible Clinton collusion with the Russians — read his full report here: <http://jwatch.us/democrats-case-for-russia-collusion>. And, Viktor Vekselberg certainly is a busy man, making a cameo in the Mueller probe and turning up in various other sketchy endeavors. Not everything in the Russia story comes up as collusion, cover-up or crime, but Solomon correctly notes that evidence

related to Skolkovo, Rosatom and Uranium One “shows that the Clintons financially benefited from Russia — personally and inside their charity — at the same time they were involved in U.S. government actions that rewarded Moscow and increased U.S. security risks.” 



Bill Clinton

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Uncovered

Documents Detail Nancy Pelosi's \$185,000 CODEL To Italy And Ukraine In 2015

Total Air Force expenses \$184,587.81

Judicial Watch obtained documents in January through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit against the Air Force detailing \$134,587.81 plus \$50,000 for an advance of funds for an "escort officer," amounting to a total of \$184,587.81 for then-House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi's (D-CA) congressional delegation (CODEL) to Italy and Ukraine in 2015.

Judicial Watch filed a December 2015 FOIA lawsuit after the Air Force failed to respond to an August 2015 request (*Judicial Watch v. U.S. Department of Defense* (No 1:15-cv-02236)) for:

- "All records regarding mission taskings of flights escorting members of Congress;
- "All records concerning transportation costs for transporting members of Congress;

- "All passenger manifests (DD-2131) for transporting members of Congress; and
- "All weekly travel reports for members of Congress."

The documents show that from July 30 to August 6, 2015 Pelosi took a trip to Milan, Rome and Naples, Italy; and Kiev, Ukraine for herself, her husband, several members of Congress and their spouses. The Italy trip included visits to the Vatican Museum, Sistine Chapel, Duomo and a viewing of Da Vinci's "Last Supper."

The documents also show the Air Force's negative response to a Pelosi staff request for a specific crew for Pelosi's flight. An official notes that it "would be a disastrous precedent to set even if it were possible." The Air Force further points out: "Our ARC crews have plenty to balance already with military duties and their

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"Speaker Pelosi has a demonstrated record of abusing the perks of office that give her access to military luxury travel paid for by taxpayers."

~ *Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton*

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civilian employers."

The documents also detail a CODEL trip for Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO), who traveled commercial flights to Asia, including Tokyo and Okinawa, Japan; Seoul, Korea; plus Beijing and Hong Kong, China. This trip, with flights and per diems, cost at least \$26,009.03.

"Speaker Pelosi has a demonstrated record of abusing the perks of office that give her access to military luxury travel paid for by taxpayers," said Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton.

Judicial Watch previously uncovered that Pelosi's military travel cost the United States Air Force \$2,100,744.59 over one two-year period — \$101,429.14 of which was for in-flight expenses, including food and alcohol.

Judicial Watch's work exposing Pelosi's travel abuses resulted in her successor John Boehner's declining to use Air Force luxury jets to travel to his Ohio congressional district. 

Negative response by U.S. Air Force to a Pelosi staff request for a specific crew for Pelosi's flight

From: (b)(6) USAF (US)
 To: (b)(6) USAF SAF-LL (US)
 Subject: RE: AF Crew
 Date: Thursday, July 09, 2015 12:41:13 PM

(b)(6)

First, how can I request a crew for a mission that has not been approved yet? I'm glad you and (b)(6) already seem to understand that this type of request is unsupportable and would be a disastrous precedent to set even if it were possible. Our ARC crews have plenty to balance already with military duties and their civilian employers.

I hope you can manage the expectations of your party and keep these types of requests from coming out way. If it helps, our policy is that we do not take specific requests for units, aircraft, or crews. It is just too dynamic of an environment and we find out way too late about all of these missions.

V/R,

(b)(6)

(b)(6) USAFR
 Deputy Director, Special Air Missions - CVAM

Food Stamp Fraud On The Rise As Government Allows “Retailer Trafficking”

Weeks after a federal audit blasted the federal government for failing to curb rampant fraud in its multi-billion-dollar food stamp program, two Ohio men have been indicted for operating a \$2.7 million scheme that spanned six years. One of the men, 59-year-old Amin Salem, is a convicted felon with a history of food stamp fraud, yet the feds took six years to bust him, and he remained a qualified food stamp retailer. The other man, Mohamed Salem, is his 32-year-old son, and federal prosecutors say they operated a highly lucrative food stamp trafficking ring in the Cleveland area with the help of a buddy named Zahran al-Qadan.

The father-and-son team illegally accepted taxpayer-funded food stamps at seven gas stations, laundered the profits, had illegal firearms, operated an unregulated slaughterhouse and polluted a stream by dumping animal blood and other fluids into it, according to a statement issued by the U.S. Department of Justice. They have been charged with conspiracy to launder money and engaging in real estate transactions using laundered food stamp proceeds. The father was also charged with illegal possession of a 12-gauge shotgun and AR-15 long rifle and operating an unregulated animal slaughterhouse. The animal meat was sold for food stamp benefits, which were also accepted at the Salems’ seven gas stations. Because papa Salem had been previously convicted of conspiring to defraud the government, food stamp fraud, mail fraud and money laundering, the transactions were processed in the son’s name as well as al-Qadan’s.

“This father-and-son duo engaged in various illegalities to include stealing from every taxpaying citizen by engaging in food stamp fraud, a program designed to help those in



Late last year, a federal audit revealed that “retailer trafficking” swindles the government out of more than a billion dollars a year while the Department of Agriculture sits by.

need,” said FBI Acting Special Agent in Charge Robert E. Hughes. “Salem put others at risk by selling unsanitary, unregulated food.” The FBI and U.S. Department of Agriculture, which administers food stamps, reportedly investigated the Salems’ money-laundering operation for two years before obtaining enough evidence to charge them. The Internal Revenue Service, as well as Ohio state agencies and Cleveland law enforcement, also participated in cracking the ring, which fleeced American taxpayers out of millions of dollars.

Though this operation sticks out among others, food stamp fraud has been pervasive for years, and the alarming numbers have been well-documented by the government. The USDA’s most recent figures show about \$1.1 billion in food stamp fraud a year. Nearly 12 percent of retailers authorized by the government to accept food stamps engage in illegal practices, according to the agency.

Judicial Watch has reported ex-

tensively on the rampant fraud in the program that costs American taxpayers a bewildering \$64 billion annually to provide more than 20 million households with free food. Less than a year ago, nearly 200 people were arrested in Florida for operating a sophisticated ring in which 22,000 fraudulent food stamp transactions totaling \$3.7 million were documented by a task force of local and federal authorities. In 2016, the feds busted the largest food stamp fraud operation in history, a \$13 million enterprise run by flea-market retailers in the largely black and Hispanic areas of South Florida’s Miami-Dade County known as Opa-Locka and Hialeah.

There appears to be no end in sight to the corruption that has long infested the famously bloated program. Late last year, a federal audit revealed that “retailer trafficking” swindles the government out of more than a billion dollars a year while the Department of Agriculture sits by. The agency assumes that 90 percent of the benefits redeemed in small stores and 40 percent in large stores were trafficked, according to the audit, which was conducted by the investigative arm of Congress. As if the widespread fraud weren’t bad enough, the Agriculture Department allows it to occur even though a 2008 law armed the agency with the authority to strengthen penalties for retailers caught trafficking. An Agriculture Department division called Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) is responsible for rooting out the type of fraud and corruption that continue plaguing the food stamp program. “As of November 2018, FNS had not implemented this authority,” according to congressional investigators: “By failing to take timely action to strengthen penalties, FNS has not taken full advantage of an important tool for deterring trafficking.” 

In the Media

Judge Orders Clinton Email Handling Evidence to Be Disclosed

Bloomberg

December 7, 2018

A federal judge ordered the U.S. State Department to disclose possible evidence whether Hillary Clinton used her private email while she was secretary of state to intentionally flout public information requests for government documents.

U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth in Washington on Thursday directed the State Department to work up a plan to provide relevant records to [Judicial Watch](#), a conservative watchdog group that sued for emails related to the attack on the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi.

The ruling may lead to new revelations about Clinton's use of her private email as well as the State Department's handling of requests filed under the Freedom of Information Act.

The judge said the disclosure of documents, and possibly interviews of officials to explain the records, is needed to rule out "egregious government misconduct."

Judge orders more fact-finding in Clinton email case

Politico

December 7, 2018

The email controversy that dogged Hillary Clinton through much of the 2016 presidential race could well be kicking around through the 2020 contest after a federal judge ordered additional fact-finding into whether Clinton's use of the private email system was a deliberate effort to thwart the Freedom of Information Act.

In a scathing opinion issued Thursday, U.S. District Court Judge



JW President Tom Fitton appears on Fox Business Network with host Lou Dobbs, February 2019

Royce Lamberth said that despite FBI, inspector general and congressional investigations into Clinton's use of a private account for all her email traffic during her four years as secretary of state, the conservative group [Judicial Watch](#) should be permitted to demand documents and additional testimony about the practice.

Lamberth, who has clashed with Clinton and her aides in cases dating back to her husband's administration, was unsparing in his assessment of the former secretary's actions. He blasted Clinton's email practices as "one of the gravest modern offenses to government transparency."

Media's '19th nervous breakdown,' as Trump fulfills another campaign promise

The Hill

December 27, 2018

President Trump declared victory over ISIS in Syria on Dec. 19 and ordered the withdrawal of U.S. troops from the war-torn region, as well as a substantial reduction in forces deployed in Afghanistan — winding

down our 17-year entanglement in the "graveyard of empires."

The next day, Defense Secretary James Mattis tendered his resignation, citing President Trump's "right to have a Secretary of Defense whose views are better aligned with yours." Mattis prefaced that acknowledgment of the president's prerogative, highlighting a philosophical commonality that Mattis apparently no longer felt comfortable acting upon: "Like you, I have said from the beginning that the armed forces of the United States should not be the policeman of the world. Instead, we must use all tools of American power to provide for the common defense, including providing effective leadership to our alliances."

The news media's headlines articulated the latest flare-up of their near-chronic psychoses — the political version of what rocker Mick Jagger meant when he sang, "Here it comes, here it comes ... Here comes your 19th nervous breakdown."

See MEDIA page 20

In the Media

Media

From page 19

Judicial Watch Sues for Special Counsel Robert Mueller's Security Detail Costs

Breitbart

Op-ed by Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton

January 3, 2019

In all the reporting that has been done regarding the Office of the Special Counsel, something notably missing is a full accounting of what the investigation is costing Americans, as well as any evidence of Trump-Russia collusion.

To try to get more information on Mueller's basic operational budget, **Judicial Watch** just filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Justice for records of costs incurred by and logs maintained by the security detail for Special Counsel Robert Mueller.

Farrell: Bill Barr's First Order of Business? Find Out What Obama Knew and When He Knew it

The Daily Caller

Op-ed by Judicial Watch Director of Investigations and Research Chris Farrell

January 10, 2019

At 1:50 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 2,

2016, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) attorney Lisa Page revealed President Obama's direct involvement in the insidiously corrupt Clinton email investigation, texting her "secret society" conspirator boyfriend, FBI Special Agent Peter Strzok: "Yes, bc potus wants to know everything we are doing."

Page's text was a reply to Strzok, confirming that she was preparing talking points for FBI Director James Comey to brief Obama on the sham investigation.

'Air Pelosi' — What you don't know about the lucrative travel our leaders enjoy on your dime

Fox News

Op-ed by Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton

January 24, 2019

When President Trump denied House Speaker Nancy Pelosi use of a military aircraft for a CODEL (congressional delegation trip) to Afghanistan recently, he called the public's attention to wasteful taxpayer-funded congressional travel.

In his letter to Pelosi blocking the trip, President Trump mentioned the 800,000 federal workers going

without pay. The real irony is that U.S. government workers in Afghanistan, who were among those not being paid, worked for two weeks to plan the trip — and on a holiday weekend.

'Air Pelosi': Watchdog revisits House speaker's hefty travel expenses on military aircraft

The Washington Times

January 28, 2019

President Trump recently denied House Speaker Nancy Pelosi the use of a military aircraft for a congressional delegation trip to Afghanistan. Mr. Trump's decision prompted **Judicial Watch** President Tom Fitton to revisit Mrs. Pelosi's travel habits; the watchdog organization has tracked her use of military jets for more than a decade through Defense Department documents obtained through Freedom of Information requests.

"For years we have been exposing the lucrative travel our leaders enjoy at taxpayer expense. We have long noted Pelosi's abuse of the perks of public office that granted her access to luxury military travel," Mr. Fitton wrote in an op-ed titled "Air Pelosi" for Fox News, providing numerous examples. **JW**

JW Earns Nationwide Media Coverage

January 19, 2019 – February 19, 2019

The following list partially details recent radio and television appearances by Judicial Watch spokesmen, as well as general television and radio coverage of Judicial Watch's investigations and lawsuits.

Radio

1/23	WMAL	Washington, DC – Live
1/28	Sirius XM	National – Live
1/29	KQED	San Francisco, CA – Live
1/29	WINS	New York, NY – Mention
1/29	KOA	Denver, CO – Mention
1/30	KIDO	Boise, ID – Live
1/31	KNPR	Las Vegas, NV – Mention
2/3	Milwaukee Public Radio	Milwaukee, WI – Mention
2/4	Bloomberg Radio	National – Mention
2/5	WMAL	National – Live
2/6	Lars Larson Radio	National – Live
2/7	WOAI	San Antonio, TX – Live
2/8	WCBM	Baltimore, MD – Live
2/8	KABC	Los Angeles, CA – Live

2/12	WMAL	National – Live
2/12	Bill Martinez Radio	National – Live
2/13	KNUS	Denver, CO – Live
2/15	Frank Gaffney Radio	National – Live
2/18	KMOX	St. Louis, MO – Live
2/19	KFTK	St. Louis, MO – Live

TV

1/19	Fox Business Network	National – Mention
1/23	Fox News Channel	National – Mention
1/24	Fox Business Network	National – Live
1/25	Fox News Channel	National – Live
1/29	Fox News Channel	National – Live
1/31	Fox Business Network	National – Live
2/4	Fox Business Network	National – Live
2/7	Fox News Channel	National – Live
2/7	OAN	National – Live
2/8	Newsmax TV	National – Live
2/11	Fox Business Network	National – Live
2/12	OAN	National – Live
2/18	Fox Business Network	National – Live

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