

LEGACY

1997

March

Pull and archive Sue Schmidt Washington Post stories on lobbying abuses as involves Oklahoma Cheyenne-Arapaho Indian tribe;

2000

July

Pull and archive Jim Van DeHei WSJ lobbying article on Jack Abramoff;

Meet with David Safavian, future Bush Administration GSA Chief of Staff and OMB Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy, at law offices of McGuiness & Holch in order to discuss internet gaming strategy. Tom Rodgers states to David Safavian that "David you need to stay away from Jack the amount of money being discussed is too large for it to be morally right." David's response to Tom Rodgers is "Tom why are you so opposed to Jack?"

September

Pull and archive Cynthia Corzo Miami Herald SunCruz Casino story naming Jack Abramoff as a new part owner of SunCruz;

2001

February

Pull and archive Erika Bolstad Miami Herald story on SunCruz Casino partner Adam Kidan and accompanying murder allegations;

June

Pull and archive Larry Lebowitz Miami Herald story on SunCruz casinos and alleged mob ties;

September

Pull and archive Larry Lebowitz Miami Herald story on murder of SunCruz casino founder Gus Boulis;

2002

April

Pull and archive David Rosenbaum New York Times story on Jack Abramoff and the amounts he is charging Native American tribes;

Pull and archive Jim Legget Alexandria Town Talk article referencing Jack Abramoff and efforts by him to stop the Jena Choctaw casino;

Pull and archive Peter Stone National Journal story on K Street and Indian Casinos which mentions Jack Abramoff;

May/June

Research "Concerned Citizens Against Gaming Expansion" (CAGE) who are holding anti-gaming rallies in the Livingston Texas area in order to shut down the Alabama Coughatta Tribe of Texas casino. This research leads to Houston ,Texas and Potomac, Maryland CAGE office locations but these efforts yield no more information/intelligence;

July

Travel to Livingston Texas to meet with Alabama Coughatta Chairman Kevin Battise where he tells Tom that a \$50,000 dollar donation by the Alabama Coughatta Tribe has been made to the Capitol Athletic Foundation (CAF). This leads to the discovery through guidestar.org research of IRS tax form 990-PF that CAF's Board of Directors is comprised of Jack and Pam Abramoff, additionally the accompanying address listed on the form is the Washington D.C. office of Greenberg Traurig;



2003

January

Bernie Sprague contacts Tom Rodgers in order to tell Tom what is occurring on the Saginaw Chippewa reservation as involves their lobbyist Jack Abramoff and asks for help. They agree to work together and share information;

Ernest Sickey and Tom Rodgers meet in Palm Springs California to discuss Jack Abramoff and what Jack is doing to the Coughatta Tribe of Louisiana. Ernest and Tom agree to work together and share information.

February

Apprise Bernie Sprague that location of 611 Pennsylvania Avenue S.E. # 375 where million dollar Saginaw Chippewa checks are being sent is a Mailbox Etc./ currently a UPS store;

Bernie Sprague and Tom agree to strategy of working with the local media and then later to leak to national media (Mount Pleasant Morning Sun: MPMS). Bernie and Tom subsequently leak Jack Abramoff, Michael Scanlon Capitol Campaign Strategies documents (invoices/research/ political contributions list/fear memorandums/written threats to remove Bernie Sprague from the council) to MPMS reporters Mark Ranzenberger and Richard Harrold;

July 24

Jack Abramoff in an e-mail message calls the federal lobbyist for the Alabama Coughatta Tribe of Texas (Tom Rodgers) a moron for seeking to publicly execute a federal legislative strategy;

November

Monica Quigly an attorney for the Saginaw Chippewas contacts Tom Rodgers and asks for help. She tells him that he should be expecting a phone call from Saginaw Chippewa Tribal council member Bernie Sprague;

December

Ernest Sickey former Chairman of the Coughatta Tribe of Louisiana contacts Tom Rodgers after hearing of Tom from Alabama Coughatta Tribal Chairman Kevin Battise. Ernest Sickey asks whether Tom is available to meet in order to discuss Jack Abramoff;

December 13

Pull and archive Shawn Martin American Press story detailing the Coughatta Tribe of Louisiana and "Concerned Citizens Against Gaming Expansion" relationship (CAGE);

"You know, scandals are very effective tools for the opposition in an election year. And we saw, particularly in 2006, when the Republicans lost the House of Representatives and in large measure, they lost it - at least according to exit polls among the voters - because of the Abramoff scandals, where, you know, a prominent lobbyist in Washington was wining and dining and paying off members of Congress, some of whom went to jail."

-NPR News analyst Cokie Roberts, March 8, 2010

"Very few watchdogs — in the Democratic Party or the press — were pushing back against the Bush horde in 2002 and 2003, when magazines were gushing about W. and Cheney as conquering heroes."

-NY Times, May 17 2009



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LEGACY

2003

March 17

Bernie Sprague and Mark Ranzenberger meet for the first time at Bernie's house after initial phone conversations;

April 1st/4th/6th

Stories appear in Mount Pleasant Morning Sun/AP State Local Wire highlighting the forced removal of MPMS newspaper boxes from the Saginaw Chippewa reservation;

April 22

Pull and archive Lucy Morgan St. Petersburg Times story detailing Greenberg Traurig (GT) efforts in Florida (Floridians for Family Values) to prohibit gambling in Florida while at the same time GT also represents Native American gaming tribes;

May

David Sickey newly elected Coushatta tribal council member and son of Ernest Sickey contacts Tom Rodgers asking for assistance. David and Tom agree to share information and pursue the same strategy employed in Michigan of leaking to the local media and once local story established leak to national media (Julia Robb of Alexandria Town Talk and Shawn Martin of the Lake Charles American Press);

July

David Sickey of the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana begins to contact and leak information to the Alexandria Town Talk and Lake Charles American Press;



August/September

Assemble press packets (Abramoff invoices, Scanlon invoices, fear memorandums, Capitol Campaign Strategies engagement letter, threat of Bernie Sprague removal action, all previous archived Jack Abramoff press stories) and forward to national press (Susan Schmidt at Washington Post and Peter Stone National Journal) local press where Jack Abramoff and GT have Native American clients/offices (Lake Charles Louisiana, Albuquerque New Mexico, Palm Springs California, Detroit Michigan, St. Petersburg Florida, Jackson Mississippi, Mount Pleasant Michigan) and good government groups/media reporters who consistently cover Native American issues (Texans for Public Justice, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, Public Citizen, Greg Smith of the Norwich Bulletin)

September/October

Alexandria Town Talk reporter Julia Robb and Lake Charles American Press reporter Shawn Martin stories begin to appear in their respective newspapers;

September

Bernie Sprague and David Sickey begin their efforts to contact and work with Susan Schmidt of the Washington Post;

October

Tom Rodgers provides additional context/sources for Susan Schmidt of the Washington Post and hand delivers to WP D.C. offices additional background materials;

2004

February 16

Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana Secretary Treasurer Harold John writes to Secretary Norton to once again request a federal investigation into the failure of our federal trustee to assist the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana in protecting tribal assets and resources;

February 22

Initial Susan Schmidt Washington Post Jack Abramoff story is published;

February/March

Contact Senate Indian Affairs Committee and specifically the staff of Senator John McCain (Pablo Carillo) offering Native American assistance in the congressional investigative probe of Jack Abramoff;



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People convicted in the Abramoff lobbying scandal

By The Associated Press

The Associated Press

Tuesday, March 10, 2009; 5:24 PM

Among the lawmakers, lobbyists, Bush administration officials, congressional staffers and businessmen caught up in the Jack Abramoff public corruption probe:

- Abramoff was sentenced in September 2008 to four years in prison on charges of mail fraud, conspiracy and tax evasion. Since pleading guilty in 2006, the once-powerful lobbyist has cooperated with the federal investigation of influence-peddling in Washington. He is nearly two years into a six-year prison sentence in a criminal case out of Florida, where he pleaded guilty in January 2006 to charges of conspiracy, honest services fraud and tax evasion in the purchase of gambling cruise boats.

- David Safavian, the government's former chief procurement officer, was found guilty for a second time in December 2008 for lying to investigators about his relationship with Abramoff, who provided gifts in return for information from Safavian about government property the lobbyist wanted to acquire. Safavian's 2006 conviction on similar charges was overturned on appeal. He is the only person to take his case to trial.

- John Albaugh, a one-time top aide to former Oklahoma Rep. Ernest Istook, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to defraud the House. Albaugh admitted in federal court in Washington that he accepted meals and sports and concert tickets, along with other perks, from lobbyists in exchange for official favors. He is cooperating with investigators.

- Robert E. Coughlin II, a Justice Department official, pleaded guilty to conflict of interest. He admitted in federal court in Washington that he accepted meals, concert tickets and luxury seats at Redskins and Wizards games from a former Abramoff associate, lobbyist Kevin Ring, while helping the lobbyist and his clients. Coughlin is cooperating with investigators.

- Italia Federici, co-founder of the Council of Republicans for Environmental Advocacy, was sentenced to two months in a halfway house, four years on probation and a \$74,000 fine after agreeing to help federal investigators. She pleaded guilty to tax evasion and obstruction of a Senate investigation into Abramoff's relationship with Interior Department officials.

- Former Rep. Bob Ney, R-Ohio, sentenced to 2 1/2 years in prison, acknowledged taking bribes from Abramoff. Ney was in the traveling party on an Abramoff-sponsored golfing trip to Scotland at the heart of the case against former White House official David Safavian. Ney was released in August 2008 a year early after completing treatment for alcohol problems.

- Former Deputy Interior Secretary Steven Griles, the highest-ranking Bush administration official convicted in the scandal, was sentenced to 10 months in prison for obstructing justice. He admitted lying to a Senate committee about his relationship with Abramoff, who repeatedly sought Griles' intervention at Interior on behalf of Indian tribal clients.

- Tony Rudy, lobbyist and one-time aide to former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, pleaded guilty in March 2006 to conspiring with Abramoff. He is cooperating with investigators.

- Michael Scanlon, a former Abramoff business partner and DeLay aide, pleaded guilty in November 2005 to conspiring to bribe public officials in connection with his lobbying work on behalf of Indian tribes and casino issues. He is cooperating with investigators.

- William Heaton, Ney's former chief of staff, pleaded guilty to a federal conspiracy charge involving a golf trip to Scotland, expensive meals, and tickets to sporting events between 2002 and 2004 as payoffs for helping Abramoff's clients. He cooperated with investigators and was sentenced to two years probation and a \$5,000 fine.

- Neil Volz, a former chief of staff to Ney who left government to work for Abramoff, was sentenced to two years of probation, 100 hours of community service and a \$2,000 fine after pleading guilty to conspiring to corrupt Ney and others with trips and other aid.

- Mark Zachares, former aide to Rep. Don Young <<http://projects.washingtonpost.com/congress/members/y000033/>> , R-Alaska, pleaded guilty to conspiracy. He acknowledged accepting tens of thousands of dollars worth of gifts and a golf trip to Scotland from Abramoff's team in exchange for official acts on the lobbyist's behalf.

- Trevor L. Blackann, a former aide to Missouri Republicans Sen. Kit Bond and Rep. Roy Blount, pleaded guilty to not reporting \$4,100 in gifts from lobbyists in return for helping clients of Abramoff and his associates. Among the gifts were tickets to the World Series and concerts, plus meals and entertainment at a "gentleman's club."

- James Hirni, a former Republican Senate aide and one-time Abramoff associate, pleaded guilty to using wire communications to defraud taxpayers of congressional aides' honest services. Hirni acknowledged providing Blackann with meals, concert passes and tickets to the opening game of the 2003 World Series between the Florida Marlins and the New York Yankees at Yankee Stadium.

- Todd Boulanger, a former Abramoff deputy, pleaded guilty to lavishing congressional aides with meals and tickets to sporting events, concerts and the circus in exchange for help with legislation favorable to his clients.

- Ann Copland, a former aide to Mississippi Sen. Thad Cochran, pleaded guilty to taking more than \$25,000 worth of concert and sporting event tickets in return for helping one of Abramoff's top clients, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

- Roger Stillwell, a former Interior Department official, was sentenced to two years on probation in January 2007 after pleading guilty to a misdemeanor charge for not reporting hundreds of dollars worth of sports and concert tickets he received from Abramoff.

- Former Abramoff business partner Adam Kidan was sentenced in Florida in March 2006 to nearly six years in prison for conspiracy and fraud in the 2000 purchase of the Fort Lauderdale-based SunCruz Casinos gambling fleet.