

Seizing the Supreme Court

The Ford Foundation's war on the judicial system continues

By Fred Lucas

Summary: *The Ford Foundation, which long ago abandoned the conservatism of its benefactor, is trying to help the Left seize control of the U.S. Supreme Court. The goal is to enact a radical checklist of social change by promoting novel interpretations of the Constitution.*

The Ford Foundation has long sought to use its vast financial resources to reshape the legal landscape. But until recently it has focused on influencing various left-wing nonprofit law firms and indoctrinating the nation's law students. (See Foundation Watch, July 2013).

After the sudden death of Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonin Scalia on February 13, however, the foundation now has the chance to have a far more direct impact on the nation's jurisprudence. Thanks to many Ford allies, the pressure campaign to replace Justice Scalia with a left-wing jurist was immediately well underway.

The nation's fifth largest philanthropy (2014 assets: \$12.4 billion) now wants to do whatever it can to tilt the high court majority to the left in order to re-define American law and policy for generations to come.

An analysis by NewsBusters found that since 2003, the Ford Foundation and George Soros-aligned groups have given at least \$50 million to left-wing legal organizations that are now trying to push the Republican-controlled Senate to confirm Judge Merrick Garland, President Obama's Supreme Court nom-



President of the Ford Foundation, Darren Walker, speaks at an Elton John AIDS Foundation event in November 2015.

inee. The Ford Foundation contributed a large chunk—\$28 million—of the total (NewsBusters, Feb. 22, 2016, <http://bit.ly/25RE1w3>). Over the last decade these organizations were heavily involved in Supreme Court confirmation battles: first in trying to block the nominations of George W. Bush's appointees, Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito; then advocating for the confirmation of Obama high court appointees Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan.

June 2016

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According to the FoundationSearch database, the Ford Foundation has given \$11.9 million (since 2003) to the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; \$4.6 million (since 2000) to the Alliance for Justice, and almost \$722,000 (since 2000) to People for the American Way, which pioneered the ugly practice of “borking” Republican nominees to the high court (the term refers to the campaign of slander waged against the distinguished Judge Robert Bork after Reagan nominated him in 1987).

While Justice Scalia’s body was still warm, these organizations, along with the Soros-backed American Bridge 21st Century political action committee, all carried out a public relations campaign with a near identical theme. Each sent email blasts to supporters slamming the Senate Republicans as “obstructionists” for not quickly confirming Obama’s choice to replace Scalia.

The Republicans replied that they thought it preferable not to consider a nomination during an election year and instead to allow the American people to help choose the next justice by deferring the next

nomination until the people’s choice for a new president was in office. Left-wingers rejoined by pointing to the election-year confirmation of Justice Anthony Kennedy. President Ronald Reagan nominated Kennedy in late 1987 after Nixon appointee Lewis F. Powell Jr., a Democrat by partisan affiliation, announced his retirement in June 1987, seventeen months before the next election. Kennedy was confirmed by the Senate on Feb. 4, 1988.

Among those left-wingers predictably shouting “gotcha!” was Wade Henderson, president and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a recipient of Ford’s largesse, as noted above. “The anniversary of Justice Kennedy’s swearing in is even more proof that the Senate can and should work on a bipartisan basis to ensure a full bench on the Supreme Court in 2016,” Henderson said in a statement. “Six justices have been confirmed during election years and to suggest otherwise is peddling fiction.”

“The work of the Supreme Court is too important to the nation to allow a vacancy to go unfilled for an extended period of time,” Henderson continued. “Senator McConnell and those following his lead are taking obstruction to new heights of cynicism and are flirting with a constitutional crisis of their own making. We urge the Senate to look to the Constitution, to history, and to common sense and work with President Obama to confirm a justice in the months ahead.”

Henderson’s talking points are similar to what has been used by the White House on the Merrick Garland nomination, repeating the name of Anthony Kennedy over and over again but leaving out important contextual details.

But it is not a fair comparison.

After Powell announced his retirement, Reagan’s first two proposed replacements went down in flames in the face of Democratic opposition. Robert Bork, nominated July 1, 1987, 16 months before the next election, was rejected by the Senate on Oct. 23 after one of the most bilious confirmation battles in the

nation’s two centuries of history. Judge Douglas Ginsburg, nominated Oct. 29, 1987, pulled out a week later when his past marijuana use was revealed.

Kennedy’s confirmation did not shift the ideological balance of the high court. Kennedy, a judicial moderate, simply replaced Powell, another moderate, preserving the ideological status quo.

By contrast, the vacancy left by Scalia’s death could put the nation’s basic constitutional liberties at risk for generations to come. Religious freedom, free speech, the individual right to bear arms, and other fundamental personal freedoms and human rights are all on the target list of progressive statist. It is not hyperbole to say that one new left-wing justice could take a sledgehammer to the Bill of Rights. Pro-freedom votes of 5 to 4 on the Supreme Court could easily become anti-freedom 5 to 4 votes.

Wiping out fundamental constitutional rights that actually appear in America’s supreme law, and then replacing them with newly invented rights based on identity politics that empower the government over individuals has been the strategy of progressive statist for decades. These so-called group rights typically fall under the manufactured categories of “Economic Justice,” “Environmental Justice,” “Social Change” and various other notions of “fairness.”

Few organizations have done more to fund this fundamental transformation than the Ford Foundation. Now Ford and its far-left allies see an opportunity, and to give them credit, they have been preparing for just such a chance to carry out a massive overhaul of American society. For example, the Alliance for Justice, which also received \$1.825 million from George Soros’s Open Society Institute, had already established something called the Judicial Selection Project before Scalia died (NewsBusters, Discover the Networks).

The Alliance’s website states: “If you care about civil liberties, clean air, privacy, reproductive rights, social justice, corporate accountability, equality, and

Editor: Matthew Vadum

Publisher: Scott Walter

Foundation Watch

is published by Capital Research Center, a non-partisan education and research organization, classified by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) public charity.

Address:

1513 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036-1480

Phone: (202) 483-6900

Long-Distance: (800) 459-3950

E-mail Address:

mvadum@capitalresearch.org

Web Site:

<http://www.capitalresearch.org>

Organization Trends welcomes letters to the editor.

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fairness, then you care about our federal courts.” The site ignores the real threat faced by the country from overzealous, unelected judges making law from the bench by asserting that federal judges “protect” Americans from the persons who are actually accountable to voters.

“Every day, federal judges protect the Constitution, place a check on overzealous legislatures, and help Americans find justice,” the organization states. “AFJ’s Judicial Selection Project monitors and assesses federal judicial nominations to ensure our courts are staffed with highly-qualified judges that will safeguard the rights of all Americans ... not just the privileged few.”

As far back as the 1950s, Ford began using its grants to change law school curricula to create “social change.” A Ford-sponsored panel said the goal was “developing the social conscience of law students and professors.” As usual, the word *social* here should be read as code for *socialist*.

Alliance president Nan Aron and Kyle C. Barry, his director of justice programs, wrote an op-ed piece for the far-left magazine, the *Nation*, with the headline, “We Already Had an Election to Decide Who Gets to Appoint the Next Supreme Court Justice. It was in 2012.”

People for the American Way, which also received \$6.45 million from Soros-endowed philanthropies since 2003 according to NewsBusters, created a petition saying, “Tell Senators: Do Your Job. Give Obama’s Nominee Fair Consideration.” The petition goes on to claim that “Senate Republicans are putting partisanship above the Constitution.”

This is a silly argument, because no one says or implies that Obama doesn’t have the right to nominate a justice. The Sen-

ate, whose only constitutional responsibility with regards to judicial nominees is to provide “advice and consent,” has every right not to consent and has no obligation to hold a hearing.

Ford Goes to Court

The Ford Foundation began pursuing the goal of changing America’s legal landscape in the 1950s. So-called public interest law, wherein lawyers effectively become lobbyists for the poor in court, arose out of Ford’s efforts to overhaul law school curricula to promote social change. In the next two decades the foundation put more money into “legal action centers” at many law schools to promote the so-called rights revolution. Ford took

advantage of the courts’ growing predisposition to promote change by rewriting America’s laws from the bench.

Funding organizations with a political agenda used to be novel. During his time at Ford, Bundy was concerned that his own board, and the IRS, could object. He once asked, “What if somebody hassles us about the charitable nature of this?” (Discover the Networks). Even Bundy realized that suing people was not usually understood to be a charitable act. But with the help of Sanford Jaffe, director of the Ford Foundation’s Government and Law Program from 1968 to 1983, Bundy was able to manipulate his board members as well as the Nixon administration’s Treasury Department (which oversees the IRS), using the “expert” reassurances of prominent Establishment

lawyers that all was well.

And so Ford began large-scale left-wing advocacy through the courts. By throwing lots of money around for legal projects and installing its toadies on nonprofit boards, Ford drove many moderate Latino organizations to hard-left positions. Some of the most influential legal groups that Ford built almost single-handedly include the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), National Council of La Raza, and LatinoJustice PRLDEF. While the Ford Foundation has been focused on immigration and refugees since the 1950s, its pivot to open borders took place in the late 1960s, just a few years after immigration reform ushered in the age of chain migration.

The American Civil Liberties Union and its affiliates have also been big recipients of Ford Foundation largesse, taking in more than \$11 million in grants since 2000. “The ACLU has had no better partner and friend than the Ford Foundation,” then-ACLU executive director Ira Glasser asserted in a 1999 press release after receiving a \$7 million donation. “It is fitting that the largest single gift to this effort, and in fact the largest gift ever to the ACLU, should come from Ford.”

The Ford Foundation has long sought to give the country a legal transformation by overhauling law schools. Ford helped fund more than 100 law schools in promoting the “rights revolution” that involved pushing court cases on behalf of the “traditionally underrepresented groups” to gain court decisions that would have the effect of creating new “rights”—in most cases, rights for groups rather than for individuals. Ford established centers within law schools where law professors would collaborate with activist attorneys and indoctrinate law students into the fold. Other liberal foundations followed Ford’s lead, but few others put the same financial muscle behind it (*Foundation Watch*, July 2013).

In this case, as far back as the 1950s,

Ford began using its grants to change law school curricula to create “social change.” A Ford-sponsored panel said the goal was “developing the *social* conscience of law students and professors.” As usual, the word *social* here should be read as code for *socialist*.

Similarly, the foundation launched the Council on Legal Education for Professional Responsibility in 1968 to develop law school clinics, something new at the time. The objective was to take students directly into everyday *pro bono* legal work, beyond books and lectures—on its face, a worthy goal for any higher education discipline. But there was a darker agenda: Using the schools to provide resources—as well as credibility—to support *pro bono* work in test cases that would enact left-wing public policy through the courts. Such work, Ford officials knew, was likely to mold the beliefs of the budding legal practitioners. Exposing young law students to sympathetic clients would encourage them to seek “social change” as attorneys.

In 1989, the foundation established the Inter-University Consortium on Poverty Law. This syndicate sought “the mobilization of law schools for poverty law advocacy.”

With the carrot of major grants, Ford pushed America’s law schools toward identity politics, using movements such as legal feminism, Critical Race Theory, and others. Through university funding, Ford has helped directly finance litigation on behalf of Native American tribes suing over land ownership for cities as large as Syracuse and Denver, and also suing for slavery reparations—among many other high-profile issues.

For more than 50 years the Ford Foundation has been working to turn the nation’s law schools into engines of Sixties-style social change. Other large institutional donors like Carnegie, Soros, and MacArthur have followed Ford’s path, and the result can be seen in landmark Supreme Court decisions, the plethora of politicized “legal clinics” on campus, and U.S.

courts’ growing willingness to defer to “international law” (*Foundation Watch*, July 2013).

On the international front, the Ford Foundation has pushed the narrative that the United States is a grave human rights violator, both at home and abroad, and must be made subject to the International Criminal Court. Ford grants to law schools, notably Columbia University and New York University, come with demands for international scrutiny of

It was the Ford Foundation that aggressively used grants to help foist the airy-fairy, anti-American doctrines of multiculturalism on the nation’s campuses.

the supposed human rights hellhole that is America. Ford explained in its report *Many Roads to Justice* that “Grantees use two strategic approaches. They argue for the application of international laws in domestic courts and they take cases to international tribunals when domestic options have proved unsuccessful.”

Ford’s Historic Left Turn

The Ford Foundation is the nation’s fifth-largest philanthropic organization. It has assets of more than \$12 billion, and awards about \$500 million in grants each year to recipients around the world. The *New Yorker* described the Ford Foundation as having a “rare and heady blend of power and freedom: they are beholden to no one, neither consumers nor shareholders nor clients nor donors nor voters, and they have half a billion dollars each year to spend on whatever they like.”

That’s quite impressive for an organization chartered with a gift of just \$25,000 from Edsel Ford in 1936, the only son of Ford Motor Co. founder Henry Ford. The initial goal of the organization was “to receive and administer funds for scientific, education purposes, for the public welfare,” according to the philanthropy’s website.

In its early years, the Ford Foundation operated in Michigan under the direction of the Ford family. After Henry Ford’s death in 1947, Edsel’s son, Henry Ford II joined the foundation’s board and became its chairman.

The younger Ford ordered the drafting of a long-term action plan for the foundation. It came in 1949 in the form of the Gaither Study Committee report, which recommended the foundation become an international philanthropy. The

document stated that grants should go to causes that “promise significant contributions to world peace and the establishment of a world order of law and justice”; that “secure greater allegiance to the basic principles of freedom and democracy in the solution of the insistent problems of an ever-changing society”; that “advance the economic well-being of people everywhere and improve economic institutions for the better realization of democratic goals”; that “strengthen, expand and improve educational facilities and methods to enable individuals to realize more fully their intellectual, civic and spiritual potential; to promote greater equality of educational opportunity; and to conserve and increase knowledge and enrich our culture”; and that “increase knowledge of factors that influence or determine human conduct, and extend such knowledge for the maximum benefit of individuals and society” (Ford Foundation, *Discover the Networks*).

With liberal Republican Paul Hoffman at the helm, the foundation moved its headquarters to New York in 1953. In 1966, McGeorge Bundy—who had served as National Security Advisor for Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. John-

son—became the foundation’s president. Bundy, another liberal Republican, had initially supported military intervention in Vietnam but later regretted it and moved farther left politically.

Like many veterans of the Kennedy administration, Bundy loathed President Richard Nixon. Bundy pushed to expand the welfare state, supported militant groups such as the Black Panthers, and other causes dear to radicals.

As Discover the Networks observes,

Under Bundy, the Ford Foundation launched a new style of politicized giving and became a radical force in American life. [...] The politicized grants continued after that, as the Ford Foundation, particularly during the Nixon years, came to see itself as a government-in-exile, an engine for social transformation. Bundy transformed the Foundation into a leading sponsor of left-wing causes such as the expansion of the welfare state, nuclear disarmament, environmental advocacy, and the creation of “civil rights” interest groups that emphasized ethnic identity and ethnic power, or “multiculturalism,” over integration and assimilation into the American culture. Ford gave as much as \$300 million per year throughout the 1960s to support such causes.

Henry Ford II wasn’t staunchly opposed to all of the causes, but he was concerned the group might be leaning in an anti-capitalist direction, which to him seemed unreasonable for an organization named for one of history’s greatest capitalist entrepreneurs and utterly dependent on the wealth his business created. In 1976, the younger Ford resigned from the board, having overseen the transformation of what had been a local foundation in Detroit to an agenda-setting philanthropy with a global focus. The move also severed the remaining connections among the foundation, the Ford family, and Ford Motor Co.

“The Foundation is a creature of capital-

ism,” he wrote in a public letter when he left, and yet it is hard to find capitalism “in anything the foundation does. It is even more difficult to find an understanding of this in many of the institutions particularly the universities that are the beneficiaries of the foundation’s grant program” (FrontPageMag.com, Jan. 9, 2004).

The organization “supported and cultivated” through scholarships, fellowships, exchanges, and professional training 45 Nobel Peace Prize winners, and other notable figures including former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan and feminist icon Gloria Steinem.

The foundation’s 16-member board is made up of individuals from four continents and includes Cecile Richards, president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

The foundation’s 10th and current president is Darren Walker. Walker was previously vice president of the Rockefeller Foundation. Before that he practiced international and business law at Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen and Hamilton, and as an attorney for UBS. Walker is a member of the boards of Carnegie Hall, the New York City Ballet, the High Line, and the Arcus Foundation. He is a member of the Council of Foreign Relations and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Since 2011, Walker has contributed \$5,250 to Democratic candidates, including a \$250 contribution to Obama’s 2012 presidential campaign (Center for Responsive Politics).

The *New Yorker* described Walker as a somewhat eccentric character who had disseminated a short video of himself dancing to Pharrell Williams’s upbeat pop song “Happy.”

“On his bookshelves were a furry red Elmo; a yellow cow; a shiny blue miniature Jeff Koons puppy; a miniature yellow-and-green rickshaw from Delhi; a miniature red rickshaw from Jakarta; a large framed portrait of his English bulldog, Mary Lou; a small framed portrait of his partner, David Beitzel; and a couple of small gold Buddhas, among many other

objects that he’d picked up on his nearly constant travels,” the magazine reported.

Identity Politics is Job One

It was the Ford Foundation that aggressively used grants to help foist the airy-fairy, anti-American doctrines of multiculturalism on the nation’s campuses. In 1990, then-Ford president Franklin Thomas said the philanthropy’s goal was to “broaden cultural and intellectual diversity in American higher education,” and to “ensure that college curricula and teaching keep pace with the rapid demographic and cultural changes under way in American society.”

Thomas added, “Most of us have little understanding of the diverse culture, attitudes, and experiences that make up our own societies. Unfortunately, this ignorance about other cultures breeds insensitivity and intolerance in young and old alike.... To reach the roots of intolerance and improve campus life, we must make the teaching of non-Western cultures a basic element of undergraduate education” (FrontPageMag, Jan. 9, 2004). (Thomas apparently had not considered the comment of Allan Bloom, author of *The Closing of the American Mind*, who quipped that what we learn from the study of other cultures is that other cultures do not wish to learn from the study of other cultures.)

That year, the Ford Foundation invited 200 universities to compete for grants of \$100,000 or more to open African American Studies departments and vari-

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ous other ethnic studies departments. It amounted to a massive bribery program aimed at balkanizing America, but it was certainly a carrot to push grant-hungry colleges to bend their curricula to a diversity focus, not that different from the way Ford influenced law schools. To be eligible for the grants, the universities also had to adhere to Ford’s affirmative action goals in faculty and admissions. Thus, Ford has managed to shape university admission and employment policies through its deep pockets. Later, Ford would almost single-handedly provide the money for the university lawyering needed to defend in the courts the reverse-racist admission policies it had bequeathed to America.

A panelist for the Ford Foundation, Wesleyan University psychology professor Robert Steele, said financial coercion, not dialogue, is necessary to achieve the ends of multiculturalism. “People will not be quietly assimilated to multiculturalism by truth through dialogue,” Steele said. “You get research assistants, you give mentoring” (FrontPageMag.com; Jan. 9, 2004).

The Ford Foundation is also credited with creating the field of women’s studies at colleges and universities. In 2004, then-president Susan Berresford said one measure she used to determine successful grantmaking: “when the foundation helps people build a whole field of knowledge—demography in the past, women’s studies more recently.”

Going even further, history professor and feminist author Susan M. Hartmann imputes the creation of feminism itself to the Ford Foundation. She takes us back to 1971, when a group of feminist activists approached the foundation to request funding to target universities. There were about 100 women’s studies programs at the time. The next year, Ford announced a \$1 million national fellowship program for “faculty and doctoral dissertation research on the role of women in society and Women’s Studies broadly construed.”

By 1985, Ford had established the Wom-

Top 20 Funders of LGBTQ Issues by Total Dollar Amount

1 Arcus Foundation New York, NY \$16,999,935	11 American Jewish World Service New York, NY \$2,851,552
2 Ford Foundation New York, NY \$15,367,614	12 Tides Foundation San Francisco, CA \$2,830,901
3 Gill Foundation Denver, CO \$7,044,202	13 H. van Ameringen Foundation New York, NY \$2,815,000
4 Open Society Foundations New York, NY \$6,482,475	14 David Bohnett Foundation Beverly Hills, CA \$2,475,132
5 Gilead Sciences Foster City, CA \$6,126,347	15 ViiV Healthcare Research Triangle Park, NC \$2,384,132
6 Pride Foundation Seattle, WA \$5,381,984	16 Levi Strauss Company Foundation San Francisco, CA \$2,370,950
7 Evelyn and Walter Haas Jr. Fund San Francisco, CA \$5,276,823	17 Elton John AIDS Foundation New York, NY \$2,360,656
8 Wells Fargo San Francisco, CA \$3,637,165	18 Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice New York, NY \$2,299,691
9 amFAR, American Foundation for AIDS Research New York, NY \$3,385,946	19 The California Endowment Los Angeles, CA \$1,981,065
10 M.A.C. AIDS Fund New York, NY \$3,381,757	20 Proteus Fund – Civil Marriage Collaborative Amherst, MA \$1,750,642

TOTAL: \$97,203,969

Source: http://www.lgbtfunders.org/files/2014_Tracking_Report.pdf

en’s Program Forum, a consortium of grant makers and Ford staffers tasked with directing funding for women’s issues globally. Five years later, the Ford Foundation became the lead funder of the Campus Diversity Initiative. The foundation is also the leading funder of the National Women’s Studies Association, which is based at the University of Maryland (FrontPageMag.com; Feb. 20, 2004).

All of these initiatives are designed to change curricula. Today the number of women’s studies programs on university and college campuses has ballooned to more than 800.

A group called Funders for LGBTQ Issues found that the Ford Foundation is the second-largest donor in the LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer) area as well, NewsBusters reported (Feb. 29, 2016). In 2014, 313 foundations and corporations made 4,552 LGBTQ grants worth a total of just over \$153.2 million—a record (See table on page 6).

The Ford Foundation followed Soros’s Open Society Foundations as top donor, giving a combined \$21.85 million. Ford’s share was \$15.3 million. Internationally, the Ford Foundation was the top financier of LGBTQ issues in Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, as well as Asia and the Pacific—giving that doubtless won America significant antipathy from many in those lands.

‘Drivers of Inequality’

The Ford Foundation began financing Just Films in 2011 with \$50 million to create documentaries about social inequality. This May, the foundation is promoting the distribution of the documentaries at the Cannes Film Festival (Philanthropy.com, Feb. 2, 2016).

Inequality, in fact, is now the organization’s lodestar. “Ford had recently decided, in fact, that inequality was the problem of the times—more than climate change, for instance, or extremism,” Larissa MacFarquhar of the *New Yorker* reported in the Jan. 4 issue. “The crucial

task, everyone agreed, was to ‘disrupt the drivers of inequality.’ In order to do that, it was necessary to ascertain what those drivers were, so program officers all around the world had been instructed to write reports identifying the chief drivers of inequality in their regions. After those reports were collected, many, many meetings were held in the conference rooms of the New York office.”

Defining inequality might have been a bit of a challenge, but interestingly, the organization decided to scrap LGBTQ rights in America as a priority, because so much has already been achieved in its view. So, the organization shifted its focus to global gender issues, “Internet rights,” and “inclusive capitalism.” In the planning process, there is to be a minimum of four and a maximum of eight thematic areas, each with a budget of \$20 million, the *New Yorker* reports.

Conclusion

The Ford Foundation has used its vast sums of money to ensure that individuals become weaker and smaller, while government becomes larger and stronger. The traditional name for this phenomenon is collectivism, not diminishing inequality, and the idea has been Ford’s overriding goal for decades.

The progressive Left has invented rights, usually group rights, to expand government power. But the voters, by expressing their will in elections, have frequently thwarted the Left’s plans. Thus courts have always been the Left’s best hope, and it is no wonder the Ford Foundation would use its resources to try to seize control of the Supreme Court, ensuring that the remaining items on its radical checklist can be imposed upon the rest of us.

Fred Lucas is a veteran political journalist in Washington.

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PhilanthropyNotes

U.S. **Department of Justice** employees have given so much money to **Hillary Clinton**'s campaign that critics doubt the agency can handle her private email server case fairly. Clinton has accepted \$73,437 in campaign contributions from DoJ employees, up from \$15,930 during her 2008 presidential run, the Washington Free Beacon reports. In the current election cycle, Clinton rival Sen. **Bernie Sanders** (I-Vt.) has received \$8,900 in donations from DoJ employees. **Donald Trump**, now the presumptive Republican nominee, took in a meager \$381 from DoJ employees. **Citizens United** president **David Bossie** said Attorney General **Loretta Lynch** should step back and appoint a special counsel to handle Clinton's case. "How can Democrat political appointees fairly investigate someone who is about to become their nominee for president? ... This investigation needs to be conducted free of political influence once and for all."

Meanwhile, Trump has made a curious choice in **Steven Mnuchin** as finance chairman of his campaign. Mnuchin used to work for the pre-eminent funder of the Left, anti-American billionaire **George Soros**. Mnuchin was an investment banker or something similar for hedge fund **Soros Fund Management LLC**. Philanthropy reporter **Rick Cohen** noted in 2014 that Mnuchin is a philanthropist "with a family foundation (the **Steven and Heather Mnuchin Foundation**), a trustee of other foundations, and with service as a board member at the **Los Angeles Police Foundation** and the **Museum of Contemporary Art**."

Some federal lawmakers say forcing super-wealthy elite colleges like **Harvard**, **Yale**, and **Princeton** to cover the tuition of their students may be a good counterweight to outrageous, increasingly large tuition fees, according to the *Wall Street Journal*. "College costs have outpaced health-care inflation, and at the same time, there's this benefit for endowments," said watchdog Rep. **Pete Roskam** (R-Ill.), referring to the school's untaxed endowments. Lawmakers have asked 56 private colleges whose endowments exceed \$1 billion to provide details of their holdings and to explain how they reward big donors with naming rights.

Six donors and foundations donated \$1.84 million in 2015 to the **Barack Obama Foundation**, which will build Obama's presidential center on Chicago's South Side, reports the *Chicago Tribune*. The **Gill Foundation**, which specializes in gay rights issues, was the largest donor at \$347,000, followed by the **Sacks Family Foundation** at \$333,334. Two New York couples, **Lise Strickler** and **Mark Gallogly** and **Marilyn** and **Jim Simons**, each donated \$330,000. New Yorkers **David** and **Beth Shaw** donated \$250,000. Maryland-based **ImpactAssets** also gave \$250,000.

Around 2010 the **Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation** unlawfully gave \$2 million to **Energy Pioneer Solutions Inc.**, a power company partly owned by Clinton family friend **Julie Tauber McMahon**, the *Wall Street Journal* reports. Tax-exempt charities like the foundation are supposed to act in the public interest, not to advance private commercial interests. Bill Clinton also endorsed the company to then-Energy Secretary **Steven Chu** for a federal grant. The grant came from Chu's agency, which operated a program aimed at encouraging innovative approaches to weatherizing low-income people's homes.

According to a former journalist who worked at **Facebook**, the social media giant's so-called news curators "routinely suppressed news stories of interest to conservative readers from the social network's influential 'trending' news section," Gizmodo reports. The individual said employees "prevented stories about the right-wing **CPAC** gathering, **Mitt Romney**, **Rand Paul**, and other conservative topics from appearing in the highly-influential section, even though they were organically trending among the site's users." It's the kind of progressive ideology we've come to expect from **Mark Zuckerberg**, who co-founded Facebook and denies that his company practices such censorship (see *Foundation Watch*, February 2016).

Goldman Sachs WATCH

As Goldman Sachs Group Inc. continues to take a financial pounding, the international investment bank is unloading additional employees from its sales and trading division, the WSJ reports. "In its core trading business, Goldman has trimmed staff in recent years as more activity becomes electronic and some of the most potentially profitable trades have been curtailed by new capital rules and other regulations that discourage risk taking." The company is trying to diversify its business offerings so it is less reliant on trading, its longtime cash cow.