

At The Government Services Agency (GSA), Four Career Republican Operatives Are Obstructing The Presidential Transition Process, Putting Our National Security At Risk.

SUMMARY: Under federal law, the Government Services Agency (GSA) must “ascertain” the winner of a presidential election to trigger a [“flow of government resources”](#) to a president-elect for use in the transition process. Despite [major television networks](#), [US senators](#) and several [world leaders](#) acknowledging Joe Biden’s status as president-elect, Trump’s GSA says that “an ascertainment has not yet been made,” which has prevented the Biden Transition Team from accessing these resources.

Accountable.US has uncovered evidence that four senior GSA officials, including Administrator Emily Murphy, Deputy Administrator Allison Brigati, General Counsel Trent Benishek, and Chief of Staff Robert Borden all have significant records as Republican operatives, calling into question whether the resources necessary for the presidential transition are being withheld due to partisan political reasons.

Emily Murphy, the head of GSA, got her start as a [Republican National Committee \(RNC\) staffer](#) who later worked under Senator Jim Talent – [a prominent Trump supporter](#) – on Capitol Hill. Murphy’s tenure at GSA has been marked by scandal after she [“improperly”](#) ignored the constitutional questions surrounding the Trump Organization’s lease of DC’s Historic Post Office building, and gave potentially [“misleading”](#) congressional testimony on Trump administration interference in the relocation of FBI headquarters.

Deputy Administrator Allison Brigati, who is responsible for [“managing GSA’s coordination effort during the presidential transition,”](#) has a deep personal and professional history with the RNC. While a lawyer for the Party in 1996, Brigati appeared on ABC’s 20/20 to do damage control in response to a video exposing racist behavior at RNC headquarters and a [related \\$21.5 million discrimination lawsuit](#). Brigati, whose father served a [historically-long tenure as RNC Chairman](#) during the Reagan administration, has maintained her partisan political leanings well into the 2020 presidential election, [liking several tweets](#) that have disputed the need for political healing, called the media a “collection of liars,” and argued that the press should not hold officials accountable.

Agency General Counsel Trent Benishek – [nephew and longtime campaign staffer](#) to former Republican Congressman Dan Benishek – only moved to his role as General Counsel at GSA on [October 29, 2020](#), just five days before the presidential election. Previously, Benishek worked in the White House Counsel’s Office, and appears to have [worked](#) on President Trump’s defense team during impeachment proceedings.

GSA [Chief of Staff Robert Borden](#) has had an [extensive career](#) working for House Republican leadership and committees. Borden served as the House Oversight Committee Republicans’ “primary staff liaison with House leadership and the administration,” and helped lead the Select Committee on Benghazi during its [highly partisan](#) investigation. He also directed oversight efforts for House Republican leadership. While at GSA, Borden was probed by the agency’s Inspector General about [contradictory statements](#) officials made about the controversy over the relocation of the FBI headquarters.

The fact that four Republican Party operatives have influence over whether President-elect Biden gains access to the necessary resources for the presidential transition presents a clear conflict of interest, and puts our national security [at risk](#) during a global pandemic.

GSA Administrator Emily Murphy Is A Former RNC Staffer Who Defended The President When He Interfered With The Government Contracting Process.

GSA Administrator Emily Murphy Biographical And Employment Background

Dates	Position	Employer	Source
December 2017-Present	Administrator	General Services Administration	LinkedIn
April 2017-December 2017	Senior Advisor	General Services Administration	LinkedIn
January 2018-april 2017	White House Liaison	General Services Administration	LinkedIn
May 2016-January 2017	Professional Staff Member	House Committee on Armed Services	LinkedIn
September 2015-May 2016	Policy Director and Senior Counsel	House Committee on Small Business (?)	LinkedIn
April 2011-May 2016	Senior Counsel	House Committee on Small Business	LinkedIn
January 2009-April 2011	General Counsel and Vice President for Government Operations	TerreStar National Services, Inc.	LinkedIn
August 2007-November 2009	Vice President, Government Contracting and Compliance Programs	TerreStar National Services, Inc.	LinkedIn
2007 (less than a year)	Counsel	Miller & Chevalier	LinkedIn
February 2005-February 2007	Chief Acquisition Officer	General Services Administration	LinkedIn
January 2004-February 2005	Senior Advisor, Government Contracts and Business Development	U.S. Small Business Administration	LinkedIn
October 2001-December 2003	Associate in Government Contracts and Government Affairs Practices	Wiley Rein LLP	LinkedIn
January 1997-July 1998	Professional Staff Member	Committee on Small Business	LinkedIn
October 1995-January 1997	Assistant to the Director of administration	Republican National Committee	LinkedIn

Education

Emily Murphy Attended Smith College And Received a B.A. In history And French Studies. [[Emily W. Murphy](#), LinkedIn, accessed 11/09/20]

Emily Murphy Received Her J.D. From The University Of Virginia School Of Law. [[Emily W. Murphy](#), LinkedIn, accessed 11/09/20]

Social Media

[Facebook](#) – account fairly private

[Twitter](#) – public account affiliated with GSA

Instagram – seemingly no account

[LinkedIn](#) – public account

Since 2001, Emily Murphy Has Contributed Over \$11,000 To Republican Candidates.

Since 2001, Emily Murphy Has Contributed \$11,050 To Republican Candidates.

CONTRIBUTOR	RECIPIENT	DATE	AMOUNT
Emily W. Murphy	Friends of John Thune	10/19/2010	\$200
Emily W. Murphy	Friends of John Thune	09/21/2010	\$200
Emily W. Murphy	Friends of John Thune	08/23/2010	\$200
Emily W. Murphy	Friends of John Thune	07/26/2010	\$200
Emily W. Murphy	Friends of John Thune	06/16/2010	\$200
Emily W. Murphy	Friends of John Thune	06/08/2010	\$200
Emily Murphy	Friends of John Thune	05/19/2010	\$200
Emily Murphy	Friends of John Thune	04/15/2010	\$200
Emily Murphy	Friends of John Thune	03/16/2010	\$200
Emily Murphy	Friends of John Thune	02/26/2010	\$200
Ms. Emily Murphy	McCain-Palin Compliance Fund Inc.	08/18/2008	\$1,000
Ms. Emily Murphy	John McCain 2008 Inc.	06/23/2008	\$1,000
Ms. Emily W. Murphy	Thelma Drake for Congress	03/04/2008	\$1,000
Ms. Emily Murphy	John McCain 2008 Inc.	02/26/2008	\$2,300
Emily Murphy	Friends of George Allen	09/30/2006	\$250
Emily Murphy	Friends of George Allen	08/29/2006	\$250
Emily Murphy	Friends of George Allen	06/30/2006	\$250
Ms. Emily W. Murphy	Bush-Cheney '04 Inc.	11/21/2003	\$2,000
Emily Murphy	Talent for Senate	11/14/2001	\$1,000
TOTAL			\$11,050

GSA Administrator Emily Murphy, Who Can Single-Handedly Delay The Presidential Transition, Has Built A Reputation Of Defending Trump In High-Profile Scandals Over His D.C. Hotel And The Location Of The FBI Headquarters.

Trump-Appointed GSA Administrator Emily Murphy Has Refused To Issue An Official Acknowledgement That Donald Trump Has Lost The 2020 Presidential Election, Delaying Access To Critical Federal Resources And Personnel To The Incoming Administration.

As Of November 8, 2020, GSA Administrator Emily Murphy—A Trump Appointee—Refused To Sign An Official Acknowledgement That Donald Trump Lost The 2020 Presidential Election, Delaying The Transition Process. “A Trump administration appointee is refusing to sign a letter allowing President-elect Joe Biden’s transition team to formally begin its work this week, in another sign the incumbent president has not acknowledged Biden’s victory and could disrupt the transfer of power. The administrator of the General Services Administration, the low-profile agency in charge of federal buildings, has a little-known role when a new president is elected: to sign paperwork officially turning over millions of dollars, as well as give access to government officials, office space in agencies and equipment authorized for the taxpayer-funded transition teams of the winner. It amounts to a formal declaration by the federal government, outside of the media, of the winner of the presidential race.” [Lisa Rein, Jonathan O’Connell and Josh Dawsey, “[A little-known Trump appointee is in charge of handing transition resources to Biden — and she isn’t budging,](#)” *The Washington Post*, 11/08/20]

- **The GSA’s Acknowledgement Releases Federal Resources To The Incoming Administration, Including Computer Systems, Office Space, And Officials.** “By declaring the ‘apparent winner’ of a presidential election, the GSA administrator releases computer systems and money for salaries and administrative support for the mammoth undertaking of setting up a new government — \$9.9 million this year. Transition officials get government email addresses. They get office space at every federal agency. They can begin to work with the Office of Government Ethics to process financial disclosure and conflict-of-interest forms for their nominees. And they get access to senior officials, both political appointees of the outgoing administration and career civil servants, who relay an agency’s ongoing priorities and projects, upcoming deadlines, problem areas and risks.” [Lisa Rein, Jonathan O’Connell and Josh Dawsey, “[A little-known Trump appointee is in charge of handing transition resources to Biden — and she isn’t budging,](#)” *The Washington Post*, 11/08/20]

The Trump Administration Had “No Immediate Plans” To Sign The Acknowledgement Letter, Potentially Leading To “The First Transition Delay In Modern History,” Except For The Disputed 2000 Presidential Election. “But by Sunday evening, almost 36 hours after media outlets projected Biden as the winner, GSA Administrator Emily Murphy had written no such letter. And the Trump administration, in keeping with the president’s failure to concede the election, has no immediate plans to sign one. This could lead to the first transition delay in modern history, except in 2000, when the Supreme Court decided a recount dispute between Al Gore and George W. Bush in December.” [Lisa Rein, Jonathan O’Connell and Josh Dawsey, “[A little-known Trump appointee is in charge of handing transition resources to Biden — and she isn’t budging,](#)” *The Washington Post*, 11/08/20]

Emily Murphy Has Built A Reputation Of Defending Donald Trump In High-Profile Controversies Over His D.C. Hotel’s Lease In A Federally-Owned Building And Plans To Relocate The FBI Headquarters.

Emily Murphy’s Four Years As GSA Administrator Have “Been Marked By Several Controversies Involving The President,” Including Trump’s Lease In A Federally Owned Building For His Washington D.C. Hotel And A Potential Consolidation Of The FBI Headquarters. “The decision has turned attention to

Murphy, whose four-year tenure has been marked by several controversies involving the president, an unusually high profile for an agency little known outside of Washington.” [Lisa Rein, Jonathan O’Connell and Josh Dawsey, [“A little-known Trump appointee is in charge of handing transition resources to Biden — and she isn’t budging,”](#) *The Washington Post*, 11/08/20]

- **Controversies In Which Emily Murphy Has Defended Donald Trump Include His Company’s D.C. Hotel Lease In A Federally-Owned Building And The “Planned Consolidation Of The FBI Headquarters.”** “But under Trump, two issues of personal importance to the president became almost constant sources of controversy for her: the lease Trump’s company holds with the agency for its D.C. hotel, located in the federally owned Old Post Office Pavilion, and the planned consolidation of the FBI headquarters.” [Lisa Rein, Jonathan O’Connell and Josh Dawsey, [“A little-known Trump appointee is in charge of handing transition resources to Biden — and she isn’t budging,”](#) *The Washington Post*, 11/08/20]

GSA’s Inspector General Said Emily Murphy “Improperly” Ignored The Constitutional Controversy Over The Federal Lease For Trump’s D.C. Hotel And That She Gave “Incomplete” And Possibly “Misleading” Congressional Testimony That Failed To Mention She Met With Trump About The Nearby FBI Headquarters.

Under Emily Murphy, GSA Repeatedly Refused To Provide Information For A Congressional Investigation Into The Constitutionality Of Trump’s D.C. Hotel Lease—GSA’s Inspector General Said The Agency “Improperly” Ignored The Constitutional Questions Surrounding The Lease.

Under Emily Murphy, GSA Repeatedly Refused To Produce Documents To Congressional Investigations Concerning How The Agency Allowed Trump’s D.C. Hotel To Keep Its Federal Lease Despite Constitutional Concerns. “Both projects have pressed Murphy into duty defending the president, and her actions elicited criticism from the agency’s watchdog as well as from congressional Democrats. Democrats held repeated hearings to get a better explanation of how the agency decided to allow Trump to keep the lease given that the Constitution bars presidents from accepting gifts or payments from foreign governments, which often patronize the hotel. Under Murphy, the GSA repeatedly declined to provide documents to House Democrats, including the monthly income statements it receives from Trump’s company.” [Lisa Rein, Jonathan O’Connell and Josh Dawsey, [“A little-known Trump appointee is in charge of handing transition resources to Biden — and she isn’t budging,”](#) *The Washington Post*, 11/08/20]

In 2019, The GSA’s Inspector General Said The Agency “Improperly” Ignored The Constitutional Concerns Over The D.C. Hotel Lease. “Last year, the agency’s inspector general determined that GSA ‘improperly’ ignored those concerns in allowing Trump’s company to keep the lease. GSA defended itself by saying that the investigation ‘found no undue influence, pressure or unwarranted involvement of any kind by anyone.’” [Lisa Rein, Jonathan O’Connell and Josh Dawsey, [“A little-known Trump appointee is in charge of handing transition resources to Biden — and she isn’t budging,”](#) *The Washington Post*, 11/08/20]

The GSA’s Inspector General Found Emily Murphy Gave “Incomplete” And Potentially “Misleading” Congressional Testimony After She Failed To Mention She Met With Trump And White House Officials About GSA’s Controversial Decision To Cancel The FBI Headquarters Move.

Donald Trump And The GSA “Abruptly Canceled” Plans To Move The FBI Headquarters From A Site Near Trump’s D.C. Hotel, Sparking Allegations That Trump Was Trying To Block A Competing Hotel

From Being Built On The Former FBI Site. “Trump has personally intervened in the most prominent real estate project in the agency’s entire portfolio: the plan to build a new FBI headquarters that would allow the bureau out of the crumbling and insecure J. Edgar Hoover Building. During his first year in office, Trump and the GSA abruptly canceled a bipartisan plan to build a new suburban headquarters for the agency, infuriating Democrats who had worked more than a decade on the project and who alleged that Trump canceled the project so a competing hotel could never be built in place of the Hoover building, a site down the street from his hotel.” [Lisa Rein, Jonathan O’Connell and Josh Dawsey, “[A little-known Trump appointee is in charge of handing transition resources to Biden — and she isn’t budging](#),” *The Washington Post*, 11/08/20]

Congressional Democrats Said The Cancellation Violated Regulations Meant To Prevent Political Influence Over Federal Projects. “President Trump intervened in a big federal building project to help protect business for his hotel on Pennsylvania Avenue, a group of House Democrats alleged on Thursday. [...] The Democrats called that an abuse of power and a violation of the regulations that are supposed to protect such arrangements from political influence.” [Philip Ewing and Peter Overby, “[Trump Intervened In FBI HQ Project To Protect His Hotel, Democrats Allege](#),” *NPR*, 10/18/18]

In August 2018, GSA’s Inspector General Found That Emily Murphy “May Have Misled Congress” In Failing To Disclose That She Met With Donald Trump To Discuss The FBI Headquarters Project. “Now the inspector general of the GSA says in a report that the head of the agency, Emily Murphy, may have misled Congress. During a hearing, she failed to disclose that she had met with President Trump at the White House to discuss the FBI project.” [Brian Naylor, “[Government Watchdog Raises Questions About Trump’s Decision Not To Move FBI](#),” *NPR*, 08/28/18]

The Inspector General’s Report Said, “We Found That Murphy’s Congressional Testimony Was Incomplete And May Have Left The Misleading Impression That She Had No Discussions With White House Officials In The Decision- Making Process About The Project.” [“[Review of GSA’s Revised Plan for the Federal Bureau of Investigation Headquarters Consolidation Project](#),” U.S. General Services Administration Office of Inspector General, 08/27/18]

Congress Demanded Answers From Emily Murphy And Others Following Revelations That Trump Administration Officials Gave Contradictory Testimony About A Controversial GSA Merger That Was Seen As A Potentially Illegal Effort To Strip Protections From Civil Service Workers.

July 2020: Congress Demanded That Emily Murphy Give Answers Following Revelations That Trump Administration Officials Gave Contradictory Testimony About A Controversial Merger Between GSA And The Office Of Personnel Management, Which Was Seen As An Effort To Undermine Civil Service Worker Protections.

July 2020: House Oversight Committee Members Demanded Answers From The Trump Administration After They Learned That The GSA And Office Of Personnel Management Were Planning A Merger, In Contradiction To Congressional Testimony That Administration Officials Had Given. “Democratic leadership on the House Oversight and Reform Committee wants answers from senior Trump administration officials after the Project on Government Oversight reported that a copy of notes they obtained from an April 2019 call contradicted testimony officials had given about the planned merger of the Office of Personnel Management and the General Services Administration.” [Jessie Bur, “[Trump officials made ‘misleading’ statements about changes to federal worker management, watchdog says](#),” *Federal Times*, 07/07/20]

The House Oversight Committee Requested That GSA Administrator Emily Murphy And Then-GSA Counsel Mark Robbins Give Transcribed Interviews To Explain The Contradictory Testimony. “The

letters request that GSA Administrator Emily Murphy, GSA General Counsel Jack St. John, OPM acting Director Michael Rigas, OMB Senior Advisor Stephen Billy and OPM General Counsel Mark Robbins participate in transcribed interviews about the reported phone call with the Office of Legal Counsel and the accuracy of officials' testimony as to whether they had consulted legal advice on the planned merger." [Jessie Bur, "[Trump officials made 'misleading' statements about changes to federal worker management, watchdog says](#)," *Federal Times*, 07/07/20]

The GSA-OPM Merger, First Proposed In The Trump Administrations June 2018 Reorganization Plan, Received "Significant Backlash" From Federal Workers And Congress, Who Both Saw It As An Effort To Undermine Civil Service Protections. "The plan to move most of OPM's functions under GSA was first proposed in the administration's June 2018 reorganization plan and received significant backlash from federal employee groups and members of Congress as an attempt to cut back on civil service protections." [Jessie Bur, "[Trump officials made 'misleading' statements about changes to federal worker management, watchdog says](#)," *Federal Times*, 07/07/20]

The Legality Of The GSA-OPM Merger Was Under Dispute, Since Recent Government Funding Bills Specifically Blocked Agencies From Using Funding For Mergers Or "Transfer Of Functions." "Critics also questioned the legality of the move, and lawmakers used provisions in the most recent government funding bills to specifically prohibit any use of agency funding to facilitate a merger or transfer of functions." [Jessie Bur, "[Trump officials made 'misleading' statements about changes to federal worker management, watchdog says](#)," *Federal Times*, 07/07/20]

The Department Of Justice's Office Of Legal Counsel Told GSA, OPM, And The Office Of Management And Budget That The Trump Administration Didn't Have Authority To Execute The Merger. "According to the notes uncovered by the Project on Government Oversight, Stephen Engel, the head of the Department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel, told legal representatives from OPM, GSA and the Office of Management and Budget that the administration lacked the legal authority to execute its plans." [Jessie Bur, "[Trump officials made 'misleading' statements about changes to federal worker management, watchdog says](#)," *Federal Times*, 07/07/20]

As The COVID-19 Pandemic Worsened, The Trump Organization Asked Emily Murphy's GSA For A Break On Lease Payments For Its D.C. Hotel.

April 2020: The Trump Organization Asked Emily Murphy's GSA To Give The D.C. Hotel A Break On Lease Payments During The Coronavirus Pandemic—The Agency Would Not Provide Comment On The Issue.

April 2020: The Trump Organization Asked The GSA For A Break On Lease Payments For Its D.C. Hotel Amid The Pandemic. "The Trump family business is asking the federal government to give President Donald Trump's hotel in Washington, DC, a break on its monthly lease payments during the coronavirus pandemic, The New York Times reported Tuesday. The Trump Organization has looked into changing the Trump International Hotel's lease payments to the General Services Administration in recent weeks, according to The Times, which cited people familiar with the matter." [Chandelis Duster, "[NYT: Trump family seeks rent break for DC hotel from Trump administration](#)," *CNN*, 04/22/20]

Donald Trump's Son Eric Trump, Who "Oversees The Family Business," Confirmed That The Trump Organization Asked The GSA About Lease Payment Relief—The GSA Would Not Provide Comment On The Issue. "CNN reached out to the Trump family and a spokesperson for the organization for comment but has not received a response. Eric Trump, one of the President's sons who oversees the family business, confirmed the request to the Times and said they were asking the GSA about relief the agency may be giving other federal tenants. [...] The GSA did not respond to requests for comment." [Chandelis Duster, "[NYT: Trump family seeks rent break for DC hotel from Trump administration](#)," *CNN*, 04/22/20]

Trump Properties Furloughed Almost 2,000 Workers In Multiple States, As Of Late April 2020. “CNN has reported that Trump properties have collectively furloughed nearly 2,000 employees across several states as businesses are forced to close to stop the spread of the virus.” [Chandelis Duster, “[NYT: Trump family seeks rent break for DC hotel from Trump administration](#),” CNN, 04/22/20]

Prior To Becoming GSA Administrator, Murphy Was Involved In The Trump Administration’s Disastrous Response To The 2017 Hurricane Season.

While At GSA But Before She Was Administrator, Murphy Was Involved In The Trump Administration’s Disastrous Response To The 2017 Hurricane Season.

Prior To Her Confirmation As Administrator, Murphy’s Role As An Advisor At GSA Included “Monitoring GSA’s Efforts In Facilitating The Agency’s Support To Federal, State, And Local Agencies In Response To Hurricanes Harvey, Irma And Maria.” “As a Senior Advisor to the Administrator. I have been monitoring GSA’s efforts in facilitating the agency’s support to federal, state, and local agencies in response to hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria. Given my past work on disaster response. I’ve been able to suggest options such as redeploying the contracting policy office in the Office of Governmentwide Policy, if necessary, to provide surge capacity to support the disaster relief efforts. I’ve also worked to coordinate waivers with the Office of Procurement Policy to ensure GSA is best using the authorities it has to provide all possible support to affected areas. I have accompanied the Acting Administrator to the FEMA NRCC to ensure that GSA is best fulfilling its responsibilities to FEMA, other agencies, GSA employees, and the people of Texas, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.” [[Murphy PreHearing Questions](#), Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs, 10/05/17]

- **“The 2017 Hurricane Season Was A Devastating Experience For Millions Of Americans, With More Disaster Survivors Registering For Assistance Than The Previous 10 Years Combined.”** [[2017 Hurricane Season FEMA After-Action Report](#), FEMA, 07/12/18]
- **“Of All The Scandals Plaguing The Trump Administration, There Is None More Serious Or More Forgotten Than The Aftermath Of Hurricane Maria. Several Thousand Americans Died. Not Because Of The Storm Itself, But Because Of The Botched Recovery.”** “Richard Wolffe, “[The forgotten scandal in the Trump administration: Hurricane Maria](#),” *The Guardian*, 09/11/18]

GSA Deputy Administrator Allison Brigati Is Responsible For Presidential Transition Efforts Despite Her History Of Defending The RNC Against Claims Of Racism And Her Deep Family Ties To The Highest Levels Of The GOP

Biographical And Employment Background

DATES	POSITION	EMPLOYER	SOURCE
Feb. 2018-Present	Deputy Administrator	General Services Administration (GSA)	Linkedin
Dec. 2017-Feb. 2018	Acting Deputy Administrator	GSA	Linkedin
July 2017-Dec. 2017	Associate Administrator, Office of Government-Wide Policy	GSA	Linkedin
May 2008-Feb. 2017	General Counsel	National Academy of Public Administration	Linkedin
Oct. 2005-Jan. 2008	Senior Adviser / Quality Assurance Officer	The World Bank	Linkedin
Feb. 2004-Oct. 2005	Senior Counselor for U.S. Affairs	The World Bank	Linkedin
May 1994-Jan. 1998	Deputy Counsel	Republican National Committee	Linkedin
Sep. 1990-May 1994	Associate	Baker and Hostetler	Linkedin

Education

Allison Brigati Received Her J.D. From The Boston University School Of Law In 1990. [[Allison Fahrenkopf Brigati](#), Linkedin, accessed 11/10/20]

Allison Brigati Received A B.A. In English From The University Of Notre Dame In 1987. [[Allison Fahrenkopf Brigati](#), Linkedin, accessed 11/10/20]

Social Media

[Facebook](#) – Account fairly private

[Twitter](#) – Public account not affiliated with GSA

[Instagram](#) – Possible account; Private

[LinkedIn](#) – Public account

GSA Deputy Administrator Has Said She Is The Agency’s “Chief Operating Officer,” Responsible For Managing The “Coordination Effort During Presidential Transition” And Highly Controversial Initiatives Like The Proposed GSA-OPM Merger.

GSA Deputy Administrator Allison Brigati Is The “Chief Operating Officer” For The Agency, Where She Has Said, “I Manage The Day To Day Operations.”

GSA Deputy Administrator Allison Brigati Is “The Chief Operating Officer” For The Agency. “Allison Brigati, Deputy Administrator, U.S. General Services Administration, is the chief operating officer of an agency with a mission to deliver value and savings in real estate acquisition, technology, and other mission support services across government. She has sought to transform the way the agency operates, finding ways to be innovative and cost effective.” [Michael J. Keegan, “[Providing Mission-Support Services Across Government: Insights from Allison Brigati, Deputy Administrator, U.S. General Services Administration](#),” *The Business of Government*, Winter 2019 / 2020]

- **Allison Brigati Has Been GSA’s Deputy Administrator Since February 2018, Was Acting Deputy Administrator From December 2017 To February 2018, And Was Associate Administrator Of The Office Of Government-Wide Policy From July 2017 To December 2017.** [[Allison Fahrenkopf Brigati](#), LinkedIn, accessed 11/10/20]

Allison Brigati Has Said, “I Manage The Day To Day Operations” Of The GSA. “I am the chief operating officer for the agency. I manage the day to day operations. While I do get engaged in our core business lines, my day to day focus is on managing the internal operations of GSA.” – Allison Brigati [Michael J. Keegan, “[Providing Mission-Support Services Across Government: Insights from Allison Brigati, Deputy Administrator, U.S. General Services Administration](#),” *The Business of Government*, Winter 2019 / 2020]

Allison Brigati Has Said She Is Responsible For “Managing GSA’s Coordination Effort During Presidential Transition.”

Allison Brigati Has Said Her Responsibilities Include “Managing GSA’s Coordination Effort During Presidential Transition.” “Finally, managing GSA’s coordination effort during presidential transition also falls under the deputy administrator’s portfolio.” [Michael J. Keegan, “[Providing Mission-Support Services Across Government: Insights from Allison Brigati, Deputy Administrator, U.S. General Services Administration](#),” *The Business of Government*, Winter 2019 / 2020]

Brigati Has Also Said She Manages Agency-Wide Initiatives, Including The Highly Controversial Proposal To Merge GSA With The Office Of Personnel Management (OPM), Which Was Seen As An Effort To Undermine Protections For Civil Service Workers.

Allison Brigati Has Said, “I Also Manage Agencywide Initiatives,” Including The Highly Controversial Proposed Merger Between GSA And The Office Of Personnel Management. “As deputy administrator, I also manage agencywide initiatives. One of those initiatives is the Technology Modernization Fund Project Management Office (TMF PMO), which was established by the Modernizing Government Technology Act. The other initiative involves working on the proposed merger of the Office Personnel Management (OPM) and GSA.” [Michael J. Keegan, “[Providing Mission-Support Services Across Government: Insights from Allison Brigati, Deputy Administrator, U.S. General Services Administration](#),” *The Business of Government*, Winter 2019 / 2020]

- **The GSA-OPM Merger, First Proposed In The Trump Administrations June 2018 Reorganization Plan, Received “Significant Backlash” From Federal Workers And Congress, Who Both Saw It As An Effort To Undermine Civil Service Protections.** “The plan to move most of OPM’s functions under GSA was first proposed in the administration’s June 2018 reorganization plan and received significant backlash from federal employee groups and members of Congress as an attempt to cut back on civil service protections.” [Jessie Bur, [“Trump officials made ‘misleading’ statements about changes to federal worker management, watchdog says,”](#) *Federal Times*, 07/07/20]

Brigati Has Been Suggested As A Possible Replacement For Current GSA Administrator Emily Murphy.

Allison Brigati Has Been Floated As A Possible Replacement For Current GSA Administrator Emily Murphy. “If Murphy does exit GSA, possible replacements include FAS Commissioner Alan Thomas and Deputy Administrator Allison Brigati.” [Mark Rockwell, [“Could GSA’s Murphy join the race for the exits?”](#), *FCW*, 11/07/18]

Allison Brigati Appeared On ABC News 20/20 In 1996 To Defend The RNC After A Videotape Exposed Apparently Discriminatory Behavior At The Party Headquarters—Brigati Refused To Answer If It Was Racist To Have A Black Security Officer Pose In A “Spoof” Of D.C.’s Black Mayor And Played Down Footage Of The RNC’s Finance Director Making Anti-Semitic Comments About Jewish Lawyers.

Allison Brigati Defended The RNC On ABC’s 20/20 After A Videotape Showing Discriminatory Behavior At The Party’s Headquarters Was Unearthed As Part Of A \$21.5 Million Lawsuit Brought By Former RNC Employees.

Allison Brigati Was A Deputy Counsel For The Republican National Committee From May 1994 To January 1998. [[Allison Fahrenkopf Brigati](#), LinkedIn, accessed 11/10/20]

October 4, 1996: ABC News’ 20/20 Reported On A Videotape Of “Off Color Scenes” Taken At An RNC Headquarters Christmas Party. “BARBARA WALTERS: [...] Tonight, we bring you a perfect example - off-color scenes from a videotape that was given to ABC’s chief investigative correspondent Brian Ross by a woman you are about to meet, a long time Republican insider who says that the Republican Party officials don’t always practice what they preach. You’ll see some of these officials on this tape. Is their behavior offensive? Is it appropriate behavior in any workplace? That’s something only you can decide.” [20/20: “Baker [sic] After the Fall,” *ABC News*, 10/04/96]

- **The Video Was Taken At The Previous Year’s Christmas Party At The RNC Headquarters.** “BRIAN ROSS: [voice-over] A 1980 spoof of how to get a job in all its political incorrectness, played just last year at an office Christmas party for 250 people in Washington, D.C. This, at the office where the tape was made, not just any office, but the national headquarters of the Republican Party, where officials say they insist on the highest standards of conduct.” [20/20: “Baker [sic] After the Fall,” *ABC News*, 10/04/96]

The Tape Surfaced As Part Of A Lawsuit Brought By Deborah Henson, A Fundraiser Who Claimed The RNC Discriminated Against Her And Maintained A Culture Where “Homosexuals And Blacks Are Regularly Mocked And That Officials Engage In Lewd Behavior.” “BRIAN ROSS: [voice-over] Debbie Henson’s allegations about what goes on inside the Republican National Committee and the existence of the Republican Christmas party tapes first surfaced earlier this year in a lawsuit Henson filed after her five-month freelance consultant job ended and she was not offered the full-time job she says she had been promised, a charge the Republican Party says has absolutely no merit. [...] BRIAN ROSS: [voice-over] But whatever the

merits of Henson's claim, the lawsuit and the tapes have served to reveal some surprising behavior for a political party that just this August portrayed itself as the party of family values, the party of all Americans.” [20/20: “Baker [sic] After the Fall,” *ABC News*, 10/04/96]

- **The \$21.5 Million Lawsuit Was Brought By Fundraiser Deborah A. Henson And Two Other RNC Employees Who Alleged “Homosexuals And Blacks Are Regularly Mocked And That Officials Engage In Lewd Behavior.”** “Three former workers have offered a court a ghastly portrait of life inside Republican Party headquarters, alleging that homosexuals and blacks are regularly mocked and that officials engage in lewd behavior. The allegations, which the GOP broadly disputes, are included in a lawsuit by fund-raiser Deborah A. Henson that is seeking \$21.5 million from the Republican National Committee. It alleges Henson was not given a full-time job in the party’s finance division because she was overweight and female.” [John Solomon, “[Three Former RNC Workers Portray Headquarters as Lewd, Racist](#),” *Associated Press*, 03/22/96]

Deborah Henson Claimed That RNC Staffers Called Black People “Homeboys” And Jewish People “Jew-Boys.” “IPANNOUNCER: The party of family values and inclusion. BRIAN ROSS: To make fun of people who are black? DEBBIE HENSON: Call them homeboys. BRIAN ROSS: Who are Jewish? DEBBIE HENSON: Jew-boys.” [20/20: “Baker [sic] After the Fall,” *ABC News*, 10/04/96]

Allison Brigati Appeared On The 20/20 Segment To Defend The RNC, Claiming Henson’s Claims Of Discrimination Were “Absolutely Ridiculous,” “It Does Not Happen,” And Henson Was Just “Angry” She Didn’t Get The Job She Wanted:

DEBBIE HENSON: I remember I hadn't been there as a consultant but a month and I was sitting in the finance chairman's office and somebody asked me if I had heard Kevin's imitation of the homeboys and I said no. So they went and they shut the door and, you know, he started telling this story and- and talking like a- like a black person would talk and making the moves and making fun of their names.

BRIAN ROSS: So this is in the office of the finance chairman of the Republican National Committee in Washington, D.C.?

DEBBIE HENSON: Yes.

ALLISON BRIGATI: We don't tolerate harassment, we don't tolerate discrimination.

BRIAN ROSS: Racial slurs?

ALLISON BRIGATI: Absolutely not. We can't afford to.

BRIAN ROSS: [voice-over] Republican National Committee lawyer Allison Brigati says what Debbie Henson describes just never happened.

ALLISON BRIGATI: It's absolutely ridiculous. It does not happen.

BRIAN ROSS: You think she's making it up?

ALLISON BRIGATI: Absolutely.

BRIAN ROSS: Really?

ALLISON BRIGATI: Yeah. I do.

BRIAN ROSS: Why?

ALLISON BRIGATI: She's angry. She wanted the job here, she didn't get it. If all the things that Debbie

Henson has said have taken place, you would think that someone else besides Debbie Henson would have seen them and no one has seen them.”

[20/20: “Baker [sic] After the Fall,” *ABC News*, 10/04/96]

The Video Showed That RNC Employees Had A Black Security Guard Pose As D.C.’s Black Mayor “In An Apparent Spoof” About Soup Lines—20/20 Asked Brigati, “You Don’t Think It’s Denigrating To African-Americans?,” And Brigati Replied, “I- I Can’t Answer That.”

Henson’s Lawsuit Alleged An RNC Employee Was Known For A “Homeboy Impersonation”—And In The Video, RNC Employees Had A Black Security Guard Pose “In An Apparent Spoof” Of Washington D.C.’s Black Mayor. A 20/20 Correspondent Asked Alison Brigati, “You Don’t Think It’s Denigrating To African-Americans?,” And Brigati Replied, “I- I Can’t Answer That.”

BRIAN ROSS: [voice-over] But that's not true according to the testimony of at least two people who used to work with Debbie Henson. One of them, Deputy Finance Director Mary Heitman, acknowledged that one of her employees did, as Henson alleges, perform a kind of homeboy impersonation. And look at last year's Christmas party tape. In an apparent spoof on the black mayor of Washington, the Republicans had a black security guard pose as a candidate for mayor, seeking advice from Kurt Anderson, the current political director of the Republican Party, who asked about the issue of people standing in soup lines.

BRIAN ROSS: How about the portrayal of your security man?

ALLISON BRIGATI: Benny? What about it?

BRIAN ROSS: You're really having fun at his expense, aren't you?

ALLISON BRIGATI: Oh, absolutely not.

BRIAN ROSS: You don't think it's denigrating to African-Americans?

ALLISON BRIGATI: I- I can't answer that.”

[20/20: “Baker [sic] After the Fall,” *ABC News*, 10/04/96]

The Video Showed RNC’s Finance Director Claiming He Could “Give Away Bundles Of Money Because He Found Some Non-Jewish Lawyers To Okay It”—Brigati Said Some May Find It Offensive And “Some May Find It To Be A- A Spoof, Like I’ve Said Over And Over And Over Again.”

The Video Showed The RNC’s Finance Director Claiming “He’s Able To Give Away Bundles Of Money Because He Found Some Non-Jewish Lawyers To Okay It.” Allison Brigati Defended The Clip, “Some May Find It [Offensive To Jewish People], Some May Find It To Be A- A Spoof, Like I’ve Said Over And Over And Over Again.”

BRIAN ROSS: [voice-over] Among other scenes Paskoff found offensive were those with references to Jews, like this one featuring Jews who are staff members celebrating Hanukah.

5th EMPLOYEE: Oh, my God.

6th EMPLOYEE: A Rolex? Honey, how can you afford such things?

7th EMPLOYEE: Just a little walking around money.

BRIAN ROSS: [voice-over] And then there's this scene with finance director Mitchler.

ALBERT MITCHLER: Check with our two non-Jewish attorneys upstairs.

BRIAN ROSS: [voice-over] Saying he's able to give away bundles of money because he found some non-Jewish lawyers to okay it. @PGPH [interviewing] Do you find that offensive to people who are Jewish?

ALLISON BRIGATI: Some may find it so, some may find it to be a- a spoof, like I've said over and over and over again.

BRIAN ROSS: Just a spoof?

ALLISON BRIGATI: Yeah.

[20/20: "Baker [sic] After the Fall," *ABC News*, 10/04/96]

While An RNC Lawyer, Allison Brigati Also Threatened To Sue Two Artists Who Made Underwear Satirizing Then-House Speaker Newt Gingrich And Represented The Party In Part Of An Investigation Into 1996 Federal Campaign Activity.

While A Lawyer For The Republican National Committee, Alison Brigati Threatened To Sue Two Artists Who Made Underwear Printed With Then-Speaker Newt Gingrich's Face And His "Contract With America"—Defending The Artists, The ACLU Said The Underwear Was "A Classic Example Of Political Satire."

Allison Brigati Was A Deputy Counsel For The Republican National Committee From May 1994 To January 1998. [[Allison Fahrenkopf Brigati](#), LinkedIn, accessed 11/10/20]

May 1995: Allison Brigati Sent A Letter On Behalf Of The RNC Demanding That Two Artists Cease Using The Face Of Then-House Speaker Newt Gingrich And The Full Text Of His "Contract With America" On Underwear They Were Selling. "It may be comfy and 100 percent cotton, but underwear bearing the text of the 'Contract With America' apparently rubs the Republican National Committee the wrong way. Two New York artists who created limited-edition silk-screened undies with House Speaker Newt Gingrich's face on the front and all 10 points of the GOP's agenda on the back have received a letter from the RNC threatening legal action. An April 20 letter from Allison Fahrenkopf Brigati, the RNC associate counsel, cautions artists Marshall Reese and Nora Ligorano that the 'contract' logo and text are protected by federal copyright and trademark." [Nita Lelyveld, "[Contract With America Underwear Rubs Republicans the Wrong Way](#)," *Associated Press*, 05/24/95]

The Letter Asked The Artists To Cease Using The "Contract With America" Language On The Underwear And Threatened The RNC Might Have To "Take The Appropriate Legal Action" If They Refused To Comply. "The letter asks the artists to immediately discontinue using the text in their work and adds that 'continued unauthorized use by your company will force the Republican National Committee to take the appropriate legal action.'" [Nita Lelyveld, "[Contract With America Underwear Rubs Republicans the Wrong Way](#)," *Associated Press*, 05/24/95]

The American Civil Liberties Union Defended The Artists And Claimed The Underwear Was "A Classic Example Of Political Satire." "The ACLU Arts Censorship Program and cooperating attorney Elizabeth

McNamara, responding on behalf of the artists, sent the RNC a letter arguing that the briefs are ‘a classic example of political satire.’” [Nita Lelyveld, [“Contract With America Underwear Rubs Republicans the Wrong Way,” Associated Press, 05/24/95](#)]

1997: Allison Brigati Represented The RNC In A Deposition For The Senate’s Special Investigation Into “Illegal Or Improper Activities” Related To 1996 Federal Election Campaigns.

Allison Brigati Represented The Republican National Committee In A Deposition Conducted On July 11, 1997 As Part Of A Special Investigation Into “Illegal Or Improper Activities In Connection With 1996 Federal Election Campaigns” By The Senate Committee On Governmental Affairs. [[Deposition of Scott Reed, Investigation of Illegal or Improper Activities in Connection With 1996 Federal Election Campaigns](#), Senate Committee On Governmental Affairs via Google Books, 07/11/97, Pg. 6335]

Allison Brigati’s Family Is Deeply Connected To The Republican Party—Her Father Served A Historically Long Tenure As RNC Chair During Most Of The Reagan Years, Her Sister Was A High-Level White House Lawyer For George W. Bush, And Her Sister’s Husband Was An Ambassador And Senior Official In The Bush Administration.

Allison Brigati’s Father Frank Fahrenkopf Had A Historically Long Tenure As RNC Chair During The Reagan Administration And Created The “Political Playbook For ‘Vice Industries’” While Head Of The American Gaming Association.

Allison Brigati Is The Daughter Of Frank Fahrenkopf, Who Has Been RNC Chair, President And CEO Of The American Gaming Association, And Co-Chairman Of The Commission On Presidential Debates. “Allison Brigati is now the bank’s “senior counselor for U.S. Affairs,” serving right under Suzanne Rich Folsom, one of Wolfie’s top advisers — and herself the wife of former International Republican Institute chairman George Folsom. You wouldn’t know from the World Bank’s own propaganda arm that Brigati is the daughter of Frank Fahrenkopf, the former GOP national chairman who is now president and CEO of the American Gaming Association and co-chairman of the Commission on Presidential Debates, which undemocratically squeezes rules to protect the two major parties from third-party challenges.” [Ward Harkavy, [“Morning Report 1/26/06 Top Gambling Lobbyist’s Daughter Probes Corruption at World Bank,” The Village Voice, 01/26/06](#)]

Frank Fahrenkopf Was RNC Chairman For Six Of Ronald Reagan’s Eight Years As President, And When He Retired In 1989 His Tenure In That Role Was The Longest In The 20th Century And Second-Longest In Party History. “A lawyer by profession, Fahrenkopf gained national prominence during the 1980s when he served as chairman of the Republican national party for six of President Ronald Reagan’s eight years in the White House (1983 to 1989). When Fahrenkopf retired in January 1989, he has served as chairman of the Republican National Committee longer than any person in the 20th century (and second-longest in the history of the party) and led the party through two successful presidential campaigns in 1984 and 1988.” [[“Frank Fahrenkopf,” George Washington University, accessed 11/10/20](#)]

While Head Of The American Gaming Association, Frank Fahrenkopf Created The “Political Playbook For ‘Vice Industries.’” “Frank Fahrenkopf Looks Back on Having Helped Casinos Expand by Creating a Political Playbook for ‘Vice Industries’ [...] Mr. Fahrenkopf, who retired last weekend from the AGA at the age of 73, created something of a playbook for so-called vice industries hoping to expand their reach in the U.S.” [Alexandra Berzon, [“Gambling Lobbyist Hands Over the Reins,” The Wall Street Journal, 07/04/13](#)]

Allison Brigati's Sister Leslie Fahrenkopf Foley Was A White House Lawyer For George W. Bush For Five Years, Where She Counseled On Supreme Court Nominations For Justices Roberts And Alito—Brigati's Sister Is Also Married To A Two-Time GOP Gubernatorial Candidate And Former Ambassador And Senior Official In The Bush Administration.

Allison Brigati's Sister Leslie Fahrenkopf Foley "Spent Nearly Five Years In The White House Counsel's Office Under President George W. Bush," Where She Counseled On The Supreme Court Nominations For Justices John Roberts And Alito And Dealt With Federal Agencies. "A graduate of Yale and the University of Virginia law school, Foley worked at two of the nation's largest law firms and then spent nearly five years in the White House counsel's office under President George W. Bush. Her duties included dealing with financial agencies like the Treasury Department and the Federal Reserve Board, and providing counsel on the nominations of U.S. Supreme Court Justices John Roberts and Samuel Alito. The two conservative justices have had a major impact on the nation's highest court in recent years in many high-profile decisions, including campaign finance, gun rights, the death penalty, President Barack Obama's health care law and religious freedom." [Christopher Keating, "[Leslie Fahrenkopf Foley: From White House To CT Campaign](#)," *Hartford Courant*, 10/12/14]

- **Allison Brigati Is A Sister To Leslie Fahrenkopf Foley.** "He and his wife, the former Mary Bandoni, have three daughters: Allison, a Washington, D.C., attorney; Leslie, former associate White House Counsel to President George W. Bush; and Amy, a pediatrician working at McKinsey & Company, Inc on public health matters." [[Frank Fahrenkopf](#)," Harvard Kennedy School, accessed 11/10/20]

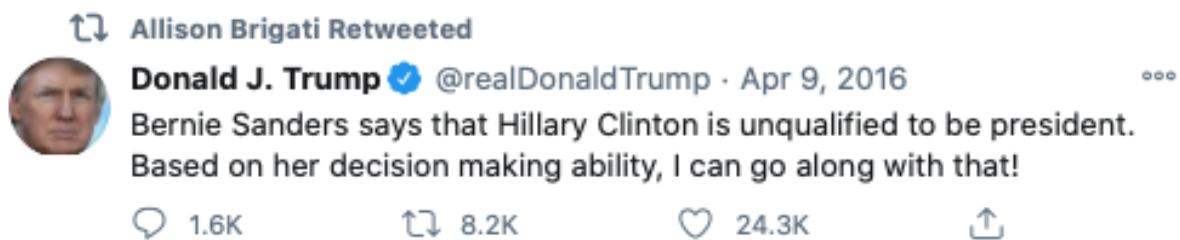
Allison Brigati's Sister Has Been Married To Tom Foley, Who Has Twice Been The Republican Gubernatorial Candidate In Connecticut And Served In The George W. Bush Administration As Ambassador To Ireland And A Senior Private Sector Development Official In Iraq. "When she was 14, her father became chairman of the Republican National Committee. [...] Leslie Fahrenkopf Foley has led a multi-faceted life with a rare insider's view as the daughter of a national political insider and as an attorney who has held high-level posts all the way to the White House. But now she is known to the general public mainly for her roles in television commercials touting her husband, Republican Tom Foley, who is running for governor in a rematch against incumbent Democrat Dannel [sic] P. Malloy." [Christopher Keating, "[Leslie Fahrenkopf Foley: From White House To CT Campaign](#)," *Hartford Courant*, 10/12/14]

- **Tom Foley Has Been The Republican Gubernatorial Candidate In Connecticut Twice.** "Around that time, Tom Foley, who also has an adult son from a previous marriage, started thinking about running for office for the first time — after many years as a behind-the-scenes Republican fundraiser. Foley started out running for the U.S. Senate seat against Democrat Chris Dodd in 2009 but then switched to run for governor when Republican M. Jodi Rell said she was not seeking re-election." [Christopher Keating, "[Leslie Fahrenkopf Foley: From White House To CT Campaign](#)," *Hartford Courant*, 10/12/14]
- **During The George W. Bush Administration, Tom Foley Was The U.S. Ambassador To Ireland And The Director Of Private Sector Development For The Coalition Provisional Authority In Iraq.** "Ambassador Thomas C. Foley served as United States Ambassador to Ireland from 2006-2009. Before entering government service, Mr. Foley was in business having worked in New York at McKinsey & Company and then Citicorp Venture Capital before founding NTC Group, a private equity investing business, in 1985. [...] From August, 2003 through March, 2004, Mr. Foley served in Iraq as the Director of Private Sector Development for the Coalition Provisional Authority. " [[Thomas C. Foley](#)," Council of American Ambassadors, accessed 11/10/20]

Allison Brigati's Political Twitter Activity Includes Retweeting Donald Trump's Claim That Hillary Clinton Was "Unqualified" And Liking Several Recent Claims By Fox News Figure Brit Hume—including A Tweet Disputing The Need For Political Healing, An Affirmation Of AG Barr's Characterization Of Media As A "Collection Of Liars," And A Claim That The Role Of The Press Is Not To Hold Officials Accountable.

Well Before Trump Became The Republican Presidential Nominee In 2016, Allison Brigati Retweeted His Claim That Hillary Clinton Was Unqualified To Be President.

Allison Brigati Retweeted An April 9, 2016 Tweet By Donald Trump Claiming That Hillary Clinton Is Unqualified To Be President.



[[Retweet by Allison Brigati](#), 04/09/16, accessed 11/10/20]

Donald Trump Became The Republican Presidential Nominee On July 19, 2016. [Andrew Rafferty, "[It's Official: Trump Wins GOP Presidential Nomination](#)," *NBC News*, 07/19/16]

Well After The 2020 Presidential Election, Allison Brigati Liked A Tweet By Fox News Personality Brit Hume Disputing The Need For Political Healing.

Allison Brigati Liked A November 8, 2020 Tweet By Fox News Personality Brit Hume That Said, "Good Point!," Regarding A Political Tweet From Former Bush Press Secretary Ari Fleischer That Said Disputed Calls To "Heal":



[[Tweet Liked by Allison Brigati](#), 11/08/20, accessed 11/10/20]

- **Brit Hume Is A Senior Political Analyst On Fox News Channel.** "Brit Hume currently serves as a senior political analyst for FOX News Channel (FNC). He acts as a regular panelist on FOX's weekly public affairs program, *FOX News Sunday*, and contributes to all major political coverage. He joined the network in 1996." [[Brit Hume](#)," Fox News, accessed 11/10/20]

- **Ari Fleischer Was White House Press Secretary In The George W. Bush Administration.** “As former White House press secretary, Ari Fleischer was the primary spokesperson for President Bush.” [[“About Us,”](#) Ari Fleischer Communications, accessed 11/10/20]

The 2020 Presidential Election Was On November 3, 2020. “The 2020 presidential election is scheduled for November 3.” [[“2020 Presidential Election Calendar,”](#) 270 To Win, accessed 11/09/20]

Allison Brigati Liked A September 2020 Tweet By Brit Hume That Said Trump Attorney General William Barr Was Not Wrong About His Claim That The National Media Was A “Collection Of Liars.”

Allison Brigati Liked A Tweet By Fox News Personality Brit Hume That Said “I Wish He Were Wrong. But He’s Not.,” Regarding An Article Claiming Trump Attorney General William Called The National Media As A “Collection Of Liars.”



[[Tweet Liked by Allison Brigati](#), 09/14/20, accessed 11/20/20]

Allison Brigati Liked A Late August 2020 Tweet By Brit Hume Arguing That The Press’ Role Is Not To Hold Officials Accountable.

Allison Brigati Liked A Tweet By Fox News Personality Brit Hume Arguing That The Role Of Press Is Not To Hold Officials Accountable.



Brit Hume ✓ @brithume · Aug 21

Actually, no. The press is a source of information for the public. It's the public's job to hold officials accountable. Journalists, of course, like the way Obama put it because it makes them seem more important.



Wolf Blitzer ✓ @wolfblitzer · Aug 21

It didn't get much attention the other night but this line from former President @BarackObama's convention speech was important: "A free press isn't the 'enemy' but the way we hold officials accountable."

1.3K

7.6K

23K



[[Tweet Liked by Allison Brigati](#), 08/21/20, accessed 11/10/20]

GSA General Counsel Trent Benishek—A Former White House Lawyer Who Helped Defend Trump Against Impeachment—Has A History Of Working For His Pro-Trump Uncle’s Congressional Campaigns

GSA General Counsel Trent Benishek Was Previously A High-Ranking Lawyer For President Donald Trump’s And Was Listed Among The Few White House Lawyers Who Defended Trump Against Impeachment.

Trent Benishek, The General Services Administration’s (GSA’s) General Counsel, Is “The Chief Legal Advisor To The GSA Administrator”—His Appointment Was Announced Less Than A Week Before The 2020 Presidential Election.

Trent J. Benishek Is The U.S. General Services Administration’s General Counsel And Serves As “The Chief Legal Advisor To The GSA Administrator.” “The U.S. General Services Administration today announced the appointment of Trent J. Benishek as general counsel. Benishek will oversee the agency’s Office of General Counsel, which consists of 137 attorneys nationwide, and serve as the chief legal advisor to the GSA administrator.” [[Press Release](#), U.S. General Services Administration, 10/29/20]

- **Trent Benishek’s GSA Appointment Was Announced Less Than A Week Before The 2020 Presidential Election.** “The 2020 presidential election is scheduled for November 3.” [[“2020 Presidential Election Calendar,”](#) *270 To Win*, accessed 11/09/20]

A Senior Administration Official Called Benishek’s GSA Appointment “A Normal Move.” “The senior administration official described his hiring as ‘a normal move’ and a career opportunity with more responsibility and higher pay.” [Lisa Rein et al., "[White House, escalating tensions, orders agencies to rebuff Biden transition team](#),” *The Washington Post*, 11/09/20]

Benishek Now Manages 137 GSA Lawyers And “Is Likely To Be In The Middle Of Decisions About The Transition.”

Trent Benishek Now Manages 137 GSA Lawyers And “Is Likely To Be In The Middle Of Decisions About The Transition.” “Murphy and her allies are pushing back on Democrats’ claims that the Trump administration had political motives when it installed a new general counsel at the GSA five days before the election. Trent Benishek had been a special assistant in the Office of White House Counsel and was dispatched to the GSA soon after the agency’s previous chief attorney left to pursue a job in the private sector. Benishek now oversees 137 lawyers and, as the chief legal adviser, is likely to be in the middle of decisions about the transition.” [Lisa Rein et al., “[White House, escalating tensions, orders agencies to rebuff Biden transition team](#),” *The Washington Post*, 11/09/20]

As Of November 9, 2020, It Was “Unclear” How Benishek’s Appointment Would Affect How GSA Ascertains The Presidential Election Winner. “Kate Shaw, law professor at Cardozo School of Law who worked in the White House Counsel’s office during the Obama administration, noted that a new general counsel was installed at GSA 10 days ago who came from the White House counsel’s office. It is unclear how, if at all, this could affect GSA’s ascertainment process.” [Courtney Bubl , “[GSA Faces Pressure to Recognize Biden as Election Winner, Hand Over Keys to Formally Start Transition](#),” *Government Executive*, 11/09/20]

Trent Benishek Was Previously A Special Assistant And Associate Counsel To President Donald Trump—Benishek Was Listed As One Of Trump’s Lawyers In The 2019 - 2020 Impeachment Proceedings.

Previously, Trent Benishek Was A Special Assistant And Associate Counsel To President Donald Trump. “Prior to joining GSA, Benishek served in the Office of White House Counsel as special assistant to the president and associate counsel to the president. In that role, he supervised oversight matters involving eight federal agencies and, among other duties, managed matters involving the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Ethics in Government Act, Federal Tort Claims Act, and Freedom of Information Act.” [[Press Release](#), U.S. General Services Administration, 10/29/20]

- **Benishek Was In Donald Trump’s White House Counsel’s Office.** “Two former associates—Coreen Mao and Trent Benishek—jumped this year to the Trump White House counsel’s office. At the White House, they joined Chad Mizelle, another former associate at the firm.” [Mike Scarcella, “[Acosta’s Dinner Guests Once Included Gene Scalia, Now On Deck to Lead Labor](#),” *ThinkAdvisor*, 07/19/19]

Trent Benishek Was Listed As One Of The Lawyers In The Office Of White House On A Trial Memorandum For President Trump, Concerning Impeachment. [“[Trial Memorandum of President Donald J. Trump](#),” The White House, 01/20/20]

- **The White House Counsel’s Office Reportedly “Spearheaded” The White House’s Impeachment Response.** “In the three months since the impeachment inquiry began, the [White House] counsel’s office has spearheaded the White House’s response, writing blistering letters to Democrats declining to cooperate with their demands for documents, arguing that witnesses need not testify before the House and meeting with Republican senators to prepare for a trial, expected next month.” [Wall Street Journal, [12/29/19](#)]

Previously, Trent Benishek Spent 8 Years At Corporate Law Firm Gibson Dunn, Where He Defended Clients Against Congressional Investigations—Gibson Dunn Has Also Produced Multiple Senior Trump Officials, Including Labor Secretary Eugene Scalia.

Before Entering Trump’s White House, Trent Benishek Spent 8 Years As A Corporate Lawyer Defending Clients Against Congressional Investigation And State And Federal Lawsuits—Benishek’s Firm Has Produced Multiple Senior Trump Officials, Including Labor Secretary Scalia.

Trent Benishek Was Previously A Lawyer At Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP For 8 Years. “Benishek previously worked as an attorney at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP in Washington, D.C. for eight years.” [[Press Release](#), U.S. General Services Administration, 10/29/20]

- **Trent Benishek “Represented Clients In A Variety Of Complex Litigation Matters Before State And Federal Courts, As Well As In Investigations By Various Congressional Committees.”** “A senior associate in the Washington, D.C. office and a member of the firm’s Litigation Department, Mr. Benishek has represented clients in a variety of complex litigation matters before state and federal courts, as well as in investigations by various congressional committees.” [[Press Release](#), Gibson Dunn, 03/30/17]

Trent Benishek Was One Of The Panelists On A Gibson Dunn Presentation Titled, “Congressional Investigations 2017: What to Expect in the 115th Congress.” [[“Congressional Investigations 2017: What to Expect in the 115th Congress,”](#) Gibson Dunn, 03/30/17]

Trent Benishek, Along With Soon-To-Be Labor Secretary Eugene Scalia, Was One Of A “Handful Of Gibson Dunn Attorneys” To Serve In The Trump Administration—As Of July 2019, At Least 9 Gibson Dunn Lawyers Had Taken Or Been Asked To Take Positions In The Trump Administration. “Scalia would be only one of a handful of Gibson Dunn attorneys to hold a leadership post in the Trump administration. Gibson Dunn appellate veteran Helgi Walker was informally approached last year about succeeding Rachel Brand as third-in-command at Main Justice, but she said she wasn’t interested in the post at the time. Theodore Olson turned down the opportunity to join Trump’s legal team. In California, former Gibson Dunn partner Nicola Hanna serves as the U.S. attorney in Sacramento, and former associate Scott Stewart is a deputy assistant attorney general in the Justice Department’s civil division. Two former associates—Coreen Mao and Trent Benishek—jumped this year to the Trump White House counsel’s office. At the White House, they joined Chad Mizelle, another former associate at the firm.” [Mike Scarcella, [“Acosta’s Dinner Guests Once Included Gene Scalia, Now On Deck to Lead Labor,”](#) *ThinkAdvisor*, 07/19/19]

Trent Benishek Was Also A Press Secretary And Treasurer For His Uncle Rep. Dan Benishek’s (R-MI) Political Campaigns—Dan Benishek, Once A “Tea Party Favorite” And Endorsed By Sarah Palin, Enthusiastically Backed President Trump’s Campaign In 2016.

Trent Benishek, The Nephew Of Former Rep. Dan Benishek (R-MI), Was A Press Secretary For His Uncle’s 2010 Campaign And Was Its Treasurer As Late As January 2016.

Trent Benishek, The Nephew Of Former Rep. Dan Benishek (R-MI), Was Paid Over \$5,000 In Wages By His Uncle’s Political Campaign. “Trent Benishek (nephew): During the 2010 election cycle, Rep. Benishek’s campaign committee paid Mr. Benishek \$5,077 in wages.” [[Family Affair](#),” Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, accessed 11/09/20]

- **Dan Benishek (R-MI) Was A U.S. Representative From 2011 To 2017.** [[“Benishek, Dan,”](#) *U.S. House of Representatives*, accessed 11/09/20]
- **Dan Benishek Was A “Tea Party Favorite,” Endorsed By Sarah Palin.** “If the 2012 election for Michigan’s 1st Congressional district were to happen tomorrow, the one-time Tea Party favorite,

Republican Dr. Dan Benishek, might have trouble holding on to the seat he took over from Democrat Bart Stupak two years ago. [...] Benishek’s work as a doctor seemed to add credibility to his criticism of the federal health care reforms and with help from a burgeoning network of Tea Party groups in the district, and an endorsement from Sarah Palin, he achieved a 15-vote victory in what ended up as a six-way primary.” [Eartha Melzer, “[House Races to Watch: Palin-Endorsed Candidate in Hot Water with Michigan Tea Party](#),” WNYC, 08/12/11]

Trent Benishek Was A Press Secretary For Dan Benishek’s First Successful Congressional Campaign In 2010. “Prior to joining Gibson Dunn, Mr. Benishek served as the press secretary on a successful campaign for the U.S. House of Representatives, where he focused on earned media and messaging strategy, debate preparation, and policy development.” [“[Webcast: Congressional Investigations: Where is the 115th Congress Heading?](#),” Gibson Dunn, 03/30/17]

- **As Early As 2010, Trent Benishek Was Identified As Press Secretary For Dan Benishek’s Congressional Campaign.** “Campaign Press Secretary Trent Benishek added: ‘Since Gary McDowell can’t run on his Lansing record of voting to raise taxes, nor his support of the Obama-Pelosi agenda, his only recourse is a game of misdirection which is typical of a 27-year career politician. Dr. Benishek is confident that voters won’t be fooled by Gary McDowell’s malicious attacks.’ Dr. Dan Benishek is a surgeon from Iron River, Michigan and the Republican nominee for Congress in Michigan’s 1st Congressional District.” [“[Benishek cries foul over attack ad](#),” SOOToday.com, 09/30/10]

As Of January 28, 2016, Trent J. Benishek Was The Treasurer For Benishek For Congress Inc. [[Benishek for Congress Inc. Statement of Organization](#), Federal Election Commission, 01/28/16]

Rep. Dan Benishek Endorsed Donald Trump’s 2016 Campaign Even Though He Was About To Leave Office—Benishek Claimed Trump Was “Going To Shake Things Up, He’s Not Politically Correct [...]”

In 2016, Rep. Dan Benishek (R-MI) Endorsed Donald Trump For President, Claiming, “He’s Going To Shake Things Up, He’s Not Politically Correct, He’s Out There, He Says What It Is [...]” “Dan Benishek: Endorsing Trump In July, Benishek told WLUC-TV: ‘Of course, I’m endorsing Mr. Trump,’ Benishek said. ‘I think he’s the best guy to change what’s happening in Washington, and we certainly need that. He’s going to shake things up, he’s not politically correct, he’s out there, he says what it is and I’m looking forward to the election.’ Benishek’s office said this week he is continuing to endorse Trump.” [Julie Mack, “[See if Donald Trump still has support among Michigan’s members of Congress](#),” MLive, 10/14/16]

- **Dan Benishek Did Not Seek Re-Election In The 2016 Election.** “The congressman is not seeking re-election in November.” [Julie Mack, “[See if Donald Trump still has support among Michigan’s members of Congress](#),” MLive, 10/14/16]
- **Dan Benishek Announced His Retirement In September 2015.** [Emily Cahn, “[Dan Benishek to Retire in 2016 \(Updated\)](#),” Roll Call, 09/15/15]

GSA Chief Of Staff Robert Borden—A Career Republican Operative And Architect Of The Hyper-Partisan Benghazi Investigation—Was Involved In GSA’s FBI Headquarter Controversy

GSA Chief Of Staff Robert Borden Biographical And Employment Background

DATES	POSITION	EMPLOYER	SOURCE
June 2018-Present	Chief of Staff	General Services Administration	LinkedIn
July 2017-June 2018	Deputy Staff Director	Committee on Oversight and Government Reform	LinkedIn
July 2016-June 2017	Legal Counsel	Office of the Clerk	LinkedIn
December 2015-July 2016	Senior Advisor	Select Committee on Benghazi	LinkedIn
March 2013-December 2015	Director of Oversight	Speaker John Boehner and Majority Leaders Eric Cantor and Kevin McCarthy	LinkedIn
August 2009-March 2013	General Counsel	Committee on Oversight and Government Reform	LinkedIn
March 2006-August 2009	General Counsel	Committee on Education and the Workforce	LinkedIn
September 2005-Mach	Special Counsel	Select Bipartisan Committee to Investigate the Preparation for and Response to Hurricane Katrina	LinkedIn
April 2003-March 2006	Senior Counsel and Parliamentarian	Committee on Oversight and Government Reform	LinkedIn
March 2001-April 2003	Counsel	Committee on the Budget	LinkedIn
January 1995-March 2001	Professional Staff Member	Committee on Education and the Workforce	LinkedIn

Education

Robert Borden Received A B.A. In Political Science From Dickinson College. [[Robert Borden](#), LinkedIn, accessed 11/10/20]

Robert Borden Received A J.D. From The American University Washington College Of Law. [[Robert Borden](#), LinkedIn, accessed 11/10/20]

Robert Borden Is A Member Of The Virginia State Bar. [[Robert Borden](#), LinkedIn, accessed 11/10/20]

From July 2017 To June 2018, As Deputy Staff Director To The House Oversight Committee, Robert Borden Oversaw The Committee’s Day-To-Day Operations, Developed The Committee’s Legislative Agenda, And “Was The Primary Staff Liaison With House Leadership And The Administration.”

As The Deputy Staff Director To The Committee On Oversight And Government Reform, Robert Borden “Oversaw The Day-To-Day Operations Of The Committee Staff,” Developed The Committee’s Legislative Agenda, And “Was The Primary Staff Liaison With House Leadership And The Administration.” As the Deputy Staff Director to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Robert Borden “Oversaw the day-to-day operations of the committee staff, managed the committee budget, developed and super-vised the execution of the committee’s legislative agenda, and was the primary staff liaison with House leadership and the Administration. Served as the acting Staff Director for three months.

- “Rebuilt the professional staff of the committee after a period of turmoil and high turnover and developed the committee’s staff performance review process.
- “Negotiated with the Administration (White House and multiple agencies) over document and witness production requests made by the committee.”

[[Robert Borden](#), LinkedIn, accessed 11/10/20]

- **From July 2017 To June 2018, Robert Borden Was The Deputy Staff Director To The House Committee On Oversight And Government Reform.** [[Robert Borden](#), LinkedIn, accessed 11/10/20]

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- “Developed committee’s recommendations on compliance with congressional oversight.
- “Negotiated with White House, Departments of Defense and State, and CIA over access to witnesses and documents.”

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As Director Of Oversight To House Republican Leadership, Robert Borden “Developed Oversight Priorities” Which Included “Oversight Of The Affordable Care Act” And Investigating “The Benghazi Attacks.”

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- “Coordinated multi-committee oversight efforts including oversight of the Affordable Care Act, the investigation into the Benghazi attacks, and the investigation of the IRS targeting scandal.
- “Increased from one to five the number of committees with staff deposition authority; doubled the number of committees with chairmen’s subpoena authority.”

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Robert Borden Has Given \$2,830 To Republican Candidates Since 2012.

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CONTRIBUTOR	RECIPIENT	DATE	AMOUNT
Robert Borden	Romney Victory Inc	9/30/12	\$ 40
Robert Borden	Romney Victory Inc	8/13/12	\$ 500
Robert Borden	Romney For President Inc.	8/13/12	\$ 500
Robert Borden	Romney For President Inc.	9/30/12	\$ 40
Robert Borden	Romney For President Inc.	10/18/12	\$ 250
Robert Borden	Ed Gillespie For Senate	3/29/14	\$ 250
Robert Borden	Marco Rubio For President	2/14/16	\$ 250
Robert Borden	Darrell Issa For Congress	12/23/19	\$ 500
Robert Borden	Darrell Issa For Congress	5/25/20	\$ 500
TOTAL			\$2,830

As The GSA’s Inspector General Investigated The Controversy Over The Decision To Keep The FBI Headquarters Near Trump’s D.C. Hotel, Robert Borden Gave Answers That Conflicted With Other GSA Officials—Shortly After, The IG Found That GSA Administrator Emily Murphy “May Have Misled Congress” In Failing To Disclose She Met With Trump About The FBI Headquarters.

July 2018: The GSA’s Inspector General Investigated Meetings Between GSA’s Officials And The Trump White House To Discuss Keeping The FBI Headquarters At Its Current Location, Where It Could Benefit Trump’s D.C. Hotel.

July 2018: A GSA Inspector General Report Said Donald Trump Met With The Agency’s Officials, Including GSA Administrator Emily Murphy, To Discuss Plans To Move The FBI Headquarters From Its Current Location Near Trump’s D.C. Hotel. “President Donald Trump met twice with government officials who decided to build a new FBI headquarters across Pennsylvania Avenue from Trump International Hotel, according to a watchdog report Monday. But the General Services Administration’s inspector general said officials refused to disclose what Trump said in the meetings before and after the decision to keep the FBI offices located near the hotel. [...] The agency’s inspector general, Carol Ochoa, reported that GSA Administrator Emily Murphy met with Trump and others in the Oval Office on Jan. 24 to discuss the project. The “free flow discussion” was about demolishing the J. Edgar Hoover Building and rebuilding at the site, Murphy told the inspector general.” [Burt Jansen, “[President Donald Trump met twice with officials over replacing FBI headquarters, watchdog says](#),” *USA Today*, 08/27/18]

- **Donald Trump And The GSA “Abruptly Canceled” Plans To Move The FBI Headquarters From A Site Near Trump’s D.C. Hotel, Sparking Allegations That Trump Was Trying To Block A Competing Hotel From Being Built On The Former FBI Site.** “Trump has personally intervened in the most prominent real estate project in the agency’s entire portfolio: the plan to build a new FBI headquarters that would allow the bureau out of the crumbling and insecure J. Edgar Hoover Building. During his first year in office, Trump and the GSA abruptly canceled a bipartisan plan to build a new suburban headquarters for the agency, infuriating Democrats who had worked more than a decade on the project and who alleged that Trump canceled the project so a competing hotel could never be built in place of the Hoover building, a site down the street from his hotel.” [Lisa Rein, Jonathan

O'Connell and Josh Dawsey, "[A little-known Trump appointee is in charge of handing transition resources to Biden — and she isn't budging,](#)" *The Washington Post*, 11/08/20]

Robert Borden Told The GSA's Inspector General That His Agency And The FBI Had Already Made A Decision About The Headquarters Well Before Meeting With The Trump White House.

Borden Told The Inspector General That, Before The White House Meetings, GSA And FBI Officials Had Agreed To Keep The FBI Headquarters At Its Current Location. "But Borden's reply to the inspector general's report said the GSA worked diligently with the FBI to ensure the project is managed in the country's best interest. The decision to stay at the current location resulted from months of meetings with new leadership at the FBI, he said. 'The GSA and FBI representatives attending the January 24 White House meetings had already agreed and decided to locate the new headquarters at 935 Pennsylvania Ave. NW in Washington, D.C.,' Borden wrote." [Burt Jansen, "[President Donald Trump met twice with officials over replacing FBI headquarters, watchdog says,](#)" *USA Today*, 08/27/18]

August 2018: GSA's Inspector General Found That The Agency's Administrator Emily Murphy "May Have Misled Congress" In Failing To Disclose She Met With Trump About The FBI Headquarters.

In August 2018, GSA's Inspector General Found That Emily Murphy "May Have Misled Congress" In Failing To Disclose That She Met With Donald Trump To Discuss The FBI Headquarters Project. "Now the inspector general of the GSA says in a report that the head of the agency, Emily Murphy, may have misled Congress. During a hearing, she failed to disclose that she had met with President Trump at the White House to discuss the FBI project." [Brian Naylor, "[Government Watchdog Raises Questions About Trump's Decision Not To Move FBI,](#)" *NPR*, 08/28/18]

The Inspector General's Report Said, "We Found That Murphy's Congressional Testimony Was Incomplete And May Have Left The Misleading Impression That She Had No Discussions With White House Officials In The Decision- Making Process About The Project." ["[Review of GSA's Revised Plan for the Federal Bureau of Investigation Headquarters Consolidation Project,](#)" U.S. General Services Administration Office of Inspector General, 08/27/18]

Prior To Joining GSA, Robert Borden Was An Architect Of The Partisan Investigations Into The Attack On US Personnel In Benghazi.

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The House Select Committee On Benghazi’s Investigation Was “One Of The Longest, Costliest And Most Bitterly Partisan Congressional Investigations In History.”

The House Select Committee On Benghazi’s Investigation Was “One Of The Longest, Costliest And Most Bitterly Partisan Congressional Investigations In History.” “Ending one of the longest, costliest and most bitterly partisan congressional investigations in history, the House Select Committee on Benghazi issued its final report on Tuesday, finding no new evidence of culpability or wrongdoing by Hillary Clinton in the 2012 attacks in Libya that left four Americans dead.” [David Herszenhorn, “[House Benghazi Report Finds No New Evidence of Wrongdoing by Hillary Clinton](#),” *The New York Times*, 06/28/16]

The Committee’s Investigation Cost Over \$7 Million And The Final Report Found No “Professional Misconduct Or Dereliction Of Duty” Tied To The Fall Out From The Benghazi Attacks.

The Committee’s Investigation Cost Over \$7 Million And There Was No “Clear Finding Of Professional Misconduct Or Dereliction Of Duty” In The Final Report. “But the lack of any clear finding of professional misconduct or dereliction of duty was certain to fuel further criticism of the length of the investigation — more than two years — and the expense, estimated at more than \$7 million. It also bolstered Democrats’ allegations that the inquiry was specifically intended to damage Mrs. Clinton’s presidential prospects.” [David Herszenhorn, “[House Benghazi Report Finds No New Evidence of Wrongdoing by Hillary Clinton](#),” *The New York Times*, 06/28/16]