

# Research Report

**ENEMIES OF PROGRESS:  
CONSERVATIVE STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL  
ARE THWARTING THE RECOVERY AND  
PUTTING THEIR DONORS BEFORE  
THEIR CONSTITUENTS**

**ACCOUNTABLE** 

**SUMMARY:** The nation's most prominent conservative state attorneys general—many of whom worked to [overturn the 2020 election](#) on behalf of Donald Trump, were tied to groups behind the [deadly January 6th insurrection](#), [immediately threatened](#) to fight the Biden administration, and have since filed [a slew of multistate lawsuits](#) challenging the president's agenda—have already established themselves as opponents of the progressive reforms that the American people [strongly support](#).

As these attorneys general work to thwart our nation's recovery from the pandemic and the worst economic crisis [since the Great Depression](#), their constituents should be aware of these officials' true interests: **their campaign donors**. An Accountable.US review has found that at least 13 conservative attorneys general have consistently acted on behalf of the industries and wealthy contributors backing their political aspirations. *These include:*

- **Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton** Has [Repeatedly Used His Office](#) To Defend Oil And Gas Interests After Taking Over [\\$3 Million](#) From The Industry—And He Even [Intervened](#) On Behalf Of Nine Texas Donors Who Own Property In A Remote Colorado County When The Local Government Issued A COVID-19 Ban Against Visits From Nonresident Property Owners.
- **Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr**—Who Has [Taken](#) \$18,200 From UnitedHealth And \$38,000 From Other Healthcare Industry Groups—[Joined](#) An Effort To Have The Affordable Care Act After UnitedHealth Projected [Profit Losses](#) On ACA Exchanges.
- **Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall** Opposed Obama-Era [Health](#) And [Climate](#) Policies After [Taking](#) Nearly \$117,000 From The Energy Industry And \$50,000 From The Healthcare Industry.
- **Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt** Has Taken \$1.75 Million From The President Of A Free-Market Think Tank That Publicly Praised [Schmitt's Lawsuit](#) Against A Biden Administration Climate Policy.
- **Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry** Took [\\$736,000](#) From The Oil And Gas Industry As He [Led A Lawsuit](#) Against The Biden Administration's Climate Policy, [Led A Multi-State Effort](#) Against Biden's Pause On New Drilling Leases, And Led A Successful Multi-State Effort To Delay An Obama-Era EPA Rule, All While Repeatedly Echoing Industry Talking Points.
- **South Dakota Attorney General Jason Ravnsborg** [Urged Passage](#) Of The "Safe To Work Act," COVID Liability Protection Legislation Backed By The Agriculture Industry, And His Largest [Donors](#) Are Farm And Lumber Interests.
- **Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita** Took \$5,000 From Koch Industries—The Koch Family Were Longtime Opponents Of The Affordable Care Act As He Rokita Made Striking Down The Law A "Campaign Centerpiece."
- **Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge's** [Biggest Individual Donor](#) Is A Nursing Home Executive Who Was Accused Of ["Corruptly Interfering"](#) In An Abuse Settlement—Rutledge Has Also [Drawn Suspicion](#) For Not Opposing A Trump Rollback That Exposes Nursing Home Residents To Private Arbitration Agreements.
- **West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey**—Who Has Taken [Over \\$400,000](#) From The Oil, Gas, And Mining Industries—Almost [Immediately Began](#) Preparing To Fight The Biden Administration's Climate Executive Orders And Has Since Joined [Multiple Lawsuits](#).

- **Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody** Took \$50,000 From Private Prison Giant GEO Group As She Backed Legislation That Would Give Her Power To [Sue Sanctuary Cities](#); A Policy Expected To [Boost GEO's Profits](#).
- **Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich** [Directly Undermined](#) A Clean Energy Ballot Initiative After The Republican Attorneys General Association Took Over \$400,000 From The Arizona Power Company And Then Spent [\\$1.2 Million](#) On Brnovich's Reelection.
- **Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron** Took [\\$8,000](#) From Two Energy Executives Before Joining [Multiple Lawsuits](#) Against President Biden Environmental Policies.
- **South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson** Undermined An Investigation Into A Pay-For-Influence Scheme Allegedly Operated By One Of His Political Operatives, And He Has Taken [\\$139,500](#) From The Payday Lending Industry While Doing Their Bidding To Obstruct Pro-Consumer Regulations.

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**Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton Has Repeatedly Used His Office To Defend Oil And Gas Interests After Taking Millions From The Industry, And He Even Intervened On Behalf Of Nine Texas Donors Who Own Property In A Remote Colorado County When The Local Government Issued A COVID-19 Ban Against Visits From Nonresident Property Owners.**

## Top 20 Individual Contributors

NAME	COMPANY	AMOUNT DONATED
Texans For Lawsuit Reform	-	\$1,440,874
Republican Attorneys General Association	-	\$739,526
Timothy M. (Tim) Dunn	<a href="#">CEO</a> of CrownQuest Operating LLC and <a href="#">prolific conservative donor</a>	\$655,000
Empower Texans	<a href="#">Formed</a> by Tim Dunn	\$404,570
Farris C. Wilks	<a href="#">Co-Owner of Wilks Brothers LLC</a> and <a href="#">heavily involved in fracking industry</a>	\$375,000
Greg Abbott Campaign Cmte		\$351,750
Daniel H. (Dan) Wilks	<a href="#">Co-Owner of Wilks Brothers LLC</a> and <a href="#">heavily involved in fracking industry</a>	\$301,000
Kenneth A. (Kenny) Troutt	<a href="#">Founder of Excel Communications and owner of WinStar Farms in Kentucky</a>	\$250,000
Dan Goeb Patrick Campaign Cmte	-	\$250,000
Border Health PAC	-	\$210,000
James H. Webb Jr.	<a href="#">Chairman/CEO of Paradigm Development Holdings</a> ; Involved in <a href="#">Medicare fraud probe investigated by Paxton</a>	\$208,000
Kelcy Lee Warren	<a href="#">Chairman Of Energy Transfer LP</a>	\$200,000
Robert Drayton McLane Jr.	<a href="#">Founder and Chairman of the McLane Group</a>	\$196,000
Texas Realtors	-	\$177,325
Syed Javaid Anwar	<a href="#">CEO of Midland Energy</a>	\$175,000
Kyle L. Stallings	<a href="#">Founder/CEO of Desert Royalty Company</a>	\$160,000
Anthony Wayne Ewing	<a href="#">President of Advanced Fixtures</a>	\$151,000
Michael Porter	<a href="#">Owner of Cross Creek Ranch</a> ; <a href="#">Prolific Republican donor</a> ; <a href="#">Founder of Texans for Responsible Government</a>	\$150,000
Timothy Andrew (Tim) Horner	<a href="#">Director of Corporate Land Management</a> ; <a href="#">President of Premier Designs</a> ; <a href="#">Major GOP donor</a>	\$145,000
Farmers Employee & Agents Of Kansas	-	\$141,250

[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

## Top 5 Industries

INDUSTRY	AMOUNT DONATED
Oil & Gas	\$3,093,160
Business Associations	\$1,448,264
Conservative Policy Organizations	\$1,193,641
Lawyers & Lobbyists	\$1,122,226
Real Estate	\$1,052,613

[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

## **Ken Paxton Has Taken Over \$3 Million From The Oil And Gas Industry, Including The Billionaire Wilks Brothers, The Executive Chairman Of Energy Transfer LP, And A CEO Who Founded A “Conservative Political Powerhouse” Group That Ran An Election Conspiracy Website.**

**Ken Paxton Has Taken \$3,093,160 From The Oil & Gas Industry.** [FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

**Ken Paxton Has Taken \$655,000 From Timothy M. “Tim” Dunn, CEO Of Oil Well Firm Crownquest Operating.** [FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

- **Timothy Dunn Is CEO Of Crownquest Operating, Which Runs More Than 1,000 Oil Wells.** [TexasMonthly, [04/23/20](#)]

**Ken Paxton Has Taken \$404,570 From Empower Texans, A “Conservative Political Powerhouse” Founded By Oil CEO Tim Dunn That Spread Election Misinformation.** [FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

- **Tim Dunn Founded Empower Texans, A “Conservative Political Powerhouse” Focused On Limiting Government.** “This message is vintage Dunn. The wealthy West Texan—who founded the conservative political powerhouse Empower Texans—has spent countless hours and millions of his own dollars promoting a libertarian vision of a society in which empowered private companies and citizens vigorously constrain government interference in their economic affairs.” [TexasMonthly, [04/23/20](#)]
- **Empower Texans Runs The Website TexasScorecard.com.**

Domain Information
<b>Name:</b> TEXASSCORECARD.COM
<b>Registry Domain ID:</b> 1883432241_DOMAIN_COM-VRSN
<b>Domain Status:</b> <a href="#">clientDeleteProhibited</a> <a href="#">clientRenewProhibited</a> <a href="#">clientTransferProhibited</a> <a href="#">clientUpdateProhibited</a>
<b>Nameservers:</b> LEAH.NS.CLOUDFLARE.COM OSWALD.NS.CLOUDFLARE.COM
<b>Dates</b>
<b>Registry Expiration:</b> 2024-11-03 17:30:23 UTC
<b>Created:</b> 2014-11-03 17:30:23 UTC

Contact Information
<b>Registrant:</b> Organization: Empower Texans Mailing Address: Texas, United States
<b>Technical:</b> Organization: Empower Texans Mailing Address: Texas, United States
<b>Administrative:</b> Organization: Empower Texans Mailing Address: Texas, United States
<b>Billing:</b> Organization: Empower Texans Mailing Address: Texas, United States <small>Redacted for privacy: some of the data in this object has been removed.</small>

[Search for texascorecard.com, ICANN Lookup, accessed [05/06/21](#)]

- Texas Scorecard Uploaded A Video Which Claimed To Show The Theft Of Ballots In Detroit That Was Later Revealed To Be A Radio Show Moving Equipment Only After It Was Shared By Donald Trump Jr.** “Texas Scorecard: It all started with a red wagon and a white unmarked van. Shortly after filming he scene, Kellye SoRelle shared the video with the website Texas ScoreCard, which describes itself as ‘Someone’s always keeping score. We think it ought to be the citizens.’ That same day, Eric Trump retweeted the video now published in a story for the Gateway Pundit. His tweet gathered over 40,000 retweets and 300,000 views. Trump wrote: ‘WATCH: Suitcases and Coolers Rolled Into Detroit Voting Center at 4 AM, Brought Into Secure Counting Area.’...WXYZ photojournalist Josh Bowren explained in a segment for the news channel that he was the one in the video and the red wagon he was using did not contain ballot boxes but a box full of batteries. The Gateway Pundit story has since been updated to include WXYZ’s report. The Texas Scorecard story — which did include a statement from WXYZ — is still listed as trending on the front page.” [Washington Post, [11/12/20](#)]

**Ken Paxton Has Taken \$375,000 From Farris C. Wilks And \$301,000 From Daniel H. Wilks, Brothers Who Are Oil And Gas Billionaires.** [FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

- Brothers Dan And Farris Wilks Are Oil And Gas Billionaires.** “As the coronavirus pandemic and low oil prices walloped U.S. frackers this spring, Texas billionaires Dan and Farris Wilks got a \$35 million relief loan to help one of their fracking companies stay afloat. At the same time, they were on a buying spree in the country’s oil patch. Since spring, businesses controlled by the Wilks brothers have hunted for deals among fracking firms going through bankruptcy and taken or increased stakes in at least six other companies, corporate filings show.” [The Wall Street Journal, [12/27/20](#)]
- 2020: The Wilks Brothers Raised Controversy For Taking A \$35 Million Pandemic Relief Loan For One Of Their Fracking Companies As Their Businesses “Hunted For Deals Among Fracking Firms Going Through Bankruptcy” During The Pandemic.** “As the coronavirus pandemic and low oil prices walloped U.S. frackers this spring, Texas billionaires Dan and Farris Wilks got a \$35 million relief loan to help one of their fracking companies stay afloat. At the same time, they were on a buying spree in the country’s oil patch. Since spring, businesses controlled by the Wilks brothers have hunted for deals among fracking firms going through bankruptcy and taken or increased stakes in at least six other companies, corporate filings show.” [The Wall Street Journal, [12/27/20](#)]

**Ken Paxton Has Taken \$200,000 From Kelcy Lee Warren, Executive Chairman Of Energy Transfer LP, One Of The “Largest And Most Diversified” Energy Companies.** [FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

- **Kelcy L. Warren Is Executive Chairman Of The Board For Energy Transfer LP, “One Of The Largest And Most Diversified Publicly Traded Energy Companies In The Industry.”** “Kelcy L. Warren is Executive Chairman of the Board of Directors of Energy Transfer LP, and has been a leader in the energy industry for nearly 40 years. Mr. Warren co-founded Energy Transfer in 1996, which began as a small intrastate natural gas pipeline operator and is now one of the largest and most diversified publicly traded energy companies in the industry.” [Energy Transfer Partners, accessed [02/17/21](#)]

## **Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton Has Repeatedly Defended The Oil And Gas Industry: He Sued The Obama Administration Over Its Rule To Slash Methane Emissions, Tried To Block A U.S. Virgin Islands Probe Into Whether ExxonMobil Misled The Public About Climate Change.**

**July 2016: Texas AG Ken Paxton Filed A Lawsuit Against Obama's Environmental Protection Agency In The U.S. Court Of Appeals For The District Of Columbia Circuit "Challenging New Rules Aimed At Slashing Methane Emissions."** "The state of Texas is again taking the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to court, this time challenging new rules aimed at slashing methane emissions in the oil patch. Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton announced the lawsuit Friday, calling the agency's rules 'a gross demonstration of federal overreach' and accusing regulators of failing to consider the price tag for oil and gas producers to comply. Filed in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, the challenge has been consolidated with those from other states." [Texas Tribune, [07/29/16](#)]

- **The EPA Estimated The Rules Would Cost The Industry Approximately \$530 Million.** "The EPA says its new rules would yield \$690 million in climate benefits in 2025, outweighing the estimated cost to industry of \$530 million." [Texas Tribune, [07/29/16](#)]

**May 2016: Ken Paxton Attempted To Block A U.S. Virgin Islands Investigation Into Whether ExxonMobil Misled The Public About Climate Change—Paxton Called The Probe “Ridiculous” And A “Fishing Expedition Of The Worst Kind.”** “Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton has [intervened](#) in a Virgin Islands investigation into whether ExxonMobil misled the public and its shareholders about climate science, attempting to block the territory’s inquiries into potential violations of consumer protection laws. In a press release, Paxton called the U.S. Virgin Islands attorney general’s investigation ‘ridiculous’ and a ‘fishing expedition of the worst kind,’ describing it as ‘an effort to punish Exxon for daring to hold an opinion on climate change that differs from that of radical environmentalists.’” [Texas Observer, [05/16/16](#)]

## **Attorney General Paxton Co-Led A Lawsuit Against Biden’s Revoking Of The Keystone Pipeline Permit, In Line With Opposition From Texas Industry Groups That Included Major Contributor.**

**Ken Paxton Signed A Letter To President Biden Opposing His Executive Order Halting The Keystone XL Oil And Gas Pipeline Permit, Which Claimed “All Americans—Will Suffer Serious, Detrimental Consequences.”** “As the chief legal officers of our states, we write with alarm regarding your unilateral and rushed decision to revoke the 2019 Presidential Permit for the Keystone XL pipeline. Your decision will result in devastating damage to many of our states and local communities. Even those states outside the path of the Keystone XL pipeline—indeed all Americans—will suffer serious, detrimental consequences. [...] The Keystone XL pipeline provides the safest means of transporting oil and natural gas over long distances.” [Letter from Austin Knudsen et al., [02/09/21](#)]



**March 18, 2021: Attorney General Ken Paxton Co-Led A 21-State Lawsuit Against The Biden Administration, Arguing Against The Decision To Revoke The Keystone XL Pipeline.** “Twenty-one states, led by Texas and Montana, filed a lawsuit Wednesday against the Biden administration for revoking a permit for the long-disputed Keystone XL pipeline. The complaint, filed in a Texas federal district court by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen, argues the president exceeded his authority when he canceled the pipeline’s permit after being sworn in on Jan 20. The decision should rest with Congress, according to the lawsuit.” [Texas Tribune, [3/17/21](#)]

**American Petroleum Institute: Keystone Pipeline Revocation Was “Misguided Move” That Would Undermine Economic Recovery And Energy Security.** “As expected, Houston’s oil and gas industry is adjusting to immediate changes in energy policy from the incoming Biden administration. Among those actions was revoking a key permit needed for the Keystone XL pipeline that would have sent oil from Alberta, Canada to the U.S. Gulf Coast. [...] The American Petroleum Institute, which represents oil and gas businesses in Texas and across the country, called it a ‘significant step backwards.’ ‘This misguided move will hamper America’s economic recovery, undermine North American energy security and strain relations with one of America’s greatest allies,’ API President Mike Sommers wrote in a statement.” [Houston Public Media, [1/21/21](#)]

- **American Petroleum Institute Included CrownQuest Operating LLC As Member.** [American Petroleum Institute – “Members,” accessed [5/5/21](#)]

## **As Attorney General, Paxton Filed Suit Against The Biden Administration For Pausing On New Oil And Gas Contracts And For Regulations Surrounding Greenhouse Gas Emissions.**

**March 24, 2021: Paxton Joined A 13-State Lawsuit Against The Biden Administration Seeking To End Pause On New Federal Oil And Gas Contracts.** “Thirteen states sued the Biden administration Wednesday to end a suspension of new oil and gas leases on federal land and water and to reschedule canceled sales of leases in the Gulf of Mexico, Alaska waters and western states. The Republican-leaning states, led by Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry, seek a court order ending the moratorium imposed after Democratic President Joe Biden signed executive orders on climate change on Jan. 27. [...] Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah and West Virginia are the other plaintiff states.” [Associated Press, [3/24/21](#)]

**April 23, 2021: Paxton Joined Nine Other States In A Lawsuit Against Biden Administration Proposal To Determine The Social Cost Of Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Arguing It Was An “Overreach.”** “Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and nine other attorneys general filed a lawsuit against President Joe Biden and his administration over an executive order that established a working group to determine the ‘social cost’ of greenhouse gas emissions. Paxton argues that the executive order is an ‘overreach’ that the Biden administration will use to expand its environmental regulatory power.” [KVUE, [4/23/21](#)]

## **Ken Paxton Intervened On Behalf Of An “Exclusive” Group Of Nine Texas Donors Who Had Given Him And His Wife Nearly \$2 Million When A “Remote” Colorado County Banished Nonresident Homeowners In An Effort To Prevent Coronavirus.**

**April 2020: Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton Intervened When A Colorado County Banished Nonresident Texas Homeowners To Prevent The Spread Of COVID-19.** “When a small county in the Colorado mountains banished everyone but locals to blunt the spread of the coronavirus, an unlikely outsider raised a fuss: Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, who called it an affront to Texans who own property there and pressed health officials to soften the rules. ‘The banishment of nonresident Texas homeowners is entirely



unconstitutional and unacceptable,' Paxton said in a news release April 9, when his office sent a letter asking authorities in Gunnison County to reverse course." [Associated Press, [04/29/20](#)]

- **The County Granted One Donor An Exemption Less Than Three Hours After Paxton Announced His Intervention.** "Less than three hours after Paxton announced the letter, Gunnison County granted McCarter an exemption to stay, according to documents obtained by AP. The county says the timing was coincidental." [Associated Press, [04/29/20](#)]

**The Associated Press Found That Paxton's Intervention "Stood To Benefit An Exclusive Group Of Texans," Including A Donor Who Helped Paxton Launch His AG Campaign And An Oilman Who Gave Paxton And His Wife's State Senate Campaign Over \$252,000.** "An Associated Press review of county and campaign finance records shows Paxton's actions stood to benefit an exclusive group of Texans, including a Dallas donor and college classmate who helped Paxton launch his run for attorney general and had spent five days trying to get a waiver to remain in his \$4 million lakeside home. Robert McCarter's neighbors in the wealthy Colorado enclave of Crested Butte are also Paxton campaign contributors, including a Texas oilman who has given Paxton and his wife, state Sen. Angela Paxton, more than \$252,000." [Associated Press, [04/29/20](#)]

**Overall, Nine Donors Who Had Given Paxton And His Wife Almost \$2 Million Owned Property In The "Remote" Colorado County With A Population Of Only 17,000.** "Paxton has at least nine donors in Texas who own property in Gunnison County, and who collectively have given him and his wife nearly \$2 million in political contributions. [...] Gunnison County, some 200 miles (320 kilometers) southwest of Denver, has reported more than 100 cases of the virus and at least four deaths. The remote community of 17,000 people has only one hospital with 24 beds and no intensive care unit, and health officials cited the scarcity of resources in ordering nonresidents to leave." [Associated Press, [04/29/20](#)]

**Texas Homebuilder Dick Weekley, Who Helped Direct \$1.6 Million To The Paxtons, Owns Property In The Colorado County.** "Houston homebuilder Richard Weekley also has property in Gunnison County and has helped steer \$1.6 million in political contributions to the Paxtons." [Associated Press, [04/29/20](#)]

- **Dick Weekley Chairs The Texans For Lawsuit Reform PAC, Which Focuses On Tort Reform.** "Texans for Lawsuit Reform PAC Cash-on-hand: \$5.35M This tort reform PAC chaired by Dick Weekley typically supports statewide office holders and moderate-to-liberal Republicans." [Reform Austin, [02/04/21](#)]
- **Texans For Lawsuit Reform Has Given Ken Paxton At Least \$1,440,874.** [FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [01/27/21](#)]

## **Paxton Attempted To Have The Electoral College Votes Of Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, And Wisconsin – Four Battleground States Won By Joe Biden – Thrown Out By The Supreme Court.**

**December 8, 2020: Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton Filed A Lawsuit In The Supreme Court Seeking To Invalidate The Electoral College Votes Of Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, And Wisconsin.** "Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton today filed a lawsuit against Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin in the United States Supreme Court. The four states exploited the COVID-19 pandemic to justify ignoring federal and state election laws and unlawfully enacting last-minute changes, thus skewing the results of the 2020 General Election." [Texas Attorney General Office, [12/08/20](#)]

- **The Election Results Of Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania And Wisconsin "Handed The White House" To President Joe Biden.** "Attorney General Ken Paxton is suing four battleground states —

Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin — whose election results handed the White House to President-elect Joe Biden." [KLTV, [12/09/20](#)]

- **The Supreme Court Promptly Rejected Texas AG Ken Paxton's Lawsuit Against States That Trump Lost, Ruling That Paxton's Claims Of Election Fraud Lacked Evidence And Texas Lacked Standing To Sue Other States.** "The U.S. Supreme Court on Friday night rejected an eleventh hour challenge to Joe Biden's election as president. The court's action came in a one-page order, which said the complaint was denied 'for lack of standing.' Texas, supported by President Trump, tried to sue Pennsylvania, Georgia, Wisconsin and Michigan, claiming fraud, without evidence. But in order for a state to bring a case in court, especially the Supreme Court, a state must show it has been injured. In essence, the court said Texas could not show that it was injured by the way other states conducted their elections." [NPR, [12/11/20](#)]

**Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr—Who Has Taken \$18,200 From UnitedHealth And \$38,000 From Other Healthcare Industry Groups—Joined An Effort To Have The Affordable Care Act Deemed Unconstitutional After UnitedHealth Projected Profit Losses On ACA Exchanges.**

## Top 20 Individual Contributors

NAME	COMPANY	AMOUNT DONATED
UnitedHealth Group	-	\$18,200
Wine & Spirits Wholesalers Of Georgia	-	\$16,700
Coca-Cola	-	\$13,200
Home Depot	-	\$13,200
Altria Client Services	-	\$13,200
Waffle House	-	\$13,200
Georgia Health Care Association / Georgia Nursing Home Association	-	\$13,200
Clyde C. Tuggle	<a href="#">Partner at Pine Island Capital Partners</a>	\$13,200
Republican Attorneys General Association	-	\$13,200
Douglas Duncan	<a href="#">Vice President at MAU Workforce Solutions</a>	\$13,200
Donald M. Loffber III	<a href="#">President of Georgia Crown Distributing</a>	\$13,200
Jackson Health Care	-	\$13,200
Community Development & Health PAC Of Georgia	-	\$13,200
Facebook.com	-	\$12,900
Titlemax	-	\$12,600
Georgia Medical Association	-	\$11,600
United Distributors	-	\$11,600
United Parcel Services / UPS	-	\$11,100
Comcast Corporation & NBC Universal	-	\$10,777
Aaron Rents Inc	-	\$10,500

[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

## Top 5 Industries

INDUSTRY	AMOUNT DONATED
Lawyers & Lobbyists	\$362,909
Beer, Wine & Liquor	\$89,650
Retail Sales	\$76,500
Candidate Committees	\$71,350
Real Estate	\$70,000

[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

## Georgia AG Chris Carr—Who Has Taken \$18,200 From UnitedHealth Group, His Largest Donor—Joined 20 States In An Effort To Have The Affordable Care Act Ruled Unconstitutional.

UnitedHealth Group Is Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr's Largest Contributor, Having Donated \$18,200 To His Political Campaigns. [FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

February 2018: Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr Joined 20 States In "Urging A Federal District Court In Texas To Declare That The Affordable Care Act's (ACA) Individual Mandate Is Unconstitutional And To Enjoin The Law In Its Entirety." "Attorney General Chris Carr joined a 20-state coalition urging a federal district court in Texas to declare that the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) individual mandate is unconstitutional and to enjoin the law in its entirety." [Office of the Georgia attorneys General, [02/27/18](#)]

## Carr Joined The Anti-ACA Lawsuit After UnitedHealth Group Exited Most Of Its ACA Exchanges As It Expected A \$650 Million Loss.

April 2016: UnitedHealth Group Announced It Would Be Exiting "Most Of The 34 States Where It Offers Plans On The Affordable Care Act Insurance Exchanges" Due To An Expected Loss Of \$650 Million In These Exchanges. "UnitedHealth Group, the nation's largest health insurer, said Tuesday that in 2017 it will exit most of the 34 states where it offers plans on the Affordable Care Act insurance exchanges. [...]" UnitedHealth plans to withdraw from health insurance marketplaces in Arkansas, Michigan, Connecticut and parts of Georgia. The decision is a sequel to an announcement by executives late last year that the insurer had suffered financial losses and might leave the health exchanges altogether in 2017. UnitedHealth reported that it expects to lose \$650 million in the exchanges in 2016." [Washington Post, [04/19/16](#)]

## Carr Has Taken \$38,000 From Other Health Industry Entities.

Chris Carr Has Taken \$38,000 From Other Health Care Industry Entities:

- Carr Has Taken \$13,200 From The Georgia Health Care Association / Georgia Nursing Home Association. [FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]
- Carr Has Taken \$13,200 From Jackson Health Care. [FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]
- Carr Has Taken \$11,600 From The Georgia Medical Association. [FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

## **Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr Was Chair Of The Republican Attorneys General Association (RAGA) As Its Fundraising Arm Made Robocalls Urging A March On The Capitol The Day Before The Deadly Pro-Trump Insurrection—RAGA's Executive Director Resigned In The Wake Of The Riot.**

**The Rule Of Law Defense Fund (RLDF), A "Fundraising Arm Of The Republican Attorneys General Association [RAGA]," Sent Robocalls Urging People To March On The Capitol The Day Before Riots Occurred.** "An arm of the Republican Attorneys General Association, a national group representing the top law enforcement officers in their states, sent out robocalls encouraging people to march to the U.S. Capitol the day before the building was stormed by a pro-Trump mob. [...] The calls, which did not advocate violence or suggest the building should be breached, was sent out by the Rule of Law Defense Fund, a fundraising arm of the Republican Attorneys General Association. The groups share funding, staff and office space in Washington, D.C." [NBC News, [01/08/21](#)]

**November 10, 2020: Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr Was Selected As The RAGA Chairman.** "'I am honored to take over as Chairman of such an outstanding organization focused on defending the rule of law and restoring law and order,' said incoming RAGA Chairman, Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr. '2021 presents an opportunity to expand our Republican majority and conserve American freedoms from the possibility of a Biden-Harris Administration. I am looking forward to working with Attorney General Schmitt and our colleagues to protect our nation against liberal extremism, safeguard the Constitution, make our neighborhoods safer, and enforce the rule of law.'" [Republican Attorneys General Association, [11/20/20](#)]

**A Spokesperson For RAGA Chair And Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr Claimed He Had "No Knowledge Or Involvement" In RLDF's Decision To Make The Robocalls.** "An arm of the Republican Attorneys General Association, a national group representing the top law enforcement officers in their states, sent out robocalls encouraging people to march to the U.S. Capitol the day before the building was stormed by a pro-Trump mob. [...] A spokesperson for Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr, the chairman of the Republican Attorneys General Association, said he 'had no knowledge or involvement in this decision.' 'Attorney General Carr has been working diligently to determine how this situation occurred and ensure that it does not happen again,' said spokesperson Katie Byrd." [NBC News, [01/08/21](#)]

**RAGA And RLDF Accepted The Resignation Of RAGA Executive Director Adam Piper Following Backlash Over The Robocalls.** "The executive director of a national group that advocates for Republican attorneys general has resigned in the fallout of a robocall urging people to march to the U.S. Capitol ahead of the violent assault last week. The Republican Attorneys General Association and the Rule of Law Defense Fund accepted the voluntary resignation of Adam Piper on Monday, according to a statement obtained by The Associated Press." [Meg Kinnard, "[Republican AGs group leader quits over call pushing protest](#)," *The Washington Post*, 01/11/21]

- **Piper Was RAGA's Executive Director.** "The executive director of the Republican Attorneys General Association has resigned amid backlash over a decision to send out robocalls urging people to march to the U.S. Capitol." [Laura Strickler, "[Top official at Republican AGs group resigns amid Capitol robocall controversy](#)," *NBC News*, 01/11/21]

**Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall Opposed Obama-Era Health And Climate Policies After Taking Nearly \$117,000 From The Energy Industry And \$50,000 From The Healthcare Industry.**

## **Top 20 Individual Contributors**

# ACCOUNTABLE<sup>US</sup>

NAME	COMPANY	AMOUNT DONATED
Republican Attorneys General Association	-	\$735,000
Business Council Of Alabama	-	\$355,100
Raymond J. Harbert	<a href="#">Chairman/CEO of Harbert Management Corporation</a>	\$103,294
Automobile Dealers Association Of Alabama	-	\$85,000
Alabama Power Company	-	\$85,000
Bizpac	-	\$78,500
Maynard Cooper & Gale	-	\$72,000
CRA PAC	-	\$61,250
Mainstream PAC	-	\$57,250
Alabama Home Builders Association	-	\$56,000
Free Enterprise PAC	-	\$51,500
Fair PAC	-	\$51,250
Medical Association Of The State Of Alabama	-	\$50,000
Alabama Forestry Association	-	\$45,000
First Decade PAC	-	\$43,650
McWayne Inc.	-	\$40,000
United PAC	-	\$35,750
Fine Geddie Bipac	-	\$32,500
Alabama Farmers Federation	-	\$30,878
Alabama Rural Electric Association	-	\$30,000

[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

## Top 5 Industries

INDUSTRY	AMOUNT DONATED
Conservative Policy Organization	\$740,500
Business Associations	\$714,750
Lawyers & Lobbyists	\$552,257
Securities & Investment	\$130,794
Electric Utilities	\$116,750

[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

## **Alabama AG Steve Marshall Has Taken \$50,000 From The Medical Association Of The State Of Alabama And Joined An Effort To Have The Affordable Care Act Ruled Unconstitutional After The Group Called To Have The Law Repealed And Replaced.**

**Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall Has Taken \$50,000 From The Medical Association Of The State Of Alabama.** [FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [01/29/21](#)]

**March 2018: Steve Marshall Joined An Effort To Have The Supreme Court Rule The Affordable Care Act (ACA) Unconstitutional.** "Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall has joined a Republican lawsuit challenging the Affordable Care Act, President Barack Obama's 2010 health care law known as Obamacare. Marshall is one of 20 Republican state attorneys general who are seeking to have the law ruled



unconstitutional. The group wrote in a brief filed in the Northern District of Texas this week that the Supreme Court should rule the law unconstitutional because Congress has repealed the individual mandate, a portion of the law that required individuals to purchase health insurance or face a fine.” [Alabama Political Reporter, [03/06/18](#)]

**The Medical Association of the State of Alabama Has Called For Repealing And Replacing The ACA.** “The Medical Association has continued to express support for the repeal of the Affordable Care Act and its replacement with an adequate system to protect not only physicians but their patients as well.” [Medical Association of the State of Alabama, [07/28/17](#)]

## **Steve Marshall Praised The Trump Administration’s Plans To Replace The Obama-Era Clean Power Plan, Which Marshall Called “Costly And Overreaching”—Marshall Took \$80,000 From An Alabama Power Firm That Joined A “Gigantic” Lawsuit Against The Plan.**

**After The Trump Administration Announced Plans To Replace The Clean Power Plan, Marshall Said His Office “Has A History Of Actively Opposing The Obama Administration’s Costly And Overreaching Clean Power Plan” And Noted The 2016 Lawsuit.** “Alabama’s Congressional delegation and state government officials are reacting to Tuesday’s announcement that the Environmental Protection Agency intends to replace the Obama Administration’s proposed Clean Power Plan rule with the Trump Administration’s Affordable Clean Energy rule. [...] Attorney General Steve Marshall: ‘The Alabama Attorney General’s Office has a history of actively opposing the Obama administration’s costly and overreaching Clean Power Plan. In fact, Alabama was one of 25 states calling for a stay of the CPP which was granted by the Supreme Court in 2016. Our attorneys are carefully reviewing the President’s new proposal.’” [Alabama Daily News, [08/22/18](#)]

**Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall Has Taken \$80,000 From The Alabama Power Company.** [FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [01/29/21](#)]

**April 2016: The Alabama Power Company Joined A “Gigantic” Lawsuit Alongside 24 States, Including Alabama, To Have The Obama Administration’s Clean Power Plan Ruled Unconstitutional.** “The Clean Power Plan, the Obama administration’s most sweeping climate change policy, is being challenged in federal appeals court and its future is expected to hinge on the outcome of at least one court decision — and possibly two — over the next year. [...] With the fervent support of the coal industry and some utilities, 24 states including Texas, Alabama, New Jersey, West Virginia and Wyoming, have sued the EPA. They are asking the courts to declare the plan unconstitutional partly because they say that the federal government does not have the authority to regulate a state’s carbon emissions under the Clean Air Act. [...] The Lawsuit is Gigantic [...] The case against the Clean Power Plan is the consolidation of 38 separate cases. In addition to the states opposing the plan, groups suing include utilities such as the Alabama Power Company and coal companies such as Murray Energy, the largest underground coal mining company in the U.S.” [Climate Central, [04/12/16](#)]

- **Steve Marshall Was Not Yet Alabama’s Attorney General.** “Steve Marshall was sworn in as the forty-eighth attorney general of the state of Alabama on February 10, 2017.” [Alabama Attorney General, accessed [02/16/21](#)]

## **Marshall Also Took \$30,000 From Another Alabama Power Association, Which Joined A Group That Was Poised To Fight The Clean Power Plan.**

**Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall Has Taken \$30,000 From The Alabama Rural Electric Association.** [FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [01/29/21](#)]



**The Alabama Rural Electric Association Joined A Group That Was Likely To Fight The Clean Power Plan.** "Alabama's biggest utilities just launched a new joint venture: Energy Institute of Alabama. The new institute says its mission is to advocate for energy policies that will help grow the state's economy, likely including fighting against the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan and other federal environmental initiatives. [...] The new policy advocacy group's other members are Alabama Municipal Electric Authority, the Alabama Rural Electric Association, Alabama Power Company, Electric Cities of Alabama, Tennessee Valley Authority, and PowerSouth." [Alabama Today, [05/04/16](#)]

## **Steve Marshall Chaired The Rule Of Law Defense Fund As It Sent Robocalls Urging Individuals To March On The Capitol The Day Before A Deadly Pro-Trump Attempted Coup Occurred.**

**The Rule Of Law Defense Fund (RLDF), A "Fundraising Arm Of The Republican Attorneys General Association [RAGA]," Sent Robocalls Urging People To March On The Capitol The Day Before Riots Occurred.** "An arm of the Republican Attorneys General Association, a national group representing the top law enforcement officers in their states, sent out robocalls encouraging people to march to the U.S. Capitol the day before the building was stormed by a pro-Trump mob. [...] The calls, which did not advocate violence or suggest the building should be breached, was sent out by the Rule of Law Defense Fund, a fundraising arm of the Republican Attorneys General Association. The groups share funding, staff and office space in Washington, D.C." [NBC News, [01/08/21](#)]

**Steve Marshall Has Claimed To Have Been "Unaware" Of RLDF's Decisions Regarding The Capitol Hill Rally Despite Having Been Named Chair Of The Organization Nearly 2 Months Prior.** "Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall said [...] he was not told that a dark money organization he heads would be involved in the Wednesday march that led to deadly riots at the U.S. Capitol. [...] 'I was unaware of unauthorized decisions made by RLDF staff with regard to this week's rally,' he said in a statement. 'Despite currently transitioning into my role as the newly-elected chairman of RLDF, it is unacceptable that I was neither consulted about nor informed of those decisions. I have directed an internal review of this matter.'" [Montgomery Advertiser, [01/08/21](#)]

**November 10, 2020: Steve Marshall Was Selected To Lead The Rule Of Law Defense Fund.** "'I am honored to lead RAGA's policy branch, the Rule of Law Defense Fund, and bring conservative attorneys general together in promotion of federalism, freedom, and the rule of law,'" said incoming RAGA Policy Chairman Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall. 'As attorneys general, our mandate is to hold fast to the principles that this country was founded on and to defend the Constitution and the preeminence of law and order. And that is what conservative attorneys general have done and will continue to do: advance American greatness.'" [Republican Attorneys General Association, [11/20/20](#)]

**RAGA And RLDF Accepted The Resignation Of RAGA Executive Director Adam Piper Following Backlash Over The Robocalls.** "The executive director of a national group that advocates for Republican attorneys general has resigned in the fallout of a robocall urging people to march to the U.S. Capitol ahead of the violent assault last week. The Republican Attorneys General Association and the Rule of Law Defense Fund accepted the voluntary resignation of Adam Piper on Monday, according to a statement obtained by The Associated Press." [Meg Kinnard, "[Republican AGs group leader quits over call pushing protest](#)," *The Washington Post*, 01/11/21]

- **Piper Was RAGA's Executive Director.** "The executive director of the Republican Attorneys General Association has resigned amid backlash over a decision to send out robocalls urging people to march to the U.S. Capitol." [Laura Strickler, "[Top official at Republican AGs group resigns amid Capitol robocall controversy](#)," *NBC News*, 01/11/21]

## Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt Has Taken \$1.75 Million From The President Of A Free-Market Think Tank That Praised Schmitt's Lawsuit Against A Biden Administration Climate Policy.

### Top 20 Individual Contributors

NAME	COMPANY	AMOUNT DONATED
Rex A. Sinuefield	<a href="#">Co-founder and former Co-chairman of Dimensional Fund Advisors; Co-founder of Show-Me Institute</a>	\$755,001 *See below for additional PAC donations
Senate Majority Fund Of Missouri	-	\$117,200
Douglas A. Albrecht	<a href="#">Chairman of Bodley Group; Former Chairman/President/CEO of Centric Group</a>	\$91,250
Anheuser-Busch Co	-	\$75,974
Noranda Aluminum	-	\$72,500
Express Scripts	-	\$62,675
Lathrop & Gage Consulting	-	\$59,963
Rightchoice Managed Care	-	\$56,400
Simmons Hanly Conroy	-	\$55,000
Drury Development Corp	-	\$50,650
Lewis & Clark Council Ozark Mountain Forum	-	\$50,000
Stone Leyton & Gershman	-	\$46,334
Lodging Hospitality Management	-	\$45,750
Burns & McDonnell	-	\$41,650
Missouri Association Of Realtors	-	\$40,550
Sean Moore		\$40,000
Zevan & Davidson Law Firm		\$39,039
Missouri Hospital Association	-	\$38,670
Steven (Steve) Tilley Campaign Cmte	-	\$36,785
Missouri Republican Party	-	\$36,248

[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

### Top 5 Industries

INDUSTRY	AMOUNT DONATED
Conservative Policy Organizations	\$915,401
Lawyers & Lobbyists	\$737,676
Real Estate	\$334,283
Securities & Investments	\$222,967
Candidate Committees	\$212,851

[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

## Free-Market Think Tank President Rex Sinuefield Is Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt's Top Donor, Giving Schmitt's Campaigns Over \$1.75 Million.

**Rex Sinefield Is Schmitt's Top Donor, Giving Schmitt's Campaigns Over \$755,000—More Than Six Times His Second Largest Donor, Which Gave Him \$117,200.** [FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

**Sinefield Has Also Given \$1 Million To Schmitt's MO Opportunity PAC.** "A retired investment company owner who advocates for school choice and tax policy changes, Sinefield donated over \$2.4 million in 2019 to various Missouri PACs. Attorney General Eric Schmitt's PAC, MO Opportunity PAC, received the most: \$750,000." [Missourian, [06/23/20](#)]

- **Rex Sinefield Gave \$250,000 To Schmitt's MO Opportunity PAC On May 20, 2020.** [2020 Contributions From Rex Sinefield, Missouri Ethics Commission, accessed [05/07/21](#)]
- **Rex Sinefield Gave \$250,000 To Schmitt's MO Opportunity PAC On December 27, 2019.** [2019 Contributions From Rex Sinefield, Missouri Ethics Commission, accessed [05/07/21](#)]
- **Rex Sinefield Gave \$250,000 To Schmitt's MO Opportunity PAC On September 20, 2019.** [2019 Contributions From Rex Sinefield, Missouri Ethics Commission, accessed [05/07/21](#)]
- **Rex Sinefield Gave \$250,000 To Schmitt's MO Opportunity PAC On February 22, 2019.** [2019 Contributions From Rex Sinefield, Missouri Ethics Commission, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

**Rex Sinefield Is The Co-Founder And President Of Free Market Think Tank Show-Me Institute.** "Rex Sinefield President Rex Sinefield is co-founder and former co-chairman of Dimensional Fund Advisors, Inc. He also is co-founder of the Show-Me Institute." [Show Me Institute, [accessed 05/03/21](#)]

**The Show Me Institute Is A Free Market Think Tank** "But in 2005, he co-founded the Show-Me Institute, which promotes free-market causes and is now the most prominent conservative policy center in the state. Tax records show the institute, staffed by 13 people, has an annual budget of about \$1.4 million. But his reach is far broader." [Politico, [July 2014](#)]

**"Sinefield Has Spent Millions On Lobbying Efforts And On The Show-Me Institute [...]"** "In addition to his campaign contributions, Sinefield has spent millions on lobbying efforts and on the Show-Me Institute, a free-market think tank he established in St. Louis. Last year, he estimated his lobbying operation employed about 1,000 people 'the last time I looked at my checkbook.'" [Governing, [05/20/15](#)]

## **The Sinefield-Run Think Tank Show-Me Institute Praised Schmitt's Lawsuit Against The Biden Administration's Social Cost Of Greenhouse Gases Policy, Promoting Light Climate Denialism In The Process.**

**March 8, 2021: Schmitt Led A Lawsuit Of Republican Attorneys General Challenging The Biden Administration's Social Cost Of Greenhouse Gases Policy, Which Would Return An Obama-Era Cost Estimation On Greenhouse Emissions When Conducting Federal Regulatory, Permitting, And Investing Activities.** "A coalition of 14 Republican attorneys general led by Missouri on Monday accused President Joe Biden in federal court of exceeding his powers in an executive order that restored Obama-era levels of the costs of climate change when making policy. Attorney general Eric Schmitt and his peers from states including Montana and Kansas accused Biden of violating the U.S. Constitution's separation of powers with Executive Order 13990, which re-ups the so-called 'social cost of greenhouse gases' that must be used when conducting cost-benefit analyses tied to regulatory actions like government permitting and investment. Former President Donald Trump had slashed that figure, and Biden's administration restored it to about \$50 per ton of greenhouse gases in February." [Reuters, [3/08/21](#)]

**Show Me Institute Called The Lawsuit Challenging The Social Cost Of Greenhouse Emissions "Important," Claiming The Policy Could Result In A "Significant Worse Off" Society Because Of The**

**“Uncertainty Regarding The Economic Impacts Of Climate Change.”** “These changes can be so large as to mean the difference between concluding that additional CO2 emissions would result in catastrophic environmental damages or that society would be significantly worse off implementing emissions reduction policies. Even if two SCC models have the exact same scientific predictions about future climate impacts, slightly different discount rates can produce wildly divergent cost–benefit assessments about environmental policies and the damage of CO2. Recent academic literature on the SCC also reveals uncertainty regarding the economic impacts of climate change. How humanity adapts to a changing climate is an uncertain area of environmental research. [...] Missouri’s lawsuit raises the important question of which branch of government should determine the official SCC, as well as the appropriate procedures that should be followed in evaluating energy and environmental policies and regulations that affect everyday life.” [Show Me Institute, [4/14/21](#)]

## **Eric Schmitt Served As RAGA Vice-Chairman While Its Fundraising Arm Made Robocalls Urging A March On The Capitol The Day Before A Deadly Pro-Trump Attempted Coup Occurred There.**

**The Rule Of Law Defense Fund (RLDF), A "Fundraising Arm Of The Republican Attorneys General Association [RAGA]," Sent Robocalls Urging People To March On The Capitol The Day Before Riots Occurred.** "An arm of the Republican Attorneys General Association, a national group representing the top law enforcement officers in their states, sent out robocalls encouraging people to march to the U.S. Capitol the day before the building was stormed by a pro-Trump mob. [...] The calls, which did not advocate violence or suggest the building should be breached, was sent out by the Rule of Law Defense Fund, a fundraising arm of the Republican Attorneys General Association. The groups share funding, staff and office space in Washington, D.C." [NBC News, [01/08/21](#)]

**November 10, 2020: Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt Was Selected As RAGA Vice-Chairman.** "RAGA’s ability to maintain the majority of attorneys general this year reinforces the fact that voters want law and order and stability in their communities, which only Republican attorneys general provide,' said incoming RAGA Vice-Chairman, Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt. 'I deeply respect the work of RAGA, an organization that is focused on promoting and protecting the freedoms enshrined in our Constitution for future generations. I look forward to standing with Chris and the rest of our colleagues as we continue to defend the rule of law and keep our communities safe and prosperous.'" [Republican Attorneys General Association, [11/20/20](#)]

## **Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt Joined Texas’ Baseless Supreme Court Lawsuit To Overturn Elections In States That Trump Lost.**

**In December 2020: Schmitt Joined Texas AG Ken Paxton In A Lawsuit Seeking The Reversal Of Election Results In Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, And Wisconsin.** "Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina and Utah have formally joined Texas in its Supreme Court suit against Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin—four battleground states who ran illegal and unconstitutional elections. The joining states agree with Texas: the defendant states exploited the COVID-19 pandemic to justify unlawfully enacting last-minute changes and ignoring both federal and state election laws, thus skewing the results of the 2020 General Election." [Texas Attorney General Office, [12/10/20](#)]

- **The Supreme Court Promptly Rejected Texas AG Ken Paxton’s Lawsuit Against States That Trump Lost, Ruling That Paxton’s Claims Of Election Fraud Lacked Evidence And Texas Lacked Standing To Sue Other States.** “The U.S. Supreme Court on Friday night rejected an eleventh hour challenge to Joe Biden’s election as president. The court’s action came in a one-page order, which said the complaint was denied ‘for lack of standing.’ Texas, supported by President Trump, tried to sue Pennsylvania, Georgia, Wisconsin and Michigan, claiming fraud, without evidence. But in order for a state to bring a case in court, especially the Supreme Court, a state must show it has been injured. In

essence, the court said Texas could not show that it was injured by the way other states conducted their elections.” [NPR, [12/11/20](#)]

**Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry Took \$736,000 From The Oil And Gas Industry As He Led A Lawsuit Against The A Biden Administration Climate Policy, Repeatedly Echoed Industry Talking Points As He Led A Multi-State Effort Against Biden’s Pause On New Drilling Leases, And Led A Successful Multi-State Effort To Delay An Obama-Era EPA Rule.**

## Top 20 Individual Contributors

NAME	COMPANY	AMOUNT DONATED
Jeffrey Martin (Jeff) Landry	Self	\$78,874
Louisiana Republican Party	-	\$50,929
Port Aggregates	-	\$35,000
Cox Oil Inc	-	\$25,000
Ross R. Laris	<a href="#">CEO of Laris Insurance Agency</a>	\$25,000
Bollinger Ship Yards	-	\$23,500
Gray Oil & Gas Co	-	\$22,500
Devereux Johnson McKnight	<a href="#">CEO of M&amp;M International</a>	\$21,500
Pfizer	-	\$20,000
Louisiana Republican Legislative Delegation Campaign Cmte	-	\$20,000
Greg S. Mosing	<a href="#">Potentially connected to Frank's International</a>	\$19,500
Robert E. (Bob) Miller	<a href="#">Potentially President of Major Equipment &amp; Remediation Services</a>	\$19,000
Magnus J. Arceneaux III	<a href="#">Managing Operating Partner of C&amp;G Boats</a>	\$18,800
Corey Joseph Callais	<a href="#">Managing Partner and Chairman At Callais Capital Management</a>	\$18,500
Garret H. (Hank) Danos	<a href="#">Owner/Chairman of Danos</a>	\$17,500
Gulf Logistics Operating	-	\$17,500
John Edward Atkins	<a href="#">Principal/Partner at Atco Investment Co.; Cofounder/Partner at Louisiana Timber Partners; Member of Aeropres Corp. Board; District 9 Parish Commissioner</a>	\$17,500
Donald Thomas (Boysie) Bollinger	<a href="#">Former Chairman/CEO of Bollinger Shipyards; Chairman/CEO of Bollinger Enterprises</a>	\$17,500
Warren S. Orlando Jr.	<a href="#">Potentially connected to Allison Marine Contractors via FEC</a>	\$17,500



Thomas Leblanc Sr.	<a href="#">CEO Of PAWS Energy Services</a>	\$17,500
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[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

## **Top 5 Industries**

INDUSTRY	AMOUNT DONATED
Lawyers & Lobbyists	\$750,472
Oil & Gas	\$736,682
Sea Transport	\$335,000
General Contractors	\$161,500
Insurance	\$148,825

[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

## **After Taking \$736,000 From Oil And Gas Industry, Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry Led Lawsuit Suit Against The Biden Administration Over Considering Social Cost Of Greenhouse Gases While Joining Efforts Opposing The Keystone XL Pipeline's Cancellation.**

**FollowTheMoney: Oil & Gas Represented Second Largest Industry For Contributions To Jeff Landry For Attorney General.** At \$736,682. Lawyers & Lobbyists narrowly beat oil & gas for the top spot.

[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

**April 23, 2021: Landry Led 10-State Coalition In A Lawsuit Against Biden Administration Proposal To Determine The Social Cost Of Greenhouse Gas Emissions.** "Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry is leading a 10-state coalition in suing to prevent the Biden Administration from carrying out an act of executive order that will kill thousands of jobs throughout the country and impose significant burdens on the American people. 'With the stroke of his pen – Joe Biden is bypassing our elected representatives to impose the Left's radical, self-defeating green agenda on the American economy and people,' said Attorney General Landry. 'This 'social cost' overreach revives an Obama-era scheme that unnecessarily forces the monetary cost of a global issue on American governments, businesses, and families.'" [Attorney General Jeff Landry – Press Release, [4/22/21](#)]

**March 18, 2021: Landry Joined A 21-State Lawsuit Against The Biden Administration Over Its Decision To Revoke The Permit For The Keystone XL Pipeline.** "Twenty-one states, led by Texas and Montana, filed a lawsuit Wednesday against the Biden administration for revoking a permit for the long-disputed Keystone XL pipeline. The complaint, filed in a Texas federal district court by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen, argues the president exceeded his authority when he canceled the pipeline's permit after being sworn in on Jan 20. The decision should rest with Congress, according to the lawsuit." [Texas Tribune, [3/17/21](#)]

## **Leading Multi-State Effort Against The Biden Administration Pause On New Leases For Drilling, Landry Repeatedly Echoed Talking Points Of Oil Industry Trade Associations That Included Multiple Major Campaign Contributors.**

**The Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil And Gas Association (LMOGA) Was Critical Of Biden's Pause On New Oil And Gas Leases, Saying It Threatened The State Economy.** "Tyler Gray, president of the Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association (LMOGA), warned in a press release that limiting energy production on federal lands and waters threatens the state economy. 'The narrative that citizens and policymakers must choose between energy and the environment is fundamentally flawed and we need solutions that protect the environment while encouraging economic growth,' Gray said." [WWNO, [1/27/21](#)]



- **Cox Oil Was A Member Of Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association.** [Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association – Member Companies, accessed [5/4/21](#)]
- **Cox Oil Contributed \$25,000 To Landry's Attorney General Campaign.** [FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]
- **Garret H. Danos, Owner And Chairman Of Company Danos, Contributed \$17,500 To Landry's Attorney General Campaign.** [FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]
  - **Garret "Hank" Danos Is Chairman Of The Board For Danos.** [Safety and Health, accessed [05/06/21](#)]
  - **Danos Was Member Of Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association.** [Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association – Member Companies, accessed [5/4/21](#)]

**March 24, 2021: Attorney General Jeff Landry Led A 13-State Lawsuit Against The Biden Administration Seeking To End Pause On New Federal Oil And Gas Contracts.** "Thirteen states sued the Biden administration Wednesday to end a suspension of new oil and gas leases on federal land and water and to reschedule canceled sales of leases in the Gulf of Mexico, Alaska waters and western states. The Republican-leaning states, led by Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry, seek a court order ending the moratorium imposed after Democratic President Joe Biden signed executive orders on climate change on Jan. 27. [...] Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah and West Virginia are the other plaintiff states." [Associated Press, [3/24/21](#)]

**In Criticizing The Biden Pause, LMOGA Argued The Pause Would Negatively Impact "Energy Security."** "'The Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association (LMOGA) made the following statements today in response to the 60-day moratorium on issuing oil and gas leases, contracts and drilling permits on federal lands and waters: 'Any ban on federal leasing will have devastating impacts on Louisiana, threatening American energy security, hindering much needed economic growth, and undermining environmental progress,' said Tyler Gray, LMOGA President.'" [Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association, [1/21/21](#)]

- **In A Press Release Announcing Lawsuit, Landry Cited Energy Independence In Louisiana, Which He Called A "Matter Of National Security."** "'For decades, Congress has embraced responsible development of our natural resources as a means of achieving energy independence – a matter of national security,' continued Attorney General Landry. 'They have discarded vulnerable dependence on foreign oil, which is why the court should reject the Biden Ban.'" [Attorney General Jeff Landry – Press Release, [4/26/21](#)]

**In Criticizing The Biden Pause, LMOGA Argued Pause Would Negatively Impact Environmental Protection Funding.** "The Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association (LMOGA) made the following statements today in response to the 60-day moratorium on issuing oil and gas leases, contracts and drilling permits on federal lands and waters: 'Any ban on federal leasing will have devastating impacts on Louisiana, threatening American energy security, hindering much needed economic growth, and undermining environmental progress,' said Tyler Gray, LMOGA President. 'Restricting offshore energy development is backwards policy that only harms the livelihoods of thousands of Louisiana families and the communities that depend on industry tax revenues for critical operating resources for local governments, and protection and resiliency of our coast.'" [Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association, [1/21/21](#)]

- **In A Press Release Announcing Lawsuit, Landry Argued Pause Would Constitute "Likely The Single-Largest Divestment Of Revenue For Environmental Protection Projects In American History."** "Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry is leading a 13-state lawsuit against the Biden Administration's attack on American energy independence, good-paying jobs, and affordable energy for all."

[...] The White House purports the Biden Ban to protect the environment, but instead it constitutes what is likely the single-largest divestment of revenue for environmental protection projects in American history.” [Attorney General Jeff Landry – Press Release, [4/26/21](#)]

**In Criticizing The Biden Pause, LMOGA Warned Of Negative Impacts To The State Economy And “Good-Paying Jobs.”** “The Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association (LMOGA) warned that limiting energy production on federal lands and waters sets a dangerous precedent that threatens our state economy and undermines environmental progress. ‘Louisiana’s energy industry is committed to real solutions to climate change that build on American energy leadership and protect the good-paying jobs our industry supports throughout the state,’ said LMOGA President Tyler Gray.” [Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association, [1/21/21](#)]

- **In A Press Release Announcing Lawsuit, Landry Said It Was To Protect Against Attack On “Good-Paying Jobs,” Cited Impact On “Middle-Class Jobs.”** “Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry is leading a 13-state lawsuit against the Biden Administration’s attack on American energy independence, good-paying jobs, and affordable energy for all. In January, President Biden solidified a moratorium on new development of oil and gas fields on federal lands. Executive Order 14008 halted all oil and gas leasing operations, days after the Biden Interior Department took similar steps against activities on existing leases. [...] ‘Biden’s Executive Orders abandon middle-class jobs at a time when America needs them most and put our energy security in the hands of foreign countries, many of whom despise America’s greatness.’ [Attorney General Jeff Landry – Press Release, [4/26/21](#)]

## **In March 2017, Jeff Landry Led A Successful Coalition Effort Seeking The Delay Of An Obama-Era EPA Rule That Would Have "Reduce[d] Accidental Releases At Chemical Facilities."**

**March 14, 2017: Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry Led A Coalition Of 11 States In Filing A Petition For Reconsideration With Trump EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt To Delay An Obama-Era Risk Management Program Rule Meant To "Reduce Accidental Releases At Chemical Facilities."** "Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry, leading a coalition of 11 states, filed a Petition for Reconsideration with EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt regarding the Risk Management Program Rule – a last-minute promulgation by former President Obama to supposedly reduce accidental releases at chemical facilities and improve emergency response activities for those releases. [Louisiana Department of Justice, accessed [03/14/17](#)]

- **Landry Claimed The "Ill-Advised" Rule Created “Burdensome, Duplicative, And Needless Regulation.”** “The 11th hour finalizing of this rule was neither well thought out nor safe,’ said Attorney General Landry. ‘Not only did this ill-advised decision subject facilities to even more burdensome, duplicative, and needless regulation; but it also makes all of us more vulnerable to security threats.’ [Louisiana Department of Justice, accessed [03/14/17](#)]

**March 16, 2017: The EPA Published A Final Rule Delaying The Effective Date Of The Risk Management Program Rule Amendments Until June 19, 2017 – Just Two Days After Landry And Other AGs Filed Their Petition For Reconsideration.** "On March 16, 2017, EPA published a final rule that provides a three-month (90-day) administrative stay of the effective date of the RMP rule amendments, delaying the effective date of the final rule to June 19, 2017." [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, accessed [02/04/21](#)]

**April 3, 2017: The EPA Published A Proposed Rule Delaying The Effective Date Of The Risk Management Program Rule Amendments Until February 19, 2019.** "On April 3, 2017, EPA published a proposed rule to further delay the effective date of the RMP rule amendments for 20 months until February 19, 2019. This action allowed EPA to consider several petitions for reconsideration of the RMP rule amendments and take further regulatory action. EPA held a public hearing regarding the proposed effective date on April 19,

2017. The comment period closed on May 19, 2017." [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, accessed [02/04/21](#)]

**June 9, 2017: The EPA Issued A Final Rule Delaying The Effective Date Of The Risk Management Program Rule Amendments Until February 19, 2019.** "On June 9, 2017, the EPA Administrator signed a final rule to further delay the effective date of the RMP rule amendments for 20 months until February 19, 2019. EPA is conducting a reconsideration proceeding to review objections raised by petitioners to the final RMP amendments rule. This delay of the effective date will allow EPA to complete the reconsideration process and to consider other issues that may benefit from additional comment." [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, accessed [02/04/21](#)]

**A Representative Of The American Petroleum Institute Praised The Stay, And Called On Congress "To Repeal This Unnecessary Rule."** "After the Environmental Protection Agency put an administrative stay on its Risk Management Plan rule, API Downstream Group Director Frank Macchiarola said this action will help with future protection of oil and natural gas production facilities nationwide. 'This is an important step for providing regulatory certainty and supporting safety and security in the oil and natural gas industry,' Macchiarola said in an API statement. 'Now, Congress must act to repeal this unnecessary rule, as the rule misses the mark on improving the safety and security of our nation's energy infrastructure.'" [American Security News, [03/31/17](#)]

## **Jeff Landry Is A Member Of The Republican Attorneys General Association (RAGA), Closely Tied To The Group That Sent Robocalls Promoting The Rally That Led To The Capitol Riot.**

**Landry Is A Member Of The Republican Attorneys General Association.** [Republican Attorneys General Association, accessed [02/04/21](#)]

**Landry Served As The Chairman Of The Republican Attorneys General Association During 2020.** "These changes come after outgoing Chairman Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry led RAGA during 2020, a historic year where Republicans kept control of the majority, were on the offense against the novel coronavirus, and enforced law and order amid nationwide anarchy and violence." [Republican Attorneys General Association, accessed [11/10/20](#)]

**The Rule Of Law Defense Fund (RLDF), A "Fundraising Arm Of The Republican Attorneys General Association [RAGA]," Sent Robocalls Urging People To March On The Capitol The Day Before Riots Occurred.** "An arm of the Republican Attorneys General Association, a national group representing the top law enforcement officers in their states, sent out robocalls encouraging people to march to the U.S. Capitol the day before the building was stormed by a pro-Trump mob. [...] The calls, which did not advocate violence or suggest the building should be breached, was sent out by the Rule of Law Defense Fund, a fundraising arm of the Republican Attorneys General Association. The groups share funding, staff and office space in Washington, D.C." [NBC News, [01/08/21](#)]

**RAGA And RLDF Share Funding, Staff, And Office Space.** "While Carr is the chairman of RAGA, he is not directly associated with the RLDF [sic]. However, the groups share funding, staff and office space in Washington, according to NBC News." [11 Alive, [01/09/21](#)]

## **Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry Joined Texas' Baseless Supreme Court Lawsuit To Overturn Elections In States That Trump Lost.**

**In December 2020: Landry Joined Texas AG Ken Paxton In A Lawsuit Seeking The Reversal Of Election Results In Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, And Wisconsin.** "Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina and Utah have formally joined Texas in its Supreme Court suit against Georgia, Michigan,

Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin—four battleground states who ran illegal and unconstitutional elections. The joining states agree with Texas: the defendant states exploited the COVID-19 pandemic to justify unlawfully enacting last-minute changes and ignoring both federal and state election laws, thus skewing the results of the 2020 General Election." [Texas Attorney General Office, [12/10/20](#)]

- **The Supreme Court Promptly Rejected Texas AG Ken Paxton's Lawsuit Against States That Trump Lost, Ruling That Paxton's Claims Of Election Fraud Lacked Evidence And Texas Lacked Standing To Sue Other States.** "The U.S. Supreme Court on Friday night rejected an eleventh hour challenge to Joe Biden's election as president. The court's action came in a one-page order, which said the complaint was denied 'for lack of standing.' Texas, supported by President Trump, tried to sue Pennsylvania, Georgia, Wisconsin and Michigan, claiming fraud, without evidence. But in order for a state to bring a case in court, especially the Supreme Court, a state must show it has been injured. In essence, the court said Texas could not show that it was injured by the way other states conducted their elections." [NPR, [12/11/20](#)]

**South Dakota Attorney General Jason Ravensborg Urged Passage Of The "Safe To Work Act," COVID Liability Protection Legislation Backed By The Agriculture Industry, And His Largest Donors Are Farm And Lumber Interests.**

## Top 20 Individual Contributors

NAME		AMOUNT DONATED
Republican Attorneys General Association	-	\$107,875
Brian Rupp	<a href="#">Southeast Farmers Coop</a> Unclear Position	\$8,100
Mark Neitzke	<a href="#">Agronomist, Tabor Lumber Coop</a> Sales Manager	\$8,000
Jamie Neitzke		\$8,000
Aaron Lorenzen	<a href="#">Dakota Surveillance</a> Owner/Operator; provides surveillance services for owners of livestock	\$8,000
Rich Ravensborg	<a href="#">Simonsen Industries; Farm equipment supplier</a>	\$8,000
Wanda Howey-Fox	<a href="#">Partner at Harmelink Fox &amp; Ravensborg</a>	\$8,000
Kyle Wickenheiser	<a href="#">Manager At Keystone Automotive Operations Inc; located in PA</a>	\$8,000
Marc Rupp	-	\$8,000
Heartland Values PAC	-	\$5,000
RS LLC	-	\$5,000
May Adams Gerdes Thompson	-	\$4,105
Jerry Ravensborg	<a href="#">Facility Manager at Skyline Veterinary Clinic</a>	\$4,100
Las Vegas Sands	-	\$4,000
Facebook.Com	-	\$4,000
David Natvig	<a href="#">States Attorney For Brule County South Dakota / SD</a>	\$4,000

## ACCOUNTABLE<sup>US</sup>

	<a href="#">Director Of Criminal Investigation</a>	
Kelly Knodel	<a href="#">Knodel Contractors</a> Founder	\$4,000
Jack Neitzke	<a href="#">Passed away; father of Mark Niezke</a>	\$4,000
Tim Bormann	<a href="#">Current Chief of Staff To Ravensborg</a> / <a href="#">Deputy State Attorney</a>	\$4,000
Todd Wood	<a href="#">VP – Wealth And Trust at First Dakota National Bank</a>	\$4,000

[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

### Top 5 Industries

INDUSTRY	AMOUNT DONATED
Conservative Policy Organizations	\$110,375
Lawyers & Lobbyists	\$16,630
Party Committees	\$7,741
Tribal Governments	\$6,000
Leadership PACs	\$5,250

[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

### **South Dakota AG Jason Ravensborg Co-Signed A Letter With 21 Other Republican AGs Urging Passage Of The “Safe To Work Act,” A Bill That Would Have Expanded Liability Protections For Businesses From Pandemic-Related Lawsuits—The Bill’s Backers Included The South Dakota Retailers Association And A Big Agriculture Industry Group.**

**South Dakota Attorney General Jason Ravensborg Co-Signed A Letter To The U.S. Congress Urging Passage Of The Safe To Work Act, Which Sought To Extend Federal Liability Protections For Businesses Against Pandemic-Related Lawsuits.** “Attorney General Jason Ravensborg, along with 20 other state attorneys general, this week co-signed a letter to the U.S. Congress, authored by Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr and Utah Attorney General Sean Reyes, urging the adoption of the protections contained in the Safe to Work Act. This is the latest action by Ravensborg and his colleagues to help mitigate the threat of frivolous COVID-related litigation for much-needed goods and services while still ensuring victims have legal options where appropriate. In the wake of this unprecedented crisis, the extension of appropriate civil liability protections is needed at both the state and federal levels for businesses, manufacturers of personal protective equipment, first responders, healthcare workers, healthcare facilities, members of law enforcement and other individuals and entities.” [South Dakota Attorney General Jason Ravensborg, [08/06/20](#)]

**The Letter Ultimately Was Signed By 22 Republican Attorneys General.** “On Aug. 5, 2020, Republican attorneys general from 22 states submitted a letter to Senate leaders in support of the national COVID-19 civil liability protections proposed in the SAFE TO WORK Act, S. 4317, introduced by Senate Republicans on July 27, 2020.” [Holland & Knight, [08/13/20](#)]

**The Safe To Work Act Would Have Made It “Much Harder For Plaintiffs To Sue” Businesses And Other Entities For Pandemic-Related Harm, Raising Burden Of Proof Standards Higher Than Typical Injury Liability Cases.** “In short, the SAFE TO WORK Act (STWA) makes it much harder for plaintiffs to sue someone else for injuries relating to a coronavirus infection. For the most part, the STWA doesn’t provide immunity in the casual sense. Rather, it makes it far harder for a plaintiff to bring and succeed in his or her lawsuit. [...] Second, the burden of proof is significantly higher. In a typical personal injury case, the plaintiff can



succeed if they can prove that the defendant more likely than not caused the alleged injuries. This is referred to as the ‘preponderance of the evidence’ standard. Under the STWA, the burden of proof is ‘clear and convincing evidence.’ This requires the plaintiff to show that it is highly probable (or substantially more likely) that the defendant caused the plaintiff’s injuries as opposed to the injuries being caused by someone or something else.” [Forbes, [09/21/20](#)]

**The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce And 480 Other Associations Sent A Letter To Congress Urging Passage Of The Safe To Work Act.** “The Chamber, along with over 480 associations sent a letter on July 30th urging Congress to support the timely, targeted, and temporary liability relief provisions contained in S. 4317, the ‘SAFE TO WORK Act’ and include the provisions in a Phase IV COVID-19 relief package.” [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, accessed [02/02/21](#)]

- **The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce Has Also Identified Liability Lawsuit Protections As “One Of The Most Important Remaining Debates” In Pandemic Response Efforts.** “As Congress closes in on the next Coronavirus legislative relief package, one of the most important remaining debates is over lawsuit protections.” [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, accessed [02/02/21](#)]
- **The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce Is “The World’s Largest Business Organization.”** “The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the world’s largest business organization representing companies of all sizes across every sector of the economy.” [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, accessed [02/02/20](#)]

**The South Dakota Retailers Association Signed The Letter.** [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, [07/30/20](#)]

- **The South Dakota Retailers Association Had Nearly 4,000 Members, Including “Large Multi-Unit Businesses,” As Of Its 2019 Annual Report.** “Nearly 4,000 members strong! [...] Over 160 business categories. Representing everything from Mom & Pop shops to large multi-unit businesses.” [South Dakota Retailers Association, accessed [02/02/21](#)]

**The American Farm Bureau Federation, Which Has Represented Big Agriculture Industry, Signed The Letter.** [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, [07/30/20](#)]

- **The American Farm Bureau Federation Has Led “The Charge For Industrial-Scale Food Production” And Has Opposed Safety And Environmental Regulations.** “From California to New York, the Farm Bureau leads the charge for industrial-scale food production. It opposes the labeling of genetically engineered food, animal welfare reform and environmental regulation. In Washington, its well-funded team of lobbyists and lawyers seeks to undermine the federal Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act, opposing pesticide restrictions and increased scrutiny of greenhouse gas emissions and pollution from CAFOs, like the “farm” up the road from Christen.” [The Nation, [07/16/12](#)]

## Many Of Ravensborg’s Top Donors Work In The Farming And Lumber Industries.

Brian Rupp	<a href="#">Southeast Farmers Coop</a> Unclear Position	\$8,100
Mark Neitzke	<a href="#">Agronomist, Tabor Lumber Coop</a> Sales Manager	\$8,000
Aaron Lorenzen	<a href="#">Dakota Surveillance</a> Owner/Operator; provides surveillance services for owners of livestock	\$8,000
Rich Ravensborg	<a href="#">Simonsen Industries; Farm equipment supplier</a>	\$8,000

[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]



## **South Dakota Attorney General (AG) Jason Ravnsborg Joined Texas' Baseless Supreme Court Lawsuit To Overturn Elections In States That Trump Lost.**

**South Dakota Attorney General (AG) Jason Ravnsborg Joined Texas AG Ken Paxton's Baseless Supreme Court Lawsuit To Overturn Elections In States That Donald Trump Lost.** "South Dakota has joined a lawsuit filed by Texas that asks the U.S. Supreme Court to block four states from voting in the Dec. 14 Electoral College. Ken Paxton, the Texas attorney general, is demanding that the 62 total Electoral College votes in Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin be invalidated. That's enough, if set aside, to swing the election away from President-elect Joe Biden to President Donald Trump. [...] Despite this, South Dakota Attorney General Jason Ravnsborg signed a brief Wednesday in support of Paxton's lawsuit." [Rapid City Journal, [12/09/20](#)]

- **The Supreme Court Promptly Rejected Texas AG Ken Paxton's Lawsuit Against States That Trump Lost, Ruling That Paxton's Claims Of Election Fraud Lacked Evidence And Texas Lacked Standing To Sue Other States.** "The U.S. Supreme Court on Friday night rejected an eleventh hour challenge to Joe Biden's election as president. The court's action came in a one-page order, which said the complaint was denied 'for lack of standing.' Texas, supported by President Trump, tried to sue Pennsylvania, Georgia, Wisconsin and Michigan, claiming fraud, without evidence. But in order for a state to bring a case in court, especially the Supreme Court, a state must show it has been injured. In essence, the court said Texas could not show that it was injured by the way other states conducted their elections." [NPR, [12/11/20](#)]

## **Ravnsborg's Office Would Not Immediately Substantiate Claims That It Received "Thousands Of Calls And Emails" About Election Integrity And—Despite South Dakota Having The Highest Amount Of Absentee Voting In 2020's General Election—Would Not Answer How Other States' Absentee Systems Were Worse.**

**Ravnsborg's Spokesperson Did Not Immediately Respond To A Request For Evidence For His Claim That The AG's Office Received "Thousands Of Calls And Emails" From South Dakota Citizens Concerned About Election Integrity In Other States.** "The State of South Dakota believes in free and fair elections,' his spokesman Tim Bormann said in an email. 'Our office has received thousands of calls and emails from concerned citizens and we have listened to our constituents and voters.' Bormann did not immediately respond to questions asking for evidence that thousands of South Dakotans have emailed and called his office with concerns about elections in other states, and whether they were just sharing their complaints or specifically asked Ravnsborg to intervene through the courts." [Rapid City Journal, [12/09/20](#)]

**The Texas Lawsuit That Ravnsborg Joined Asserted That The Higher Volume Of Mail-In Voting In 2020 Exacerbated The Risk Of Fraud, Even Though South Dakota Had The 'Highest Amount Of Absentee Ballots In The General Election,' According To The State's Deputy Secretary Of State.** "Among other arguments, the brief says the four states unconstitutionally stripped away safeguards for mail-in votes and doing so exacerbated the risks of fraud. The South Dakota Secretary of State encouraged mail-in votes during the 2020 primary and general elections. 2020 had the 'highest amount of absentee ballots in the general election,' according to Kea Warne, deputy secretary of state." [Rapid City Journal, [12/09/20](#)]

**Ravnsborg's Spokesperson Did Not Immediately Respond When Asked How The AG Discerns South Dakota's Absentee Voting System From The States Named In Texas' Lawsuit.** "Bormann did not immediately respond when asked what Ravnsborg thinks is the difference between South Dakota's absentee ballot system vs. the states' named in the lawsuit." [Rapid City Journal, [12/09/20](#)]

## **Ravnsborg Is A Member Of The Republican Attorneys General Association (RAGA), Closely Tied To The Group That Sent Robocalls Promoting The Rally That Led To The Capitol Riot.**

**Jason Ravnsborg Is A Member Of The Republican Attorneys General Association (RAGA).** [Republican Attorneys General Association, accessed [01/25/21](#)]

**Jason Ravnsborg Was Endorsed By RAGA's Then-Chair Leslie Rutledge.** "Leslie Rutledge, Chair Republican Attorneys General Association (RAGA), endorses South Dakota's Attorney General Candidate Jason Ravnsborg" [Jason for South Dakota, accessed [01/25/21](#)]

**The Rule Of Law Defense Fund (RLDF), An "Offshoot" Organization Of The Republican Attorneys General Association (RAGA), Was One Of The Groups Behind The Rally That Led To The Capitol Riot.** "The leader of a Republican attorneys general group sought to distance his organization from Wednesday's deadly assault on the U.S. Capitol by supporters of President Donald Trump, saying staffers' decision to be involved in a rally before the riot wasn't authorized. The Rule of Law Defense Fund, an offshoot of the Republican Attorneys General Association, was listed as a participant in the 'March to Save America' gathering in Washington that turned into a violent raid on the Capitol after Trump and other addressed the crowd, according to an archived web link for organizers of the event which has since been taken down." [Bloomberg, [01/08/21](#)]

**RAGA And RLDF Share Funding, Staff, And Office Space.** "While Carr is the chairman of RAGA, he is not directly associated with the RLDF [sic]. However, the groups share funding, staff and office space in Washington, according to NBC News." [11 Alive, [01/09/21](#)]

**RAGA And RLDF Accepted The Resignation Of RAGA Executive Director Adam Piper Following Backlash Over Robocalls RLDF Made To Promote The Rally.** "The executive director of a national group that advocates for Republican attorneys general has resigned in the fallout of a robocall urging people to march to the U.S. Capitol ahead of the violent assault last week. The Republican Attorneys General Association and the Rule of Law Defense Fund accepted the voluntary resignation of Adam Piper on Monday, according to a statement obtained by The Associated Press." [Washington Post, [01/11/21](#)]

- **Piper Was RAGA's Executive Director.** "The executive director of the Republican Attorneys General Association has resigned amid backlash over a decision to send out robocalls urging people to march to the U.S. Capitol." [NBC News, [01/11/21](#)]

**Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita Took \$5,000 From Koch Industries—The Koch Family Were Longtime Opponents Of The Affordable Care Act As Rokita Made Striking Down The Law A "Campaign Centerpiece."**

## **Top 20 Individual Contributors**

NAME		AMOUNT DONATED
Republican Attorneys General Association	-	\$944,600
Indiana Republican Party	-	\$82,747
Ronda L Hanning	<a href="#">Hanning &amp; Bean Enterprises Owner &amp; President; real estate brokerage services</a>	\$20,000
Michael R Leep	<a href="#">Gurley Leep Automotive Group</a> President	\$15,000

# ACCOUNTABLE<sup>US</sup>

Fund For American Exceptionalism	-	\$15,000
Robert Louis Koch	<a href="#">Koch Enterprises, Inc.</a> Chairman; <a href="#">A Director</a> of Koch Foundation and Koch Holdings	\$10,000
Kelley Automotive Group	-	\$10,000
Russell Fortune III	<a href="#">Fortune Development Corporation &amp; Fortune Development LLC</a> ; <a href="#">real estate developers</a>	\$10,000
Cajun Pac II	-	\$10,000
Anil Diwan PHD	<a href="#">NanoViricides</a> ; medical technology; Rokita a <a href="#">board member</a>	\$10,000
Anthony Alderson	Founder & CEO <a href="#">Alderson Commercial Group</a>	\$10,000
Pike Plaza Properties LLC	-	\$10,000
Michael Erler	-	\$9,000
Paul Mullin	-	\$7,643
Josh Martin	-	\$7,550
Nathan Feltman	Co-Owner <a href="#">Indianapolis Business Journal</a> ; <a href="#">CEO NFJ Consulting</a> ; <a href="#">Member of the Board of Directors National Bank of Indianapolis</a>	\$7,500
Brad Huff	-	\$7,500
Cynthia Collier	-	\$6,042
David McComb	-	\$6,000
Debora Avgerinos	-	\$5,500

[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

## Top 5 Industries

INDUSTRY	AMOUNT DONATED
Conservative Policy Organization	\$949,600
Lawyers & Lobbyists	\$53,750
Automotive	\$37,300
Real Estate	\$31,750
Beer, Wine & Liquor	\$27,000

[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

## Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita Took \$5,000 From Koch Industries—Whose Founding Family Has Long Fought Obamacare—And He “Made A Campaign Centerpiece” Of Striking Down The Healthcare Law.

Todd Rokita “Made A Campaign Centerpiece” Out Of His Support For A Supreme Court Case That Could Strike Down Obamacare, Even After Then-Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) Said “No One Believes” The Court Would Do So. “Todd Rokita has made a campaign centerpiece out of a lawsuit that could soon wipe out Obamacare. But the legal rationale is so shaky that Republicans across the

country are saying it would be absurd for anyone to think it can prevail. 'No one believes the Supreme Court is going to strike down the Affordable Care Act,' Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said last week during a debate in Kentucky, referring to the 2010 law that is widely known as Obamacare." [Indianapolis Star, [10/25/20](#)]

**Todd Rokita Has Taken \$5,000 From Koch Industries.** [FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

Contributor: Koch Industries  
4111 E. 37th Street N.  
Wichita, KS 67220

[Indiana Secretary of State, [09/10/20](#)]

- **The Address On The Contribution Matches That Of A Koch Industries Office.** "The opt-out notice must be postmarked no later than the applicable deadline and mailed to: Koch Communications Marketing, 4111 E. 37th Street North, Wichita, KS 67220 Attn: Counsel" [Koch Industries, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

**Early In The Trump Administration, Conservative Groups Backed By The Koch Family Were Pressuring Republicans To "Swiftly Repeal" Obamacare.** "Saying their patience is at an end, conservative activist groups backed by the billionaire Koch brothers and other powerful interests on the right are mobilizing to pressure Republicans to fulfill their promise to swiftly repeal the Affordable Care Act." [The New York Times, [03/05/17](#)]

## **Koch-Funded Organizations The Reason Foundation And The Tax Foundation Have Questioned The Constitutionality Of The ARPA's The Use Of Relief Funding To Offset State Tax Cuts.**

**March 13, 2021: The Reason Foundation Published An Article Which Questioned The Constitutionality Of The ARPA's Use Of Relief Funding To Offset State Tax Cuts, Titled Is "Section 602(c)(2)(A) of the American Rescue Plan Act Constitutional?"** "Earlier this week, President Biden signed into law the [American Rescue Plan Act](#). This law provides the states with more than \$200 billion in aid. [...] By contrast, Section 602(c)(2) lists two categories of expenditures the funds cannot be used for. Section 602(c)(2)(B) addresses a common Republican criticism: the funds cannot be used to bail out pension funds. But Section 602(c)(2)(A) seems to limit a state's power to reduce taxes. [...] Does the American Rescue Plan Act amount to "economic dragooning"? As a threshold matter, this law differs from NFIB in that states would not lose pre-existing funding. But states would be turning down significant sums of money. [...] My quick googling suggests that Texas's annual budget is about \$100 billion. If we take the percentages used in NFIB, Texas's loss could amount to 'economic dragooning.'" [Reason, [3/13/21](#)]

**The Reason Foundation's Second Biggest Donor As Of 2012 Was The David. H Koch Charitable Foundation.** "The exchange caught the attention of Austin Bragg, 33, a producer for Reason TV. He proposed a video to his editor, Nick Gillespie. Reason TV and its magazine and Internet outlets are subsidiaries of the Reason Foundation, a libertarian research organization whose largest donors are the David H. Koch Charitable Foundation (\$1,522,212) and the Sarah Scaife Foundation (\$2,016,000), according to the foundations' most recent filings. Both finance conservative and libertarian causes." [Washington Post, [6/14/12](#)]

**The Reason Foundation Received Nearly \$1.7 Million From Charles Koch Nonprofits From 2015 To 2018 And David Koch Was A Trustee Of The Organization.** "Libertarian think tank the Reason Foundation received close to \$9.6 million from eight nonprofits researched by CMD, including \$3.8 million from the Searle Freedom Trust and nearly \$1.7 million from the two Charles Koch nonprofits, from 2015-18. The late David Koch was a Reason trustee. The Reason Foundation publishes Reason Magazine and Reason.com, which includes podcasts and a video series by libertarian media personality John Stossel." [Center For Media And Democracy, [1/27/20](#)]

**The Charles Koch Institute And Trust Lists The Reason Foundation As A Participating Organization In Its Educational Program.** “Jobs and internships offered through CKI’s educational programs provide the opportunity to explore social entrepreneurship in fields such as communications, operations, research, external relations, and donor relations. The list of participating organizations with available roles changes from year to year based on the talent needs of each organization. Both the Charles Koch Institute and the Charles Koch Foundation hire participants as part of the educational programs as well. [...] Reason Foundation” [Charles Koch Institute, [Accessed 5/05/21](#)]

**March 18, 2021: The Tax Foundation Published An Article Which Questioned The Constitutionality And Scope Of The ARPA’s The Use Of Relief Funding To Offset State Tax Cuts, Claiming It Would Potentially Lead To An Undoing Of “The Principle Of Fiscal Federalism” And “Raises Difficult Questions.”** “The American Rescue Plan Act’s restriction on states’ Fiscal Recovery Funds being used to directly or indirectly offset a net tax cut is vague and raises difficult questions of interpretation and application. A broad interpretation of this prohibition may be unconstitutional. [...] A great deal is at stake. At a theoretical level, the principle of fiscal federalism is implicated here, as a broad interpretation of the federal prohibition would represent an unprecedented degree of state entanglement in state fiscal policy, using federal dollars to dictate state policy in a way that vastly exceeds what has been attempted in the past. And at a practical level, the potential field of preemption is vast, not just what most people might think of as tax cuts.” [Tax Foundation, [3/18/21](#)]

**The Charles Koch Institute And Trust Lists The Tax Foundation As A Participating Organization In Its Educational Program.** “Jobs and internships offered through CKI’s educational programs provide the opportunity to explore social entrepreneurship in fields such as communications, operations, research, external relations, and donor relations. The list of participating organizations with available roles changes from year to year based on the talent needs of each organization. Both the Charles Koch Institute and the Charles Koch Foundation hire participants as part of the educational programs as well. [...] Tax Foundation” [Charles Koch Institute, [Accessed 5/05/21](#)]

**The Charles G. Koch Charitable Trust Gave The Tax Foundation Nearly \$700,000 From 2014 To 2016.**

Donor	Recipient	Amount	Year
Charles Koch G. Charitable Trust	Tax Foundation	\$425,000	<a href="#">2014</a>
Charles Koch G. Charitable Trust	Tax Foundation	\$4,800	<a href="#">2015</a>
Charles Koch G. Charitable Trust	Tax Foundation	\$270,000	<a href="#">2016</a>

**January 27, 2021: Rokita Joined Five Other AGs In Threatening Legal Action Against “Unconstitutional Laws” That Biden Signs As Well As Actions By Administration Officials Who “Go Beyond The Bounds Of Their Statutory Authority.”**

**January 27, 2021: Rokita Joined Five Other State Attorneys General In Threatening Legal Action Against “Federal Overreach” By The Biden Administration.** “West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey led a six-state coalition writing that state attorneys general will be vigilant in watching for and opposing federal overreach, especially when such action puts jobs and civil liberties at risk. [...] The letter explained that should the new administration govern in a manner inconsistent with those tenets, the attorneys general contend it will be their responsibility and duty to challenge the administration’s actions in court.” [WBOY, [01/27/21](#)]



- **Attorneys General From West Virginia, Indiana, Mississippi, Montana and Texas Joined The Letter.** “West Virginia led the letter with support from attorneys general in Arkansas, Indiana, Mississippi, Montana and Texas.” [WBOY, [01/27/21](#)]

**The Text Of The Letter Said The AGs Would Challenge “Unconstitutional Laws” That Biden Signs As Well As Actions By Administration Officials Who “Go Beyond The Bounds Of Their Statutory Authority.”** “We stand ready to meet with your administration to discuss more how the issues below affect our States; litigation is never a first option, and we would like to help your team in its important job on behalf of all Americans, consistent with the Constitution and the rule of law. Yet if you sign unconstitutional laws passed by Congress, it will be our responsibility and duty to challenge those laws in court. If cabinet officials, executive officers, and agencies go beyond the bounds of their statutory authority, fail to follow legally required procedures, or fall short of the bedrock Administrative Procedure Act obligation of reasoned decisionmaking, it will likewise be our responsibility to take action.” [[Letter from Patrick Morrisey et al. to Joseph R. Biden Jr.](#), 01/27/21]

**Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge’s Biggest Individual Donor Has Been A Nursing Home Executive Who Was Accused Of Interfering In An Abuse Settlement—Rutledge Has Also Drawn Suspicion For Not Opposing A Trump Rollback To Expose Nursing Home Residents To Private Arbitration Agreements.**

## Top 20 Individual Contributors

NAME	COMPANY	AMOUNT DONATED
Balance Forward [Arkansas’s term for funds carried over from previous races]	-	\$381,362
Transfer Of General Account Contributions From Transfer Of General Account Contributions & Interest From Previously Combined Report	-	\$53,018
Michael S Morton	<a href="#">Central Arkansas Nursing Centers</a> Former Founder and CEO	\$11,400
Robert Madison Murphy	<a href="#">Murphy Oil</a>	\$10,400
Bill Dillard	<a href="#">Dillard’s Inc.</a> CEO; <a href="#">Department Store Chain</a>	\$8,100
Ray C Dillon	<a href="#">Former CEO Deltic Timber Corporation</a>	\$8,100
Gary Wilson Sewell	<a href="#">Sewell Oil Company, Owner; Arkansas Economic Development Commission</a>	\$8,000
Brent Stevenson	<a href="#">Brent Stevenson Associates</a> President; lobbying firm	\$8,000
Mike Huckabee Campaign Cmte	-	\$7,700
S Graham Catlett	<a href="#">Catlett Law Firm</a>	\$7,700
Brent Stevenson Associates	-	\$7,500
Entergy Corp	-	\$7,400



## ACCOUNTABLE<sup>US</sup>

Walmart	-	\$7,400
Lisenne D Rockefeller	<a href="#">Winthrop Rockefeller Institute</a> Secretary	\$7,400
D B H Management Consultants	-	\$7,000
Koch Industries	-	\$6,700
Mark H Allison	<a href="#">Dover Dixon Horne PLLC</a> Attorney	\$6,250
Briarwood Nursing & Rehab Center	-	\$6,000
Central Arkansas Nursing Centers	-	\$6,000
MSM Properties	-	\$6,000

[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

### Top 5 Industries

INDUSTRY	AMOUNT DONATED
Balance Forward [Oklahoma's term for funds carried over from previous races]	\$381,362
Lawyers & Lobbyists	\$176,477
Hospitals & Nursing Homes	\$108,125
Oil & Gas	\$53,018
Retail Sales	\$47,925
Party Committees	\$37,695

[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

### Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge's Largest Individual Donor Is A Nursing Home Company's Key Principal, And The Hospital And Nursing Homes Sector Is One Of Her Largest Donor Groups.

**Michael Morton Is Rutledge's Largest Individual Donor, Giving Her Campaigns \$11,400.**

[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

**Morton Is The Key Principal Of Central Arkansas Nursing Centers, Inc.** [Dun & Bradstreet, [Accessed 2/03/21](#)]

**One Of Rutledge's Largest Donor Industries Is Hospital And Nursing Homes, Which Has Given Her Various Campaigns \$108,125.** [FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

### Two Years After Her Largest Individual Donor Was Accused Of Interfering In A Settlement Case Over Abused Nursing Home Residents, Leslie Rutledge Was Publicly Scrutinized For Not Opposing A Trump Administration Rollback Which Would Allow Nursing Homes To Force Their Residents Into Private Arbitration Agreements.

**Michael Morton Is Rutledge's Largest Individual Donor, Giving Her Campaigns Over \$11,000.**

[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

**Morton Is The President Of Central Arkansas Nursing Centers, Inc.** [Dun & Bradstreet, [Accessed 2/03/21](#)]

**Morton And A Lobbyist Were Accused Of “Corruptly Interfering” In A 2015 Circuit Court Decision To Reduce A Settlement To Victims Of Nursing Home Negligence.** “A lawsuit accusing nursing home owner Michael Morton and former lobbyist Gilbert Baker of corruptly interfering in a negligence lawsuit to cause former Circuit Judge Michael Maggio to reduce a \$5.2 million jury award to \$1 million in 2013 has been resolved, the plaintiffs' attorney confirmed Monday... In July 2013, Maggio, then a Faulkner County circuit judge, lowered the jury's award in the negligence case. Attorneys for Bull's family contended in the newer lawsuit, which was resolved within the past month, that Morton and Baker conspired to bribe Maggio to lower the award substantially. Maggio pleaded guilty in January 2015 to a bribery charge, for which he is serving a 10-year sentence in federal prison. Baker, who is also a former state senator and former chairman of the Arkansas Republican Party, is facing a jury trial starting Feb. 22 on federal charges of conspiracy, bribery and wire fraud. Morton hasn't been charged, and he and Baker deny wrongdoing.” [Arkansas Online, [10/06/20](#)]

**Maggio Wired \$30,000 To Various PACs Specified By The Accused Lobbyist Two Days Before The Judge Reduced The Settlement Payout.** “Two days before Maggio lowered the jury's award, Morton, a Fort Smith businessman, either wrote or had someone write 10 \$3,000 checks on his behalf to 10 political action committees after Baker faxed him the PACs' names with specified amounts, according to Baker's federal indictment.” [Arkansas Online, [10/06/20](#)]

**The Judge Presiding Over The Case With Which Morton Was Accused Of Interfering Pleaded Guilty To Bribery For His Role In The Case And Is Currently Serving A 10 Year Federal Sentence.** “Maggio pleaded guilty in January 2015 to a bribery charge, for which he is serving a 10-year sentence in federal prison.” [Arkansas Online, [10/06/20](#)]

**Rutledge Was Publicly Scrutinized For Not Joining A Challenge To A Trump Administration Rollback Of Protections For Abused Nursing Home Patients, Which Would Allow Them To Be Forced Into Arbitration When Filing Complaints.** “The Trump administration rollback of Obama-era regulations includes an effort to end the rule that prevented nursing homes from forcing potential patients to agree to arbitration over complaints of abuse and neglect rather than being allowed to go to court. Sixteen states and the District of Columbia — not including Arkansas — have objected to the proposed reversal of the rule [...] Attorney General Leslie Rutledge favors arbitration, for abused nursing home patients and for victims of unscrupulous lenders. Why? Because it's good for business to hold the upper hand. To borrow a phrase, the business of Arkansas government is business. Not consumer protection.” [Arkansas Times, [8/09/17](#)]

## **Arkansas Granted Health Care Providers Immunity From COVID-Related Lawsuits After Nearly 100 Nursing Home Residents Had Died Of The Virus**

**In April 2020, Arkansas Released An Executive Order Granting Healthcare Providers Immunity From Lawsuits Related To COVID-19.** “Gov. Asa Hutchinson says he's granting healthcare providers immunity from lawsuits related to the coronavirus outbreak and allowing first responders sickened by COVID-19 to receive workers' compensation insurance. The governor announced the two executive orders at a briefing Tuesday, where he said two more people have died from COVID-19 in Arkansas, bringing the state's death toll to 32. 1,498 people in the state have also tested positive for the coronavirus, with 1,024 considered active cases.” [Little Rock Public Radio, [4/14/20](#)]

**At The Time Of The Executive Order, 93 Nursing Home Residents Had Died Of COVID.** “In April, Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson granted healthcare providers immunity from lawsuits related to COVID-19 outbreaks. At the time the executive order was passed, 93 nursing home residents throughout the state had tested positive for the virus and six residents had died. As of June, the state has seen over 10,000 total COVID-19 cases. According to state-released data, there have been over 7,000 recoveries. Of the currently active 3,000+ cases, fewer than 150 have been reported in nursing homes. While COVID-19 has not hit Arkansas's nursing homes as hard as other states, it's likely that a number of cases have gone unreported—especially with the inadequate testing capabilities.” [McMath Woods, [6/11/20](#)]

## **Rutledge—Who Has Taken Nearly \$52,000 From The Oil & Gas Industry—Signed Onto Lawsuits Against Biden Administration On The Keystone XL Pipeline, The Social Cost Of Greenhouses Gases, And A Pause On New Drilling Leases.**

**The Oil & Gas Industry Has Given Leslie Rutledge \$51,850.** [Followthemoney.org, accessed [05/06/21](#)]  
**March 24, 2021: Attorney General Leslie Rutledge Joined A 13-State Lawsuit Against The Biden Administration Seeking To End Pause On New Federal Oil And Gas Contracts.** “Thirteen states sued the Biden administration Wednesday to end a suspension of new oil and gas leases on federal land and water and to reschedule canceled sales of leases in the Gulf of Mexico, Alaska waters and western states. The Republican-leaning states, led by Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry, seek a court order ending the moratorium imposed after Democratic President Joe Biden signed executive orders on climate change on Jan. 27. [...] Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah and West Virginia are the other plaintiff states.” [Associated Press, [3/24/21](#)]

**April 23, 2021: Rutledge Joined Nine Other States In A Lawsuit Against Biden Administration Proposal To Determine The Social Cost Of Greenhouse Gas Emissions In Environmental Estimates.** “A coalition of 14 Republican attorneys general led by Missouri on Monday accused President Joe Biden in federal court of exceeding his powers in an executive order that restored Obama-era levels of the costs of climate change when making policy. Attorney general Eric Schmitt and his peers from states including Montana and Kansas accused Biden of violating the U.S. Constitution’s separation of powers with Executive Order 13990, which re-ups the so-called ‘social cost of greenhouse gases’ that must be used when conducting cost-benefit analyses tied to regulatory actions like government permitting and investment.” [Reuters, [3/8/21](#)]

**March 18, 2021: Rutledge Joined A Lawsuit Against Biden's Revocation Of The Keystone Pipeline, Claiming It Would Cost Thousands Of Jobs.** “Arkansas is joining a multi-state lawsuit pushing back against President Joe Biden’s decision to stop development on the Keystone XL pipeline. Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge announced Thursday that she has filed a lawsuit against the Biden administration challenging the revocation of President Donald Trump’s 2019 presidential permit allowing for construction and operation of the controversial 1,200-mile pipeline. [...] ‘I warned President Biden to reverse course and reinstate the Keystone Pipeline permit, which would have saved thousands of jobs, but he refused,’ she said. ‘I have personally visited with hardworking Arkansans who lost their jobs on the Keystone Pipeline, and they told me about the pain and financial strain their families and communities face because of President Biden’s unlawful action.’” [KARK, [3/18/21](#)]

## **Rutledge—Who Has Taken \$6,000 From Koch Industries— Signed Onto A Lawsuit Opposing The Biden Relief Plan’s Limit On State Tax Cuts, While Koch-Funded Entities The Reason Foundation And The Tax Foundation Have Questioned The Constitutionality Of The ARPA’s Limit On State Tax Cuts.**

**Rutledge Has Received Over \$6,000 In Campaign Contributions From Koch Industries.**  
[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

**March 31, 2021: Rutledge Joined A Lawsuit Challenging The Constitutionality Of The American Rescue Plan Act’s Limit On Using Federal Relief Money To Offset State Tax Cuts.** “Attorneys general from 13 states sued President Joe Biden’s administration on Wednesday over a rule in the federal stimulus that bars states from using relief money to offset tax cuts. [...] But West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey, who co-led the lawsuit with his colleagues from Alabama and Arkansas, argues the interpretation of the word “indirectly” in the provision could come back to haunt states that cut taxes.” [US News, [3/31/21](#)]

**March 13, 2021: The Reason Foundation Published An Article Which Questioned The Constitutionality Of The ARPA’s Limit On State Tax Cuts, Titled Is “Section 602(c)(2)(A) of the American Rescue Plan**

**Act Constitutional?”** “By contrast, Section 602(c)(2) lists two categories of expenditures the funds cannot be used for. Section 602(c)(2)(B) addresses a common Republican criticism: the funds cannot be used to bail out pension funds. But Section 602(c)(2)(A) seems to limit a state's power to reduce taxes. [...] Does the American Rescue Plan Act amount to “economic dragooning”? As a threshold matter, this law differs from NFIB in that states would not lose pre-existing funding. But states would be turning down significant sums of money. [...] My quick googling suggests that Texas's annual budget is about \$100 billion. If we take the percentages used in NFIB, Texas's loss could amount to ‘economic dragooning.’” [Reason, [3/13/21](#)]

**The Reason Foundation's Second Biggest Donor As Of 2012 Was The David. H Koch Charitable Foundations.** “The exchange caught the attention of Austin Bragg, 33, a producer for Reason TV. He proposed a video to his editor, Nick Gillespie. Reason TV and its magazine and Internet outlets are subsidiaries of the Reason Foundation, a libertarian research organization whose largest donors are the David H. Koch Charitable Foundation (\$1,522,212) and the Sarah Scaife Foundation (\$2,016,000), according to the foundations' most recent filings. Both finance conservative and libertarian causes.” [Washington Post, [6/14/21](#)]

**The Reason Foundation Received Nearly \$1.7 Million From Charles Koch Nonprofits From 2015 – 2018 And David Koch Was A Trustee Of The Organization.** “Libertarian think tank the Reason Foundation received close to \$9.6 million from eight nonprofits researched by CMD, including \$3.8 million from the Searle Freedom Trust and nearly \$1.7 million from the two Charles Koch nonprofits, from 2015-18. The late David Koch was a Reason trustee. The Reason Foundation publishes Reason Magazine and Reason.com, which includes podcasts and a video series by libertarian media personality John Stossel.” [Center For Media And Democracy, [1/27/20](#)]

**The Charles Koch Institute And Trust Lists The Reason Foundation As A Participating Organization In Its Educational Program.** “Jobs and internships offered through CKI's educational programs provide the opportunity to explore social entrepreneurship in fields such as communications, operations, research, external relations, and donor relations. The list of participating organizations with available roles changes from year to year based on the talent needs of each organization. Both the Charles Koch Institute and the Charles Koch Foundation hire participants as part of the educational programs as well. [...] Reason Foundation” [Charles Koch Institute, [Accessed 5/05/21](#)]

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**March 18, 2021: The Tax Foundation Published An Article Which Questioned The Constitutionality And Scope Of The ARPA's Limit On State Tax Cuts, Claiming It Would Potentially Lead To An Undoing Of “The Principle Of Fiscal Federalism” And “Raises Difficult Questions.”** “The American Rescue Plan Act's restriction on states' Fiscal Recovery Funds being used to directly or indirectly offset a net tax cut is vague and raises difficult questions of interpretation and application. A broad interpretation of this prohibition may be unconstitutional. [...] A great deal is at stake. At a theoretical level, the principle of fiscal federalism is implicated here, as a broad interpretation of the federal prohibition would represent an unprecedented degree of state entanglement in state fiscal policy, using federal dollars to dictate state policy in a way that vastly exceeds what has been attempted in the past. And at a practical level, the potential field of preemption is vast, not just what most people might think of as tax cuts.” [Tax Foundation, [3/18/21](#)]

**The Charles G. Koch Charitable Trust Gave The Tax Foundation Nearly \$700,000 From 2014 To 2016.**

Donor	Recipient	Amount	Year
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Charles Koch G. Charitable Trust	Tax Foundation	\$425,000	<a href="#">2014</a>
Charles Koch G. Charitable Trust	Tax Foundation	\$4,800	<a href="#">2015</a>
Charles Koch G. Charitable Trust	Tax Foundation	\$270,000	<a href="#">2016</a>

## **Rutledge Is A Member Of The Republican Attorneys General Association (RAGA), Closely Tied To The Group That Sent Robocalls Promoting The Rally That Led To The Capitol Riot.**

**Rutledge Is A Member Of The Republican Attorneys General Association.** [Republican Attorneys General Association, [Accessed 2/03/21](#)]

**The Rule Of Law Defense Fund (RLDF), A "Fundraising Arm Of The Republican Attorneys General Association [RAGA], Sent Robocalls Urging People To March On The Capitol The Day Before Riots Occurred.** "An arm of the Republican Attorneys General Association, a national group representing the top law enforcement officers in their states, sent out robocalls encouraging people to march to the U.S. Capitol the day before the building was stormed by a pro-Trump mob. [...] The calls, which did not advocate violence or suggest the building should be breached, was sent out by the Rule of Law Defense Fund, a fundraising arm of the Republican Attorneys General Association. The groups share funding, staff and office space in Washington, D.C." [NBC News, [01/08/21](#)]

**RAGA And RLDF Share Funding, Staff, And Office Space.** "While Carr is the chairman of RAGA, he is not directly associated with the RLDF [sic]. However, the groups share funding, staff and office space in Washington, according to NBC News." [Adrianne M. Haney, "[Georgia AG distances himself from group that sent robocalls urging Trump supporters march to Capitol](#)," *11 Alive*, 01/09/21]

**West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey—Who Has Taken Over \$400,000 From The Oil, Gas, And Mining Industries—Almost Immediately Began Preparing To Fight The Biden Administration's Climate Executive Orders.**

## **Top 20 Individual Contributors**

NAME	COMPANY	AMOUNT DONATED
Patrick Morrisey	Self	\$2,015,481
Conservative Fighter Fund	-	\$130,458
Keep The Senate Red 2018	-	\$129,854
West Virginia Victory Fund	-	\$87,898
National Republican Senatorial Cmte	-	\$47,400
Strengthen The Senate Majority 2018	-	\$41,135
Winsome Leaders I	-	\$36,231
2018 Republican Challengers Fund	-	\$34,132
Boyd Gaming	-	\$30,000
Founders Committee	-	\$26,387
Freedomworks Inc	-	\$25,550



# ACCOUNTABLE<sup>US</sup>

Lawrence A (Larry) Pack Sr	<a href="#">Stonerise Healthcare</a> CEO	\$23,100
Grow The Majority	-	\$20,757
Alliance Coal	-	\$19,600
Koch Industries	-	\$17,600
Home Depot	-	\$16,800
Citizens United	-	\$16,600
Steptoe & Johnson	-	\$15,600
Virginia L King	<a href="#">Kanawha Stone Company, Inc.</a> Director	\$15,000
Charles M Cole	<a href="#">Cole Harley Davidson Inc.</a> President; <a href="#">Motorcycle Dealership</a>	\$15,000

[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

## Top 5 Industries

INDUSTRY	AMOUNT DONATED
Candidate Contributions	\$2,093,206
Lawyers & Lobbyists	\$910,682
Joint Candidate Committee	\$394,346
Mining	\$235,642
Leadership PACS	\$206,100
Oil & Gas	\$166,100

[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

## Morrisey Has Received Over \$235,000 From Mining Companies And Over \$166,000 From Oil And Gas Companies Over His Political Career

Morrisey Has Received Over \$235,000 From Mining Companies And Over \$166,000 From Oil And Gas Companies Over His Political Career. [FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

## Patrick Morrissey Has Taken At Least \$37,200 From Alliance Coal And Koch Industries, Which Runs A “Fossil Fuel Empire.”

Alliance Coal Has Given \$19,600 To Patrick Morrissey’s Political Campaigns. [FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

Koch Industries, Which Has A “Fossil Fuel Empire,” Has Given \$17,600 To Patrick Morrissey’s Political Campaigns. [FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

- The Late David Koch, One Of The Koch Brothers, Was Known As “The Ultimate Climate Change Denier” Who “Built A Political Army To Defend His Fossil Fuel Empire.” “David Koch Was the Ultimate Climate Change Denier How a playboy billionaire built a political army to defend his fossil fuel empire. [...] In the face of this political problem, [David Koch and his brother Charles built a political influence machine](#) that is arguably unrivaled by any in corporate America.” [The New York Times, [08/23/19](#)]

## **West Virginia AG Patrick Morrisey Told Fox News He And Other Republican AGs Were Preparing To Challenge The Biden Administration's Climate Executive Orders, Which He Called "More Radical" Than Those He Fought Under Obama.**

**January 27, 2021: West Virginia Attorney General Morrisey Appeared On Fox News And Said President Biden's Climate Executive Orders Were "Really Destructive To The American Economy" And A "Wrecking Ball" To States With Oil, Gas, Coal, And Manufacturing Jobs.** MORRISEY: "Well, I think they're really destructive to the American economy. And I think it's very important for everyone watching to have a little bit of context here. Yes, there was a very robust discussion during the last presidential campaign. But what we're seeing in the first week of the Biden administration is that the president's really taking a wrecking ball to many of the states that have oil, gas, coal, manufacturing jobs. That's going to have a real detrimental impact, especially as the American economy is coming out of the COVID-19, a pandemic." [Fox News, [01/27/20](#) (00:15)]

**Morrisey, Noting That He Was Involved In Legal Challenges Against Obama Administration Actions "To Shut Down Jobs," Claimed That "Biden Is Going Much Further" With "A Very Aggressive Agenda" That Is "More Radical."** "To further amplify this, you look when President Obama was in office, I was involved in a lot of the legal challenges relating to his efforts to shut down jobs. Biden is going much further. It's a very aggressive agenda, this Green New Deal, and it's much more radical than we even saw under President Obama. I think he's really kicking the American people when they're down economically and it's not a message of unity that he's been talking about." [Fox News, [01/27/20](#) (00:46)]

**Asked If He Will File A Lawsuit Against The Biden Administration, Morrisey Said He And Other Republican Attorneys General Are "Looking At Probably Three Or Four Initiatives."** "HOST: Will you consider filing a lawsuit? Yesterday, in Texas a federal judge appointed by President Trump did put a temporary restraining order on his immigration executive order. What about your interest here on the energy side? MORRISEY: "Well we're certainly looking at – in fact, we're having discussions with our colleagues on this issue, on the Keystone Pipeline where there's some states that have direct impact, where there's standing. And so we're looking at probably three or four initiatives. But we have to see the details for the regulations. We don't even have the language yet. But yes, we are going to defend America. That's what Republican attorneys general do. And we're going to make sure that we'll be the last line of defense against some of these policies. But I do think Americans need to focus on the difference between the rhetoric – the preaching of unity – and how radical these policies are. When you go a lot further than Barack Obama, you're not talking about a moderate president." [Fox News, [01/27/20](#) (01:13)]

**Morrisey Claimed He Is Willing To Challenge Any Action By The Biden White House To Reduce Greenhouse Emissions In Court.** "West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey opposes President Joe Biden's pledge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and is willing to challenge any related White House action in court. Morrisey spoke Friday against the president's target to cut emissions in half by 2030, arguing the change would have a negative economic impact and hurt the United States' international energy standing." [WV Metro News, [4/25/21](#)]

## **As Attorney General, Morrissey Joined A Multi-State Effort Against Cancellation Of The Keystone XL Pipeline, Saying The Lawsuit "Wasn't About One Pipeline."**

**Morrisey Said He Was Prepared To Take Legal Action Against The Biden Administration's Executive Order Halting The Keystone XL Pipeline It Issued On Inauguration Day.** "Some West Virginia leaders believe that President Biden's first day in office ended up being a setback for the state's economy. 'We know we are dealing with folks who really don't respect America's energy independence and that is terrible for West Virginia,' said Attorney General Patrick Morrisey, R-W.Va. One of President Biden's first 17 executive orders halted progress on the Keystone XL Pipeline. [...] Morrisey says the order creates a ripple effect in the West Virginia economy. He says if jobs are at stake, he's ready to take legal action if necessary." [WSAZ, [01/21/21](#)]

**March 18, 2021: Attorney General Patrick Morrisey Joined A 21-State Lawsuit Against The Biden Administration, Arguing Against The Decision To Revoke The Keystone XL Pipeline.** “Attorneys general from 21 states on Wednesday sued to to overturn President Joe Biden’s cancellation of the contentious Keystone XL oil pipeline from Canada. Led by Ken Paxton of Texas and Austin Knudsen of Montana, the states said Biden had overstepped his authority when he revoked the permit for the Keystone pipeline on his first day in office. West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey also joined the lawsuit.” [WV News, [3/18/21](#)]

**Morrisey Said His Decision To Join The Lawsuit “Wasn’t About One Pipeline” But Was About “America’s Energy Independence.”** “‘This lawsuit isn’t about one pipeline in the middle of the country, it’s about jobs right here in West Virginia and oil production nationally,’ Morrisey said. ‘By eliminating work on the Keystone XL pipeline, the Biden administration has not only jeopardized America’s energy independence, but it has also damaged the nation’s economy and that of every state that benefits from oil and natural gas production.’” [WV News, [3/18/21](#)]

## **Morrisey Joined A Coalition Of States That Sued The Biden Administration Over Its Announcement It Would Stop Issuing New Leases For Drilling On Public Lands.**

**The Biden Administration Announced That, To Combat Climate Change It Would Suspend The Issuing Of Leases To Drill For Fossil Fuels On Public Lands.** “The Biden administration’s suspension of new oil and gas leases on federal land and water was blocked Tuesday by a federal judge in Louisiana who ordered that plans continue for lease sales that were delayed for the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska waters ‘and all eligible onshore properties.’ The decision is a blow to Democratic President Joe Biden’s efforts to rapidly transition the nation away from fossil fuels and thereby stave off the worst effects of climate change, including catastrophic droughts, floods and wildfires.” [Associated Press, [6/16/21](#)]

**Morrisey Joined A Coalition Of 13 States Which Sued And Successfully Blocked Bidens’ Lease Halt.** “West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey issued the following statement regarding a coalition victory achieved late Tuesday. A federal judge in Louisiana granted a nationwide, preliminary injunction that halts enforcement of President Biden’s executive order on oil lease sales on public lands. The Attorney General is part of a 13-state coalition challenging the executive order in federal court. ‘This is the first of many major victories against the Biden Administration our coalition will achieve in defending energy jobs, especially those of hard working West Virginians[.]’” [The Inter-Mountain, [6/17/21](#)]

**Morrisey Said That The Lawsuit Was A Part Of His Fight Against “The Biden Administration’s Radical, Anti-Fossil Fuel, China First Energy Policies.”** “‘For our country’s sake, we must prevail over the Biden Administration’s radical, anti-fossil fuel, China First energy policies,’ he. ‘From protecting energy jobs, to defending our gun rights, to blocking said the flood of fentanyl flooding into our state, we will use every tool to keep the federal government in check and on task, beating back destructive policies and forcing the federal government to do its statutory and constitutional duty to protect this country.’” [The Inter-Mountain, [6/17/21](#)]

## **Morrisey Sued The Biden Administration For Pursuing Mandated Environmental, Social And Governance Disclosure Policies.**

**Biden’s Pick For SEC Chair Stated He May Pursue Further Climate Risk Disclosure Requirements During His Nomination Hearing.** “Gensler affirmed that as SEC Chair, he may pursue further climate-related disclosure requirements. He explained that in his view not only do investors want this information, but also that issuers would benefit from ‘such guidance.’” [Davis Polk Briefing: Governance, [3/3/21](#)]

- **Gensler Said The SEC “Has A Role To Play” In Bringing “Consistency” To Climate Reporting Guidelines.** “‘There’s tens of trillions of dollars of invested assets that are looking for more information

about climate risk,' Mr. Gensler said during his confirmation hearing. "I think then the SEC has a role to play to help bring some consistency and comparability to those guidelines." [Wall Street Journal, [4/14/21](#)]

## **In Their 2021 Scope Of Work Outline The SEC Announced Its Examination Division Will Investigate Whether Firms Are Considering Responses To Climate Disaster And Attempt To Issue Best Practices.**

"The Division will review whether firms are considering effective practices to help improve responses to large-scale climate related events. The Division notes that the scope of the exams will be similar to its work after Hurricane Sandy in 2012, with a focus on the maturation and improvements to these plans over the intervening years. In particular, the Division notes that it will review 'whether systemically important registrants are considering effective practices to help improve responses to large-scale events.'" [Davis Polk Briefing: Governance, [3/3/21](#)]

**In A March 2021, Morrissey Wrote A Letter To Acting SEC Chair Allison Herren Lee Threatening To Sue Her Agency Over Its Proposal To Mandate Environmental, Social, And Governance Disclosures.** "West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrissey has threatened to sue the Securities and Exchange Commission if it doesn't back off its effort to expand environmental, social and governance disclosures. Morrissey said that mandating ESG disclosures from companies that are not related to their financial performance would represent regulatory overreach and would be unconstitutional because it would not 'withstand strict scrutiny' under free speech rights. In a letter Thursday to SEC Acting Chair Allison Herren Lee, Morrissey criticized a recent speech in which Lee said the SEC is considering expanding climate risk and ESG disclosures to meet investor demand." [Investment News, [03/26/21](#)]

- **"‘There Is A Significant Constitutional Obstacle To The Unprecedented And Dangerous Course You Charted In Your Remarks,’ Morrissey Wrote. ‘If The Commission Proceeds Down This Pathway, States And Other Interested Stakeholders Will Not Hesitate To Go To Court To Oppose A Federal Regulation Compelling Speech In Violation Of The First Amendment.’"** [Investment News, [03/26/21](#)]

**April 23, 2021: Morrissey Joined Nine Other States In A Lawsuit Against Biden Administration Proposal To Determine The Social Cost Of Greenhouse Gas Emissions.** "Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and nine other attorneys general filed a lawsuit against President Joe Biden and his administration over an executive order that established a working group to determine the 'social cost' of greenhouse gas emissions. Paxton argues that the executive order is an 'overreach' that the Biden administration will use to expand its environmental regulatory power. [...] The Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Dakota, West Virginia and Wyoming attorneys general are also part of the lawsuit against the Biden administration. All of them are Republicans." [KVUE, [4/23/21](#)]

**Morrissey Said The Biden Administration Would Face A "Massive Unilateral Legal Action" Against The "Overreaching" The Social Cost Of Carbon Policy, Claiming He Would Pursue It To The Supreme Court.** "'Our Constitution recognizes the risk of the overreaching federal executive, which is why top-down federal regulation requires the agreement of Congress,' Mr. Morrissey said. 'Without Congress, which has not voted on this promise and will hopefully give this new radical climate action plan the same reception it gave the Green New Deal, Biden will have to either give up or try and go it alone.' Morrissey pledged that if Mr. Biden chooses to bypass Congress and undertake a 'massive unilateral action,' the administration would face a barrage of litigation all the way to the Supreme Court." [Washington Times, [4/23/21](#)]

**Morrissey—Who Has Taken \$17,600 From Koch Industries—Co-Led A Lawsuit Challenging The Constitutionality Of The American Rescue Plan Act’s Limit On Using Federal Relief Money To Offset State Tax Cuts, As Koch-Funded Organizations Questioned The Constitutionality Of The Act.**



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**March 18, 2021: The Tax Foundation Published An Article Which Questioned The Constitutionality And Scope Of The ARPA's The Use Of Relief Funding To Offset State Tax Cuts, Claiming It Would**



**Potentially Lead To An Undoing Of “The Principle Of Fiscal Federalism” And “Raises Difficult Questions.”** “The American Rescue Plan Act’s restriction on states’ Fiscal Recovery Funds being used to directly or indirectly offset a net tax cut is vague and raises difficult questions of interpretation and application. A broad interpretation of this prohibition may be unconstitutional. [...] A great deal is at stake. At a theoretical level, the principle of fiscal federalism is implicated here, as a broad interpretation of the federal prohibition would represent an unprecedented degree of state entanglement in state fiscal policy, using federal dollars to dictate state policy in a way that vastly exceeds what has been attempted in the past. And at a practical level, the potential field of preemption is vast, not just what most people might think of as tax cuts.” [Tax Foundation, [3/18/21](#)]

**The Charles G. Koch Charitable Trust Gave The Tax Foundation Nearly \$700,000 From 2014 To 2016.**

Donor	Recipient	Amount	Year
Charles Koch G. Charitable Trust	Tax Foundation	\$425,000	<a href="#">2014</a>
Charles Koch G. Charitable Trust	Tax Foundation	\$4,800	<a href="#">2015</a>
Charles Koch G. Charitable Trust	Tax Foundation	\$270,000	<a href="#">2016</a>

## **Morrissey Is A Member Of The Republican Attorneys General Association (RAGA), Which Is Closely Tied To The Group That Sent Robocalls Promoting The Rally That Led To The Capitol Riot.**

**West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrissey Is A Member Of The Republican Attorneys General Association.** [Republican Attorneys General Association, [accessed 02/08/21](#)]

**The Rule Of Law Defense Fund (RLDF), A "Fundraising Arm Of The Republican Attorneys General Association [RAGA]," Sent Robocalls Urging People To March On The Capitol The Day Before Riots Occurred.** "An arm of the Republican Attorneys General Association, a national group representing the top law enforcement officers in their states, sent out robocalls encouraging people to march to the U.S. Capitol the day before the building was stormed by a pro-Trump mob. [...] The calls, which did not advocate violence or suggest the building should be breached, was sent out by the Rule of Law Defense Fund, a fundraising arm of the Republican Attorneys General Association. The groups share funding, staff and office space in Washington, D.C." [NBC News, [01/08/21](#)]

**RAGA And RLDF Share Funding, Staff, And Office Space.** “While Carr is the chairman of RAGA, he is not directly associated with the RLDF [sic]. However, the groups share funding, staff and office space in Washington, according to NBC News.” [11 Alive, [01/09/21](#)]

## **Morrissey Led Legal Battles On Behalf Of The Atlantic Coast Pipeline After One Of Its Owners Donated Large Sums To The Republican Attorneys General Association, A Major Funder Of Morrissey’s Campaigns.**

*Morrissey’s Campaigns Have Been Heavily Funded By The Republican Attorneys General Association (RAGA) And He And His Staff Have Deep Ties To The Group.*

**The Republican Attorneys General Association Provided Morrissey With \$6.8 Million For His 2015 Reelection Campaign And Ran Ads Supporting His 2020 Campaign For Attorney General.** “Morrissey served on the Defense Fund’s Board of Directors in 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017, according to tax documents.

The RAGA provided \$6.8 million to his 2016 reelection campaign and ran ads supporting his 2020 reelection bid.” [Charleston Gazette-Mail, [1/12/21](#)]

**Mountaineer PAC, A Dark Money Group Primarily Funded By The Republican Attorneys General Association, Spent Over \$1.75 Million In Support Of His 2020 Reelection Campaign.** “The Mountaineer PAC is the second-largest dark-money group this election cycle. It’s spent \$1,754,562 supporting Attorney General Patrick Morrisey and opposing his Democratic Party challenger, Sam Brown Petsonk. The Republican Attorneys General Association, a national organization dedicated solely to electing Republican attorneys general, has bankrolled the entirety of Mountaineer PAC’s spending.” [Cheokee Tribune, 10/27/20]

**Morrisey Served On The Rule Of Law Defense Fund’s Board Of Directors From 2014-2017.** “Morrisey served on the Defense Fund’s Board of Directors in 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017, according to tax documents. The RAGA provided \$6.8 million to his 2016 reelection campaign and ran ads supporting his 2020 reelection bid.” [Charleston Gazette-Mail, [1/12/21](#)]

**Morrisey’s 2012 Campaign Manager, Scott Will, Was The Executive Director Of RAGA From 2015 To 2019.** “Scott Will, who served as Morrisey’s campaign manager in 2012, was executive director of the RAGA from 2015 to 2019. He was also vice president of the Rule of Law Defense Fund from 2014 to 2019.” [Charleston Gazette-Mail, [1/12/21](#)]

- **Will Was Also The Vice President Of The Rule Of Law Defense Fund, A Sister Group Of RAGA, From 2014 To 2019.** “Scott Will, who served as Morrisey’s campaign manager in 2012, was executive director of the RAGA from 2015 to 2019. He was also vice president of the Rule of Law Defense Fund from 2014 to 2019.” [Charleston Gazette-Mail, [1/12/21](#)]

*Some Of RAGA’s Largest Donors Are Oil And Gas Companies Including Dominion Energy Of Virginia, Which Gave The Group Over \$60,000 From 2014 To 2019*

**Some Of RAGA’s Largest Donors Are Fossil Fuel And Energy Companies Including Devon Energy, Koch Industries, Murray Energy, ExxonMobil, And Dominion Energy Of Virginia.** “According to OpenSecrets.org, RAGA’s top known donors in the past three campaign cycles included oil and gas drillers Devon Energy Production and Range Resources, the energy and petrochemical conglomerate Koch Industries, coal mining giant Murray Energy, electricity producer and distributor Entergy, gas-compressor manufacturer Ariel, and oil and gas services company Trinity Industries, along with the industry groups American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity and American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers. Among RAGA’s past energy industry contributors are the American Petroleum Institute, Anadarko Petroleum, CenterPoint Energy, ConocoPhillips, ExxonMobil, Newfield Exploration, and Noble Energy. A recent investigation by the Energy and Policy Institute found that Dominion Energy of Virginia, the lead partner in the ACP project, donated over \$60,000 to RAGA since 2014.” [Facing South, [12/17/19](#)]

**Dominion Energy Of Virginia Donated Over \$60,000 To RAGA From 2014 To 2019.** “A recent investigation by the Energy and Policy Institute found that Dominion Energy of Virginia, the lead partner in the ACP project, donated over \$60,000 to RAGA since 2014.” [Facing South, [12/17/19](#)]

*Dominion Energy Was The Primary Stakeholder In The Atlantic Coast Pipeline, A Project That Sought To Run Through Ecologically And Socially Venerable Areas.*

**Dominion Energy Is The Primary Stakeholder Of The Atlantic Coast Pipeline Project, A Proposed Fossil Fuel Pipeline Planned To Be Built Under The Appalachian Trail.** “The high court’s intervention could remove a barrier for construction of the \$7.5 billion, 600-mile Atlantic Coast Pipeline, which has been halted for nearly a year because of various permitting woes. Builders of the pipeline, led by primary stakeholder Dominion Energy, and the Trump administration appealed a decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th

Circuit that said the U.S. Forest Service lacked authority to grant a permit to tunnel under the popular hiking trail.” [Washington Post, [10/04/19](#)]

**The Atlantic Coast Pipeline Would Run Through Virginia, West Virginia, And North Carolina And Its Proposed Path Would Disrupt Historic Black Communities.** “The Atlantic Coast Pipeline is being built through rugged and rural terrain from West Virginia, across the center of Virginia and into North Carolina. Opponents have fought it every step of the way, saying that it was hastily approved and that the natural gas it would deliver is not needed in a changing energy marketplace. The project has attracted national attention, with former vice president Al Gore and the Rev. William Barber, a civil rights leader, visiting Virginia earlier this year to highlight the plight of a historic African American community being disrupted by pipeline construction. It has also factored into state politics, helping inspire a movement for candidates and lawmakers — most of them Democrats — to reject contributions from Dominion.” [Washington Post, [10/04/19](#)]

**The Atlantic Coast Pipeline’s Construction Would Increase Risk Of Landslides And Would Threaten Water Quality And Endangered Species.** “Our region’s rivers, forests, and communities are in the crosshairs of a destructive and highly controversial gas pipeline project. Dominion Energy’s and Duke Energy’s proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline would fragment some of the most intact, forested landscapes in the Southeast—including the George Washington National Forest. Cutting across steep slopes and through numerous rivers, streams, and wetlands, the pipeline would put water quality at risk and harm sensitive and endangered species. The pipeline also puts communities like Union Hill, Virginia, and many others, in harm’s way. [...] Dominion and Duke would build the ACP across rugged, mountainous terrain already susceptible to landslides. Construction and operation of the pipeline would increase the risk of landslides, leading to potential harm to people and causing damage to mountain slopes and the sensitive streams that drain them.” [Southern Environment, [Accessed 3/29/21](#)]

*After Federal Judges Suspended Permits For The Pipeline And Denied It’s Ability To Run Underneath The Appalachian Trail Morrisey Led A 18 State Coalition That Caused The US Supreme Court Overturn The Decision.*

**The Atlantic Coast Pipelines Pipeline Was Planned To Run Through West Virginia, Virginia, And North Carolina.**



[The News & Advance, [11/12/14](#)]

**Federal Judges Suspended Permits Issued To The Atlantic Coast Pipeline, Saying That The US Forest Service “Abdicated Its Responsibility” By Granting Permits, Calling The Process Rushed And Incomplete.** “Federal judges suspended several permits last year, including those that set standards for allowable harm to endangered species of wildlife and that allowed the pipeline to cross national forests. The judges wrote that ‘the Forest Service abdicated its responsibility to preserve national forest resources’ in a rushed and incomplete permitting process.” [Washington Post, [10/04/19](#)]

**Federal Judges Also Ruled That The Forest Service Lacked The Authority To Give The Pipeline Permission To Cross The Appalachian Trail.** “The most significant challenge to the project was the finding, issued in December, that the Forest Service lacked authority to give the pipeline permission to cross the Appalachian Trail. A panel of federal judges said the National Park Service had jurisdiction over the crossing, but the Park Service had said that it could not grant right of way without permission from Congress.” [Washington Post, [10/04/19](#)]

**Morrissey Led A 18 State Coalition In A Brief To The US Supreme Court To Reverse The Decision, Calling It “Inaccurate.”** “The pipeline company, a joint venture of Dominion Energy Inc., Duke Energy Corp.



and Southern Co. Gas, would like to reverse a ruling of the U.S. Appeals Court for the 4th Circuit that canceled U.S. Forest Service authorizations that would have allowed the pipeline to cross the Appalachian Trail and sections of national forest. The appeals court decision was supported by environmental and local groups. Calling the 4th Circuit ruling 'inaccurate,' West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey urged the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the company's appeal. Morrisey filed a West Virginia-led friend of the court brief supported by Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Utah and Wyoming. (U.S. Supreme Court dockets 18-1584 and 18587)" [SNL Daily Gas Report, 12/11/19]

**Morrisey's Efforts Led To The SCOTUS Overturning The Lower Court's Decision And Allowing The Pipeline To Again Cross Underneath The Appalachian Trail.** "In its decision today, the Supreme Court upheld the longstanding precedent allowing infrastructure crossings of the Appalachian Trail. For decades, more than 50 other pipelines have safely crossed the Trail without disturbing its public use. The Atlantic Coast Pipeline will be no different. To avoid impacts to the Trail, the pipeline will be installed hundreds of feet below the surface and emerge more than a half-mile from each side of the Trail. There will be no construction activity on or near the Trail itself, and the public will be able to continue enjoying the Trail as they always have. We appreciate the many stakeholders who supported our position in this case, including the U.S. Solicitor General, 18 state attorneys general, more than 60 members of Congress and dozens of labor and industry groups." [Atlantic Coast Pipeline, [7/15/20](#)]

**Morrisey Praised The Supreme Court Decision That Allowed The Pipeline The Right Of Way Under The Appalachian Trail, Saying It Would "Put Back To Work Thousands Of Men And Women."** The Supreme Court on Monday removed a major obstacle to the construction of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, a long-delayed and multibillion-dollar project meant to carry natural gas through some of the most mountainous scenery in central Virginia. The court ruled that the U.S. Forest Service has authority to grant the pipeline right of way under the Appalachian Trail in the George Washington National Forest. [...] West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey (R) also hailed the ruling, saying it 'will help put back to work thousands of men and women.'" [Washington Post, [6/15/20](#)]

*The Atlantic Coast Pipeline Was Cancelled By In 2020 Due To The Public And Legal Obstacles It Faced, Which Morrisey Said Made Him "Disappointed."*

**The Atlantic Coast Pipeline Was Cancelled By In 2020 Due To The Public And Legal Obstacles It Faced.** "The Atlantic Coast Pipeline was a planned underground highway of natural gas, meant to cover 600 miles across the South. Activists were hugely worried about the environmental impact of the pipeline, so their strategy was to block every attempt to get it built. They tried to keep pipelines away from the Appalachian Trail. They argued that construction of the pipeline put endangered species at risk. They filed lawsuits. All this work slowed the pipeline down, but what no one was expecting was what happened this weekend: After six years of legal fights, Duke Energy and Dominion Energy, the companies behind this pipeline, announced that the whole thing was canceled. How did this victory happen? And can it be replicated?" [Slate, [7/08/20](#)]

**Morrisey Said He Was "Deeply Disappointed About This Decision."** "'I'm deeply disappointed about this decision to cancel construction of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline - a project which would have provided more than 1,000 West Virginian families with good paying jobs,' Attorney General Morrisey said. "'My office helped lead the fight to reopen the pipeline at the U.S. Supreme Court and currently leads efforts to reverse the flawed national injunction to further limit construction on pipelines that recently came out of a Montana district court.'" [Jackson Herald, 7/07/20]

**Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody Took \$50,000 From Private Prison Giant GEO Group As She Backed Legislation That Would Give Her Power To Sue Sanctuary Cities; A Policy Expected To Boost GEO's Profits.**



## **Top 20 Individual Contributors**

NAME	COMPANY	AMOUNT DONATED
Florida Republican Party	-	\$993,829
Public Fund	-	\$478,903
HCA Management Services	-	\$18,000
Walt Disney	-	\$12,000
Florida Association Of Realtors	-	\$12,000
Southern Gardens Citrus Nursery	-	\$12,000
GEO Group	-	\$9,000*See below for additional PAC donations
Florida Chamber Of Commerce	-	\$9,000
Vital MD Florida	-	\$9,000
Hutson Companies	-	\$6,000
St Joe Co.	-	\$6,000
Sunshine Gasoline Distributors	-	\$6,000
Florida Concrete & Products Associations	-	\$6,000
Naifa Florida	-	\$6,000
Florida Credit Union League	-	\$6,000
Associated Industries Of Florida Db a Voice Florida Of Business	-	\$6,000
Lykes Brothers Inc	-	\$6,000
The Villages	-	\$6,000
Florida PBA	-	\$6,000
Darlene Jordan	<a href="#">Hellman Jordan Management Company</a> / <a href="#">State University System Of Florida</a> Board Member / <a href="#">Gerald R Jordan Foundation</a> Executive Director	\$6,000

[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

## **Top 5 Industries**

INDUSTRY	AMOUNT DONATED
Party Committees	\$993,829
Public Subsidy	\$478,903
Lawyers & Lobbyists	\$339,533
Real Estate	\$175,360
General Contractors	\$64,600
Crop Production & Basic Processing	\$62,000

[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

**Florida AG Ashley Moody—Who Took \$50,000 From Large Private Prison Firm The GEO Group And Its Senior Executives—Backed A State Senate Bill That Would Have Given Her Power To Sue Sanctuary Cities And Was Expected To Help The Florida-Based Prison Company.**

**Ashley Moody Received \$6,000 From GEO Group During Her 2018 Campaign For Attorney General.** [Search for 2018 Election, Ashley Moody, List Of Contributors, Florida Division of Elections, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

**Moody Received \$1,000 From David Venturella During Her 2018 Campaign.** [Search for 2018 Election, Contributor David Venturella, Florida Division of Elections, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

- **David Venturella Is Listed As The Senior Vice President Of Client Relations Of GEO Group.** [GEO Group, accessed [03/10/21](#)]

**Moody's PAC, Friends Of Ashley Moody, Received \$45,000 From GEO Group During Her 2018 Campaign For Attorney General.** [Search for 2018 Election, Friends of Ashley Moody Committee Contributions, List of Contributions; Florida Division of Elections, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

**May 2019: Ashley Moody Backed A Florida Senate Proposal That Would Allow Her To Sue Local Governments That Refuse To Fully Cooperate With Federal Immigration Authorities And Effectively Ban "Sanctuary Cities."** "Attorney General Ashley Moody supports a Senate proposal that would give her the authority to file civil actions against local governments that do not fully cooperate with federal immigration authorities. [...] The Senate is moving forward with a bill that would ban so-called sanctuary cities. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Joe Gruters, R-Sarasota, would give Moody the authority to file civil actions, such as seeking injunctions, against state or local government entities or law-enforcement agencies that do not cooperate with federal immigration enforcement." [Orlando Weekly, [05/19/19](#)]

**The Florida-Based GEO Group Was Expected To Profit From The Senate Immigration Proposal That Moody Backed.** "Why would Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, GOP chairman Joe Gruters and House Speaker José Oliva — the son of Cuban immigrants — resort to every maneuver in the legislative book in pursuit of sweeping legislation that turns state agencies into surrogates of immigration law enforcement. The nation's largest private-prison operator is based in Florida, and they're big donors to the GOP, nationwide and in the state. You might have heard of them back when they were Wackenhut, founded in Coral Gables by a former FBI agent with deep roots in the Republican Party. But it's now The GEO Group — and its government contracts, handled out of Boca Raton/Highland Beach operations, according to the Sludge investigation 'Who is Making Money from ICE in Your State,' amount to \$48,224,145." [Miami Herald, [05/02/19](#)]

**Moody Signed Onto An Amicus Brief In Support Of Texas AG Ken Paxton's Efforts To Have The Electoral College Votes Of Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, And Wisconsin Thrown Out By The Supreme Court.**

**Florida AG Ashley Moody Joined Onto An Amicus Brief In Support Of Texas AG Ken Paxton's Lawsuit Seeking To Throw Out The Electoral College Votes Of Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, And Wisconsin.** "Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody announced Wednesday that Florida will join the amicus brief in support of the Texas lawsuit against four states they allege violated federal law with their election procedures. [...] According to the Associated Press, the suit, filed by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, seeks to throw out the 62 total Electoral College votes from four states Biden won: Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin." [WTXL, [12/09/20](#)]

- **December 8, 2020: Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton Filed A Lawsuit In The Supreme Court Seeking To Invalidate The Electoral College Votes Of Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, And Wisconsin.** "Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton today filed a lawsuit against Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin in the United States Supreme Court. The four states exploited the COVID-19 pandemic to justify ignoring federal and state election laws and unlawfully enacting last-minute changes, thus skewing the results of the 2020 General Election." [Texas Attorney General Office, [12/08/20](#)]

**The Supreme Court Promptly Rejected Texas AG Ken Paxton's Lawsuit Against States That Trump Lost, Ruling That Paxton's Claims Of Election Fraud Lacked Evidence And Texas Lacked Standing To Sue Other States.** "The U.S. Supreme Court on Friday night rejected an eleventh hour challenge to Joe Biden's election as president. The court's action came in a one-page order, which said the complaint was denied 'for lack of standing.' Texas, supported by President Trump, tried to sue Pennsylvania, Georgia, Wisconsin and Michigan, claiming fraud, without evidence. But in order for a state to bring a case in court, especially the Supreme Court, a state must show it has been injured. In essence, the court said Texas could not show that it was injured by the way other states conducted their elections." [NPR, [12/11/20](#)]

## **Moody Is A Member Of The Republican Attorneys General Association (RAGA), Closely Tied To The Group That Sent Robocalls Promoting The Rally That Led To The Capitol Riot.**

**Florida AG Ashley Moody Is A Member Of The Republican Attorneys General Association.** [Republican Attorneys General Association, accessed [02/08/21](#)]

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**Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich Directly Undermined A Clean Energy Ballot Initiative After RAGA Took Over \$400,000 In Contributions From Arizona Power Company, And He Allowed An Out-Of-State Company To Offer Short-Term Loans Without Regulation As He Took Over \$8,000 From A Title Lending Executive.**

## **Top 20 Individual Contributors**

NAME	COMPANY	AMOUNT DONATED
James Harley (Jim) Click Jr	<a href="#">Jim Click Automotive Team</a> President	\$12,100
Steven M Ellman	<a href="#">The Ellman Companies (Real Estate)</a> Owner	\$12,100
Randy Parris Kendrick	<a href="#">Goldwater Institute Board Member; Husband tied to Arizona Diamondbacks / Datatel Inc.</a>	\$11,200
Cozen O'Connor PC	-	\$10,100
Donald R Tapia	<a href="#">Retired/ Essco Wholesale Electric Inc; Former Trump</a>	\$10,100

# ACCOUNTABLE<sup>US</sup>

	<a href="#">Ambassador To Jamaica;</a> <a href="#">Major Republican Donor</a>	
Jay Francis	<a href="#">Partner Of Wilson Automotive</a>	\$10,100
Arizona Republican Party	-	\$10,000
Pinnacle West	-	\$10,000
Earl G (Ken) Kendrick Jr	Managing General Partner Of <a href="#">Arizona Diamondbacks;</a> Founder, Chairman, Principal Shareholder of <a href="#">Datatel Inc.</a>	\$9,100
Victoria M (Vicki) Click		\$9,100
Jack Charles Biltis	<a href="#">TAG Employer Services</a> Owner	\$9,100
Sarah Lamber	-	\$9,050
Services Group Of America	-	\$9,000
Home Builders Association Of Central Arizona	-	\$9,000
David Gergen	<a href="#">Gergen's Orthodontic Lab</a> Owner and Operator	\$9,000
Arizona Chamber Of Commerce	-	\$8,250
Scott A Allen	<a href="#">Cash Time Loans, Inc.</a> President; <a href="#">Arizona Title Loan</a> <a href="#">Association</a> President	\$8,100
Dennis Wilenchik	<a href="#">Wilenchik &amp; Bartness</a> Partner	\$8,100
Jordan J Rose	<a href="#">Rose Law Group</a> Founder and President	\$8,000
UnitedHealth Group	-	\$7,600

[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

## Top 5 Industries

INDUSTRY	AMOUNT DONATED
Lawyers & Lobbyists	\$220,896
Real Estate	\$61,637
Automotive	\$60,025
Recreation & Live Entertainment	\$43,150
Insurance	\$30,010

[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

## Despite An Objection From An Arizona Secretary Of State Official, Attorney General Mark Brnovich Directly Undermined A State Clean Energy Ballot Initiative After He Took \$10,000 From A Phoenix-Based Power Company And Benefited From The \$400,000 The Company Gave To The Republican Attorneys General Association.

Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich Has Taken \$10,000 From Pinnacle West, Which Is A Phoenix-Based Electric Utility Holding Company. [FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

- “Pinnacle West Capital Corporation [...] Is An Investor-Owned Electric Utility Holding Company Based In Phoenix, Ariz.” [Pinnacle West Capital Corporation, accessed [02/17/21](#)]

**Pinnacle West Capital Corporation, Parent Company Of Arizona Public Service, Had Also Given \$400,000 To The Republican Attorneys General Association, Which Then Spent \$1.2 Million On Brnovich's Reelection.** “And the ad cited the more than \$400,000 that Pinnacle West Capital Corp., parent company of APS, gave to the Republican Attorneys General Association, a group that in turn spent more than \$1.2 million to win Brnovich another term.” [Arizona Capital Times, [02/04/19](#)]

**Mark Brnovich Added Language To Undermine A State Clean Energy Ballot Initiative That Was “Precisely The Argument Arizona Public Service Had Been Making Against The Measure”—APS Even Began Using Brnovich's Language In Commercials.** “Central to the lawsuit is that the explanations of measures that appear on the ballot, while crafted by the secretary of state, are subject to review and alternations by the attorney general. In the case of Proposition 127 it would have overridden existing Arizona Corporation Commission policy which sets a 15 percent renewable energy goal by 2025. That policy can be amended based on changing factors, including cost; the initiative had no such escape clause. Based on that, Brnovich added verbiage to the ballot language to say that the 50 percent mandate, if approved, would come ‘irrespective of cost to consumers.’ That is precisely the argument Arizona Public Service had been making against the measure, with the utility within days then using the explanation in its commercials.” [Arizona Capital Times, [02/04/19](#)]

**An Arizona Secretary Of State Official Told Brnovich's Office That The New Language Was “Eyebrow Raising.”** “An official with the Secretary of State's Office called the added language ‘eyebrow raising’ in an email exchange with the Attorney General's Office obtained by The Arizona Republic. [...] Before that discussion took place, State Elections Director, Eric Spencer wrote an Aug. 29 email to Roysden about the wording. ‘The Prop. 127 language is certainly eyebrow-raising because it cites information exogenous to the ballot measure itself,’ Spencer wrote. ‘But I'm sure you've calculated the legal and political risks of adding that.’” [The Arizona Republic, [09/19/18](#)]

## **Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich Took \$8,100 From The Title Lending Industry As He Allowed An Out Of State Company To Dole Out \$12,500 Short Term Loans To Consumers Without Regulation Or Interest Oversight.**

**Scott A. Allen, The President Of The Arizona Title Loan Association And Operator Of 25 Title Loan Stores, Has Given \$8,100 To Mark Brnovich's Campaigns.** [FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [01/27/21](#)]

- **Scott Allen Is President Of The Arizona Title Loan Association And Operator Of 25 Title Loan Stores In Arizona.** “Scott Allen, president of the Arizona Title Loan Association and operator of 25 Cash Time title loan outlets in the state, explained in the *Arizona Star* earlier this year that if interest rates were capped at 36%, his businesses would make just \$60 on lending \$1,000 for two months.” [Banking Exchange, [09/25/16](#)]

**May 2019: As Attorney General, Brnovich Allowed An Illinois-Based High Interest Lender Called Align Income Share Funding To Offer Up To \$12,500 Loans “Without Regulation Or Interest Oversight” In Arizona.** “While consumer advocates circulate an initiative banning predatory car title loans, Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich appears to be siding with another high-interest loan business. He's given the go-ahead for Illinois-based loan company Align Income Share Funding (AISF) to offer up to \$12,500 loans without regulation or interest oversight. Adam Ginsburgh with AISF, explained the company will offer fixed rate loans based on an individual's future earnings, much like a student loan.” [KJZZ, [5/20/19](#)]

**Align Income Share Funding Offers A Short-Term Loans Similar To Payday Loans Which Are Tied To The Loan Recipient's Income—And The Company Claims Such Loans Can Assist In Unexpected Costs Related To Cars.** “The nation's first and only provider of ISAs for general use, Align aims to be a better financial partner by offering consumers access to the capital they need in a more fair, understandable and personalized way. Payments for this novel consumer liquidity alternative are indexed to a small percentage of



a consumer's future income over a fixed period of time and fluctuate with changes in the customer's employment income. Using a structure that is tied to income rather than a set interest rate better aligns the interests of the consumer and financial partner, providing a simple and flexible option for general consumer expenses, such as home or car repair or medical expenses." [PR Newswire, [5/14/19](#)]

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## **Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron Took \$8,000 From Two Energy Executives Before Joining Multiple Lawsuits Against President Biden's Environmental Policy.**

### **Top 20 Individual Contributors**

NAME	COMPANY	AMOUNT DONATED
Kentucky Republican Party	-	\$85,213
James D. Hamilton	<a href="#">Lee's Ford Marina</a> President	\$8,000
Daniel Cameron	-	\$5,900
Charles Price	<a href="#">Charah LLC</a> CEO	\$5,000
American Electric Power / AEP	-	\$4,000
Frost Brown & Todd	-	\$4,000
Stoll Keenene & Ogden Plc.	-	\$4,000
Mary McClean	<a href="#">E.L. and Thelma Gaylord Foundation</a> Board of Trustee member	\$4,000
Cynthia McCarthy	-	\$4,000
John McCarthy	<a href="#">McCarthy Strategic Solutions</a> Founder and Managing Partner	\$4,000
J Wayne Hunt	<a href="#">JWH Hopkinsville Enterprise, LLP</a> ; <a href="#">JWH Investments, LLC</a> ; <a href="#">Agri-Enterprises, LLC</a> ; <a href="#">Black</a>	\$4,000

# ACCOUNTABLE<sup>US</sup>

	<a href="#">Prairie Irrigation Co.; Hunt Family Foundation</a>	
Thomas Michael Wynne	<a href="#">Alliance Resource Mgmt GP LLC, Senior VP/COO; Alliance Resource Partners LP, Senior VP/COO; Alliance GP LLC, Senior VP COO</a>	\$4,000
Mitch McConnell	US Senator	\$4,000
John Douglas Arnold		\$4,000
Heath A Lovell	<a href="#">Alliance Resource Partners</a> Vice President of Public Affairs	\$4,000
Jan Karzen	-	\$4,000
Carolyn Coates	-	\$4,000
Spencer A Coates	<a href="#">Houchens Industries, Inc.</a> President	\$4,000
Janet R Price	-	\$4,000
Clarence Mitchell	<a href="#">Mitchco International</a> Founder	\$4,000

[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

## Top 5 Industries

INDUSTRY	AMOUNT DONATED
Lawyers & Lobbyists	\$125,983
Party Committees	\$92,338
Mining	\$43,750
Real Estate	\$39,950
Commercial Banks	\$27,150

[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

## After Accepting Thousands From Executives Of A Coal, Oil, And Gas Company, Daniel Cameron Signed Onto Lawsuits Challenging Biden's Actions Halting The Keystone XL Pipeline And Requiring Regulators To Take Into Account The Social Cost Of Carbon.

**Alliance Resource Partners Executives Have Contributed \$8.000 To Cameron.**

NAME	COMPANY	AMOUNT DONATED
Thomas Michael Wynne	<a href="#">Alliance Resource Mgmt GP LLC, Senior VP/COO; Alliance Resource Partners LP, Senior VP/COO; Alliance GP LLC, Senior VP COO</a>	\$4,000
Heath A Lovell	<a href="#">Alliance Resource Partners Vice President of Public Affairs</a>	\$4,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$8,000</b>

[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [05/07/21](#)]

**Alliance Resource Partners "Generates Incomes" From Coal Production And Oil And Gas.** "We are a diversified natural resource company that generates income from coal production and oil & gas mineral

interests located in strategic producing regions across the United States.” [Alliance Resource Partners, accessed [05/04/21](#)]

**March 2021: Daniel Cameron Joined A Lawsuit Challenging Biden’s Cancellation Of The Permit For The Keystone XL Pipeline.** “Attorney General Daniel Cameron announced Thursday that he joined a 21-state coalition in [filing a lawsuit](#) against the Biden Administration’s attempt to cancel the Keystone XL Pipeline. ‘The Biden Administration’s order revoking the Keystone XL Pipeline violates the rule of law, harms the creation of jobs, threatens U.S. energy independence, and creates negative ripple effects for non-pipeline states, like Kentucky,’ Cameron said in a statement. ‘The U.S. Constitution clearly gives the power to regulate foreign and interstate commerce to Congress, and we believe the Administration’s actions are unconstitutional.’” [Spectrum News, [03/18/21](#)]

**April 2021: Daniel Cameron Announced He Was Joining A Coalition Of Attorneys General In Suing To Block Biden’s “Social Cost Of Carbon” Executive Order.** “Attorney General Daniel Cameron today joined a coalition of 10 state attorneys general in suing to prevent the Biden Administration from carrying out an act of executive overreach through the implementation of his ‘social cost of carbon’ Executive Order.” [Kentucky.gov, [04/22/21](#)]

**Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton Led The Lawsuit, Arguing The “Social Cost Of Carbon” Order Was “Overreach.”** “Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and nine other attorneys general filed a lawsuit against President Joe Biden and his administration over an executive order that established a working group to determine the ‘social cost’ of greenhouse gas emissions. Paxton argues that the executive order is an ‘overreach’ that the Biden administration will use to expand its environmental regulatory power.” [KVUE, [4/23/21](#)]

## **Cameron Was General Counsel To Then-Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Working Under Him As He Obstructed Merrick Garland’s SCOTUS Nomination And “Led” Neil Gorsuch’s Confirmation.**

**Cameron Served As Then-Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell’s General Counsel From 2015 Through 2017.** “He then moved on as McConnell’s legal counsel for a little more than two years, where he was responsible for ensuring the office was compliant with Senate ethics rules...As McConnell’s general counsel, he also handled a legislative portfolio that dealt with a wide array of matters coming through the GOP leader’s office including the federal judiciary, law enforcement and criminal justice matters, patent and trademark issues, and Kentucky telecommunications and broadband access initiatives... In 2017, Cameron joined Frost Brown Todd, one of the most prominent law firms in the state, as a senior associate. There, his law practice focuses on government and public policy matters, according to the firm’s website.” [Courier Journal, [12/21/18](#)]

**While Cameron Was Working For McConnell, The Senator Refused To Confirm Democratic Supreme Court Nominee Merrick Garland In 2016.** “But even before Obama had named Garland, and in fact only hours after Scalia’s death was announced, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell declared any appointment by the sitting president to be null and void. He said the next Supreme Court justice should be chosen by the next president — to be elected later that year.” [NPR, [06/29/18](#)]

**The McConnell-Led Senate Successfully Blocked Garland’s Nomination For 11 Months, Allowing Conservative Nominee Neil Gorsuch’s Nomination In 2017, Two Weeks Into The Trump Presidency—Gorsuch Was Confirmed Less Than Three Months Later.** “The death of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg less than two months from the presidential election has forced a reexamination of Republicans’ 11-month blockade of Merrick Garland in 2016... Within hours -- as other senators were offering condolences to Scalia’s family -- McConnell issued a stunning, categorical rejection of Obama’s authority more than 11 months before the Democrat’s replacement would be sworn into office [...] Less than two weeks after taking office, on

January 31, 2017, Trump nominated Neil Gorsuch to fill Scalia's former seat on the Supreme Court. The Senate, where Republicans maintained a majority after the 2016 election, confirmed Gorsuch less than three months later, on April 7, 2017." [CNN, [09/18/20](#)]

**Cameron Was Credited With "Leading" Neil Gorsuch's SCOTUS Confirmation Process.** "Cameron, the first Republican to hold the office of Kentucky attorney general in seven decades, is a protege of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, having served as the Kentucky Republican's general counsel from 2015 to 2017, a role that included leading Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch's confirmation process." [CNN, [09/18/20](#)]

**Cameron's AG Campaign Got A "Major Assist" From McConnell And His Allies.** "Cameron ran as an unapologetic conservative, which, along with a major assist from McConnell's organization, helped boost him to a primary win over a sitting state senator and then a relatively easy general election victory over Democrat Greg Stumbo, a former speaker of the state House and a former state attorney general himself. Cameron touted his support for Trump's immigration policies as well as his socially conservative views on abortion." [CNN, [09/02/20](#)]

## **Cameron's AG Campaign Touted Trump's Hardline Anti-Immigrant Policies**

**Cameron's Campaign Was Boosted By Trump And Touted Trump's Hardline Anti-Immigrant Policies.** "Cameron ran as an unapologetic conservative, which, along with a major assist from McConnell's organization, helped boost him to a primary win over a sitting state senator and then a relatively easy general election victory over Democrat Greg Stumbo, a former speaker of the state House and a former state attorney general himself. Cameron touted his support for Trump's immigration policies as well as his socially conservative views on abortion." [CNN, [09/02/20](#)]

## **Cameron Serves On The Executive Committee Of The Republican Attorneys General Association (RAGA), Closely Tied To The Group That Sent Robocalls Promoting The Rally That Led To The Capitol Riot.**

**Cameron Serves As An Executive Committee Member Of The Republican Attorneys General Association.** [Republican Attorneys General Association, accessed [05/06/21](#)]

**The Rule Of Law Defense Fund (RLDF), A "Fundraising Arm Of The Republican Attorneys General Association [RAGA]," Sent Robocalls Urging People To March On The Capitol The Day Before Riots Occurred.** "An arm of the Republican Attorneys General Association, a national group representing the top law enforcement officers in their states, sent out robocalls encouraging people to march to the U.S. Capitol the day before the building was stormed by a pro-Trump mob. [...] The calls, which did not advocate violence or suggest the building should be breached, was sent out by the Rule of Law Defense Fund, a fundraising arm of the Republican Attorneys General Association. The groups share funding, staff and office space in Washington, D.C." [NBC News, [01/08/21](#)]

**RAGA And RLDF Share Funding, Staff, And Office Space.** "While Carr is the chairman of RAGA, he is not directly associated with the RLDF [sic]. However, the groups share funding, staff and office space in Washington, according to NBC News." [11 Alive, [01/09/21](#)]

## South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson Undermined An Investigation Into A Pay-For-Influence Scheme Allegedly Operated By One Of His Political Operatives, And Wilson Has Taken \$139,500 From The Payday Lending Industry While Doing Their Bidding To Obstruct Pro-Consumer Regulations.

### Top 20 Contributors

NAME	AFFILIATIONS	AMOUNT
South Carolina Republican Party		\$250,000
Nexsen Pruet Law Firm		\$21,000
Duke Energy		\$17,500
Select Management Resources	Payday Lender	\$17,500
Augusta Fiberglass Coatings Inc.		\$17,500
Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina		\$17,300
Advance America	Payday Lender	\$16,500
AT&T		\$16,500
Betty J. Willoughby	Retired attorney	\$16,500
Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina		\$15,500
Ashley M. Hoefer		\$15,000
Boeing Co.		\$15,000
South Carolina Association of Realtors	Real Estate	\$14,000
South Carolina Health Care Association	Health Care	\$14,000
Republican Attorneys General Association	RLDF, Wilson currently and previously ran RAGA	\$14,000
Joe Griffith Law Firm		\$14,000
William H. (Bill) Stern		\$14,000
South Carolina Bankers Association	Banking	\$11,500
Sexton Dental Clinic		\$11,500
Craver Law Firm		\$11,500

[Follow the Money, accessed [06/10/21](#)]

### Top 5 Contributing Industries

INDUSTRY	AMOUNT
Lawyers & Lobbyists	\$790,139
Party Committees	\$250,461
Insurance	\$148,632
Payday/Title Loans	\$139,500
Health Professionals	\$123,420

[Follow the Money, accessed [06/10/21](#)]



## **In October 2018, A Grand Jury Investigation Found AG Wilson Undermined A Statehouse Corruption Probe Into Pay-For-Influence Schemes Involving A Political Operative Whom Wilson Had Personal Relationship With As Both One Of His Donors And A Paid Consultant.**

*In Early 2018, Wilson Claimed Allegations Saying He Interfered In A Corruption Investigation Into A Family He Was Closely Tied To Were Just Efforts To Ruin His Reputation.*

**In Response To Allegations That He Tried To Derail A Corruption Investigation Into The Quinn Family, Wilson Claimed It Was An Effort by His Opponent To Destroy His Reputation.** “Less than a month before the June 12 Republican primary, S.C. Attorney General Alan Wilson is being dogged by allegations that he tried to derail a public corruption investigation into GOP political godfather Richard Quinn and his son, former state Rep. Rick Quinn. ... Wilson, 44, fired back. ‘They have convinced themselves that they have to destroy my reputation, lie about my reputation, and lie about the role of the office for them to have a chance to get in the runoff.’” [The State, [5/17/18](#)]

*In October 2018, A South Carolina Grand Jury Investigation Found Alan Wilson Undermined A Statehouse Corruption Probe Into Pay-For-Influence Schemes Involving A Political Operative Whom Wilson Had A Personal Relationship With.*

**HEADLINE: “AG Alan Wilson Impeded Statehouse Corruption Probe, South Carolina Grand Jury Finds.”** [ABC News 4, [10/9/18](#)]

**October 2018: A South Carolina State Grand Jury Found AG Wilson Had Undermined A Statehouse Corruption Probe Targeting “Pay-For-Influence” Schemes A Family Of Republican Operatives, And Did So While Working For One Of The Targets.** “South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson undermined a Statehouse corruption probe that targeted a powerhouse family of political operatives, people with whom he had a ‘problematic relationship,’ a State Grand Jury report says. The grand jury found that Wilson, the state’s chief prosecutor, impeded its investigation into ‘pay-for-influence’ schemes while he continued working with one of its chief targets — veteran consultant Richard Quinn.” [Charleston Post and Courier, [10/9/18](#)]

- **Charleston Post And Courier HEADLINE: “SC Attorney General Impeded Statehouse Corruption Probe, Grand Jury Says.”** [Charleston Post and Courier, [10/9/18](#)]
- **Special Prosecutor David Pascoe Drafted A Report On Influence Peddling At The Behest Of A Grand Jury During A Years-Long Investigation Which Led To Four Convictions.** “The 54-page report lays bare a pervasive culture of influence-peddling in which power brokers and lawmakers skirted the state’s loose ethics laws to enrich themselves and corporate clients. Juiced with fat paydays and insider connections, the system benefited a select few under the guise of doing the public’s business, the grand jury found. Special Prosecutor David Pascoe said his office drafted the report at the grand jury’s direction. It was the result of a years-long investigation that led to four convictions. It offers a road map through this tarnished landscape and a call to action for tougher ethics laws.” [Charleston Post and Courier, [10/9/18](#)]
- **Richard Quinn, Target Of The Influence Peddling Probe, Claimed He Discussed The Investigation With AG Wilson “Almost Every Day” Up To The Time Of His Indictment, And Said Wilson Had Reassured Him Everything Would Be Fine.** “Wilson appointed Pascoe, a Democrat, after Wilson acknowledged an unspecified conflict of interest. But the working relationship between the two quickly soured as Pascoe took aim at the Quinns. The elder Quinn revealed to the grand jury earlier this year that he discussed the investigation with Wilson ‘almost every day probably up until the time I was indicted and shortly before that.’ Quinn also testified that Wilson viewed him as a ‘second father,’ and that Wilson

assured him ‘everything would be fine.’ Quinn said that Wilson didn’t believe the Quinns had done anything wrong.” [Charleston Post and Courier, [10/9/18](#)]

- **AG Wilson Continued To Solicit Quinn’s Help In Drafting Official Statements About The Investigation Targeting Quinn, Despite Having A Public Affairs Director.** “Despite obvious conflicts of interest, Wilson continued to solicit Quinn’s help in drafting official letters and statements about the investigation that targeted the consultant, the report said. Staff members testified that Wilson did so without their knowledge and despite having a public affairs director to handle such tasks.” [Charleston Post and Courier, [10/9/18](#)]

**The Grand Jurors Wrote In Their Report That Wilson Had Been More Loyal To Quinn And His Family Than To South Carolinians.** “Wilson was more loyal to Quinn and his family than to ‘the citizens of South Carolina, who he represents,’ the grand jurors said in their report, adding Wilson’s “actions impeded this investigation.” [The State, [3/18/21](#)]

**While Critical Of Wilson’s Handling Of The Case, The Grand Jury Investigation Into Quinn Did Not Bring Any Legal Charges Against Wilson.** “State Attorney General Alan Wilson’s inaction impeded an investigation into corruption at the South Carolina Statehouse, whether he intended it to or not, according to a State Grand Jury report released Tuesday after a two-year investigation. [...] Still the grand jury concluded that Wilson’s loyalty ‘should lie with the citizens of South Carolina, who he represents, rather than with the Quinn family, and that his actions impeded this investigation.’ The grand jury and investigators had a duty to bring charges against him if they thought he did anything wrong and it is significant they didn’t, Wilson said.” [Associated Press, [10/9/18](#)]

**In Response To The Grand Jury’s Report, Wilson Dismissed It As Being “Riddled With Already-Disproven Political Innuendo And Baseless Conjecture.”** “The report accuses Wilson of attempting to sideline the special prosecutor, David Pascoe, while ‘improperly sharing information about the investigation with the Quinns.’ ... In an email to 7News seeking comment, Mark Knoop with Alan Wilson’s campaign for re-election, stated: Attorney General Wilson said, ‘The Pascoe report is riddled with already-disproven political innuendo and baseless conjecture. This is an entirely political smear less than a month from an election and it should be dismissed as just that.’” [WSPA, [10/10/18](#)]

*Wilson Was Closely Tied To The Quinn Family Having Given Over \$100,000 To Multiple Companies Owned By The Quinns And Received A Personal Political Donation From Richard Quinn Jr. During His 2010 AG Campaign, While His Father Also Had Ties To The Quinn Family.*

**Even After Richard Quinn And His Son Were At The Center Of A Corruption Probe, Wilson Was Making Campaign Expenditures To Both Richard Quinn & Associates And Richard Quinn’s Daughter’s Company, Spring Strategies.** “As part of his bid for a third term, records show Wilson has made \$117,000 in campaign expenditures since 2015 to Richard Quinn & Associates in Columbia, Richard Quinn’s daughter, Rebecca Mustian, and her company, Spring Strategies. Those payments came while Richard Quinn, his firm and his son, former state Rep. Rick Quinn, were at the center of a Statehouse corruption probe. Mustian was not implicated in the investigation.” [Greenville News, [6/4/18](#)]

**Richard Quinn Jr. Donated \$250 To AG Wilson On June 9, 2010.**

## Contributions

### Contribution Results

#### Selected:

**Name:** *Quinn Jr., Richard M*

**Office:** *Attorney General*

**Cand./Comm.:** *Wilson, Michael A*

**Election Date:** *06/09/2010*

**Amount Range:** *All*

Your search has returned **1** results. To narrow your search, use the "Back" button. To view the entire report, search [Individual Reports](#).

### Contribution Search Results

Date	Amount (\$)
05/22/2009	250.00

[South Carolina State Ethics Commission, Access [6/30/21](#)]

**Joe Wilson, Alan Wilson's Father, Was A Former Client Of Richard Quinn & Associates With His Last Campaign Payment To The Firm Being In October 2016.** "Alan Wilson's father, U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson, is another former client of Richard Quinn & Associates. His last campaign payment to the firm was made in October 2016, according to Federal Election Commission records." [Greenville News, [6/4/18](#)]

*In 2021, Wilson Removed Himself From Any Involvement In Four High-Profile Cases Involving Corruption, Including Quinn's.*

**Wilson Removed Himself Personally From Four High-Profile Cases On Corruption, Including One That Involved One Of His Longtime Associates, Richard Quinn Sr.** "State Attorney General Alan Wilson's office will give four high-profile cases involving alleged public corruption by three former state lawmakers and a political consultant to an Upstate elected prosecutor based in Spartanburg. A letter sent Wednesday by one of Wilson's top deputies to Seventh Circuit Solicitor Barry Barnette says that Wilson has 'removed himself personally from all involvement with these four defendants' and is giving them to Barnette. ... One case involves a man who was once one of Wilson's closest associates, Richard Quinn Sr." [The State, [3/18/21](#)]

**One Of Wilson's Spokespeople Said Wilson Had Not Spoken To Quinn In "Several Years."** "A Wilson spokesman said Thursday that the attorney general and Quinn, who is in his mid-70s, have not spoken for several years." [The State, [3/18/21](#)]

### **AG Wilson's Payday Lender Donors Have Benefitted From His Efforts To Dismantle Regulations And Challenge The CFPB's Structure.**

*Among AG Wilson's Largest Donors Are Payday Lenders.*

**Select Management Resources, A Payday Lender, Has Contributed \$17,500 to AG Wilson's Campaigns.** [Follow the Money, accessed [06/10/21](#)]

**Advance America, A Payday Lender, Has Contributed \$16,500 to AG Wilson's Campaigns.** [Follow the Money, accessed [06/10/21](#)]

**The Payday And Title Lending Industry Is Wilson's 4<sup>th</sup> Largest Contributing Industry, Having Given Him \$139,500.** [Follow the Money, accessed [06/10/21](#)]

*AG Wilson Has Signed Onto Efforts To Oppose Payday Lending Regulation And Supported A Challenge To The CFPB's Structure.*

**In 2016, AG Wilson Signed Onto A Letter With 17 AGs To Former CFPB Director Richard Cordray To Oppose The Agency's Proposed Payday Rule.** "We write with respect to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's (CFPB) more than 1,300-page proposed rule concerning payday loans, vehicle title loans, and longer-term installment loans (the "Proposed Rule") set forth at 81 FR 47864. As chief State legal officers, we are concerned that the Proposed Rule, if adopted, would irreconcilably conflict with, constrict, and otherwise unnecessarily interfere with existing State consumer protection laws, lending standards, and other State laws." [American Financial Services Association, [10/07/16](#)]

- **The AGs Wrote The Constitutionality Of The Rule Was In Question As The Constitutionality Of The CFPB's Structure Was Being Challenged In The Courts.** "We are also profoundly concerned about the constitutional propriety of a rule that would restructure a substantial portion of the financial services sector being imposed by an agency headed by a single—politically unaccountable—individual. Others have raised similar concerns, and the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit is currently considering a case that will very likely strike down the provisions governing the CFPB Director's appointment, tenure, and removal. See Oral Argument Order, *PHH v. CFPB*, No. 15-1177, Doc. 1607052 (D.C. Cir. April 4, 2016) (asking parties to address constitutionality of CFPB Director's appointment and remedies for invalidity). Such a decision would render the Proposed Rule—and any action tied to it—invalid. Therefore, to avoid needlessly squandering taxpayer and industry resources revising and analyzing an invalid rulemaking proposal, the CFPB Director should withdraw the Proposed Rule. Or, at an absolute minimum, the CFPB Director should immediately halt any further consideration of the Proposed Rule until after the D.C. Circuit resolves questions concerning the legality of CFPB Director's position." [American Financial Services Association, [10/07/16](#)]
- **The AGs Also Alleged Concern That "The Proposed Rule Would Fail To Accomplish Its Purported Goals" And Would "Create Regulatory Confusion [And] Impose Countless Costs On Consumers And Lenders."** "We are additionally concerned that even if it were not constitutionally infirm, the Proposed Rule would fail to accomplish its purported goals. In fact, rather than protecting consumers and preserving access to credit, the Proposed Rule will create regulatory confusion, impose countless costs on consumers and lenders, put approximately three-fourths of lenders out of business, disproportionately impact small businesses that do not have access to an army of lawyers and consultants to ensure compliance, prevent numerous borrowers from obtaining credit to meet critical expenses, and uniquely harm rural Americans. It will also impose a plethora of new burdens on community banks and credit unions and prevent them from better serving their customers. And far from preventing unethical and predatory practices, the Proposed Rule is much more likely to drive many borrowers to illegal and unregulated overseas funding sources." [American Financial Services Association, [10/07/16](#)]

**AG Wilson Signed On To A Brief In Support Of Seila Law's Writ Of Certiorari In Seila Law LLC v. CFPB.** "Seila Law LLC, Petitioner v. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau [...] Brief For The States Of Texas, Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, And West Virginia As Amici Curiae In Support Of Petitioner." [Consumer Finance Monitor, [2019](#)]

**The Brief Argued That The CFPB Has Wielded "Unchecked Power" And That "The CFPB's Structure Violates The Constitution."** "In this case, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) has wielded its

unchecked power to compel Seila Law LLC, a private law firm, to provide information as part of an investigation into whether Seila Law has violated the Telemarketing Sales Rule, 16 C.F.R. pt. 310, while providing debt-relief services to its clients. States enforce robust consumer protections, including limitations on unfair trade practices and law firms' marketing activities. [...] For the reasons set out below, the CFPB's structure violates the Constitution." [Consumer Finance Monitor, [2019](#)]

*And Wilson's Efforts Have Borne Fruit: Trump's CFPB Rescinded The Payday Rule Wilson Opposed And Left 12 Million Americans Potentially "Exposed To Unaffordable Payments" While SCOTUS Struck Down Restrictions On Removal Of The CFPB's Director.*

**The 2017 Payday Rule Helped To "Ensure Borrowers Were Not Getting Sucked Into So-Called Debt Traps" By Requiring "Payday Lenders To Check That Borrowers Could Afford To Pay Back Their Loan On Time" By Verifying Consumers' Financial Information.** "To help ensure borrowers were not getting sucked into so-called debt traps, the CFPB released a new, multi-part payday loan regulation in 2017 that, among other things, required payday lenders to check that borrowers could afford to pay back their loan on time by verifying information like incomes, rent and even student loan payments." [CNBC, [07/07/20](#)]

**Trump's CFPB "Blocked Those Rules From Going Into Effect" And "Released A Finalized Rule That Doesn't Require Lenders To Check That Borrowers Can Afford To Pay."** "But the Trump administration blocked those rules from going into effect and called for a review. On Tuesday, the CFPB — under new leadership — released a finalized rule that doesn't require lenders to check that borrowers can afford to pay." [CNBC, [07/07/20](#)]

**In July 2020, The CFPB "Issued A Final Rule On Payday Lending, Rescinding Obama-Era Provisions That Would Have Required Lenders To Ensure Borrowers Could Repay Their Loans."** "The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau on Tuesday issued a final rule on payday lending, rescinding Obama-era provisions that would have required lenders to ensure borrowers could repay their loans before issuing cash advances." [CNBC, [07/07/20](#)]

**HEADLINE: "New Payday Lending Rules Could Leave 12 Million Americans 'Exposed To Unaffordable Payments.'" [CNBC, [07/07/20](#)]**

**SCOTUSblog: In Seila Law LLC V. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, SCOTUS Ruled The CFPB's "Leadership By A Single Director Removable Only For Inefficiency, Neglect Or Malfeasance Violates The Separation Of Powers."** "Holding: The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's leadership by a single director removable only for inefficiency, neglect or malfeasance violates the separation of powers." [SCOTUSblog, accessed, [07/01/21](#)]

**In 2021, AG Wilson Was Named The Chair Of The Republican Attorneys General Association, Which Was One Of His Largest Donors And Was Closely Tied To And Uplifted Those Who Incited The Insurrection.**

*RAGA Is Among AG Wilson's Largest Donors.*

**RAGA Is Among AG Wilson's Largest Donors And Has Contributed \$14,000 To His Campaigns.** [Follow the Money, accessed [06/10/21](#)]

*In An Attempt To Distance Themselves From RAGA's Connections To The January 6 Insurrection At The Capitol, AG Chris Carr Resigned From His Position As RAGA Chairman Along With A Slew Of Staff.*

**Georgia AG Chris Carr Resigned As The Chair Of The Republican Attorneys General Association As The Group "Encouraged The Crowd That Breached The Capitol" During The January 6 Insurrection.**



“Georgia’s top prosecutor has resigned as chairman of the national Republican Attorneys General Association, saying he has had a ‘fundamental difference of opinion’ with some of the other 24 members since the group encouraged the crowd that breached the Capitol on Jan. 6. Republican Chris Carr’s break with the group, made in an April 16 resignation letter first obtained by The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, reflects a continuing divide as some high-ranking Republicans seek to distance themselves from Donald Trump and others try to demonstrate their loyalty to the former president.” [AP, [4/23/21](#)]

**The Republican Attorneys General Association’s Fundraising Arm, The Rule Of Law Defense Fund, Paid For A Robocall That Urged “Patriots” To Attend The Rally That Immediately Preceded The Capitol Riots.** “The association’s fundraising arm, the Rule of Law Defense Fund, paid for a robocall urging attendance at the rally that immediately preceded the violent breaching of the Capitol. ‘At 1 p.m., we will march to the Capitol building and call on Congress to stop the steal,’ the robocall said, according to a recording obtained by The Associated Press. ‘We are hoping patriots like you will join us to continue to fight to protect the integrity of our elections.’” [AP, [4/23/21](#)]

**HEADLINE: “Carr Steps Down From Republican AGs Group Under Fire For Robocall.”** [The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 04/21/21]

**The Atlanta Journal-Constitution: GA AG Chriss Carr Stepped Down As RAGA’s Chairman, “Citing A ‘Significant Difference Of Opinion’ In The Organization’s Direction Following A Robocall That Urged People To March To The U.S. Capitol And “Stop The Steal” Ahead Of The Deadly Jan. 6 Insurrection.”** “Chris Carr has stepped down as chairman of a national group that advocates for Republican attorneys general, citing a ‘significant difference of opinion’ in the organization’s direction following a robocall that urged people to march to the U.S. Capitol and “stop the steal” ahead of the deadly Jan. 6 insurrection. Carr, Georgia’s GOP attorney general and a potential U.S. Senate candidate, wrote in a letter last week that he was quitting as the leader of the Republican Attorneys General Association because of an irreconcilable rift over the organization’s direction.” [The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 04/21/21]

- **Carr Resignation Letter Cited “Significant Difference Of Opinion” Among RAGA Members, Saying Differences Began With “Vastly Opposite Views Of The Significance Of The Events Of January 6.”** “Today, I am writing to let you know I am stepping down as chairman of the Republican Attorneys General Association and as a member of its executive committee, effective immediately. During the last several months, it has become clear that there is a significant difference of opinion among the members of RAGA’s executive committee as to the direction this organization should take going forward. This fundamental difference of opinion began with vastly opposite views of the significance of the events of January 6 and the resistance by some to accepting the resignation of the executive director.” [Chris Carr letter to Republican Attorneys General Association via DocumentCloud, 4/16/21]

**HEADLINE: “RAGA Finance Director Resigns Amid January 6 Robocall Fallout.”** [Alabama Political Reporter, 04/22/21]

**Alabama Political Reporter: RAGA’s Finance Director Resigned After The Organization Nominated The Man Who “Approved Robocalls Urging People To Attend The Jan. 6 Rally At The U.S. Capitol” To Be The Group’s Next Executive Director.** “It’s at least the third resignation since the Republican Attorneys General Association’s involvement in a rally before the Capitol attack. The finance director for the Republican Attorneys General Association has resigned, and in an email to attorneys general said she was doing so because of the association’s nomination as director a man who the finance director said approved robocalls urging people to attend the Jan. 6 rally at the U.S. Capitol.” [Alabama Political Reporter, 04/22/21]

**HEADLINE: “GOP Leader Quits Attorney General Group, Citing Rift Over Capitol Riot.”** [Bloomberg, 04/22/21]

**HEADLINE: “GOP Attorneys General Group In Turmoil After Jan. 6 Trump Rally.”** [The Hill, 04/22/21]

**The Center For Media And Democracy: RAGA's Director Of Operations, Jason Heath, Resigned On April 25 After The Organization Chose Peter Bisbee As Its New Executive Director.** "The staff and leadership exodus at the Republican Attorneys General Association (RAGA) continues to grow in the wake of the group's decision to promote Peter Bisbee, who was responsible for generating robocalls to turn people out for the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection, to be the group's new executive director. In an Apr. 25 email obtained by the Center for Media and Democracy (CMD), RAGA's director of operations, Jason Heath, writes, 'After 8 years of service, I am writing to inform you that I have made the difficult decision to resign as RAGA's Director of Operations. I respect your votes, but the direction is not one I can honestly stand behind.'" [The Center for Media and Democracy, 05/04/21]

**Daily Beast HEADLINE: "MAGA Attorneys General Are Winning a GOP Civil War."** [The Daily Beast, 5/10/21]

- **Longtime RAGA Staff Were Leaving The Organization As Figures Tied To Robocalls Promoted January 6<sup>th</sup> Events, Such As Missouri AG Eric Schmitt, Were On The Ascent.** "The Republican Attorneys General Association (RAGA) is the top national organization for securing GOP wins in state attorney general races. But the group came under scrutiny for its role in the events of Jan. 6 after it was revealed that RAGA's fundraising arm had made robocalls encouraging people to march on the Capitol at 1 p.m. 'to stop the steal.' Now longtime RAGA staff are leaving the organization, while those connected to the robocall—and the broader movement to challenge the 2020 election results—are on the ascent. The latest appointment, RAGA's new chair, Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt, is in the latter group." [The Daily Beast, 5/10/21]
- **When Georgia AG Carr Quit RAGA, He Cited Differences Of Opinion On January 6<sup>th</sup> Emerging During The Executive Director Decision, In Reference To New RAGA Executive Director Pete Bisbee.** "But others were soon to follow, and on April 16, RAGA's then-chair, Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr, quit the organization with a letter hinting at deep divides. [...] 'This fundamental difference of opinion began with vastly opposite views of the significance of the events of January 6 and the resistance by some to accepting the resignation of the executive director,' he added. 'The differences have continued as we have tried to restore RAGA's reputation internally and externally and were reflected once again during the process of choosing our next executive director.' That executive director turned out to be [Pete] Bisbee, whose fundraising group was responsible for the robocalls. On April 22, RAGA promoted him to Piper's vacated role—a move that touched off a new wave of resignations." [Daily Beast, 5/10/21]
- **Former RAGA Finance Director Ashley Trenzeluk Cited Bisbee As Approving Robocall Expenditure, Said She "Cannot Defend" Bisbee's Nomination To Executive Director.** "RAGA's finance director, Ashley Trenzeluk, later quit the organization, citing that appointment. 'As RLDF Executive Director, Pete Bisbee approved the robocall expenditure, and was the only other person accountable for RLDF involvement in the January 6 events,' she wrote in a departing email, first reported by the Alabama Political Reporter. 'Over the last few months, I have fielded, reassured, and assuaged concerns from our core donor base on the future direction of our organization. The result of the executive committee vote to nominate Pete as RAGA's Executive Director is a decision I cannot defend.'" [Daily Beast, 5/10/21]

*Attorney General Alan Wilson Accepted A Position As Chairman Of The Republican Attorneys General Association, Despite Its Connection To The Insurrection At The Capitol.*

**HEADLINE: "SC's Alan Wilson To Lead National GOP Attorneys General Group For 2nd Time."** [Post and Courier, [5/17/21](#)]

**Despite Having Disavowed The Robocall That Urged People To Join The January 6 Insurrection, Wilson Took The Position As Chair Of RAGA.** “For the second time, South Carolina’s Alan Wilson has been tapped by his GOP colleagues around the country to lead the national group focused on electing Republican attorneys general. ... That followed the January departure of executive director Adam Piper, a former Wilson aide, due to fallout over a robocall urging people to march to the U.S. Capitol ahead of the deadly Jan. 6 riots. Wilson publicly disavowed the robocall, saying he was not aware of the message until after the riots.” [Post and Courier, [5/17/21](#)]

**HEADLINE: “Group Tied To SC AG Alan Wilson Urged ‘Patriots’ To Attend Trump Pre-Riot Rally”** [The State, [1/11/21](#)]

**Wilson Claimed Not To Have Known About RAGA’s Role In Encouraging The January 6 Insurrection That Ended In Five People’s Deaths.** “South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson says he did not know a Republican group he’s closely tied to was involved in the Wednesday “Save America” rally that ended with rioters breaking into the U.S. Capitol and the deaths of five people including a Capitol police officer. ‘I was completely unaware and had absolutely no involvement in the Republican AG group’s participation in the rally. I disagree with the staff’s decision to be involved and strongly condemn the violence that followed,’ Wilson tweeted Saturday evening as news of his group’s role in getting people to the rally spread.” [The State, [1/11/21](#)]