

# Staffing Failures

The Obama Administration's Personnel Adventures



GOVERNOR BILL RICHARDSON

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## They Couldn't Take the Heat

### BILL RICHARDSON

New Mexico Democrat Governor Bill Richardson was set to be Secretary of Commerce when it became known that he was part of a federal “pay to play” investigation. Apparently California CDR Financial Products (both as a group and its president) had made \$100,000 in contributions to political organizations affiliated with Gov. Richardson, and was later awarded a \$1.5 million contract by the state of New Mexico.



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# They Couldn't Take the Heat, Continued...



VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN  
AND  
PRESIDENT OBAMA

## **TOM DASCHLE**

Former Democrat Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle was President Obama's pick to be Secretary of Health and Human Services. He withdrew his nomination after it was revealed that he had failed to pay over \$100,000 in taxes for a car and driver he had used and for various consulting fees.

## **SUSAN TIERNEY**

Susan Tierney was slated to be Deputy Secretary of Energy, when she withdrew her nomination citing "personal reasons."

## **JON CANNON**

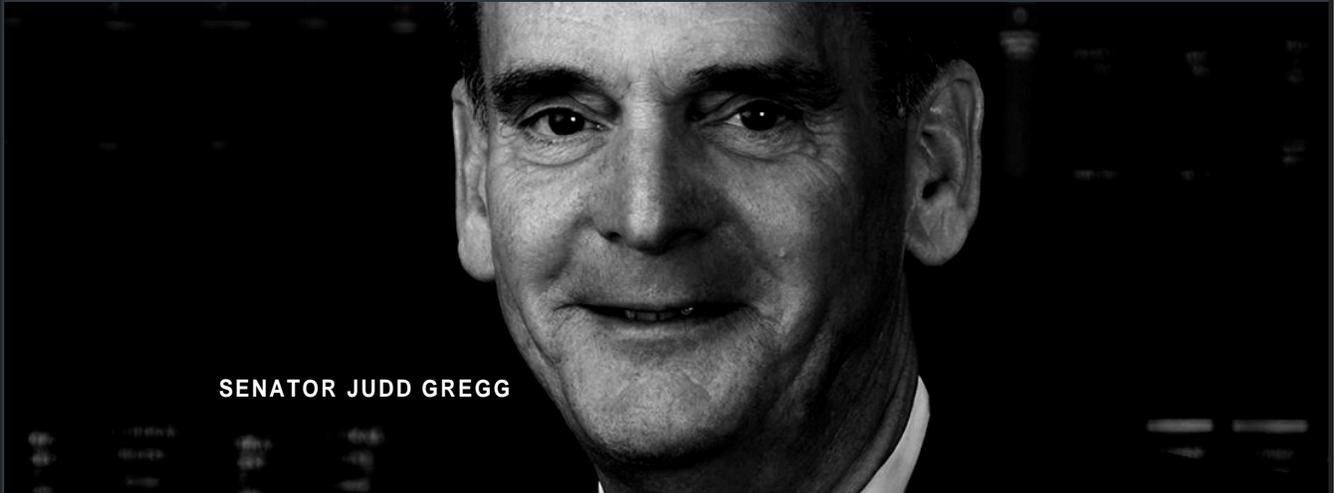
Jon Cannon was nominated as Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). He withdrew his nomination when it came out that America's Clean Water Foundation, on whose board of directors he had served, was under investigation. The

foundation was investigated for not following federal grant regulations and violating conflict of interest provisions by awarding a contract to a board member. He claimed that he was not involved, but he did not want to distract from the President's agenda.

## **HOMER LEE WILKES**

Homer Lee Wilkes had accepted the nomination to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment. He then withdrew his name from consideration, claiming concern for his family: He did not want to uproot his high-school-age sons. He was also concerned about completing the 30 years of employment necessary to qualify for federal retirement benefits.

# They Couldn't Take the Heat, Continued...



SENATOR JUDD GREGG

## **NANCY KILLEFER**

Nancy Killefer was put forward for the new cabinet position of Chief Performance Officer. She withdrew her name when it was revealed that in 2005 the D.C. City government had filed a tax lien on her property for failure to pay unemployment tax.

## **ANNETTE NAZARETH**

Annette Nazareth was up for the position of Deputy Treasury Secretary when she withdrew her name at the end of February 2009. People close to her cited the length and intensity of the vetting process as a reason for her withdrawal. The Wall Street Journal also speculated that her nomination was complicated by her stint as SEC Commissioner in charge of the division with oversight of financial markets.

## **CAROLINE ATKINSON**

Caroline Atkinson was being considered for Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for International Affairs, when she pulled out citing the long vetting process.

## **SANJAY GUPTA**

Sanjay Gupta had agreed to be the Surgeon General when he withdrew his name so he could continue to practice medicine and spend more time with his family.

## **JUDD GREGG**

Judd Gregg, Republican Senator from New Hampshire, accepted President Obama's offer to be Commerce Secretary, but then withdrew his name over concern about the President's economic policies and the plan to have the census director report directly to the White House, rather than through the Commerce Department.

# They Couldn't Take the Heat, Continued...



## **HELEN ELIZABETH GARRETT**

Helen Elizabeth Garrett was President Obama's nominee to be Assistant Treasury Secretary for Tax Policy. She withdrew in May of 2009 citing "aspects of her personal family situation."

## **MARIA EITEL**

Maria Eitel was going to be Director of the Corporation for National and Community Service. She claimed that her withdrawal was caused by a previously unknown health condition.

## **LORELEI BOYLAN**

Lorelei Boylan was the President's nominee to be Wage and Hour Administrator at the Department of Labor. Controversial aspects of a program called Wage Watch that she ran at the N.Y. Labor Department

lead to her withdrawal in October 2009. This program used union activists to enforce wage and hour laws in New York City. Boylan's department had plans to expand the program.

## **PHILIP MUDD**

Philip Mudd was nominated to be Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence and Analysis, but withdrew because of questions about his role as a former top CIA official in the Bush Administration's terrorist interrogation policies.

## **DONALD REMY**

Donald Remy was set to be General Counsel of the Army. He withdrew after it was revealed that he had failed to disclose Fannie Mae as one of his former employers.

# They Couldn't Take the Heat, Continued...



ROBERT HARDING



ROBERT HARDING

## **ERROLL SOUTHERS**

Erroll Southers was nominated to be the Administrator of the Transportation Safety Administration (TSA). He withdrew after discrepancies were found in his testimony about using government resources to do a background check on his then-estranged wife's boyfriend. His nomination was opposed by Sen. Jim DeMint because of his lack of answers to questions about allowing TSA employees to collectively bargain. Mr. Southers claimed "My nomination has become a lightning rod for those who have chosen to push a political agenda at the risk of the safety and security of the American people. This partisan climate is unacceptable and I refuse to allow myself to remain part of their dialogue."

## **ROBERT HARDING**

Robert Harding, retired Army Major General, was picked by President

Obama to head up the Transportation Safety Administration, after Erroll Southers withdrew. Gen. Harding withdrew after it became known that the firm he worked for as a defense contractor took more federal money than it was due for providing interrogators in Iraq. Government watchdogs were also concerned about his company's close relationship with TSA contractors.

## **JIDE ZEITLIN**

Jide Zeitlin was nominated to be the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations for Management and Reform. This would have made him Obama's financial point man at the U.N.. He withdrew after allegations of identity fraud and the revelation that one of his foreign-based firms was being sued for failure to pay a client \$2.4 million, though he claimed he withdrew for personal reasons.

## The Departed



### **ELLEN MORAN**

Ellen Moran was President Obama's first White House Communications Director. In April of 2009 she left this very high profile position to become Chief of Staff to Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke.

### **ANITA DUNN**

Anita Dunn took Moran's place as White House Communications Director. She then led the White House in a public relations war against Fox News. She also referred to Mao Tse Tung as one of her favorite philosophers in a commencement address she gave. She had planned to stay on the job until the end of 2009, but instead left at the end of November.

### **YOSI SERGANT**

Yosi Sergant was Director of Communications at the National

Endowment for the Arts (NEA). In May 2009 he organized a conference call during which the many artists on the call were encouraged to create art supporting the agenda of the Obama Administration. After this was reported by one of the participants Sergant was removed from the post of Director of Communications and made New Media and Special Projects Advisor. By the end of September 2009, Sergant had resigned from the NEA.

### **LOUIS CALDERA**

Louis Caldera was the Director of the White House Military Office. He was asked to resign in May 2009 after he approved an Air Force One low-altitude flyover of New York City for a photo-op.

# The Departed, Continued...



## **GREGORY CRAIG**

Gregory Craig was President Obama's White House Counsel. He left in November 2009 amid rumors that the White House was displeased with his handling of the closing of the Guantanamo Bay terrorist detention center. He was replaced by Anita Dunn's husband and Obama for America lawyer, Bob Bauer.

## **VAN JONES**

Van Jones was appointed to President Obama's White House Council on Environmental Policy as Special Advisor for Green Jobs. He resigned in September after a video was discovered of him calling Republicans "jackasses" and it was found that he had signed a petition claiming that the U.S. government had planned the 9/11 attacks.

## **DESIREE ROGERS**

Desiree Rogers, close friend of the Obamas, was the White House Social Secretary. She resigned in March 2010 after gate-crashers attended President Obama's first state dinner, and Democratic donors, already feeling stiffed by the White House, did not receive Christmas cards from the White House.

## **MARK LIPPERT**

Mark Lippert was the Deputy National Security Director and Chief of Staff for the National Security Council. He left the White House in October 2009 to return to active duty as a U.S. Navy Seal.

# The Departed, Continued...



## **STEVE RATTNER**

Steve Rattner was President Obama's Car Czar until stepping down amid an investigation into the role his former Wall Street firm played in a public pension fund scandal.

## **DAVID OGDEN**

David Ogden was the Deputy Attorney General. He left the Administration in February 2010 amid speculation that he was frustrated with Attorney General Eric Holder.

## **PHILLIP CARTER**

Phillip Carter was an appointee in the Pentagon handling detainee affairs. Carter who had previously been a critic of the Bush Administration left after only seven months on the job citing "personal and family reasons."

## **MELISSA HATHAWAY**

Melissa Hathaway served as acting Cybersecurity Czar for the White House until leaving for "personal reasons" in August 2009.

## **SUSAN CRAWFORD**

Susan Crawford was a Special Assistant to the President for Science, Technology, and Innovation until leaving in January 2010.

## **MARK CHILDRESS**

Former lobbyist Mark Childress took a position in the Department of Health and Human Services but left in April 2009.

## **LINDA DOUGLASS**

Linda Douglass was Director of Communications for the White House Office of Health Care Reform. She left in April 2010 amid allegations that her office engaged in improper lobbying activities.

# The Departed, Continued...

## **DAWN JOHNSEN**

Dawn Johnsen was nominated to be Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Counsel. Despite the fact that she was not confirmed to this position, and did, in fact, encounter steady opposition in the Senate, she performed some of the duties of this office. Johnsen withdrew from consideration after bipartisan opposition stalled her nomination.

**I Don't  
Remember  
Hiring You!**

## **CARL FILLICHIO**

Carl Fillichio began as a contractor in the Labor Department and is now a Senior Executive Service (SES) employee at the Department. Without having been neither nominated nor confirmed to the Presidential-Appointed-Senate-confirmed (PAS) position of Assistant Secretary of Labor for Public Affairs, he performs the duties of, is reported to by the subordinates of, and even occupies the office space of said position.



DAWN JOHNSEN