

## ***UNDER INVESTIGATION***

### **MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE:**

#### **Representative Sanford Bishop (D-GA):**

- **Under Investigation by:** The Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI).
- **Under Investigation for:** The GBI launched an investigation into a youth program for which Rep. Bishop has earmarked almost \$200,000.<sup>1</sup> The “Junior Marshall” program employed Rep. Stanford’s step-daughter and her husband.<sup>2</sup>
- **Status:** In the first quarter of 2009, Rep. Bishop paid \$25,000 in legal fees.<sup>3</sup> In March 2009, a GBI special agent stated, “The FBI is aware of it, but there is not a criminal investigation at this time.”<sup>4</sup>

#### **Representative Jesse Jackson, Jr. (D-IL):**

- **Under Investigation by:** The Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE) and the Department of Justice (DOJ).
- **Under Investigation for:** The OCE is reviewing Rep. Jackson’s actions surrounding his bid to be appointed to the Illinois Senate seat vacated by President Barack Obama.<sup>5</sup> The OCE asked former Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich’s former staffers and campaign aides to turn over correspondence between Rep. Jackson and the governor.<sup>6</sup> Additionally, DOJ has interviewed Rep. Jackson in the probe of Gov. Blagojevich.<sup>7</sup> Federal authorities have subpoenaed individuals with knowledge of a possible fundraising effort by Rep. Jackson’s supporters to encourage Gov. Blagojevich to appoint Rep. Jackson to the Senate.<sup>8</sup>
- **Status:** In the first quarter of 2009, Rep. Jackson paid \$15,000 in legal fees in addition to the \$100,000 he paid in December 2008.<sup>9</sup> The investigation is ongoing.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Greg Bluestein and Ben Evans, US Rep Bishop’s link to earmark raises questions, *Associated Press*, March 6, 2009.

<sup>2</sup> Id.

<sup>3</sup> Jennifer Yachnin, Bishop Brings Up Big Legal Bill, *Roll Call*, April 28, 2009.

<sup>4</sup> Chuck Williams, GBI agent: FBI Aware of Investigation into Muscogee County Marshall’s Office, *Ledger Enquirer*, March 9, 2009; Jennifer Yachnin, Bishop Rings Up Big Legal Bill, *Roll Call*, April 28, 2009.

<sup>5</sup> Natasha Korecki, Ethics Board Launches Probe into Rep Jesse Jackson Jr., *Chicago Sun-Times*, April 7, 2009.

<sup>6</sup> Id.

<sup>7</sup> Jeff Coen and John Chase, Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr.: Feds Step Up Inquiry, *Chicago Tribune*, April 9, 2009.

<sup>8</sup> Id.

<sup>9</sup> House Fundraising Roundup, *The Hill*, April 15, 2009.

<sup>10</sup> Susan Saulny and Christopher Drew, Investigators Take a Closer Look at Rep. Jackson in Blagojevich Case, *New York Times*, April 13, 2009.

### **Representative Jerry Lewis (R-CA):**

- **Under Investigation by:** The Department of Justice.
- **Under Investigation for:** Rep. Lewis is under investigation for steering millions of dollars in earmarks to family and friends in exchange for contributions to his campaign committee and political action committee.<sup>11</sup>
- **Status of Investigation:** In the first quarter of 2009, Rep. Lewis paid nearly \$50,000 in legal fees.<sup>12</sup> Since the start of the investigation in 2006, he has paid nearly \$1.2 million in legal fees.<sup>13</sup> The status of the investigation is unknown.
- **Link to CREW's Most Corrupt Profile:**  
<http://www.crewsmostcorrupt.org/summaries/lewis.php>

### **Representative Gary Miller (R-CA):**

- **Under Investigation by:** The Department of Justice.
- **Under Investigation for:** Rep. Miller is under investigation for failing to pay capital gains taxes after he claimed he was forced to sell his land to two cities under eminent domain, allegations both cities have denied.<sup>14</sup>
- **Status:** In the first quarter of 2009, Rep. Miller paid about \$12,000 in legal fees.<sup>15</sup> The status of the investigation is unknown.
- **Link to CREW's Most Corrupt Profile:**  
<http://www.crewsmostcorrupt.org/summaries/miller.php>

### **Representative Allan Mollohan (D-WV):**

- **Under Investigation by:** The Department of Justice.
- **Under Investigation for:** Rep. Mollohan has been under investigation since 2006 for directing millions in earmarks to groups with which he has close ties.<sup>16</sup> Rep. Mollohan allegedly earmarked funds to five non-profits, one of which is headed by a former aide, and in turn staff at these non-profits contributed to the congressman's campaign committee.<sup>17</sup>
- **Status:** In the 2008 election cycle, Rep. Mollohan paid \$152,000 in legal fees.<sup>18</sup> The status of the investigation is unknown.
- **Link to CREW's Most Corrupt Profile:**  
<http://www.crewsmostcorrupt.org/summaries/miller.php>

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<sup>11</sup> Jerry Kammer and Dean Calbreath, Lewis Subject of Earmarks Investigation, *Copley News Service*, May 12, 2006.

<sup>12</sup> Lewis For Congress Committee, FEC Form 3, April Quarterly Report 2009, April 15, 2009, pp. 23, 27.

<sup>13</sup> Joe Nelson, Statement Reveals High Legal Fees for Rep. Jerry Lewis, *The Sun*, April 22, 2009.

<sup>14</sup> William Heisel, FBI probing Rep. Miller's land sales, *Los Angeles Times*, January 31, 2007.

<sup>15</sup> Gary Miller For Congress, FEC Form 3, April Quarterly Report 2009, April 8, 2009, pp. 20-21.

<sup>16</sup> Jeffrey H. Birnbaum, West Virginia Democrat is Scrutinized, *Washington Post*, May 15, 2006.

<sup>17</sup> Id.

<sup>18</sup> Jennifer Yachnin, Legal Fees Common in House, *Roll Call*, August 11, 2008.

### **Representative Timothy Murphy (R-PA):**

- **Under Investigation by:** The Department of Justice.
- **Under Investigation for:** Rep. Murphy is under investigation for misusing official resources for political campaign activity.<sup>19</sup>
- **Status:** In the first quarter of 2009, Rep. Murphy did not report paying legal fees.<sup>20</sup> In 2008, Rep. Murphy paid more than \$28,000 in legal fees.<sup>21</sup> The status of the investigation is unknown.
- **Link to CREW's Most Corrupt Profile:** <http://www.crewsmostcorrupt.org/node/314>

### **Representative John Murtha (D-PA):**

- **Under Investigation by:** The Department of Justice (DOJ).
- **Under Investigation for:** Rep. Murtha has been under investigation for his ties to lobbying firm PMA Group and defense contractors.<sup>22</sup> As chair of the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, Rep. Murtha has steered millions in earmarks to contractors in return for campaign contributions.<sup>23</sup> In November 2008 and January 2009, the FBI raided the offices of the PMA Group and Kuchera Corporation respectively; both companies have close ties to Rep. Murtha.<sup>24</sup> The PMA raid reportedly was part of a widening federal probe into Rep. Murtha's relationship with lobbying firms and defense contractors.<sup>25</sup>
- **Status of Investigation:** In the first quarter of 2009, Rep. Murtha did not report paying legal fees, but he owes \$2,781 in legal fees.<sup>26</sup> Rep. Murtha insists he's not the subject of the federal investigation and he has not hired a lawyer.<sup>27</sup> DOJ has not confirmed whether Rep. Murtha is under investigation.<sup>28</sup>
- **Link to CREW's Most Corrupt Profile:** <http://www.crewsmostcorrupt.org/summaries/murtha.php>

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<sup>19</sup> Shira Toeplitz, Pennsylvania: Murphy Spends \$27K on Undisclosed Legal Fees, *Roll Call*, January 30, 2008.

<sup>20</sup> Tim Murphy For Congress, FEC Form 3, April Quarterly Report 2009, April 15, 2009.

<sup>21</sup> Tim Murphy For Congress, FEC Form 3, Post-General Report 2008, April 13, 2009, pp. 73, 81; Tim Murphy For Congress, FEC Form 3, October Quarterly Report 2008, October 15, 2008, pp. 171, 185; Tim Murphy For Congress, FEC Form 3, Pre-Primary Report 2008, April 18, 2008, pp. 130, 157.

<sup>22</sup> Emma Schwartz and Justin Rood, FBI Raided Lobbying Firm Connected to Murtha, *ABC News*, February 9, 2009.

<sup>23</sup> Id.

<sup>24</sup> Id.

<sup>25</sup> John Bresnahan, Firm tied to Murtha closes PAC, *Politico*, February 13, 2009.

<sup>26</sup> Murtha for Congress Committee, FEC Form 3, First Quarter Report 2009, April 13, 2009.

<sup>27</sup> David Kirkpatrick and Charlie Savage, Lawmaker Said to Surface in Lobbying Inquiry, *New York Times*, April 3, 2009.

<sup>28</sup> Schwartz and Rood, *ABC News*, Feb. 9, 2009.

### **Representative Charles Rangel (D-NY):**

- **Under Investigation by:** The House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.
- **Under Investigation for:** Rep. Rangel is under investigation for leasing four rent-stabilized properties in New York, one of which he used as a campaign office;<sup>29</sup> for using congressional stationery to raise funds for the Charles B. Rangel Center at the City College of New York;<sup>30</sup> for failing to report on his financial disclosure forms and to the IRS approximately \$75,000 in rental income on a Dominican Republic villa;<sup>31</sup> and for supporting a tax shelter for Nabors Industries in return for donations to the Rangel Center.<sup>32</sup>
- **Status of Investigation:** In the first quarter of 2009, Rep. Rangel paid almost \$445,000 in legal fees.<sup>33</sup> At Rep. Rangel's behest, the House Ethics Committee initiated a probe into his conduct on September 24, 2008.<sup>34</sup> Speaker Nancy Pelosi released a statement in November that the investigation into Rep. Rangel would be concluded by the end of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress.<sup>35</sup> The investigation was not completed last Congress and was reopened in the new Congress on February 10, 2009.<sup>36</sup>
- **Link to CREW's Most Corrupt Profile:** <http://www.crewsmostcorrupt.org/node/432>

### **Representatives Linda Sánchez (D-CA) and Loretta Sanchez (D-CA):**

- **Under Investigation by:** The House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.<sup>37</sup>
- **Under Investigation for:** The House Ethics Committee is reviewing whether House rules were violated when three of Rep. Loretta Sanchez's aides were put on Rep. Linda Sanchez payroll in late 2006 after an embezzlement scandal left Rep. Loretta Sanchez's office short on funds.<sup>38</sup>
- **Status of Investigation:** In the first quarter of 2009, Rep. Loretta Sanchez spent over \$6,000 on legal fees.<sup>39</sup> In the first quarter of 2009, Rep. Linda Sanchez did not report any legal fees.<sup>40</sup> Stan Brand, an attorney for Loretta Sanchez, confirmed on May 19, 2009 that the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct was investigating, adding that Reps. Linda and Loretta Sanchez sought the Committee review in late 2006 or early 2007.<sup>41</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> David Kocieniewski, For Rangel, Four Rent Stabilized Apartments, *New York Times*, July 11, 2008.

<sup>30</sup> Christopher Lee, Rangel Acknowledges Seeking Gifts, *Washington Post*, July 24, 2008.

<sup>31</sup> Isabel Vincent and Susan Edelman, Tricky Charlie's Carib Hideaway, *New York Post*, August 31, 2008.

<sup>32</sup> David Kocieniewski, The Congressman, the Donor and the Tax Break, *New York Times*, November 24, 2008.

<sup>33</sup> Bresnahan, *Politico*, Apr. 15, 2009.

<sup>34</sup> John Bresnahan, Rangel Spends Big on Legal Fees, *Politico*, April 15, 2009.

<sup>35</sup> John Bresnahan, Pelosi: Rangel Ethics Investigation Will Be Done by Early January, *Politico*, November 26, 2008.

<sup>36</sup> Democrats Reject Move to Strip Rangel of Chairmanship, *Associated Press*, February 10, 2009.

<sup>37</sup> Emily Yehle and Jennifer Yachnin, Ethics Panel Eyes Sánchez Sisters, *Roll Call*, May 19, 2009.

<sup>38</sup> Id.

<sup>39</sup> Committee to Re-elect Loretta Sanchez, FEC Form 3, First Quarter Report 2009, April 15, 2009, p. 25.

<sup>40</sup> Committee to Re-elect Linda Sanchez, FEC Form 3, First Quarter Report 2009, April 15, 2009.

<sup>41</sup> Id.

### **Representative Pete Visclosky (D-IN):**

- **Under Investigation by:** The Department of Justice.
- **Under Investigation for:** Rep. Visclosky is under investigation for his ties to the PMA Group.<sup>42</sup> In fall 2008, the FBI raided lobbying firm the PMA Group for potentially making improper campaign donations to members of Congress.<sup>43</sup> Rep. Visclosky is one of the top three recipients of donations from the firm and its clients.<sup>44</sup> In March 2009, Rep. Visclosky returned over \$18,000 in campaign contributions from the PMA Group's board of directors and lobbyists.<sup>45</sup>
- **Status of Investigation:** In the first quarter of 2009, Rep. Visclosky did not report paying legal fees.<sup>46</sup> On March 21, 2009, Rep. Visclosky's campaign wrote a letter to the Federal Election Commission seeking permission to use campaign funds for legal expenses that may arise from the FBI's investigation into the PMA Group.<sup>47</sup> The campaign, however, reported that the details of the investigation are unknown.<sup>48</sup>

### **Representative Don Young (R-AK):**

- **Under Investigation by:** The Department of Justice (DOJ).
- **Under Investigation for:** Rep. Young is under investigation for earmarking \$10 million dollars for a Florida construction project in exchange for campaign donations from Florida developers.<sup>49</sup> Rep. Young is also the subject of a criminal inquiry into whether he accepted bribes, illegal gratuities or unreported gifts from VECO Corporation.<sup>50</sup> Rep. Young's ties to convicted lobbyist Jack Abramoff also have been the subject of a grand jury investigation.<sup>51</sup>
- **Status:** Rep. Young's most recent 2009 federal disclosure revealed that he pays legal fees from his defense fund, rather than campaign funds.<sup>52</sup> The defense fund has raised \$82,000, mainly from fishery interests, and spent \$73,415.<sup>53</sup> Rep. Young spent over \$1 million in legal fees in the 2008 election cycle.<sup>54</sup> The status of these investigations is unknown.
- **Link to CREW's Most Corrupt Profile:** <http://www.crewsmostcorrupt.org/node/305>

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<sup>42</sup> David D. Kirkpatrick and Charlie Savage, Lawmaker Said to Surface in Lobbying Inquiry, *New York Times*, April 3, 2009.

<sup>43</sup> Paul Singer, Visclosky Seeks to Use Campaign Funds for Legal Defense, *Roll Call*, April 20, 2009.

<sup>44</sup> Lindsay Renick Mayer, PMA Group and Clients Paid Out \$40 Million to Current Congress, *OpenSecrets.org*, March 12, 2009.

<sup>45</sup> Maureen Groppe, Rep. Visclosky Gives Questionable Funds to Treasury, *Journal and Courier*, April 14, 2009.

<sup>46</sup> Visclosky for Congress, FEC Form 3, First Quarter Report 2009, April 13, 2009.

<sup>47</sup> Singer, *Roll Call*, Apr. 20, 2009.

<sup>48</sup> Id.

<sup>49</sup> Greg Gordon and Erika Bolstad, Young's \$10 Million Earmark Focus Of Inquiry, *Seattle Times*, August 19, 2007.

<sup>50</sup> John Wilke, Alaska's Young, Stevens Face Inquiry, *Wall Street Journal*, July 25, 2007.

<sup>51</sup> Dennis Zaki, Alaska Republican Congressman Don Young in Serious Legal Trouble, *Alaska Report*, July 16, 2007.

<sup>52</sup> Erika Bolstad, Young Now Paying Lawyers Solely from Defense Fund, *Anchorage Daily News*, April 15, 2009.

<sup>53</sup> Don Young's Legal Expense Fund, *Anchorage Daily News*, May 1, 2009.

<sup>54</sup> Bolstad, *Anchorage Daily News*, Apr. 15, 2009.

## **MEMBERS OF THE SENATE:**

### **Senator Roland Burris (D-IL):**

- **Under Investigation by:** The Senate Ethics Committee and the Illinois Sangamon County State Attorney.
- **Under Investigation for:** The Senate Ethics Committee is investigating Sen. Burris for repeatedly altering his testimony regarding his appointment to the Senate and his contacts with indicted former Governor Rod Blagojevich (D-IL).<sup>55</sup> Under oath, Sen. Burris has offered at least three different descriptions of how he was appointed to the Senate; in one scenario, Sen. Burris admitted to trying to raise money for the former governor.<sup>56</sup> The Illinois State Sangamon County State Attorney is investigating Sen. Burris' testimony to state lawmakers about whether Sen. Burris offered to fundraise for Gov. Blagojevich before he was appointed to the Senate.<sup>57</sup>
- **Status of Investigation:** In the first quarter of 2009, Sen. Burris did not report paying legal fees.<sup>58</sup> On April 9, 2009, Sen. Burris revealed that he has "rung up" \$500,000 in legal expenses resulting from an investigation into his ties with the indicted governor.<sup>59</sup> The investigation is ongoing.<sup>60</sup>

### **Senator Kent Conrad (D-ND):**

- **Under Investigation by:** The Senate Ethics Committee.
- **Under Investigation for:** Sen. Conrad is under investigation by the Senate Ethics Committee for possibly receiving a preferential mortgage rate from Countrywide Financial.<sup>61</sup> Sen. Conrad admitted to talking to Countrywide CEO Angelo Mozilo when he was looking for a mortgage, but denied that he knowingly received special treatment from the company.<sup>62</sup>
- **Status:** In the first quarter of 2009, Sen. Conrad did not report paying legal fees.<sup>63</sup> The status of the investigation is unknown.

### **Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT):**

- **Under Investigation by:** The Senate Ethics Committee.
- **Under Investigation for:** Sen. Dodd is under investigation by the Senate Ethics Committee for receiving two preferential mortgages from Countrywide Financial while serving as chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee.<sup>64</sup>

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<sup>55</sup> Monica Davey and Dirk Johnson, 2 Investigations Into Burris Are Begun, *New York Times*, February 17, 2009.

<sup>56</sup> Id.

<sup>57</sup> Andrew Harris, Illinois Prosecutor Reviews Burris' Statements to Lawmakers, *Bloomberg*, February 18, 2009.

<sup>58</sup> Burris for Senate, FEC Form 3, First Quarter Report 2009, April 15, 2009.

<sup>59</sup> Burris' Legal Fees Top \$500,000, *Associated Press*, April 9, 2009.

<sup>60</sup> Id.

<sup>61</sup> Ben Pershing, Ethics Panel to Probe Dodd, Conrad Mortgages, *Washington Post*, January 17, 2008.

<sup>62</sup> Id.

<sup>63</sup> Friends of Kent Conrad, FEC Form 3, First Quarter Report 2009, April 17, 2009.

<sup>64</sup> Id.

Sen. Dodd admitted that he and his wife have known since 2003 that they were receiving “V.I.P.” mortgages.<sup>65</sup>

- **Status:** In the first quarter of 2009, Sen. Dodd spent \$31,316.60 in legal fees.<sup>66</sup> The status of the investigation is unknown.

### **Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ):**

- **Under Investigation by:** The Department of Justice.
- **Under Investigation for:** Sen. Menendez is under investigation by the Newark, NJ U.S. Attorney’s Office for collecting rent from an anti-poverty group for which he helped win federal funds, the North Hudson Community Action Corporation.<sup>67</sup> The group was run by a donor to Sen. Menendez’s campaign.<sup>68</sup> More recently, in 2007, federal investigators began looking into Sen. Menendez’s relationship with his former chief of staff, lobbyist Kay LiCausi, to determine whether the senator improperly helped her or her clients win contracts and federal funding.<sup>69</sup>
- **Status of Investigation:** In the first quarter of 2009, Sen. Menendez did not report paying legal fees.<sup>70</sup> The status of the investigation is unknown.

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<sup>65</sup> Id.

<sup>66</sup> Friends of Chris Dodd, FEC Form 3, First Quarter Report 2009, April 15, 2009, pp. 242-300.

<sup>67</sup> David Kocieniewski, Inquiry Focuses on Former Aide to Menendez, *New York Times*, August 28, 2007.

<sup>68</sup> Jeff Whelan and Josh Margolin, Feds Probe Menendez Rental Deal, *Star-Ledger*, September 8, 2006.

<sup>69</sup> Kocieniewski, *New York Times*, Aug. 28, 2007.

<sup>70</sup> Menendez for Senate, FEC Form 3, First Quarter Report 2009, April 15, 2009.