



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

September 19, 2022

Mehreen Rasheed
American Oversight
1030 15th Street, NW
Suite B255
Washington, DC 20005

RE: ICE FOIA Case Number 2018-ICFO-56878

Dear Requester Rasheed:

This letter is the final response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), dated August 13, 2018. You have requested Date Range for Record Search: From the date the search is conducted.

American Oversight requests that ICE produce the following within twenty days:
All records reflecting communications (including emails, email attachments, text messages, messages on messaging platforms (such as Slack, GChat or Google Hangouts, Lync, Skype, or WhatsApp), telephone call logs, calendar entries/invitations, meeting notices, meeting agendas, informational material, draft legislation, talking points, any handwritten or electronic notes taken during any oral communications, summaries of any oral communications, or other materials) involving any employee or representative of Bradley

Arant Boulton Cummings LLP (@bradley.com), including, but not limited to, David Stewart and Paul Kavinoky.

ICE may limit its search to all political appointees within ICE. "Political appointee" should be understood as any person who is a Presidential Appointee with Senate Confirmation (PAS), a Presidential Appointee (PA), a non-career SES, any Schedule C employees, or any persons hired under Temporary Non-Career SES Appointments, Limited Term SES Appointments, or Temporary Transitional Schedule C Appointments.

In addition to the records requested above, American Oversight also requests records describing the processing of this request, including records sufficient to identify search terms used and locations and custodians searched and any tracking sheets used to track the processing of this request. If you use FOIA questionnaires or certifications completed by individual custodians or components to determine whether they possess responsive materials or to describe how they conducted searches, we also request any such records prepared in connection with the processing

of this request.

(Date Range for Record Search: From 4/1/2017 To 8/21/2018). ICE has considered your request under the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552.

A search of the ICE Office of Chief of Staff for records responsive to your request produced 7 pages that are responsive to your request. After review of those documents, I have determined that 0 pages will be released in their entirety. Portions of 7 pages will be withheld pursuant to Exemptions (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) of the FOIA as described below.

ICE has applied FOIA Exemptions 6 and 7(C) to protect from disclosure the names, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers of DHS employees contained within the documents.

FOIA Exemption 6 exempts from disclosure personnel or medical files and similar files the release of which would cause a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. This requires a balancing of the public's right to disclosure against the individual's right to privacy. The privacy interests of the individuals in the records you have requested outweigh any minimal public interest in disclosure of the information. Any private interest you may have in that information does not factor into the aforementioned balancing test.

FOIA Exemption 7(C) protects records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes that could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. This exemption takes particular note of the strong interests of individuals, whether they are suspects, witnesses, or investigators, in not being unwarrantably associated with alleged criminal activity. That interest extends to persons who are not only the subjects of the investigation, but those who may have their privacy invaded by having their identities and information about them revealed in connection with an investigation. Based upon the traditional recognition of strong privacy interest in law enforcement records, categorical withholding of information that identifies third parties in law enforcement records is ordinarily appropriate. As such, I have determined that the privacy interest in the identities of individuals in the records you have requested clearly outweigh any minimal public interest in disclosure of the information. Please note that any private interest you may have in that information does not factor into this determination.

You have a right to appeal the above withholding determination. Should you wish to do so, you must send your appeal and a copy of this letter, within 90 days of the date of this letter following the procedures outlined in the DHS FOIA regulations at 6 C.F.R. Part 5 § 5.8. You may submit your appeal electronically at GILDFOIAAppeals@ice.dhs.gov or via regular mail to:

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Office of the Principal Legal Advisor
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
500 12th Street, S.W., Mail Stop 5900
Washington, D.C. 20536-5900

Your envelope and letter should be marked “FOIA Appeal.” Copies of the FOIA and DHS regulations are available at www.dhs.gov/foia.

Provisions of FOIA allow DHS to charge for processing fees, up to \$25, unless you seek a waiver of fees. In this instance, because the cost is below the \$25 minimum, there is no charge.

If you need any further assistance or would like to discuss any aspect of your request, please contact the FOIA office and refer to FOIA case number **2018-ICFO-56878**. You may send an e-mail to ice-foia@ice.dhs.gov, call toll free (866) 633-1182, or you may contact our FOIA Public Liaison, Marcus Francis, in the same manner. Additionally, you have a right to right to seek dispute resolution services from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) which mediates disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. If you are requesting access to your own records (which is considered a Privacy Act request), you should know that OGIS does not have the authority to handle requests made under the Privacy Act of 1974. You may contact OGIS as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

Sincerely,

Angela M. Flores

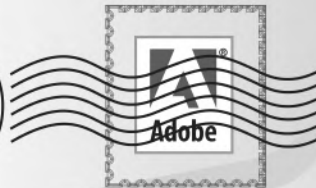
(A)Supervisory Paralegal Specialist

Enclosure(s): 7 page(s)

From:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

8/27/2018
8:51:49 AM



To: FOIA

ePaper Mail

AMERICAN
OVERSIGHT

DHS-ICE-18-0437-A-000001

POLITICAL APPOINTMENTS as of July 24, 2018

INCUMBENT	POSITION	APPT TYPE	PAY PLAN	LEVEL/GRADE
Vacant	Director	PAS	EX	IV
Thomas Blank	Chief of Staff, Office of the Director	Non Career	ES	
Tracy Short	Principal Legal Advisor Office of the Principal Legal Advisor	Non Career	ES	
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)	Senior Advisor, Office of the Director	Non Career	ES	
Raymond Kovacic	Congressional Relations Director	Non Career	ES	
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)	Assistant Director, Office of Public Affairs	Schedule C	GS	15
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)	Press Assistant	Schedule C	GS	7
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)	Special Assistant, Office of the Director	Schedule C	GS	9
Vacant	Special Advisor	Schedule C	GS	13

From: Tom Blank
Sent: Thu, 26 Apr 2018 19:17:06 +0000
To: Blank, Thomas
Subject: Fwd: POLITICO Influence: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) will stop lobbying for Dubai firm linked to Assad — Strange joins Patomak Global Partners — Burson-Marsteller alums start new firm

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: POLITICO Influence (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
Date: 4/26/18 2:38 PM (GMT-05:00)
To: Tom Blank (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
Subject: POLITICO Influence: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) will stop lobbying for Dubai firm linked to Assad — Strange joins Patomak Global Partners — Burson-Marsteller alums start new firm

By (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) | 04/26/2018 02:36 PM EDT

With (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) **WILL STOP LOBBYING FOR DUBAI FIRM LINKED TO ASSAD:** (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) has terminated his relationship with an Emirati company following a report in **The Daily Beast** that the company has ties to Syrian President **Bashar Assad's** regime (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) **Partners** registered last month to lobby for the company, **ASM International General Trading LLC**, which is based in Dubai, on business development and U.S. trade policy, according to a disclosure filing. The **Daily Beast** reported on Wednesday evening that ASM "is affiliated with a member of Syria's wealthy (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) family of international businessmen, which reportedly has close links to the Assad regime."

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) is now terminating his relationship with ASM, citing his work for another client, a nonprofit called **Citizens for a Safe and Secure America** that hired (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) firm this month to promote "democratic change in Syria," according to a disclosure filing. "Our firm is fully dedicated to helping Citizens for a Safe and Secure America achieve this important objective, and will not allow this recent news report to distract attention and focus away from that mission," (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) said in a statement. "For that reason, we have decided to terminate our representation of ASM, effective today."

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) said his firm, which has brought on clients at a rapid clip since setting up shop in Washington last year, would do more due diligence on potential clients in the future. "As our firm's Washington presence continues to grow in size, we will intensify our review of prospective clients to minimize the possibility of distractions in the future," (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) said in the statement. In a brief interview, he added that he was considering hiring an outside firm to help vet clients.

STRANGE JOINS PATOMAK GLOBAL PARTNERS: Former Alabama Sen. **Luther Strange**, who lost a special election primary last year, is now a senior adviser at **Patomak Global Partners**, a strategy and risk management consulting firm. He will split his time between Washington, D.C., and Alabama, where he recently started his own law firm. In an interview

with PI, Strange described Patomak as a "fabulous platform with a lot of people I've known and worked with for years."

- Strange said his portfolio will be broad. "We'll build on the financial services reputation and experience that Patomak has, but also the type of work that's done - compliance and monitoring and investigations - apply across the board," he said. "From my experience in the Senate, the energy sector, the agricultural economy, there's no end of opportunities out there."

- Strange, who is a former lobbyist for (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) said he will not be doing any lobbying. "It will be truly legal work, legal counsel work for my law firm, and it will be consulting and all the type of regulatory compliance work that Patomak does," he said.

Good afternoon, and welcome to PI. What's going on out there? Let us know:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)@politico.com and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)@politico.com. You can also follow us on Twitter: @ (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and @ (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

POLITICO's (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) is bringing Morning Money to the Milken Institute Global Conference to provide coverage of the day's events and evening happenings. The newsletter will run April 29 - May 2. **Sign up to keep up with your daily conference coverage.**

BURSON-MARSTELLER ALUMS START NEW FIRM: Burson-Marsteller alums

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) are launching a new firm, **IBEX Partners**. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) will be president of the firm and head of its environment, sustainability and land use practice, while (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) will be managing partner and market leader for Washington, D.C. In an interview with PI, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) said he was motivated to start the firm because he wanted to try a more audience-focused approach to public affairs. "I really had a picture in my head of how a really strong D.C. public affairs firm could work, and I wanted to do that, so I left and I'm doing it," he said. He added that because IBEX is small and relies on a network of partnerships with lobbying firms, public affairs firms and others, he doesn't need to force services onto clients. "When a client doesn't need a capability, we don't want to feel like we've got to force it because we've got that expense on the books," he said.

- Prior to starting the firm, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was a managing director at Burson-Marsteller. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) roles at Burson included CEO for the U.S. region and worldwide executive vice president. He left in April 2017 to start **Summit Strategy Group**, a California-based public affairs and corporate communications firm, for which he will continue to work.

TODAY'S NOTABLE REGISTRATIONS AND TERMINATIONS: Statoil, a Norwegian oil and gas company, hired **Covington & Burling** to lobby on Foreign Agents Registration Act reform. Coal giant **Peabody Energy** enlisted **Ice Miller** to lobby Vice President **Mike Pence's** office on "waters of the U.S. issues." **Northrop Grumman** hired former Senate Appropriations staffer **Gary Reese** to lobby on defense appropriations. **Tesla** ended its relationship with (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) who was lobbying on electric vehicle tax credits.

HOW A SHELL COMPANY USED MCKEON TO LOBBY TRUMP AND CONGRESS:

"Last year, **Howard 'Buck' McKeon**, a former Republican congressman who chaired the House Armed Services Committee, was hired to lobby for an Albanian political party seeking access to the Trump administration and congressional Republicans," **Mother Jones' Dan Friedman** and

Hannah Levintova report. "But most of his firm's work was bankrolled by a Cypriot shell company called **Dorelita Limited**. The outfit was created by a Cyprus-based lawyer who specializes in forming offshore corporations and who was affiliated with companies linked to a prominent Russian oligarch. Yet this shell company is now controlled, at least on paper, by an Athens-based attorney who in the past has advised a controversial Greek billionaire. The source of the money that flowed from Dorelita to the **McKeon Group**, the lobbying shop McKeon established in 2015 after leaving Congress, remains murky. That, in fact, may be the point." [Full story](#).

FRIENDS OF PRUITT GET EPA WIN: "When Environmental Protection Agency Administrator **Scott Pruitt** declared this week that tree burning was inherently a carbon-neutral way to produce electricity, it was a victory for some Oklahoma friends of Scott Pruitt," **InsideClimate News'** (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) reports. "An Oklahoma City-based lobbying firm that opened in 2017, the **Coffee Group**, was paid \$100,000 over the past year by an alliance of forestry companies - including giants Weyerhaeuser and Sierra Pacific - that have been seeking federal recognition of biomass as renewable energy on par with solar or wind. **Glenn Coffee**, who served in the Oklahoma Senate with Pruitt, and **Crystal Coon**, who was Pruitt's chief of staff while he was state attorney general, made the case before EPA for the forestry companies, according to lobbying disclosure reports.

- "There's no law against friends lobbying friends. And the Coffee Group's earnings were only a fraction of the \$1.7 million spent over the past year by the **National Alliance of Forest Owners** on lobbyists to press its case with the Trump administration and Congress. But amid the morass of ethical questions swirling around Pruitt over his spending on travel and security, his handling of personnel matters and potential conflicts of interest, it is yet more evidence that industry influence-peddling is alive and well - and paying off - in an administration that promised to 'drain the swamp.' For the Coffee Group's three members, who never had lobbied at the federal level before and who all have other jobs, lobbying the EPA on behalf of six different clients over the past year has brought in \$480,000." [Full story](#).

SPOTTED: At the **Fraternity & Sorority Political Action Committee** dinner on Wednesday night at the Liaison Hotel, according to a PI tipster: Sen. **Angus King** (I-Maine); Reps. **Joyce Beatty** (D-Ohio), **Bradley Byrne** (R-Ala.), **Marcia Fudge** (D-Ohio), **Josh Gottheimer** (D-N.J.), **Michelle Lujan Grisham** (D-N.M.), **Steny Hoyer** (D-Md.), **David Kustoff** (R-Tenn.), **Brenda Lawrence** (D-Mich.), **Roger Marshall** (R-Kan.), **Stephanie Murphy** (D-Fla.), **Dan Newhouse** (R-Wash.), **Robert Pittenger** (R-N.C.), **Tom Reed** (R-N.Y.), **Pete Sessions** (R-Texas), **Kevin Yoder** (R-Kan.) and **David Young** (R-Iowa); **Lauren Underwood**, who's challenging Rep. **Randy Hultgren** (R-Ill.); and **Sean Casten**, who's challenging Rep. **Peter Roskam** (R-Ill.).

SPOTTED: At a sports industry briefing and cocktail reception hosted by the **U.S. Chamber of Commerce** Global Innovation Policy Center for World IP Day Wednesday, according to a PI tipster: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) of **Major League Baseball**; (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) of the **National Football League**; (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) of the **National Basketball Association**; (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) of **NHL Enterprises LP**; (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) of **IMG College Licensing**; (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) of **ESPN**; Sens. **Chris Coons** (D-Del.) and **Chuck Grassley** (R-Iowa); Rep. **Ted Deutch** (D-Fla.); **U.S. Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator** (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) of the Chamber's Global Innovation Policy Center; (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) of **Altrius Group**; (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) of the Chamber's Global Brand Council; and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) of the National Football League.

SPOTTED: At dinner at **RPM Steak** in Chicago, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) of **McDonald's** and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) of **Boeing**, according to a PI tipster.

Join POLITICO CEO (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) for a conversation with (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) former Microsoft CEO and founder of USAFacts, to talk data transparency, disruption in civic and business leadership, and the government's impact on society. RSVP for the CEO Conversation - April 26 at the Newseum - Doors open 11:30 a.m.

JOBS REPORT

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) is now vice president of strategic credit union relations at the **Credit Union National Association**. She was previously an engagement consultant with CUNA.

NEW JOINT FUNDRAISERS:

Montana Pennsylvania Victory Fund (Montana Democratic Party, Montanans for Tester, Sen. Bob Casey [D-Pa.], Pennsylvania Democratic Party)

NEW PACs:

Battleground Group (super PAC)
Campaign For Accountable Transparent Government (super PAC)

NEW LOBBYING REGISTRATIONS:

Allon Advocacy LLC: Sipree, Incorporated
Ballard Partners: Colonial Management Group LP
Ballard Partners: Fabuwood Cabinetry Corp.
Ballard Partners: Strategic Property Partners LLC
Bracewell LLP: Britax Child Safety Inc.
Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney Pc: Verdan Holdings Ltd.
Card & Associates LLC: Coalition for Student Opportunity and Success
Courson Nickel LLC: Conduent
Covington & Burling LLP: Statoil ASA
E2 Strategies LLC: patriot one detection
Eris Group (formerly known as Bartlett & Bendall): City National Bank
Eris Group (formerly known as Bartlett & Bendall): Scratch Services Inc.
Ewsa: Energy Advance Center
Fairbanks Morse LLC: Fairbanks Morse LLC
GDR Strategies: Northrup Grumman Systems Corporation
Husch Blackwell Strategies: Coalition to Stop Internet Gambling (CSIG)
Ice Miller LLP: Peabody Energy Corporation
Ice Miller Strategies LLC: American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers
Mayer Brown LLP: Hunstman Corporation

Merchant McIntyre & Associates LLC: Eisenhower Medical Center
Merchant McIntyre & Associates LLC: Fhn
Merchant McIntyre & Associates LLC: Iowa Western Community College
Merchant McIntyre & Associates LLC: Los Rios Community College District
Merchant McIntyre & Associates LLC: Mel Trotter Ministries
Merchant McIntyre & Associates LLC: Northwest Arkansas Community College
Merchant McIntyre & Associates LLC: Pensacola State College
Merchant McIntyre & Associates LLC: Sky Lakes Medical Center
Merchant McIntyre & Associates LLC: Washington Nationals Youth Baseball Academy
Merchant McIntyre & Associates LLC: Zakat Foundation of America
Mercury: PV Group Limited
Potomac Strategic Development Company LLC: Small Business Administration of Michigan
Reed Smith LLP: Ototronix
The Glover Park Group LLC: Color Genomics Inc.
Tusk Ventures LLC: Neema Ltd.
Williams and Jensen PLLC: Antimicrobials Working Group

NEW LOBBYING TERMINATIONS:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Tesla Inc.

Van Scoyoc Associates: Galveston County, Texas
Water Strategies LLC: Upper Missouri Water Association
Scenic America: Scenic America

To view online:

<https://www.politico.com/newsletters/politico-influence/2018/04/26/ballard-will-stop-lobbying-for-dubai-firm-linked-to-assad-266317>

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