

## Caught Green Handed

There is a country where billionaires can place their own attorneys inside top law enforcement agencies to sue companies they don't like. Is it Russia? China? Mexico? Possibly. But there is a country where we know this is happening... The United States of America

If you care about the rule of law, prepare to be seriously ticked off. What I'm about to show you is a covert, unethical, potentially illegal scheme that involves billionaire Michael Bloomberg, multiple state attorneys' general, non-profit eco-activist groups and big-time law schools. All these players got together to sue large oil companies claiming damages due to climate change. We told you about these lawsuits in a previous video, but now comes the back story.

This frightening scheme was uncovered over a period of more than two and a half years by Chris Horner who has now produced a 55-page report for the Competitive Enterprise Institute.

Here's how it works. Donors, led by billionaire Michael Bloomberg, send their money to non-profit activist groups. The Non-Governmental Organizations, or NGOs, then hire attorneys, researchers and communications professionals who work for the state attorney general. Many of the activist-funded lawyers work inside the state attorney general offices. They are contracted to "advance progressive, clean energy, climate change and environmental positions."

One NGO at the center of the scheme is the Union of Concerned Scientists. Another one is the State Energy and Environmental Impact Center at the New York University School of Law. Bloomberg himself set up this organization at NYU in August of 2017. Soon after, David Hayes, a former aide to the Clinton and Obama administrations began sending recruitment letters to Democrat Attorney General offices. At least six state AG offices brought on a Special Assistant AG to advance "progressive" climate change policy through the courts. The AG offices, in turn, worked to secretly brief the green group's prospective funders.

One goal of placing these NGO-funded lawyers and specialists within state attorney general offices was to generate litigation against major energy companies under the premise that their product is causing and will cause more significant damage due to climate change. The model they used was that of the Tobacco Settlement where attorneys general extracted \$206 billion dollars out of tobacco companies. But so far, the legal action against oil companies hasn't worked out. Lawsuits were filed in California, New York, Colorado and Rhode Island. Already, two of these lawsuits have been summarily thrown out by the courts.

To think through how outrageous this is, consider the following scenario. What if oil companies were allowed to place their lawyers inside AG offices around the country

to push their agenda and to pay these lawyers through a shadowy back channel. That would be crazy and wrong. But that's exactly what the wealthy enemies of oil companies are doing right now.

Allowing people with giant bank accounts to have this kind of influence with our elected law enforcement officials is a violation of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment. And 501c3s renting their non-profit status to billionaires who infiltrate government agencies with activist lawyers also stinks to high heaven.

By the way, we only know about all this unethical behavior because the Competitive Enterprise Institute and a few others relentlessly filed Freedom of Information Act requests to state Attorney General offices. Many of these law enforcement officers stonewalled CEI for many months and some are still doing it today, which is a violation of Sunshine Laws.

And I've saved the worst for last. Horner has released yet another report for CEI that explains how big money activists are using similar methods to push their climate change agenda in governor's offices as well. Tens of millions of dollars, NGO pass-throughs and activist off-the-books staffers working inside government offices or placed in non-profits to be at governors' disposal. And this is happening in the United States of America. Ticked off yet?

For the Clear Energy Alliance, I'm Mark Mathis. Power On.

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