

Is Kathleen Willey a Gore plant?

by Edward Spannaus

Kathleen Willey, the former White House volunteer and Virginia Democratic Party fundraiser who has publicly charged that she was groped by President Clinton in 1993, is the best-known and most celebrated of the “Jane Doe” witnesses who emerged in the Paula Jones case, and were then taken over by independent counsel Kenneth Starr. Now, a number of the House Managers are known to be pressing ahead to bring in Willey and other “Jane Does” as witnesses in an attempt to bolster their flagging impeachment case against the President.

The Willey case is an extremely suspect case in many respects—not the least of which is that Willey has closer and longer-standing ties to Vice President Al Gore than to Bill Clinton.

What turned Willey?

The most important question to be asked is, why did Kathleen Willey begin hurling false accusations at the President, after maintaining a seemingly friendly relationship with him for years? Up until early 1997, Willey had never claimed to anyone that the President had assaulted or groped her. In January 1997, she apparently placed an anonymous call to Paula Jones’s lawyers, saying that something had happened to her similar to what had supposedly happened to Paula Jones. Jones’s lawyers gave her name to Michael Isikoff of *Newsweek*; in March 1997, according to her former friend Julie Hiatt Steele, Willey called Steele and told her that Isikoff was coming over to see her, and that she should tell Isikoff that Willey had told her about an alleged incident with the President back in 1993—which Steele later said was a lie.

Willey was subpoenaed in the Paula Jones case, and gave a sworn deposition in January 1998 in which she testified about the alleged incident for the first time; she also said that she had told Clinton in 1993 that “we were having a financial crisis and my husband had asked me to sign a note for a large amount of money.” But, when she had been questioned about the 1993 events during a 1995 deposition in another case, Willey testified that she had not had *any* conversations with anyone in Washington about her financial troubles. And in sworn answers to written interrogatories in 1995, Willey stated that she “did not talk with anyone at the White House about the money, the paper, or the threats.”

Moreover, Willey maintained a friendly relationship with Bill Clinton, calling the White House and sending notes, long after the alleged incident—which she now claims left her

feeling angry and betrayed. Two days after the alleged sexual advances, she phoned for Clinton and left a message, the note of which said: “Kathleen Willey—she called this morning and said you could call her any time.” In September 1995, Willey invited Clinton to an engagement party for her daughter. Most of her handwritten notes, well into 1997, are signed: “Fondly, Kathleen.”

There are two areas that bear scrutiny. One, is that of Willey’s vulnerability; the second, is the previously unexamined channel of influence from Al Gore, who, as *EIR* has shown, is operating against the President.

Kathleen’s late husband, Edward Willey, Jr., was a Richmond real estate and zoning lawyer, whose father had been a powerful figure in the Virginia Democratic Party and the State Senate for many years. In the late 1980s, Edward Willey, Jr. was under Federal and state investigation for suspicion of bribery and corruption in connection with local zoning matters. The Willeys also did not pay Federal taxes for a number of years.

As we showed in a previous article (*EIR*, Nov. 13, 1998), Kathleen Willey had an enormous legal and financial vulnerability after the husband’s death, being held responsible for a \$274,000 promissory note she had co-signed, and with Internal Revenue Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and other investigations apparently active at the time of her husband’s death. She took steps to avoid paying the judgment, which created still more legal vulnerabilities for her.

The Gore connection

Willey’s husband Edward was a longtime friend of Al Gore, and it was because of Gore that Edward and Kathleen Willey got involved in the 1992 Clinton-Gore campaign. According to published accounts, Gore used to stop in to see Ed Willey whenever he was in Richmond.

In early 1995, Kathleen Willey was seeking to obtain an appointment as the U.S. representative to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, and in March 1995 she was named a member of the U.S. delegation to the UN Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen, a delegation headed by Al Gore.

Democratic party fundraiser Nathan Landow also figures prominently in the Willey case; Starr has also been investigating Landow for alleged attempts to influence Willey’s testimony, but, notably, he was not indicted, while Julie Hiatt Steele was.

Landow was one of Gore’s early supporters, and is still known around the White House as a Gore man, not a Clinton supporter, according to a March 17, 1998 *Boston Globe* article. Landow was Gore’s finance chairman in the 1988 campaign. In 1992, Landow backed Paul Tsongas against Clinton for the Democratic nomination. In 1995, when Gore was making fundraising calls from the White House, Landow was one of those he called; Gore had \$25,000 in hand from Landow within an hour.