
Investigate Kenneth Starr

Bush League's 'dirty tricks' led to President Clinton's impeachment

by Edward Spannaus

No sooner had word leaked out that the Department of Justice was about to launch an investigation of independent counsel Kenneth Starr, than a “public interest law firm” went to court to bar the DOJ probe. That group, the Landmark Legal Foundation, has very good reasons of its own to want to stymie the DOJ’s investigation—because it is itself implicated in the maze of back channels and secret dealings which the DOJ would be examining, should it seriously pursue a conflict-of-interest investigation of Starr.

Although Landmark is a relatively minor player in the events which led to Starr taking over the Paula Jones sexual harassment case in January 1998, any serious examination of Starr’s conflicts-of-interest around the Jones case will inevitably show that Starr, far from being an “independent” counsel, was in fact an agent for a George Bush-linked cabal which was laboring to bring down President Clinton long before Starr was appointed.

Bush campaign skullduggery

The path through the Whitewater and Monica Lewinsky investigations—which ultimately led to the impeachment trial of the President—goes back to the 1992 Bush re-election campaign. The tracks of both Whitewater and the sex scandals, begin at that point.

In early September 1992, a “referral” was made from the Resolution Trust Corp. to the Justice Department and the U.S. Attorney in Little Rock, alleging criminal wrongdoing in the Madison Guarantee Savings & Loan case by Bill and Hillary Clinton. Edith Holiday, the White House liaison to the Bush-Quayle reelection campaign, asked Attorney General William Barr about the referral a few weeks later; both Barr and Bush’s White House Counsel C. Boyden Gray intervened to try and get a criminal investigation of the Clintons opened before the election.

Kenneth Starr was the Solicitor General in the Bush Justice Department at the time. Edith Holiday’s husband, Terry Adamson, later became Starr’s own lawyer.

The Madison referral was instigated by Jean Lewis, whose hatred of Bill and Hillary Clinton was well known within the RTC. In 1994, her actions against the Clintons came under

investigation within the RTC, and she was put on administrative leave. Her lawyers during this time were supplied by the Landmark Legal Foundation. One of Starr’s first acts, upon being appointed the Whitewater independent counsel in August 1994, was to subpoena the RTC’s records on Lewis and to order the RTC to suspend its investigation of her—thus perpetuating a cover-up of the illegitimate and politically motivated origins of the entire Whitewater investigation.

A second avenue of Bush campaign “opposition research” and dirty tricks, revolved around investigations of Bill Clinton’s personal life.

Chicago businessman Peter W. Smith (a major bankroller of Newt Gingrich’s political action committee, GOPAC), began financing an investigation into Clinton’s sex life during the 1992 campaign, and put at least \$80,000 into these efforts up through March 1994. Much of the research was conducted and supervised by attorney Richard W. Porter, who was Special Assistant to the President (Bush) in 1990-91, then Counsellor to the Vice-President (Quayle) during 1992.

Porter’s efforts continued after he became a partner in the Chicago law firm of Kirkland & Ellis in early 1993, at the end of the Bush Presidency. Around the same time, Kenneth Starr also left the Justice Department and became a partner in Kirkland & Ellis. In the summer of 1994, Starr and Porter worked together on preparing an *amicus curiae* (friend-of-the-court) brief to support Paula Jones’s argument against Presidential immunity in her lawsuit against the President.

“Opposition research” by the Bush-Quayle campaign delved into other areas, as well. In late October, the *Washington Times* and the *Sunday Times* of London both wrote that Bill Clinton had been an anti-war protester in the late 1960s, and raised suspicions about Clinton’s visit to Moscow in 1969—with the suggestion that Clinton had been a Soviet agent ever since.

Emmett Tyrrell, the editor-in-chief of *the American Spectator*, later wrote in his book *Boy Clinton* (published by Alfred Regnery, himself a friend and former Justice Department colleague of Kenneth Starr): “For a day or two after these reports Washington was resonant with rumors. State Department files supposedly contained evidence that Clinton had given up his

citizenship to avoid the draft, that he had committed treason, and that while in Moscow he had slipped away for a clandestine trip to Hanoi. . . .”

In fact, some over-enthusiastic, pro-Bush State Department employees rifled through Clinton’s passport files, looking for such evidence of treason. One of those who later came under investigation was Steven Berry. Berry was defended by someone we will meet often in this story: Washington lawyer Theodore Olson—a law partner of Kenneth Starr from the 1970s, who came with Starr into the Reagan-Bush Justice Department in 1981, and is usually described as one of Starr’s closest friends.

The Paula Jones case

The next intense spurt of activity to dig up dirt on Bill Clinton begins in the fall of 1993, and quickly results in the opening of the Whitewater case in January 1994, and the filing of the Paula Jones case in May.

Although the Whitewater story had been kicking around since 1992, it only got traction at the end of 1993, after a former Little Rock, Arkansas municipal judge and con-man named David Hale was indicted for fraud. Working through longtime political enemies of Bill Clinton in Arkansas, Hale was able to shop his “Whitewater” story, targeting Jim and Susan McDougal, and Bill and Hillary Clinton, into the national media such as the *New York Times*, building pressure for the appointment of the first Whitewater independent counsel, Robert Fiske, in January 1994. Through the same circles, Hale was put in contact with operatives of the spook-billionaire Richard Mellon Scaife, who were working through the *American Spectator* magazine. By the end of November 1993, Hale had retained Starr’s colleague Ted Olson as his attorney.

Seeing the possibilities, at year’s end Olson convened a meeting in his Washington office to create the “Arkansas Project.” Operating under the auspices of the “American Spectator Educational Fund,” and with over \$2 million of Scaife foundation money, the Arkansas Project set out to dig up dirt, and to manufacture witnesses, against Bill Clinton. David Hale was one of the secret recipients of Scaife money, via the Arkansas Project, while he became a federally protected witness for Starr against the President.

But meanwhile, Chicago businessman Peter Smith had never given up his project from the 1992 campaign. In August 1993, Smith called David Brock, an investigative writer for the *American Spectator*, and asked Brock to fly to Little Rock to meet with two renegade Arkansas state troopers who had stories they wanted to tell about Clinton’s alleged sexual escapades. Brock spent two days in Little Rock with the troopers, and this venture resulted in the infamous “Troopergate” article in the *American Spectator* in late December 1993.

That article mentioned a former Arkansas state employee, identified only as “Paula,” who claimed that Clinton had made a lewd sexual approach to her in 1991. In February, Paula Corbin Jones went public. The statute of limitations expired on May 8, 1994, so there ensued a frantic search to find law-

yers for her who could take on the President of the United States.

According to various published accounts, the search for Paula Jones’s legal team involved the following:

1. Operatives from the American Spectator Educational Fund, who made frantic calls until they were able to confer with the Landmark Legal Foundation; Landmark advised Jones *not* to sue the *American Spectator*, where her name was published, but only to sue Clinton and the trooper involved. (Landmark and the *Spectator* are both heavily dependent upon Scaife foundation financing.) Some accounts say that Landmark put Jones in touch with her first legal team, Gil Davis and Joseph Cammerata.

2. Peter Smith in Chicago was also contacted about finding a lawyer for Jones. Smith referred the caller to Richard Porter (Starr’s law partner); Porter referred Jones to Philadelphia lawyer Jerome Marcus, who contacted Davis & Cammerata.

3. Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, the Washington correspondent for the London *Sunday Telegraph*, who has described his own efforts to assist Jones’s local lawyer in finding competent help; Pritchard takes credit for convincing Jones and her family to file suit. Pritchard described the Jones suit as the “ticking timebomb” that could bring down the Clinton Presidency, through pre-trial discovery digging into Clinton’s sex life.

Jones’s legal team of Davis & Cammerata, themselves over their heads, got lots of help. Philadelphia lawyer Marcus drafted the original complaint, filed in May 1994.

During June, Starr himself (still not having been appointed independent counsel), talked with Davis at least six times, for a total of four and one-half hours.

Starr and Richard Porter began to prepare the *amicus brief* in support of Jones; Starr had to drop out when he was suddenly appointed independent counsel in August 1994.

Porter meanwhile began to put together a secret team of lawyers who would ghost-write many of the legal papers filed by Jones’s first and second teams of lawyers. This included Porter, Marcus, and George Conway of New York. They also discussed the case with Paul Rosenzweig, another friend of theirs—who went to work for Kenneth Starr in November 1997, just as the Lewinsky case was on its way into Starr’s hands.

All four—Porter, Marcus, Conway, and Rosenzweig—were classmates at the University of Chicago Law School in the mid-1980s, and they have all been identified as members of the Federalist Society, a right-wing legal organization in which Starr, Olson, and Judge David Sentelle—the head of the three-judge panel which appointed Starr—are also active.

In the summer of 1996, Conway and Marcus arranged for Gil Davis to be able to prepare his Supreme Court arguments in front of a “moot court,” including Ted Olson and former judge Robert Bork.

Bork has been identified as one of the attendees at what used to be regular Friday night gatherings at the secluded Great Falls, Virginia home of Ted Olson and his wife, Barbara

(a former Federal prosecutor and an outspoken TV critic of Bill Clinton).

Sources have identified participants in the “Olson Salon” as including: Kenneth Starr, Bork, Supreme Court Associate Justice Clarence Thomas, Appeals Court judge Laurence Silberman, *Wall Street Journal* editor Robert Bartley, and *American Spectator* editor Emmett Tyrrell.

David Brock, the “Troopergate” author, wrote an article in the July 1997 *Esquire* magazine, entitled “Confessions of a Right-Wing Hit Man,” wherein he described how he had been in attendance at the 1996 wedding of Ted and Barbara Olson—in a crowd that included Bush’s former White House Counsel C. Boyden Gray (remember the RTC referral?), Starr, Robert Bartley, and others. Gray joked with Brock that since Starr wasn’t going to come up with the goods on Clinton before the November elections, it was up to Brock to do it. This was a reference to Brock’s forthcoming book on Hillary Clinton, which ended up being somewhat sympathetic to the First Lady. This rapidly resulted in Brock’s being disinvited from further social gatherings at the Olsons’ home.

Brock also blew apart the centerpiece of Gary Aldrich’s book *Unlimited Access*, since renegade FBI agent Aldrich had falsely used Brock as a source for stories that Bill Clinton was sneaking out of the White House for late-night trysts.

After Brock had informed Aldrich of the error, Brock writes, “I received the first of several tense phone calls . . . warning me to keep my mouth shut.” The first such call, Brock says, was from Mark Levin, the president of the Landmark Legal Foundation and former chief of staff to Attorney General Edwin Meese. Referring to Aldrich, Landmark’s Levin told Brock: “If he goes down, we all go down.” Lewin told Brock that he should leave town to avoid talking to reporters.

Starr and Paula Jones, redux

In November 1997, New York literary agent Lucianne Goldberg, desperate to deliver a frightened Linda Tripp into Starr’s hands, called publisher Alfred Regnery in Chicago—the publisher of many anti-Clinton books, by authors such as Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, Emmett Tyrrell, and Gary Aldrich, who was a friend of Linda Tripp’s in 1992-93 in the White House. Regnery contacted Peter Smith. Smith called Goldberg back with Richard Porter on the line, introducing him as “Ken Starr’s partner,” and Goldberg then briefed them both on Monica Lewinsky.

Goldberg has described Porter as being “nervous” about his role, because of his close ties to Starr, and she says that Porter therefore used Marcus as his “cut-out” to Starr’s office.

Goldberg was also trying to find a new lawyer for Tripp; among those she sounded out, was Ted Olson.

By mid-January of 1998, Kenneth Starr was back where he always wanted to be: in the middle of the Paula Jones case. Now he could take over the case, under the pretext of investigating perjury and obstruction of justice, with Linda Tripp, Lucy Goldberg, and Monica Lewinsky as his witnesses.

Interview: Ed Vaughn

Stop the takeover of Detroit’s schools

Michigan Gov. John Engler (R), the leading GOP contender for Vice President on an expected ticket with Texas Gov. George Bush, has introduced Senate Bill 297, to take over the Detroit schools from the duly elected school board, and to hand them over to Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer (D), a leading supporter of Vice President Al Gore; the schools are ultimately to be privatized.

State Rep. Ed Vaughn (D-Detroit) is fighting the takeover, and in this interview with EIR, warns that passage of the legislation could lead to riots.

More than 500 Detroit residents went to Lansing on Feb. 17 to oppose the bill in the Senate. Hundreds more went on Feb. 24, for the second hearing, where Representative Vaughn led a protest in the committee hearing, including grabbing the speaker’s gavel—what he called an “act of civil disobedience”—to demonstrate “what it feels like to constantly have your rights taken away.” Vaughn and others were taken out of the hearing and the bill was reported out of committee in the GOP-controlled Senate. As the House is also GOP-controlled, the legislation is expected to pass there as well, unless a very strong fight is waged against it.

Representative Vaughn is chairman of the Michigan Legislative Black Caucus, and is serving his fourth term in the legislature. He is also chairman of the Constitutional and Civil Rights Committee in the Michigan House, and vice-chairman of the Agriculture Committee. He is one of 12 state legislators who initiated the ad hoc committee “Americans to Save the Presidency.” He has endorsed both the Open Letter to President Clinton to exonerate Lyndon LaRouche, and the appeal to President Clinton to name LaRouche as his economic adviser. Marianna Wertz interviewed Vaughn on Feb. 16 and 19.



EIR: Can you tell us what the issue is in your fight against Gov. John Engler and Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer?

Vaughn: The main issue now is the Governor’s attempt to take over the Detroit public schools. It’s the only school district in the State of Michigan that the Governor has targeted for takeover. We believe that the takeover is about money and it’s about race. First of all, he has not targeted any other school district except an all-black district.