

**CREW**citizens for responsibility  
and ethics in washington

## CREW Cuts

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### CREW Wins Major Victory in White House Records Lawsuit



CREW won a major victory on January 15th, when the U.S. District Court for D.C. ordered the White House to collect and preserve all materials relevant to CREW's lawsuit over the Bush administration's role in the disappearance of 14 million emails missing from White House servers.

CREW originally sued the Executive Office of the President (EOP) and the Office of Administration (OA) in 2007, and has been embroiled in a legal battle to keep the records of the executive branch preserved and public ever since.

In late January, the court granted CREW's request for an emergency preservation order preventing any documents from being transferred to the National Archives without court permission. The court further ordered a search of the EOP and OA to find and store any devices containing emails sent or received between March 2003 and October 2005, as well as to preserve all other materials relevant to the lawsuit.

CREW continues its fight to learn why the Bush administration hid the facts surrounding the disappearance of these crucial emails from the public.

[Learn more](#)

[Read Judge Facciola's preservation order and opinion](#)

[Read the Associated Press article](#)

### CREW Launches BermanExposed.org



On January 14th, CREW launched [BermanExposed.org](#), a site dedicated to exposing the front group network of Richard Berman, one of Washington's most notorious hired guns.

Berman, through his public relations firm Berman and Company, has been a fierce and ruthless defender of the tobacco, alcohol, restaurant and tanning industries by publicly disparaging union groups, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, and other groups that raise awareness of childhood obesity, the minimum wage, the dangers of smoking and tanning, drunk driving and other issues.

In operating at least 15 industry-funded front groups and projects, such as the Center for Union Facts, an anti-union propaganda organization, Berman has become enormously wealthy. He funnels big-business money through his anti-consumer and anti-safety groups to his PR firm. Berman and seven of his employees hold 49 positions in his myriad of organizations.

Berman's sleazy campaigns have attempted to muddle the public discourse surrounding a range of vitally important health, safety, and consumer issues. As [BermanExposed.org](#) demonstrates, Berman has only one true goal: to be the best snake-oil salesman ever.

[Learn more](#)

[Visit BermanExposed.org](#)

[Read the Huffington Post article](#)

### CREW Releases *Revolving Door* - An In-Depth Look at Washington's Favorite Pastime



On January 12th, CREW released *Revolving Door*, a first-of-its-kind report on the private-sector activities of 24 former Bush administration officials. The study demonstrates that the "revolving door" in our nation's capital remains wide open. Many of these former cabinet officials are receiving lucrative compensation for joining the companies they once regulated.

Among other startling facts, *Revolving Door* reveals:

- ◆ 17 former officials hold positions with a total of 119 companies;
- ◆ 17 former officials hold positions with 65 companies that lobby the federal government;
- ◆ 15 former officials hold positions with 40 companies that lobby those officials' former agencies, and;
- ◆ 9 former officials hold positions with 15 companies that began or resumed lobbying the former officials' agencies after those officials joined the companies.

By issuing the report, CREW hopes to shed a public light onto one of Washington's favorite pastimes - turning public sector influence into private sector wealth. While the actions of these former officials are legal, they epitomize the most dishonorable conduct of some of Washington's most powerful players.

[Learn more](#)

[Read the report](#)

[Read the McClatchy Newspapers article](#)

### CREW Offers Ethics Guidance to Capitol Hill Staff

On January 9th, CREW held its first ethics training session for congressional staff. The talk focused on congressional gift rules, travel rules, conflicts of interest and personal financial disclosure forms.

Although the congressional ethics committees provide mandatory ethics trainings, these sessions typically serve to help members of Congress get around the rules. CREW's session, however, focused on the kinds of unethical activities that make members of Congress appealing targets for watchdogs and the subjects of front page newspaper stories.

[Learn more](#)

[Read the Roll Call article](#)

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