

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

## CREW Cuts

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### CREW Asks for Summary Judgment in Cheney Suit



CREW, along with two eminent historians and organizations of historians and archivists, filed a lawsuit last fall against Vice President Cheney, the Office of the Vice President and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), seeking to ensure that Cheney's vice presidential records are properly preserved under the Presidential Records Act (PRA). After successfully moving the US District Court for DC to require the White House to preserve all

records pending the outcome of the lawsuit, CREW took the sworn depositions Cheney's Deputy Chief of Staff Claire O'Donnell and NARA official Nancy Smith to better understand the defendants' views on record keeping.

In December, the Vice President's office, along with the other defendants, moved to dismiss CREW's lawsuit, arguing the vice president has absolute and unreviewable authority to decide what the PRA means and what it requires. CREW opposed that motion and asked the court to issue a final ruling, or summary judgment, based on the White House's narrow and dangerously under-inclusive view. Cheney's position in this lawsuit represents a significant setback for government transparency.

Congress enacted the PRA to provide for public ownership of presidential records, which is defined in broad, sweeping terms. The vice president's interpretation cannot be reconciled with the language of the PRA. Left unchecked, the public will be deprived of the full history of this administration.

[Learn more](#)

[Read CREW's motion for summary judgment](#)

[Read the New York Times article](#)



### CREW Releases Top 10 Ethics Scandals of 2008 Report

On December 16th, CREW released its second annual [Top 10 Ethics Scandals](#) report for 2008, a compilation of the year's most egregious federal ethics scandals.

CREW's report includes:

- Congressional Ethics Committees' Inaction
- Bush Administration Records Lost to History
- Lawmakers Relying on the Speech or Debate Clause to Evade Prosecution
- The Pay-to-Play Congress
- Lawmakers Enriching Family with Campaign Cash
- Controversial Presidential Pardons
- VA Officials Intentionally Misdiagnosing PTSD
- Lack of Bailout Oversight
- Political Calculations Dictate Border Fence Placement
- Politicization of Bush Justice Department

By exposing these injustices, CREW hopes the public will actively stand up and take notice.

[Learn more](#)

[Read the report](#)

[Read the Mother Jones Magazine article](#)



### CREW Releases 2008 Most Embarrassing Re-Elected Members of Congress Report



On December 8th, CREW released its [2008 Most Embarrassing Re-Elected Members of Congress](#) report. The report highlights ten members of Congress, re-elected to their seats in November 2008, who have misused their positions through unethical, outrageous, and - in some cases - blatantly illegal conduct.

The unranked list profiles:

- Rep. Michele Bachmann (R-MN)
- Rep. Vern Buchanan (R-FL)
- Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA)
- Rep. Jerry Lewis (R-CA)
- Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY)
- Rep. Gary Miller (R-CA)
- Rep. John Murtha (D-PA)
- Rep. Charles Rangel (D-NY)
- Rep. Laura Richardson (D-CA)
- Rep. Don Young (R-AK)

By releasing this report, CREW hopes to bring attention to these members' outrageous behavior - everything from Rep. Bachmann's call for an "anti-American witch-hunt" to Rep. Buchanan's blatant violation of federal campaign finance laws. Americans deserve to be better represented by their elected officials and CREW will continue to hold politicians accountable for their actions.

[Learn more](#)

[Read the report](#)

[Read the Saint Paul Legal Ledger's article on Rep. Bachmann](#)

### NOT JUST PALIN - CREW Files FEC Complaint Against Federal Candidates For Illegal Clothing Purchases

Gov. Sarah Palin wasn't the only federal candidate to violate the law by using campaign money for clothing. On December 2nd, CREW filed a complaint with the Federal Election Commission (FEC), alleging that candidates for the House of Representatives and the presidency improperly spent campaign funds in violation of a federal law prohibiting campaign funds from being spent for the personal use of candidates.

The complaint includes clothing purchases made by the campaign committees of Reps. Loretta Sanchez (D-CA) and Rob Andrews (D-NJ), Utah congressional candidate Bill Dew (R), North Carolina congressional candidate William Breazeale (R), and Andrew MacPherson, a staffer for Bob Barr's presidential campaign.

CREW filed a similar complaint against failed vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin and the Republican National Committee in October for spending over \$150,000 of campaign money on clothing and personal items for her and her family.

[Learn more](#)

[Read CREW's complaint to the FEC](#)

[Read the Associated Press article](#)



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