

## CREW Cuts

The Monthly Newsletter of CREW

December 2010 // Issue No. 44

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### Spotlight

#### DeLay Finally Pays

Thanksgiving came a day early last week with a Texas jury rendering a verdict of "guilty" in the money laundering trial of disgraced former Congressman Tom DeLay.



Mr. DeLay long managed to escape the consequences of his corrupt rein over Congress, but it seems, thankfully, the law has finally caught up with him. While we're disappointed Mr. DeLay will never be taken to task for many of his other misdeeds in Washington, Americans can take some comfort in this conviction.

Mr. DeLay's sentencing is scheduled for this December. As CREW's executive director Melanie Sloan said upon hearing the verdict, "Texas judges are not known for leniency in sentencing." We'll keep you posted on Mr. DeLay's conviction.

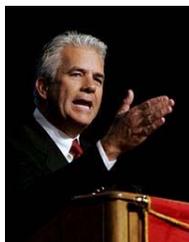
[Learn more.](#)

[Read about CREW's FOIA requests regarding federal investigations into Mr. DeLay.](#)

[Read more about Mr. DeLay's conviction in \*Politico\*.](#)



### CREW Condemns Move to Drop Investigation of Sen. Ensign



The Federal Election Commission (FEC) dismissed our complaint against Sen. John Ensign (R-NV) for making a \$96,000 severance payment to his former campaign staffer who was fired after her affair with the senator ended. Sen. Ensign failed to report the payment to the FEC, and claimed it was a gift made by his parents, despite contemporaneous notes taken by the staffer's husband indicating the payment was, indeed severance. Typically, the FEC (which never finds campaign finance laws worth enforcing) simply took the senator's parents at their word.

In bad news for Nevadans, Mr. Ensign announced his plan to run for a third term. If there is a silver lining to this dark cloud, it's that Sen. Ensign remains under investigation by both the Department of Justice and the Senate Ethics Committee.

[Learn more.](#)

[Click here to read CREW's original request for an investigation to the FEC.](#) [PDF]

[Click here to read the FEC's decision to not investigate Sen. Ensign.](#) [PDF]

[Read Melanie Sloan in \*The Huffington Post\* on Sen. Ensign's plans to run for re-election.](#)

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## CREW: Rep. Rangel Must Resign



It was a trial almost two years in the making. This month, Rep. Charles Rangel (D-NY) was found guilty of 11 of 13 charges by the House Ethics Committee. The committee also voted to censure him.

As CREW's executive director Melanie Sloan told reporters, "All of Mr. Rangel's theatrics aside, the facts were clear: Mr. Rangel violated numerous House rules and federal laws. Whether these violations were deliberate or inadvertent, the American people deserve to be represented by members of Congress who adhere to the highest ethical standards. Mr. Rangel should resign."

[Learn more.](#)

[Watch Melanie Sloan discussing the trial on CNN's Anderson Cooper 360.](#)

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## Department of Justice Ignoring President Obama's Calls for Increased Transparency



On November 23rd, CREW sent a letter to Attorney General Eric Holder complaining that the Department of Justice (DOJ) is failing to meet President Obama's goal of a more open government. Over the past two years, CREW's numerous Freedom of Information Act requests to the DOJ have been met with stonewalling and resistance. Whether we have asked for records about the now closed investigation into former Majority Leader Tom DeLay (R-TX), or emails from torture memo author John Yoo, the DOJ consistently refuses to disclose information, forcing CREW to take the department to court.

CREW believes democracy depends on an open government and we will keep fighting to ensure the Department of Justice lives up to the President's promise of transparency.

[Learn more.](#)

[Read CREW's letter to the Department of Justice.](#) [PDF]

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## Sen. Coburn to Dept. of Education: Listen to CREW!



It's good to have support from members of Congress, especially when they can shine a spotlight on the sometimes glacial processes involved in Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. This month, Sens. Tom Coburn (R-OK) and Richard Burr (R-NC) called on the Department of Education to investigate officials who may have leaked proposed regulations for governing the for-profit education industry to people supporting the administration's position and to investors who stood to gain financially.

In short, CREW and others would like to examine who was trying to influence Education

██████████ officials for personal financial gain. While the for-profit education industry certainly has problems that need addressing, it's equally problematic for hedge fund managers to be advocating increased government regulation simply to make money.

[Learn more.](#)

[Click here to read Sen. Coburn's letter to the Department of Education.](#) [PDF]

[Click here to learn about CREW's original request to the Department of Education.](#)

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Americans deserve elected officials who focus on our interests rather than their own. Keeping politicians honest and building a better Washington won't be easy, which is why CREW needs your help. Please forward this to your friends and family to help spread the word about the hard work CREW is doing in Washington. Also, be sure to stay up to date by visiting our website, [www.citizensforethics.org](http://www.citizensforethics.org).

Thank you for your continued support.

Melanie Sloan  
Executive Director  
CREW



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