

CREW Cuts

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Spotlight



Melanie Sloan Interviewed in *PARADE* Magazine

CREW's Executive Director Melanie Sloan was interviewed in the May 23rd issue of *PARADE* magazine - one of the most widely read publications in the country with a readership of **74 million** people. Melanie discussed CREW's work holding corrupt officials accountable for their actions and ways the public can get involved.

Please join Melanie in holding elected officials' feet to the fire by making a contribution to CREW. Together we can ensure that our government officials don't sacrifice the common good to special interests.

[Click here to donate to CREW today](#)

[Click here to read Melanie's full interview on Parade.com](#)



CREW Sues DOJ Over Missing John Yoo Emails



On May 11th, CREW filed a lawsuit against the Department of Justice (DOJ) for failing to adequately respond to two Freedom of Information



Act (FOIA) requests for documents related to the missing "torture memo" emails from former Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) official John Yoo.

In February 2010, DOJ released a July 2009 report on its own internal investigation into the OLC's role in crafting the infamous memos authorizing the torture of detainees outside the United States. This report revealed the investigation had been hampered by the disappearance of most of Mr. Yoo's emails. In response, CREW filed two FOIA requests: one for documents on DOJ guidance for email

preservation and records of problems with OLC email storage, and a follow-up request for all existing emails sent to or from Mr. Yoo.

To date, DOJ has produced only two documents outlining its internal record keeping requirements and has not responded to a call from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) for an investigation into whether Mr. Yoo's emails were deliberately destroyed in violation of the Federal Records Act.

The public deserves to know exactly what happened during the crafting of these controversial memos - and if the disappearance of Mr. Yoo's emails was a brazen and illegal attempt prevent the truth from coming out.

[Learn more](#)

[Read CREW's complaint](#)

[Read the Associated Press story](#)

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CREW and Greenpeace Seek Video Feeds and Government Documents Related to Gulf Oil Spill



On May 19th, CREW and Greenpeace sent four Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests to government agencies involved in monitoring the massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. The requests seek copies of video feeds and other documents related to efforts to end and clean up the spill.

Government officials have put forth widely varying estimates of the amount of oil being leaked per day - and CREW and Greenpeace believe sustained public access to video feeds of the leak on the Gulf floor will allow independent scientists to calculate a more accurate number.

As the leak stretches from days into months, the need for transparent access to all information surrounding this disaster becomes all the more essential. CREW and Greenpeace are hopeful that government agencies will respond to these FOIA requests quickly, but any stonewalling will be met with swift legal action.

[Learn more](#)

Read the FOIA requests to the [Coast Guard](#), the [Environmental Protection Agency](#), the [Interior Department](#) and the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#)

[Read the Mother Jones story](#)

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CREW Asks Sens. Reid, McConnell and DeMint to Push for an End to Secret Holds



On May 24th, CREW continued the call for an end to the debilitating Senate practice of using "secret holds" to stall or delay legislation and nominations, sending letters to Senate leaders Harry Reid (D-NV) and Mitch McConnell (R-KY) as well as Sen. Jim DeMint (R-SC). CREW's letters urge support for a proposed resolution to ban secret holds authored by Sens. Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Charles Grassley (R-IA).

The Wyden-Grassley measure was originally introduced as an amendment to the Senate's financial reform bill in April, but was killed by Sen. DeMint. CREW's letter to Senate leaders calls for a floor vote on Wyden-Grassley before the August recess and recommends strengthening the legislation by giving the Senate Ethics Committee direct power to investigate and discipline senators who violate the ban. CREW previously sent a letter to the Ethics Committee in December 2009 demanding investigations of members employing secret holds, but it claimed to have no jurisdiction over senators' violations of parliamentary

procedure.

In addition to the failed April vote on Wyden-Grassley, Sen. DeMint has quashed the measure on two other occasions. The senator's spokesperson has claimed the bill does not go far enough in banning secret holds - and CREW could not agree more. Since Sen. DeMint is apparently so concerned with the bill's strength that he would rather see it die than be passed with lackluster enforcement mechanisms, CREW's letter to the senator suggests he put forth an amendment giving the Senate Ethics Committee jurisdiction to investigate and punish those who employ secret holds.

[Learn more about CREW's letters](#)

[Learn more about CREW's previous calls to end secret holds in the Senate](#)

Read CREW's letters to [Sens. Reid and McConnell](#) and [Sen. DeMint](#)

[Read the *Washington Post* editorial](#)

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CREW Study Reveals Freshmen on Financial Services Committee Rake in the Cash



On May 26th, CREW released a study showing freshmen members of Congress who sit on the House Financial Services Committee out-raise their freshmen peers by a staggering 55% - and much of that money comes from the very industry the committee is charged with monitoring.

Using campaign contribution data from [Center for Responsive Politics](#), CREW found the Financial Services Committee is home to the top four freshmen fundraisers in the House. In the past cycle, freshmen on Financial Services raised an average of \$1,529,782 - or 55% more than the \$982,297 raised by freshmen not on the committee.

CREW's study also shows that these members of Congress may need this money more than others. According to the [Cook Political Report](#), nine of the fifteen freshmen on Financial Services are facing highly competitive reelections in November, and five of those races are so close that they are considered toss-ups.

While it's impossible to know all of the sources of this money, CREW found that the financial services industry's various political action committees are investing heavily and disproportionately in these freshmen. Members of Congress always insist there is no relationship between campaign contributions and legislation, but with data like this

- it's getting harder and harder to believe them.

[Learn more](#)

[View CREW's graphs of fundraising trends among freshmen members of Congress](#)

[Read the *USA Today* story](#)

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