

# Exhibit 1

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**Representative Marlin Stutzman**  
**Transcript of Interview**  
**June 23, 2016**

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Scott Gast: For the record, this is Scott Gast with the Office of Congressional Ethics. I'm joined by my colleagues Helen Eisner and Julie Weltman. We are joined today by Representative Marlin Stutzman, who is accompanied by his counsel Cleta Mitchell and Sarah -- I forgot your last name.

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Sarah Howards: Howards.

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Scott Gast: Sarah Howards. We appreciate you being here, Congressman. One of the subjects that we want to ask you about is a trip to California that you and your family took in August of last year. I want to start off with asking you, what was the primary reason for taking that trip?

Rep. Stutzman: The trip was first discussed... Pat Miller, who is a talk show, radio host in the district in Fort Wayne, Indiana, with the large radio station there had approached us. He was setting up a trip, like a lot of regular personalities do, taking his listeners to California. He approached me about it, about possibly going along. That would have been back in October or November of '14 roughly. I talked to John Hammond about it, our chief of staff. We started looking to see what the ethics rules were around that. We discovered that we couldn't do the trip with Pat because he couldn't advertise it, saying go along with Pat Miller on a trip to California with constituents and Congressman Marlin Stutzman. You can't do that. That was when we first started talking about the trip. We talked about it periodically.

In March of 2015 was when Senator Coats announced his retirement. We announced our campaign for the Senate seat in May of 2015. Well, with a statewide campaign and the Senate campaign, there is always fundraising. I had made several trips prior to the campaign and during the campaign in California for fundraising purposes. We set up a trip in August of 2015 for me to do a fundraising trip to California. Of course, August is the congressional recess. My wife had numerous contacts as well in California. I'm a father first, a husband and a father first. I try to keep my family together as much as possible. We have a home here in Alexandria as well as back in Howe, Indiana in the district so we can keep our family together. We set up a trip for Christy and I and the boys, a fundraising trip, campaign-related, also overlapped with this trip that Pat Miller was doing. Over the weekend, we met with constituents. There was 45 people on that trip, I believe, that were from the 3rd District in Indiana. Some from Ohio because his program overlaps into Ohio. He's got a large audience.

1 We flew out, I believe it was Wednesday, had dinner, had fundraising  
2 meetings Thursday and Friday. Saturday we did a dinner with constituents  
3 from the 3rd district and Sunday went to the Reagan Library with those  
4 constituents again in the morning. We flew back home on Monday  
5 evening I believe. That was the genesis of the trip, was to do a fundraising  
6 trip. Like I said, I've done other fundraising trips out there. Christy  
7 developed relationships. We pulled those altogether.  
8

9 Scott Gast: You had mentioned that you made several trips to California for  
10 fundraising before. Can you give us examples of when those trips were?  
11

12 Rep. Stutzman: Again, I don't recall if there was one after that August trip. The first trip  
13 that we did to California was with the Republican Study Committee. That  
14 would have probably been in 2013 or 2014. We did a trip then. We had  
15 developed relationships, we stayed at Frank Luntz's home on the  
16 California trip in August of 2015. Well, in -- I'm going to say it's 2013, I  
17 think that's when it was -- with the RSC trip, Frank Luntz held a salon at  
18 his home. It was a panel discussion of Members of Congress. He later told  
19 me that if I'm ever in California always feel free to stay at his home. We  
20 had a friendship for quite a while. Christy has developed a friendship with  
21 him as well. She's a writer and he's of course a wordsmith. She always  
22 likes to run things by him. Other Members of Congress have stayed at his  
23 home as well. We did that trip.  
24

25 There was another trip as well that I went out at another time. I don't recall  
26 the exact details of that trip. There were a couple of times. You're  
27 developing relationships when you are fundraising and campaigning. We  
28 had that trip. Those three would have been the three trips that I recall off  
29 the top of my head.  
30

31 Scott Gast: The second trip that you mentioned was a fundraising trip?  
32

33 Rep. Stutzman: Yes.  
34

35 Helen Eisner: Was that trip after the RSC trip?  
36

37 Rep. Stutzman: Yeah, it would have been. Again, I would have to go back and look at all  
38 of those details.  
39

40 Helen Eisner: Was it before August 2015?  
41

42 Rep. Stutzman: Yes.  
43

44 Scott Gast: Was it before or after the announcement for the Senate campaign?  
45

1 Rep. Stutzman: It would have had to be before. Again, this should be in the calendar. I  
2 would have to look.  
3

4 Clela Mitchell: No, don't look.  
5

6 Rep. Stutzman: Don't look. Okay. All right.  
7

8 Clela Mitchell: They have all the documents. If they is something like that they need to  
9 follow up specifically on, they will let me know.  
10

11 Rep. Stutzman: Okay. It may be I did go out to California with Heritage Foundation.  
12 Again, that is another networking trip. That would have been one of the  
13 trips.  
14

15 Scott Gast: When you scheduled the trip out to California after the Senate  
16 announcement, did you intend to schedule it at the same time as the Pat  
17 Miller group or was that a coincidence?  
18

19 Rep. Stutzman: We all have a block of time in our schedule with the August recess. The  
20 boys start school August 25th roughly. We get out at the end of July.  
21 There's only so much time to make a trip like that.  
22

23 Scott Gast: When you were looking at that block of August though, was it your  
24 intention to try to be there at the same time as the Miller group?  
25

26 Rep. Stutzman: His trip had developed on its own. I told him, "We can't do anything with  
27 their trip officially or organize with it because of ethics rules." He had  
28 already been developing it. Through our conversations, I said, "I'm going  
29 to be going out in August," after the Senate race had started. His trip was  
30 separate from ours. Once we knew that he was going to be there and  
31 constituents were going to be there, I told him, "We're going to have a  
32 time when we can come over." It was a campaign purpose, as well,  
33 because they're constituents, were going to hopefully going to be voting  
34 for me in the Senate primary. I had numerous conversations with them  
35 about fundraising as well with the campaign. Again, networking and  
36 building those relationships.  
37

38 Scott Gast: I ask because in this email, let me share this with you, and for the record,  
39 this is THMS-0390, a message from Chief of Staff to you and your  
40 spouse, copied to Mary Wells, your congressional scheduler, I understand.  
41 The first line there says, "The trip we are planning for August revolves  
42 around Pat Miller's trip as well." It seems to suggest that there was an  
43 effort to try and do both while in California.  
44

45 Rep. Stutzman: There may. Again, we had limited time. Pat and I had started talking about  
46 this trip. He had asked me about it back in October, November of '14 and

1 asked me when would that time be. I told him it would have to be in  
2 August because that's our only time for recess, that Congress is out of  
3 session. As John is talking to me, because John was working with Pat  
4 Miller to explain to him as he was talking with Ethics and FEC and  
5 whoever else he was talking to, make sure that the trip was even possible.  
6 It just developed into being ... We know Pat Miller is doing his trip as  
7 well.  
8  
9 Scott Gast: When you were able to meet up with the folks at Pat Miller's tour, did you  
10 have any kind of formal role?  
11  
12 Rep. Stutzman: Yeah, it says that in the email. "They are looking at plugging you into the  
13 agenda." They had their own agenda. They were hoping that I could come  
14 by at some point and meet with my constituents. Again, this is February  
15 17th, which is prior to the campaign. That changed after the campaign  
16 started so there was more of a campaign purpose as well. February 17th I  
17 was still a Congressman of the 3rd district running for reelection as far as I  
18 knew. Still campaigning too, through district constituents.  
19  
20 Scott Gast: Were you ultimately able to get plugged into the agenda?  
21  
22 Rep. Stutzman: Yes. Pat asked me if I would attend a dinner. They were staying at the  
23 Queen Mary. We attended dinner on Saturday evening. I spoke to the  
24 group, of course, mingled and do what politicians do at events like that  
25 with constituents.  
26  
27 Helen Eisner: Were the communications between you and Mr. Miller, were they between  
28 the two of you directly or between Mr. Miller and a member of your staff?  
29  
30 Rep. Stutzman: Both.  
31  
32 Helen Eisner: Okay. How common is it for Mr. Miller to reach out to you personally?  
33  
34 Rep. Stutzman: Frequently. We're good friends. He's a conservative talk show host. He  
35 wants me on his program. If you look at our district, Fort Wayne is the  
36 media market for the district. There is, not too many other Congressmen  
37 that cover that district. I'm on his show frequently.  
38  
39 Scott Gast: I think it would be useful to walk through the agenda for the trip and go  
40 event-by-event and explore each one.  
41  
42 Rep. Stutzman: Sure.  
43  
44 Scott Gast: Help us do that. I have an email that Chief of Staff sent you prior to, just  
45 the day before the trip that spells out the agenda. If needed, I have the  
46 excerpt from your calendar from those days. If you could, I think it would

1 be better to walk through the email. That is a little more comprehensive.  
2 Starting with Wednesday, August 12th, this is the day that you flew out to  
3 California. How did you get to the airport?  
4  
5 Rep. Stutzman: We drove.  
6  
7 Scott Gast: Did you drive? Did you have a driver?  
8  
9 Rep. Stutzman: You know it should be in the records of our detailed logs for our vehicles.  
10 It should be in those records.  
11  
12 Scott Gast: Do you recall, sitting here today?  
13  
14 Rep. Stutzman: I don't. We drove.  
15  
16 Scott Gast: Okay.  
17  
18 Rep. Stutzman: In a car.  
19  
20 Scott Gast: I'm sorry?  
21  
22 Rep. Stutzman: In a vehicle.  
23  
24 Scott Gast: Was that your vehicle, your personal?  
25  
26 Rep. Stutzman: More than likely.  
27  
28 Scott Gast: All right. Do you know if you sought reimbursement for the mileage for  
29 that?  
30  
31 Rep. Stutzman: It would be in the records.  
32  
33 Scott Gast: It appears that when you got to Los Angeles, you drove to Frank Luntz's  
34 home, it looks like to drop off luggage and get settled. I want to ask you a  
35 little bit about, you referenced this, that Mr. Luntz had made an invitation  
36 to you to stay at his house when you were in California. Did you reach out  
37 to Mr. Luntz in the planning of the trip and ask if that was something that  
38 you could do?  
39  
40 Rep. Stutzman: Yes.  
41  
42 Scott Gast: What was the basis for staying there? Was it because you were personal  
43 friends? Did you have an expense associated with that?  
44

1 Rep. Stutzman: There was no expense. He is a personal friend. We're trying to keep costs  
2 down. If you can stay with a friend while you're traveling, why not? You  
3 stay with friends.  
4

5 Scott Gast: How long had you been friends at this point?  
6

7 Rep. Stutzman: Oh boy. I don't remember the first time I met Frank Luntz. I can't give you  
8 an exact date.  
9

10 Scott Gast: Months, years?  
11

12 Rep. Stutzman: Years.  
13

14 Helen Eisner: How often do you interact, you and Mr. Luntz?  
15

16 Rep. Stutzman: Whenever he's in town or whenever I see him on TV, I'll email him or ...  
17 We're friends, so, just what normal friends do.  
18

19 Scott Gast: There is some suggestion that you may have moved to a Hilton Hotel later  
20 in the-  
21

22 Rep. Stutzman: That was the original plan because he was going to be out of town, and so  
23 we were going to move to the hotel and then Frank told me later, he was  
24 like, "No, the house is open just stay there." He said, "I'm going to be gone  
25 for a couple of days" but he said, "Stay there." So we didn't have to move  
26 to a hotel.  
27

28 Scott Gast: So for the duration of the stay, you stayed at Mr. Luntz's home.  
29

30 Rep. Stutzman: Correct.  
31

32 Scott Gast: Then after stopping at Mr. Luntz's home, the next item on the agenda there  
33 is dinner with Hallmark at Madeo's in West Hollywood.  
34

35 Rep. Stutzman: Correct.  
36

37 Scott Gast: Can you tell us a little bit about that dinner?  
38

39 Rep. Stutzman: Yes. Christy, we developed a relationship with the Abbotts and Krevoys,  
40 and also there's also another gentleman who was not at the dinner, I can't  
41 think of his name right now but, Christy developed a relationship that  
42 really went back to the ... That started with the RSC trip.  
43

44 She met Brian Bird, who's a producer for a show called "When Calls the  
45 Heart" that she's a big fan of. Christy, she comes from a theater/art  
46 background, and so she likes to promote good quality TV and

1 entertainment. I had met Mr. Abbott at some point prior to this dinner  
2 along with Mr. Krevoy, and I had asked them a couple of times to sit  
3 down with them and talk about our campaign.  
4  
5 Christy reached out to them, helped set up the dinner and I spoke to ... I  
6 didn't speak to the entire room as, I mean we were at a restaurant, but I  
7 spoke with them about our campaign. Mr. Krevoy eventually contributed  
8 to our campaign, I believe Mr. Abbott did as well. He told me on the  
9 phone at one point that he was going to. That was the reason we met with  
10 them, to talk about our campaign, and of course, the common interests that  
11 we have.  
12  
13 Scott Gast: Would you characterize that as a campaign activity, a campaign event?  
14  
15 Rep. Stutzman: Yes.  
16  
17 Scott Gast: Okay. Who paid for the dinner?  
18  
19 Rep. Stutzman: I can't tell you for sure who did.  
20  
21 Scott Gast: Did you pay for the dinner?  
22  
23 Rep. Stutzman: It would be in the records. Either on our personal or on the campaign, but I  
24 do not believe so. I don't recall that it was on the credit card.  
25  
26 Scott Gast: On a personal card or a campaign card?  
27  
28 Rep. Stutzman: You should have that.  
29  
30 Scott Gast: You said that you don't recall if it was on the card?  
31  
32 Rep. Stutzman: I'm saying that it should be ... You could look in the records that we've  
33 given you and it would be on there.  
34  
35 Scott Gast: Okay.  
36  
37 Rep. Stutzman: If we've paid for it.  
38  
39 Scott Gast: Sitting here today, do you recall who paid for the dinner?  
40  
41 Rep. Stutzman: I don't.  
42  
43 Scott Gast: Do you recall if you paid for the family portion of the dinner?  
44  
45 Rep. Stutzman: I don't. It would be in the records though.  
46

1 Scott Gast: Sure. Did your entire family attend, your wife and your children?  
2  
3 Rep. Stutzman: Yes.  
4  
5 Scott Gast: Okay.  
6  
7 Helen Eisner: Who from your staff was involved in planning or organizing the dinner?  
8  
9 Rep. Stutzman: This particular dinner?  
10  
11 Cleta Mitchell: Yes.  
12  
13 Rep. Stutzman: Christy pretty much arranged it. What happened is, is we have the  
14 contacts. In this situation Christy would have said, "Marlin's looking to do  
15 dinner with potential supporters, we'd love to have dinner some night."  
16 And so they'd say, "Yeah, let's do it." And then we send that on to our staff  
17 and then they plug it in whatever the schedule allows.  
18  
19 So we typically ask the staff what night's available? Laura Van Hove,  
20 who's doing her national fundraising, working with her, making sure.  
21 These trips take a lot of time to put together and to make sure that logistics  
22 work, schedule works, things of that nature.  
23  
24 Scott Gast: Did Miss Van Hove, the national fundraiser, or anyone associated her, did  
25 they participate in the dinner?  
26  
27 Rep. Stutzman: No. Her staff. I believe her staff came out, I don't know which day they  
28 came out but the point is it was the next morning. Stefanie Williams,  
29 which was in the schedule. But Laura did have conversations with both  
30 Mr. Krevoy and Mr. Abbott at some point trying to collect the checks for  
31 the campaign.  
32  
33 Scott Gast: And that would have been after the dinner?  
34  
35 Rep. Stutzman: Correct.  
36  
37 Scott Gast: I want to move on then to the next day, Thursday, August 13th. The first  
38 entry under that date is for your wife and your boys: 9:00 a.m. CS and  
39 boys Uber to Universal Studios. It appears they met the Abbotts and the  
40 Krevoy's there.  
41  
42 Rep. Stutzman: Correct.  
43  
44 Scott Gast: Was that a campaign event, personal event?  
45

1 Rep. Stutzman: It's a continuation of the relationship that we're building from dinner prior  
2 to ... What they wanted to show me but I was not available because of  
3 other events, was some of the work that they do over at Universal Studios,  
4 they have a particular TV program there and I said Christy can go but I'm  
5 not available. That was the nature of that.  
6  
7 We did have to buy tickets to enter into the park. The boys got to do a  
8 couple of things after some of the official part of the tour was over with.  
9 We paid for those tickets out of our personal funds, and that's in the  
10 records, in the statements as well.  
11  
12 Scott Gast: Moving down the schedule to your section of the schedule, MS schedule,  
13 it appears you had two fundraising meetings that day. The first with Joe  
14 Crail and then a lunch with Brad Jones and some of his associates, am I  
15 correct?  
16  
17 Rep. Stutzman: Correct.  
18  
19 Scott Gast: Can you just tell us a little bit more about those meetings and what they  
20 entailed?  
21  
22 Rep. Stutzman: Sure, they are what they are on the schedule. I left at 7:40 in the morning.  
23 Have you ever driven in Los Angeles?  
24  
25 Scott Gast: Unfortunately.  
26  
27 Rep. Stutzman: It takes time and I drove down to Irvine and we gave ourselves plenty of  
28 time to drive down there at 9:30, meeting with Mr. Crail, and then had to  
29 drive back up to LA to a lunch with Brad Jones. Then after the lunch, drop  
30 Stefanie back off at her place. I had another appointment in there  
31 somewhere.  
32  
33 Cleta Mitchell: I think it's a good point to make for the record, I don't know that this is the  
34 final schedule. I'm seeing in the documents different iterations of the  
35 itinerary and, as with any kind of these trips they change, even, they're a  
36 work in process. I just think it should be noted for the record this may or  
37 may not be the final because they change even during the course of the  
38 trip. I just think that's important.  
39  
40 Rep. Stutzman: Correct, because at the beginning, the next day Friday, the meeting with  
41 Pete Wilson was not a face to face meeting. He was not available and so  
42 we just did a phone call. He called and said, "Look, I can't get together."  
43 So we just did a phone conversation over the phone.  
44  
45 Scott Gast: I would just note, that's why it's helpful to walk through to make sure that  
46 we have everything covered. So you mentioned-

1  
2 Cleta Mitchell: You think that there might have been another meeting?  
3  
4 Rep. Stutzman: I do, from what I recall. I may have, after that one actually I may have  
5 dropped Stefanie off and then drove over to Universal Studios. I had told  
6 Brad and Bill that if I could get there at some point to see what they're  
7 doing ... That's what I did. I drove over there, but it seems like there's one  
8 other one that I don't seem to recall right now.  
9  
10 Scott Gast: Do recall a general idea of what the meeting was? Was it-  
11  
12 Rep. Stutzman: Campaign related.  
13  
14 Scott Gast: Campaign?  
15  
16 Rep. Stutzman: Yeah, I mean, I'm always trying to call people, even when I'm in a trip like  
17 this. It may not be on the calendar. You're always trying to maximize your  
18 time to, because you only have a certain amount of time there, trying to  
19 setup a last-minute meeting, maybe it works for somebody, and I had  
20 numerous other contacts I was trying to set up visits with. You're texting,  
21 you're calling, and trying to connect with people while you're there.  
22  
23 Scott Gast: Just to make sure I have this clear, you believe there was a third political,  
24 campaign meeting sometime between these morning meetings, lunch, and  
25 then heading to Universal Studios?  
26  
27 Rep. Stutzman: I'm not going to say that officially because it's not on the record and I don't  
28 recall a specific meeting. I know I was trying to develop another one but I  
29 don't believe it came together.  
30  
31 Scott Gast: I was just trying to be clear whether you thought that going to Universal  
32 was the meeting you had in mind or whether there was a separate-  
33  
34 Rep. Stutzman: I had to pick them up after because I told Bill and Mr. Krevoy that I would  
35 try to get over there to see ... Because they wanted to show me a particular  
36 part of the studio, I told them that I would try to get there. I know I got  
37 there but there seems to be one other and I was trying to work on as well.  
38  
39 Scott Gast: About how long did you spend at Universal with the Abbotts and the  
40 Krevoys?  
41  
42 Rep. Stutzman: Maybe an hour, hour and a half. Me personally.  
43  
44 Scott Gast: Spouse and the boys were there longer than that, right?  
45  
46 Rep. Stutzman: Right.

1  
2 Scott Gast: And what did you do after finishing at Universal Studios?  
3  
4 Rep. Stutzman: Well it says we had dinner and I don't recall where, when. If we paid for  
5 dinner it will be in those records.  
6  
7 Scott Gast: Do you recall whether that was a family dinner? Whether it was a  
8 campaign dinner? Did you have dinner with anyone else?  
9  
10 Rep. Stutzman: I don't recall.  
11  
12 Scott Gast: Then you stayed overnight at the Luntz home again?  
13  
14 Rep. Stutzman: Correct.  
15  
16 Scott Gast: Then for Friday, August 14th, the entry for CS and boys is "open." Do you  
17 know what your family did that day?  
18  
19 Rep. Stutzman: I had the meeting with Mr. Wilson which did not take place other than a  
20 phone conversation. I believe at that point Christy and the boys just stayed  
21 at Luntz's place.  
22  
23 Then at noon, I'll say I had an 11 o'clock meeting, I drove into Orange  
24 County, again, I don't remember that meeting as much as I remember the  
25 meeting before. I remember the Crail meeting, I remember Dale, but I  
26 don't remember where we had lunch or anything like that.  
27  
28 Scott Gast: Just to clarify, you met in the morning... The Governor Pete Wilson  
29 meeting was cancelled, so that was a phone call?  
30  
31 Rep. Stutzman: Yes, they called me the day before, while I was there and said that he was  
32 not available and so we just set up a phone conversation. Which happens  
33 from time to time.  
34  
35 Scott Gast: Sure. Then you met with Dale Dykema after lunch. Were there any other  
36 meetings that you had that aren't reflected on the schedule that day?  
37  
38 Rep. Stutzman: I don't see any and I don't recall any, other than just doing ... What I did do  
39 is phone time, call time. Whenever I have a block of time, and I've got an  
40 hour, I just pull over in a parking lot and I was making fundraising calls,  
41 trying to either connect with somebody in California or just grabbing the  
42 list that Laura Van Hove gives me on a daily basis to make fundraising  
43 calls. It doesn't look like I had a particular meeting but I was doing  
44 fundraising calls.  
45

1 Scott Gast: When you were travelling both the prior day and Friday, Thursday and  
2 Friday. Were you using the rental vehicle-  
3  
4 Rep. Stutzman: Mm-hmm (affirmative).  
5  
6 Scott Gast: Okay.  
7  
8 Rep. Stutzman: And that vehicle did not come from that Economy. They were supposed to  
9 pick us up at the airport and they never picked us up and it's in the records.  
10 You'll see it's from a different company. They came by and I said, "Don't  
11 think those guys are picking us up." That's why we went with a different  
12 company.  
13  
14 Scott Gast: Did you use that car to get with the Abbotts and the Krevoys that first  
15 evening?  
16  
17 Rep. Stutzman: Yes, that was for me. Christy traveled to Universal Studios by Uber. That  
18 was paid for out of our personal funds. Again, there is a lot of mixed  
19 purposes in situations like this. We have always erred on the side of taking  
20 it out of personal funds rather than using campaign funds. Obviously you  
21 can't use official funds. That's why it is either campaign or personal.  
22  
23 Scott Gast: What did you do after you finished your fundraising meetings for the day  
24 on Friday?  
25  
26 Rep. Stutzman: Friday? Well, I know, again you could look at the records. I know we  
27 went to, we met - it was on Home and Family, I can't remember the name  
28 of the show. That particular day, there was a particular chef that made  
29 these big fat sandwiches. He invited me to come by his place. He had a  
30 place, I believe in New York. He wanted me to see his restaurant. It must  
31 had been open that night. Again, you can look at the records and see what  
32 we ate. I can't remember the name of the restaurant.  
33  
34 Scott Gast: That, you believe, was Friday evening?  
35  
36 Rep. Stutzman: I believe so.  
37  
38 Scott Gast: Would that have been paid for with personal funds?  
39  
40 Rep. Stutzman: It would be in the records.  
41  
42 Scott Gast: Do you recall, sitting here today?  
43  
44 Rep. Stutzman: I would have to look at the records. I am pretty sure it was personal, but  
45 you can look at the records.  
46

1 Scott Gast: Okay. Was that just you and the family?  
2

3 Rep. Stutzman: It was me and the family and also the Davidsons who are friends of ours  
4 and they were out in California and we met them there. They went with us  
5 for dinner that night.  
6

7 Scott Gast: Do they live in California or were they traveling?  
8

9 Rep. Stutzman: They're from Virginia.  
10

11 Scott Gast: Did you consider that dinner a personal dinner or a campaign dinner?  
12

13 Rep. Stutzman: Personal. I mean, we paid for it out of personal funds. Again, you are  
14 always trying to network and build the relationship. I can't remember the  
15 name of the gentleman, but he knew I was a congressman and he wanted  
16 me to come see his shop. That's why we went.  
17

18 Scott Gast: I just want to go back to your wife and your children, what they did that  
19 day. You said they, you believe they stayed home. Do you know if they  
20 engaged in any other activities on Friday?  
21

22 Rep. Stutzman: I don't remember. Again, I know Christy, she would typically, let's see.  
23 She was with the Krevoys and with the Abbots Wednesday night and  
24 Thursday night. Friday in the morning she stayed at the house. I don't  
25 know what she did in the afternoon. It looks like in the morning it says  
26 "open." I don't see anything and I don't recall what she did. I wasn't there,  
27 so I don't know what she did.  
28

29 Helen Eisner: Where were the Davidson staying during their time in California to the  
30 extent that you know?  
31

32 Rep. Stutzman: They actually stayed at Frank Luntz's place as well.  
33

34 Helen Eisner: What is the relationship between the Davidsons and Mr. Luntz?  
35

36 Rep. Stutzman: They didn't have one. That was our friendship. I told Frank we were going  
37 to have, we are going to meet some friends out there and he said feel free  
38 to bring them along as well.  
39

40 Helen Eisner: How long did they stay there? Was it during the entire course of time that  
41 you were there?  
42

43 Rep. Stutzman: Yeah. The Davidsons are a pastor of a church out here that we attend.  
44 She's become like a mother almost to Christy and a grandmother to the  
45 boys. They were going on a summer vacation to California as well and so  
46 they met us there and stayed with us and helped us with the trip.

1  
2 You know what, I do know, on Friday night, well, I am not sure if it was  
3 Friday night or Saturday night. Frank Luntz had a dinner honoring Medal  
4 of Honor winners. We attended that. Again, I developed relationships  
5 there and actually, not that you would go to a Medal of Honor dinner for  
6 strictly campaign purposes. I mean that sounds a little - but I did. I met  
7 people there and they ended up supporting our campaign through that  
8 dinner.  
9  
10 You're always - when you're running for the U.S. Senate, I mean, if you  
11 are going to be a serious candidate, you are just always campaigning.  
12 You're always trying to develop relationships and develop support.  
13  
14 Actually, Frank had asked me attend that somewhere in the week. I  
15 believe that was Friday night.  
16  
17 Helen Eisner: Did you have any type of formal role in that dinner?  
18  
19 Rep. Stutzman: No, no. Not as far as a speaking or anything like that. Frank did introduce  
20 me, things like that. We, of course, mingled with a lot of the folks that  
21 were there honoring the Medal of Honor winners.  
22  
23 Scott Gast: Then, the dinner with the chef. Does that change your recollection of when  
24 that was?  
25  
26 Rep. Stutzman: You'd have to look at it. It's in the, we've paid it with a credit card, I know  
27 that. It would be in the records. I don't know what night that was.  
28  
29 Scott Gast: One night you had dinner at the chef's restaurant.  
30  
31 Rep. Stutzman: Yeah, I wouldn't make that sound like - I mean it was an outside sandwich  
32 shop. His sandwiches are like, Fat Joe's, or something like that. It's very  
33 unique. They shove all the meat, french fries, all into one. It wasn't the  
34 most healthy meal. Chef is being very generous.  
35  
36 Scott Gast: I want to move on to Saturday, August 15th. It appears that morning you  
37 had a tour of Capitol Records.  
38  
39 Rep. Stutzman: Right.  
40  
41 Scott Gast: Can you tell us about that event?  
42  
43 Rep. Stutzman: We did the same thing on the RSC trip and that's where those contacts  
44 came from. Of course, you know, you are always reaching out to  
45 businesses that have PACs, that are campaign ... that would be involved in  
46 a campaign, building that relationship with the folks there at Capitol

1 Records is one that we've been developing. They told us when we visited  
2 prior to feel free to come back. They'd love to give us a tour. It's an  
3 historical building for one. They also have a lot of policy issues. We did a  
4 tour, talked policy and that was Saturday morning. Christy helped develop  
5 that relationship. She actually, I believe, set up most of that meeting if I  
6 recall.

7  
8 Scott Gast: Would you categorize that activity as an official activity, a campaign  
9 activity, a personal activity?

10  
11 Rep. Stutzman: Campaign, official. Again, one of the neat things about being a Member of  
12 Congress and when you get to visit these neat locations, it's a unique  
13 opportunity. Being a Member of Congress, you have policy issues to talk  
14 about. You have political issues to talk about. I would say it was political  
15 first, official, then the personal side of it seeing the building and  
16 experiencing it. It's part of being a Member of Congress as well.

17  
18 Scott Gast: I just want to make sure I understand that. You saw this as part of your  
19 duties as a Member of Congress, but you were also engaging in campaign  
20 activities at the same time?

21  
22 Rep. Stutzman: No. No, it was campaign-related. Just like the Abbotts and just like  
23 anybody else, they don't want to talk about how can I support your  
24 campaign, they also want to talk only about, these are policy issues that  
25 we have to deal with. That obviously translated into my official capacity,  
26 not on the campaign side. The genesis of the visit to Capitol Records was  
27 campaign-related.

28  
29 Scott Gast: Okay. The campaign aspect being developing a relationship for  
30 fundraising purposes?

31  
32 Rep. Stutzman: Yes.

33  
34 Scott Gast: What fundraising resulted from this?

35  
36 Rep. Stutzman: You know, they have their own PAC. There is a variety of support that the  
37 entertainment industry supports different people, different ways. You'd  
38 have to look at the FEC reports and, it could have been an individual. It  
39 would have been their PAC. I can't tell you exactly what came out of that.

40  
41 Often times what happens is I develop the relationship, I develop a sit  
42 down dinner, ask them for their support privately and then our fundraisers  
43 follow up and get the checks.

44  
45 Scott Gast: Did you meet with representatives of the PAC while on the tour?  
46

1 Rep. Stutzman: I don't believe ... they were somehow working through their organization  
2 and I am not sure. They talk to each other. They knew that we were there.  
3 Which happens occasionally as well. Maybe they couldn't be there but  
4 they knew we were there.  
5

6 Scott Gast: Who did you speak with while you were there?  
7

8 Rep. Stutzman: I don't remember any names. Christy had a contact there and she was  
9 emailing back and forth with this particular lady. I don't know her name  
10 right off.  
11

12 Scott Gast: Where there any executives of the company there?  
13

14 Rep. Stutzman: I believe it was probably Government Affairs folks. Again, I don't have  
15 their cards, I don't know their official titles. They don't, I mean, to do a  
16 tour on a Saturday, they did have people they were wanting us to come by.  
17

18 Scott Gast: You believe there may have been Government affairs people there?  
19

20 Rep. Stutzman: There would have to be. That is who we're communicating through. I  
21 think it's in the emails. Christy was emailing back and forth with a  
22 particular lady and I am sure her title is in the emails.  
23

24 Scott Gast: We may have.... I will show you this email. If you want to take a minute to  
25 look through this. This is, for the record, THMS 0413-0415.  
26

27 Rep. Stutzman: There's a Paula Salvatore? Is that who you're referring to? Okay, yeah.  
28 Yes, Paula Salvatore, it looks like she is the VP/Studio Manager, which  
29 we had met her on a prior trip out there with the RSC. That looks like who  
30 she was talking to that helped set up the trip. That set up the visit, I'm  
31 sorry.  
32

33 I don't know, Joel Flatow was mentioned. Also Maureen Schultz and Jim  
34 Kuha. Their titles aren't in the email.  
35

36 Scott Gast: Reading through the email, setting this up, it didn't appear to have any  
37 references to the campaign. Instead it seems to talk about "various laws,  
38 regulations, policies, that those in the entrainment industry deal with....  
39 We will have 8-10 people with us, most of whom would love hearing your  
40 perspective in understanding the industry better."  
41

42 Rep. Stutzman: This is Christy communicating, not me. I - Christy has a different role than  
43 what I do. My role is the fundraising part. Laura Van Hove is a  
44 fundraising part. We are reaching out to their folks, Congressman  
45 Stutzman is going to be visiting. Paula Salvatore, if that is how you  
46 pronounce her name, isn't part of their PAC - I don't know. I don't know if

1 she is part of their PAC or not. That's ... for me, the purpose was to go by  
2 there, hoping again to develop, to continue to develop the relationship for  
3 campaign support.  
4  
5 Scott Gast: Did anyone from Laura Van Hove's operation attend with you?  
6  
7 Rep. Stutzman: I don't know. I don't remember when Stefanie flew back. I don't have that.  
8 Again, there's other ways of communicating it rather than making the visit.  
9 Again, they know we were there so there's always follow-up to these  
10 meetings, things like that.  
11  
12 Scott Gast: Do you recall whether National Fundraising Consultant Employee ("FR  
13 Consultant") was with you on the tour?  
14  
15 Rep. Stutzman: I don't recall that she was. I don't believe she was. I don't believe so.  
16  
17 Scott Gast: Who did join you on the tour? Who was part of this group?  
18  
19 Rep. Stutzman: It would have been Christy, the boys, I believe the Davidsons went with us  
20 on that trip. I think it was just us six. Yeah, because then afterwards we  
21 went to meet with Michael Landon Jr., another supporter and contributor  
22 or prospective contributor. I believe that visit moved around quite a bit  
23 because we were trying to find a time so I know we were limited on time.  
24 I believe it was just my family and the Davidsons at that one.  
25  
26 Scott Gast: Okay. I want to move on to ask you about that lunch with Michael Landon  
27 Jr. Was that an official, campaign, or personal event?  
28  
29 Rep. Stutzman: Campaign.  
30  
31 Scott Gast: Campaign?  
32  
33 Rep. Stutzman: Yeah.  
34  
35 Scott Gast: What was the purpose of having lunch with him?  
36  
37 Rep. Stutzman: To develop a relationship to ask him for financial support for our  
38 campaign.  
39  
40 Scott Gast: Did he ultimately support the campaign?  
41  
42 Rep. Stutzman: You'd have to look in the records.  
43  
44 Scott Gast: Was there actually a solicitation for a contribution at the lunch?  
45

1 Rep. Stutzman: Yes. I asked first. He had other friends that were there with him and I  
2 asked them for their support.  
3  
4 Scott Gast: Was that the whole family that attended, Spouse and the children?  
5  
6 Rep. Stutzman: Yes, I believe so. Christy did for sure. I believe the boys did as well.  
7  
8 Scott Gast: Did the Davidsons join you for the lunch?  
9  
10 Rep. Stutzman: I do not recall.  
11  
12 Scott Gast: Okay. Who paid for that lunch?  
13  
14 Rep. Stutzman: They would be in the records if we did.  
15  
16 Scott Gast: Do you recall paying for it?  
17  
18 Rep. Stutzman: I don't recall. I don't remember. Again, we always offered to take care of  
19 dinner or of any meal.  
20  
21 Scott Gast: Then it appears you had dinner at the Queen Mary, which we referenced  
22 earlier. This was part of the Pat Miller tour program?  
23  
24 Rep. Stutzman: Yes.  
25  
26 Scott Gast: You had mentioned that you spoke at the event. Can you briefly tell us  
27 what you spoke about?  
28  
29 Rep. Stutzman: Just your typical, "Glad you're here, hope you enjoy your trip and you  
30 learn a lot from your visit, it's an honor to serve the third congressional  
31 district." We mentioned briefly the campaign for Senate and it was a brief,  
32 no more than five minutes.  
33  
34 Scott Gast: Did you categorize this as an official event, a campaign event, personal  
35 event?  
36  
37 Rep. Stutzman: I didn't. Oh, you mean for our purposes internally?  
38  
39 Scott Gast: Yes.  
40  
41 Rep. Stutzman: It would have been a campaign event. Again, these are voters,  
42 constituents, potential supporters. Other than Pat Miller I did not know  
43 anyone else on that trip, but the majority of them were constituents from  
44 Indiana. They were voters and, of course, it was a campaign stop.  
45  
46 Scott Gast: Did the entire family go to that event? Did the Davidsons attend?

1  
2 Rep. Stutzman: I don't recall.  
3  
4 Scott Gast: Then overnight at the Luntz home again?  
5  
6 Rep. Stutzman: Yes.  
7  
8 Scott Gast: Jumping ahead to Sunday, August 16th, it appears that that day you were  
9 on a Reagan Library tour with Pat Miller's group. Is that correct?  
10  
11 Rep. Stutzman: Correct. Constituents.  
12  
13 Scott Gast: Did you consider that to be an official event, a campaign event, a personal  
14 event?  
15  
16 Rep. Stutzman: Campaign event again. You know, you're spending time with supporters  
17 and hopefully new supporters, which we did. I know that out of that  
18 meeting, the Saturday meeting developed another meeting that happened  
19 back in Indiana with supporters, people that did support our campaign.  
20  
21 Scott Gast: When you say out of the Saturday meeting, was that the dinner at the  
22 Queen Mary that you're referring to?  
23  
24 Rep. Stutzman: Correct.  
25  
26 Scott Gast: Can you be a little more specific about what developed out of that? Were  
27 those folks that you spoke with at the dinner that you subsequently met  
28 with to discuss your Senate campaign?  
29  
30 Rep. Stutzman: Both.  
31  
32 Scott Gast: Both that you met them-  
33  
34 Rep. Stutzman: Met them there and again back in Indiana. I know one particular lady, she  
35 mentioned that I needed to meet her son and we drove out to his farm and  
36 I remember him giving us a check for supporting our campaign.  
37  
38 Scott Gast: Do you happen to recall names of these folks?  
39  
40 Rep. Stutzman: I've met a lot of people this last year.  
41  
42 Scott Gast: Can you just tell us-  
43  
44 Rep. Stutzman: I mean I could track it down by looking. They were in Wabash County, I  
45 believe. He was a hog farmer. He's on the Farm Bureau board, but I don't  
46 remember his name. If that's helpful.

1  
2 Scott Gast: Can you just tell us a little bit about the agenda of the tour? It looks like  
3 you had lunch under the wing of Air Force One. Was there any formal part  
4 of the program? Was it just the tour and lunch?  
5  
6 Rep. Stutzman: That was again set up by Pat Miller's travel agency that help set up a lot of  
7 that for them. We just showed up and did the tour with them. Again, just  
8 mingling and getting to know other people that are there.  
9  
10 Scott Gast: So no speaking during lunch?  
11  
12 Rep. Stutzman: I don't believe so, other than just speaking to the table I was sitting at. It  
13 was a table conversation.  
14  
15 Scott Gast: Okay, and that was the entire family that went?  
16  
17 Rep. Stutzman: Yes.  
18  
19 Scott Gast: Did the Davidsons go?  
20  
21 Rep. Stutzman: Yes, they did.  
22  
23 Scott Gast: After the Reagan Library, it looks like ended approximately mid-  
24 afternoon.  
25  
26 Rep. Stutzman: It did. I think the Medal of Honor dinner was that night.  
27  
28 Scott Gast: Sunday night?  
29  
30 Rep. Stutzman: I believe so.  
31  
32 Scott Gast: Did you do anything that afternoon between the library and the dinner.  
33  
34 Rep. Stutzman: No. Again, I believe we were there at the library longer than two thirty.  
35 Again, these are just blocks of time that were fungible to me, one way or  
36 the other.  
37  
38 Scott Gast: Now as far as payment for the dinner on the Queen Mary and the tour of  
39 the Reagan Library, it looks like you had received an invoice from the  
40 travel agent that the Miller group used for those two events.  
41  
42 Rep. Stutzman: Right.  
43  
44 Scott Gast: Can you explain to us the process of paying that invoice?  
45

1 Rep. Stutzman: Yeah, so I believe that the campaign paid for the dinner. It was with  
2 constituents, it was campaign-related. Then the visit to the Reagan library,  
3 again with constituents, with voters, but our staff felt that it would be just  
4 better to cover by personal funds. You know, you have these  
5 conversations on how to take care of certain things and I said, that's fine.  
6 We raised about two and a quarter million dollars, but we were still  
7 running on a shoe string, so we were trying to make sure we watched  
8 every penny that we had. I believe it Brendon at the time, he had concerns  
9 about it. John Hammond may have had concerns about it, so we just took  
10 care of it out of personal funds.  
11  
12 Scott Gast: Just for the record, Campaign Manager being Campaign Manager, your  
13 campaign manager at the time?  
14  
15 Rep. Stutzman: At the time, yes.  
16  
17 Scott Gast: What were their concerns that they expressed to you?  
18  
19 Rep. Stutzman: Again, we are always erring on the side of caution, making sure we call  
20 the FEC or call Ethics Committee because we want to make sure that  
21 we're doing things by the book. John frequently is calling them. The rule  
22 that we have in our office is it's better to call them, then them to call us. I  
23 don't remember exactly how the details were, but it was on a Sunday,  
24 people may look at it and say, well that just seems to be a personal time  
25 even though you're with constituents. We just paid for it out of personal  
26 funds. It was also to make sure that we're also just being very careful with  
27 campaign dollars.  
28  
29 Scott Gast: I want to show you this email. This might help refresh your recollection  
30 about some of those discussions. For the record, this is THMS-0441 to  
31 0443. Take a minute to look that over.  
32  
33 Cleta Mitchell: We would also note for the record that I don't think the Congressman is  
34 copied on any of this. He may not have seen this before.  
35  
36 Rep. Stutzman: I have not.  
37  
38 Scott Gast: I believe he was forwarded a chain at the very end of the email, that Chief  
39 of Staff forwarded the chain to you.  
40  
41 Rep. Stutzman: You can see that there were issues in the campaign at that point. This was  
42 dated September 16th and I believe his last day was September 30th.  
43  
44 Again, you see Chris Marston, our treasurer, writes in September 16th to  
45 John and says, and this would be the third paragraph, "However the  
46 commission by regulation has found some expenses to be automatically

1 personal use and thus prohibited. One seems applicable to the library."  
2 There's obviously a conversation going on between John, Brendon, and  
3 Chris about how to pay for the visit to the library. Then what he forwarded  
4 over was out of Code, "The campaign may not pay for admission to  
5 sporting events, concerts, theater, and other forms of entertainment.  
6 Campaign funds may be used, however, if the entertainment is part of a  
7 specific office holder or campaign activity," which it was a campaign  
8 activity. "They may not be used for a leisure outing in which the  
9 discussion occasionally focuses on the campaign or other functions." We  
10 err on the side of, we'll just take care of it out of personal funds. Again,  
11 I'm assuming because of that last line, because on a tour it's harder to talk  
12 about campaign, official responsibilities because you're just looking at  
13 something. Outside of the luncheon, which we did, we talked about the  
14 campaign and politics in general.

15  
16 Scott Gast: You mentioned earlier that you believe the campaign could have paid for  
17 the costs-

18  
19 Rep. Stutzman: There was discussion about it and we wanted to again make sure that we  
20 were erring on the side of caution and that's why we took care of that with  
21 personal funds.

22  
23 Scott Gast: Is it your view that the dinner and the library were more akin to the  
24 specific campaign activity versus a leisure outing at which the discussion  
25 occasionally focuses on campaign or official functions?

26  
27 Rep. Stutzman: Yes. To me, they were all campaign-related because I was with  
28 constituents, with voters, and I was again trying to broaden our network  
29 and which we were successful on all those.

30  
31 Scott Gast: Ultimately, after the discussion evidenced by the email exchange here, the  
32 decision was made to pay for the dinner expense and the tour expense  
33 using personal funds?

34  
35 Rep. Stutzman: Correct, I think you have a copy of the check, a copy of the invoice.

36  
37 Scott Gast: Were there other occasions where expenses that you asked for  
38 reimbursement from the campaign were the subject of discussion, personal  
39 funds ended up being used?

40  
41 Rep. Stutzman: Not that I was aware of. Again, you see this as part of a conversation that  
42 goes on between our chief of staff, our campaign manager and our  
43 campaign treasurer. They look at everything and determine or ask should  
44 this be personal or should this be campaign-related.

45

1 Scott Gast: Okay. Going back to the schedule, you had mentioned for dinner on the  
2 evening of Sunday August 16, you believe that may have been the Medal  
3 of Honor dinner?  
4

5 Rep. Stutzman: I think so. Just from what I recall looking at the calendar, thinking through  
6 the events. Because I think we went back to the Luntz home on Sunday  
7 evening. Or Sunday evening before that. I believe. I can't say for certain.  
8

9 Scott Gast: Then overnight at the Luntz home again?  
10

11 Rep. Stutzman: Correct.  
12

13 Scott Gast: Then jumping to the final day of the trip, Monday August 17th, it appears  
14 that day there was a visit to the Reagan Ranch?  
15

16 Rep. Stutzman: We first of all had a visit, Frank Luntz is a consultant and we had a  
17 meeting with him set up for that day, that morning, to talk about our  
18 campaign. We met with him for several hours and then we headed up to  
19 the Reagan Ranch.  
20

21 Scott Gast: Where was that meeting? At the home?  
22

23 Rep. Stutzman: Yes.  
24

25 Scott Gast: Who attended that meeting?  
26

27 Rep. Stutzman: Christy and myself.  
28

29 Scott Gast: Mr. Luntz?  
30

31 Rep. Stutzman: Mr. Luntz, yes.  
32

33 Scott Gast: Anyone else? FR Consultant, was she around at that time?  
34

35 Rep. Stutzman: Again, she's on fundraising. She had a different role so she could not have  
36 been there.  
37

38 Scott Gast: Okay. Then you said, after that, you drove up to the Reagan Ranch?  
39

40 Rep. Stutzman: Yes.  
41

42 Scott Gast: Did you consider that tour of the Reagan Ranch to be an official event, a  
43 campaign event, a personal event?  
44

45 Rep. Stutzman: Personal event. We paid for that out of our personal funds.  
46

1 Scott Gast: Was that part of the Pat Miller tour group or was that separate?  
2  
3 Rep. Stutzman: That was just personal.  
4  
5 Scott Gast: Okay. Did the whole family attend?  
6  
7 Rep. Stutzman: Yes.  
8  
9 Scott Gast: The Davidsons, did they attend?  
10  
11 Rep. Stutzman: They did.  
12  
13 Scott Gast: Then after the Reagan Ranch, what did you do after?  
14  
15 Rep. Stutzman: We drove back to the Luntz residence, picked up our luggage and went to  
16 the airport.  
17  
18 Scott Gast: Okay. Dinner that night at the airport?  
19  
20 Rep. Stutzman: I don't remember.  
21  
22 Scott Gast: Okay.  
23  
24 Rep. Stutzman: We probably were, we probably ate at the airport or somewhere.  
25  
26 Scott Gast: Do you recall who paid for that?  
27  
28 Rep. Stutzman: It would be in the records.  
29  
30 Scott Gast: Okay. Other than what we've discussed and what's listed on the itinerary,  
31 with the addition of the events that we discussed, is there anything else  
32 that you engaged in while in California that's not reflected or discussed?  
33  
34 Rep. Stutzman: Again, I would say that any down time that I have, any blocks, I'm always  
35 doing fundraising calls, always trying to reach out to new prospects, new  
36 contributors. There's a lot of donors in California. That would not be  
37 reflected in the schedule but those are always times. I mean you're just  
38 always on. You don't stop. I mean, when you're running for the U.S.  
39 Senate, if you're a serious candidate, that's what you do. That's all you do.  
40  
41 Scott Gast: That calling, would that have occurred, I know you said Thursday and  
42 Friday. Would you have made calls on Saturday, Sunday, Monday?  
43  
44 Rep. Stutzman: Monday.  
45  
46 Scott Gast: Monday?

1  
2 Rep. Stutzman: Yes. Well not a lot on Monday because we were driving up to the Reagan  
3 Ranch. That would've been the only time that I would consider any  
4 personal time.  
5  
6 Scott Gast: Okay. I want to ask you about discussions that you may have had about  
7 bringing your wife and your children on the trip with you. Were there  
8 discussions prior to the trip about whether or not they would join you on  
9 the trip?  
10  
11 Rep. Stutzman: What do you mean?  
12  
13 Scott Gast: If this was intended as a campaign trip and if campaign funds were  
14 initially used to pay to fly everyone out there ...  
15  
16 Rep. Stutzman: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Yeah.  
17  
18 Scott Gast: To pay for the transportation costs while out there. Where there  
19 discussions about whether it was appropriate, useful for the family to  
20 come as part of a campaign trip?  
21  
22 Rep. Stutzman: Sure, just like any other trip that we would've made as well.  
23  
24 Scott Gast: Can you explain what those conversations were?  
25  
26 Rep. Stutzman: You can look at this email that you referenced. You make sure every  
27 transaction, every transaction, is looked at. We didn't use any campaign  
28 cash. Everything is done with a debit card. We don't have a credit card.  
29 Every transaction would be reflected in the statements. I come from an  
30 accounting background and I'm going to make sure that everything is  
31 accounted for and appropriately. When there were discussions about me  
32 making another trip to California, it was the August recess and we were  
33 talking with Pat Miller. That trip fell through as far as working together.  
34 Obviously I was away from my family a lot so that was the one time that I  
35 felt that if we could make a trip work together as a family I wanted to  
36 keep, spend time together with my family.  
37  
38 Christy 's involvement, Christy was very involved with the campaign. In  
39 fact, that was one of the reasons that Brendon Del Toro mentioned why he  
40 left the campaign, was because of her involvement. He was also frankly  
41 overpaid. If you look at the cost of our campaign, and this will probably  
42 come up in the Gabe Rivera part of the conversation, but you'll see that in  
43 a chart that Cleta made, that he was paid \$15,500 a month. That was  
44 another reason why it was good for him to depart the campaign because he  
45 was overpaid. We also had Brooks Kochvar who was the general  
46 consultant, he was being paid \$10,000 a month.

1  
2 At the end of September, Brendon's obviously very concerned about every  
3 penny. A lot of it, a big chunk of it was going towards his salary for the  
4 campaign. At the end of September when he departed, that loosened up a  
5 lot of dollars for the campaign to put towards other campaign activities.  
6 All that being said, the trip was a campaign trip. The article that came out  
7 of the AP, they talked to our campaign manager ...  
8  
9 Scott Gast: Was that Josh Kelly?  
10  
11 Rep. Stutzman: Josh Kelly, thank you. Josh about the trip. He had no involvement with it.  
12 Again, we know that the Todd Young campaign gave the reporter their  
13 opposition research and so he had all of this information. I never spoke to  
14 the reporter prior to that story. It was only Josh Kelly. It was always a  
15 campaign trip. Now, why Christy posted a Facebook page saying  
16 something about a family vacation, I don't know if you asked her that  
17 question yesterday but that obviously was wrong in a sense of what it  
18 really was in nature. She's a spouse. She doesn't handle the finances of the  
19 trip. Her involvement was networking, messaging and of course still being  
20 a mother at the same time. For me, I'm the candidate. It falls on me what  
21 the trip is. It was a campaign trip.  
22  
23 Scott Gast: Okay. Just for the record, the ages of your children at the time of the trip, I  
24 believe your wife had said 13?  
25  
26 Rep. Stutzman: 13, yeah because Child 1 turned 14 the 23rd of August.  
27  
28 Scott Gast: Okay, so 13 and 9 was the other child?  
29  
30 Rep. Stutzman: Yes.  
31  
32 Scott Gast: Okay.  
33  
34 Rep. Stutzman: Yeah, because Child 2 just turned 10 this last March.  
35  
36 Scott Gast: Continuing this question on paying for the airfare for Spouse and the  
37 children, the campaign ultimately did pay for all four airfares.  
38  
39 Rep. Stutzman: To begin with.  
40  
41 Scott Gast: To begin with.  
42  
43 Rep. Stutzman: Yes.  
44  
45 Scott Gast: Were there discussions about that at the time they were purchased about  
46 whether that should happen or not?

1  
2 Rep. Stutzman: John checked with FEC and maybe ... I don't know exactly who he called,  
3 but did get confirmation back that yes. It's just like when we're traveling in  
4 state as a family. Again, our family, since 2002 when Child 1 was two  
5 years old, we've always campaigned as a family. That is part of our image  
6 in Indiana. I'm a conservative. I believe in family values and rather than  
7 just saying them I'm going to live them. To me in this whole situation,  
8 every attack in the campaign was over my family. I'm not going to  
9 apologize for being a father and a husband first.  
10  
11 We always made sure that we were doing it within the rules. John called  
12 FEC and I don't know if he called anyone else. You can ask. Maybe have  
13 asked him. Did get counsel back that it was fine to pay for their trip with  
14 campaign funds. The travel on the airline tickets.  
15  
16 Scott Gast: Were there discussions about transportation? The campaign paying the  
17 cost of the transportation? The vehicle rental?  
18  
19 Rep. Stutzman: Again, I would've needed a vehicle whether I was there by myself or with  
20 my family. That was obviously part of the campaign.  
21  
22 Scott Gast: The campaign did ultimately pay for the vehicle rental charge?  
23  
24 Rep. Stutzman: Yes.  
25  
26 Scott Gast: Okay. There were no lodging expenses given you stayed with Mr. Luntz?  
27  
28 Rep. Stutzman: Correct.  
29  
30 Scott Gast: I think we've walked through the various meals and tour expenses.  
31  
32 Rep. Stutzman: Yes. I did pay, when the reporter started asking questions and asked about  
33 the campaign paying for the flights, I disagreed with our staff on that. I did  
34 not believe that I should have paid for those flights personally because it  
35 was a campaign trip. Just like we would make any trip in state for  
36 campaign purposes, NRCC, trips like that, the campaign pays for. I did  
37 pay them back out of the abundance of caution but I still don't believe that  
38 I would've needed to do that. We did do it trying to prevent a story, which  
39 I did not like the outcome of how that took place.  
40  
41 Scott Gast: Just to clarify, earlier this year when a reporter was asking questions about  
42 the trip ...  
43  
44 Rep. Stutzman: Mm-hmm (affirmative).  
45  
46 Scott Gast: It was your staff's advice or recommendation to reimburse the campaign?

1  
2 Rep. Stutzman: Yes.  
3  
4 Scott Gast: For just the airline tickets, other expenses?  
5  
6 Rep. Stutzman: Just the airline tickets.  
7  
8 Scott Gast: You did not agree with that?  
9  
10 Rep. Stutzman: I didn't think that it was necessary. Because we had gotten counsel from  
11 the FEC. Again, it happened fairly quickly. I was in session doing my  
12 things, trying to do my other work and take care of that as well. Josh  
13 Kelly, who was working with the reporter, was trying to kill the story and  
14 said if you just pay it back maybe this goes away. I said fine, whatever.  
15 That's why I paid the campaign back. If there was a question that we had  
16 taken care of it. It obviously didn't matter to the reporter.  
17  
18 Scott Gast: At the time were there discussions of reimbursing the campaign for other  
19 expenses it had paid?  
20  
21 Rep. Stutzman: No.  
22  
23 Scott Gast: No discussion of reimbursing for the rental car?  
24  
25 Rep. Stutzman: No.  
26  
27 Scott Gast: Okay.  
28  
29 Rep. Stutzman: It was a campaign trip.  
30  
31 Scott Gast: Has that reimbursement actually taken place?  
32  
33 Rep. Stutzman: Mm-hmm (affirmative).  
34  
35 Scott Gast: How did that happen? Did you write a check to the campaign?  
36  
37 Rep. Stutzman: I just did it direct to deposit. I just transferred it from my account.  
38  
39 Cleta Mitchell: We have that in the records.  
40  
41 Helen Eisner: For the record, you said yes, prior to this, to the question? I think you said  
42 mm-hmm (affirmative). I just want to make sure for the recording ...  
43  
44 Rep. Stutzman: To what?  
45  
46 Helen Eisner: The question about whether or not it had been reimbursed.

1  
2 Rep. Stutzman: It's in the record.  
3  
4 Helen Eisner: Okay. It's yes.  
5  
6 Rep. Stutzman: It's in the record, yes.  
7  
8 Clela Mitchell: It has been reimbursed and you have those financial, you have that  
9 financial transaction?  
10  
11 Rep. Stutzman: It would've been in the amount for three tickets. For Christy, and two  
12 boys. Mine was still on the campaign.  
13  
14 Scott Gast: Okay. I believe those are all the questions I have about the California trip.  
15  
16 Helen Eisner: I just have one other question. We talked a little bit about conversations  
17 with potentially FEC and Ethics about airfare and accompanying family  
18 members. To your knowledge, what other conversations did you or  
19 members of your staff have with Ethics about any component of the trip?  
20  
21 Rep. Stutzman: You'd have to ask John Hammond that. He's our chief of staff. He's an  
22 attorney. That's why I have him there. As we joked earlier, he's our  
23 worrier. He makes sure that things are done appropriately. I would go  
24 down and visit with Ethics. I don't believe I've ever made a personal visit  
25 to FEC but John and Chris, our treasurer, are always tracking every one of  
26 those transactions.  
27  
28 Helen Eisner: Okay. Did you ask Chief of Staff or Chris any questions that they should  
29 pass along to Ethics or the FEC, to direct them to ask any questions?  
30  
31 Rep. Stutzman: Yeah, I mean, I had, this is my mode of operation is to always be sure that  
32 it is, if we have a question internally in our office then we need to ask the  
33 appropriate agency what is the answer. I'm guessing again, from this  
34 email, Brendon Del Toro had questions about it. I don't know why if he  
35 was not, there was issues within the campaign. I don't know why in  
36 September he's all of a sudden asking about all of this. Because he was  
37 there. We hired him in May. Maybe even before that. I don't remember his  
38 exact hiring date. Why he's asking all of a sudden, I don't know why.  
39  
40 John Hammond, again, every time we make a flight purchase or a  
41 reimbursement, we have a process that it goes through to be sure that it's  
42 reimbursed or taken care of appropriately.  
43  
44 Helen Eisner: Then specifically regarding the stay at Mr. Luntz's house, what  
45 conversations are you aware of either that you had or Chief of Staff or

1 anyone else on your staff? With Ethics, with the FEC, about that particular  
2 stay?  
3  
4 Rep. Stutzman: He's a friend. We stay with friends in Indiana all the time. He's not a  
5 lobbyist. I don't know if I asked John to specifically look. He may have.  
6 John 's very thorough and he's very careful. He may have done that. My  
7 directive generally is if you don't know the answer let's be sure we find  
8 out.  
9  
10 Helen Eisner: Okay, so nothing specifically?  
11  
12 Rep. Stutzman: Not that I recall. Again, this entire trip, knowing that it's a unique trip, we  
13 wanted to run all the traps to be sure we had it done correctly.  
14  
15 Helen Eisner: Sure.  
16  
17 Scott Gast: What do you mean by unique trip?  
18  
19 Rep. Stutzman: Well it's not a trip to Indianapolis. It's not a trip to Gary, Indiana to  
20 campaign. There's more involved to it. It's a fundraising trip. There's a lot  
21 of, it's a trip to California. From Indiana, that's not, it's different than our  
22 normal trips.  
23  
24 Scott Gast: I did want to ask you about one other reference in that email chain that  
25 you have in front of you.  
26  
27 Rep. Stutzman: Mm-hmm (affirmative).  
28  
29 Scott Gast: On the second page, the third email down, Campaign Manager says to  
30 Chief of Staff, "I still need the money from the flight for the boys," and  
31 when talking to Campaign Manager and Chief of Staff, they indicated that  
32 a decision had been made in September that you would pay the cost of the  
33 flight for the boys.  
34  
35 Cleta Mitchell: I did not understand John to say that yesterday.  
36  
37 Scott Gast: Okay. Let me ask that. Had there been a decision in September to pay the  
38 campaign back for the cost of the airfare for the boys?  
39  
40 Rep. Stutzman: They're had not been a final decision made. Again, you could see there  
41 was a question about that.  
42  
43 Scott Gast: Okay.  
44  
45 Rep. Stutzman: Brendon felt one way. I felt a different way. John felt a different way,  
46 from his conversations, and Chris weighed in too. There was

1 conversations about specifically what, should there be a reimbursement or  
2 not. The tickets were obviously purchased on a campaign card back in  
3 July I believe. Or whenever they were made prior to the trip. Those  
4 purchases were done then with the understanding that this, it was okay to  
5 purchase them on the campaign.  
6  
7 Scott Gast: What prompted a discussion of this in September or thereabouts?  
8  
9 Rep. Stutzman: I don't know. We'd have to go back and look through the email again. I  
10 don't know if there's ... probably the invoice that came over from Edgerton  
11 Travel. That probably showed up because that was a hard copy I believe  
12 by mail. Maybe by email. I don't know how that came. That's probably  
13 what it was. An invoice just came in.  
14  
15 Scott Gast: Who did you discuss that with?  
16  
17 Rep. Stutzman: What's that?  
18  
19 Scott Gast: The question of whether the airfare for the boys should be paid for with  
20 personal funds or campaign funds?  
21  
22 Rep. Stutzman: Well, John Hammond would've dealt with all that, and Chris Martson  
23 probably at some point.  
24  
25 Scott Gast: Who expressed to you their view that it should be paid for with personal  
26 funds?  
27  
28 Rep. Stutzman: I don't recall who would've ... from this email it looks like Brendon Del  
29 Toro was the one that had the most concern about it. I don't know when he  
30 would've first brought it up outside of these emails.  
31  
32 Scott Gast: Had there been a decision made at that point about what to do with the  
33 boys' airfare?  
34  
35 Rep. Stutzman: In this email?  
36  
37 Scott Gast: In September at the time of this email? Prompted by Campaign Manager 's  
38 note that he needs the money for the flight from the boys.  
39  
40 Rep. Stutzman: It looks like Chris Martson, you said earlier that I was copied on this.  
41  
42 Helen Eisner: On the final page.  
43  
44 Rep. Stutzman: Oh, when it says FYI. From John Hammond.  
45  
46 Helen Eisner: September 21st.

1  
2 Rep. Stutzman: It looks like that was the end of the conversation so it looks like the last  
3 email that had any information in it, Chris Martson answered the question.  
4  
5 Clela Mitchell: Read that again. It's talking about tickets.  
6  
7 Rep. Stutzman: Yes.  
8  
9 Clela Mitchell: It's not talking about airfare. Let's be sure since the record does not have  
10 this text let's make certain that there's nothing in this from Chris Martson  
11 that has anything to do with airfare.  
12  
13 Scott Gast: That's right.  
14  
15 Rep. Stutzman: This has to do with meals, tickets, sporting events, concerts, theater.  
16  
17 Clela Mitchell: It is also not clear from this email from Chris Martson that he's aware that  
18 there were constituents involved with the tour or the dinner. It does not  
19 appear to me that that is clear from any of this communication. A fact like  
20 that can change an interpretation of an FEC regulation. Nonetheless, the  
21 Congressman paid personally for the dinner and for the two tickets.  
22 There's nothing in here other than Brendon's comment about the airfare for  
23 the boys. Frankly, I did not understand John to testify that that was the big  
24 item of discussion in September. Other than concerns about  
25 communication problems within the campaign.  
26  
27 Scott Gast: Hence the questions. I think you indicated there had been some discussion  
28 around this time about who should pay for the boys' airfare, is that  
29 correct?  
30  
31 Rep. Stutzman: In this email there is. Not with me.  
32  
33 Scott Gast: You don't recall any discussion ...  
34  
35 Rep. Stutzman: Outside of this email? Yes. I can't give you an affirmative answer, I don't  
36 know. I don't know if they called me. The only thing that John Hammond  
37 did was just pass it along to me and said for your information. I didn't  
38 reply to the email. I don't know if I called. I don't know. I don't even  
39 remember seeing this email.  
40  
41 Scott Gast: Okay. Just to clarify, I think it's clear there was a discussion at the time the  
42 tickets were purchased how they should be paid for.  
43  
44 Rep. Stutzman: Back in July or whenever, prior to the trip.  
45

1 Scott Gast: Then there was another discussion, earlier this year, in April this year,  
2 when a reporter was asking questions about the trip.  
3

4 Rep. Stutzman: Yep.  
5

6 Scott Gast: Campaign Manager 's email, "I still need the money from the flight for the  
7 boys," suggests that there may have been a discussion near this time,  
8 September of 2015 about whether the initial decision to pay for the boys'  
9 airfare with campaign funds should be revisited.  
10

11 Rep. Stutzman: That seems right.  
12

13 Scott Gast: Do you recall that?  
14

15 Rep. Stutzman: That probably was, you have the check written to Edgerton Travel. I don't  
16 know what the date is on that check. I don't know if you do.  
17

18 Scott Gast: I don't know but it seems that the invoice at least came in around this time  
19 because it was included on this email.  
20

21 Rep. Stutzman: Which probably prompted the conversation. The plane tickets came up but  
22 again, it was in this email. It looks like Chris Martson answered the  
23 question related to ...  
24

25 Scott Gast: Which appears to relate to a different invoice.  
26

27 Cleta Mitchell: To the invoice?  
28

29 Scott Gast: Yes.  
30

31 Rep. Stutzman: Yes. Because John Hammond writes to Brendon Del Toro in this email  
32 "How is this at all ..." okay Brendon writes, "How is this at all a campaign  
33 expense? Taking the family to the Reagan Library." Then John writes  
34 back, "He had me ask," so there's that answer. "He had me ask." I didn't  
35 know anything, and I'm understanding him to say asking Ethics or FEC or  
36 whatever agency he asked. I didn't know anything about it until I received  
37 the invoice in the email. "If Chris says we cannot do it, he will pay." Yes  
38 there had to be a conversation about this time because John probably  
39 talked to me about the situation, then saying back to Chris, he will pay.  
40

41 Cleta Mitchell: Let's not confuse the issue. We're talking about two different things. They  
42 are asking you, block that out. Okay? Can we do that? Block this part out.  
43 Was there airline tickets, can you recall, if you can't, you can't. Can you  
44 recall the sequence, what was talked about when the tickets were  
45 purchased? Was there a subsequent conversation in September or any time  
46 coming back to you and saying , "Oh, you need to pay for the airfare?"

1  
2 Rep. Stutzman: No, it's not.  
3  
4 Cleta Mitchell: You don't remember anything coming back to you about the airfare?  
5  
6 Rep. Stutzman: Correct. The only conversations I remember about the airfare were prior to  
7 the purchase of the flights. Again, I typically don't act without knowing  
8 that we've got the right answer. That's why we purchased the tickets with  
9 the campaign. Through the campaign.  
10  
11 Scott Gast: Okay. Let me just ask you this to make sure it's clear on the record. There  
12 was no decision made prior to April 2016 to reimburse the campaign with  
13 personal funds for the cost of the boys' airfare? Is that correct?  
14  
15 Rep. Stutzman: That's correct.  
16  
17 Scott Gast: Okay.  
18  
19 Rep. Stutzman: The decision was made to reimburse in April of 2016.  
20  
21 Scott Gast: Okay. Unless there are ... I want to move on to a couple other topics and  
22 this is ...  
23  
24 Cleta Mitchell: You want to take a break?  
25  
26 Scott Gast: This is a great time for a break.  
27  
28 Cleta Mitchell: We can do that and then we'll come back.  
29  
30 Scott Gast: I'll stop the recording.  
31  
32 [BREAK]  
33  
34 Scott Gast: For the record, we're back with Scott Gast, Helen Eisner, Julie Weltman  
35 from the OCE, here with Congressman Stutzman and Cleta Mitchell.  
36  
37 Rep. Stutzman: One of the other things that I want to go back to the California trip that  
38 developed out of that, we ... I was frustrated with our media consultant,  
39 some of the product at that time. We were also looking to develop any  
40 relationship from somebody out in Hollywood that may do some  
41 campaign work and I don't know the name of the company but it's in the  
42 records. There's a check written to a company, but it was Wileen Charles  
43 who came to Indiana, along with Warren Harvey, and they shot political  
44 footage for us, and that developed out of that trip over to Universal  
45 Studios. That's where we met them, developed the relationship and then

1 they eventually came to Indiana and that was all through Christy's  
2 contacts.  
3  
4 Scott Gast: Can you tell me the name of the person that you –  
5  
6 Rep. Stutzman: Wileen Charles and Rick ... No, Harvey Warren.  
7  
8 Clela Mitchell: You know what? I had forgotten about that but there is a –  
9  
10 Rep. Stutzman: There's a check.  
11  
12 Clela Mitchell: I did provide some documents, they're kind of random, but I will look and  
13 pull those out for you, too.  
14  
15 Scott Gast: Okay, good.  
16  
17 Rep. Stutzman: There were checks made to them. I want to say roughly in the amount of  
18 three thousand one time and another two or three thousand another time  
19 for their work. They flew to Indiana and shot footage for the campaign.  
20  
21 Scott Gast: You met them for the first time at Universal Studios?  
22  
23 Rep. Stutzman: Correct.  
24  
25 Scott Gast: How did that introduction happen?  
26  
27 Rep. Stutzman: Through Brad Krevoy and Bill Abbott.  
28  
29 Scott Gast: Okay. Do they work with those folks at the Hallmark Channel?  
30  
31 Rep. Stutzman: They do.  
32  
33 Scott Gast: Okay.  
34  
35 Rep. Stutzman: Actually, another thing we did, there was that one morning that was open,  
36 we went back to Universal Studios for a ... There was a filming of the  
37 show and they invited us back because I missed that part and Christy  
38 missed that part the first day we were there. Actually, the second day we  
39 were there when Christy went over to Universal and we had that open  
40 morning, and we went over and watched a filming of the ... Whatever  
41 episode it was, it's Home and Family, I think is the name of it, on  
42 Hallmark.  
43  
44 Scott Gast: Okay.  
45  
46 Rep. Stutzman: We actually got to see a live taping of it.

1  
2 Scott Gast: You believe that was –  
3  
4 Rep. Stutzman: It's not on the calendar –  
5  
6 Scott Gast: Right.  
7  
8 Rep. Stutzman: Because it was a last minute ... Again, I don't ... It may have even been ... I  
9 know we went back for the shooting of that and I don't know when. It may  
10 have even been in the afternoon. As far as looking at the calendar, I'm just  
11 ... I know that we did go back a second time to Universal so we could see  
12 an actual taping of the show. That's where we met Wileen Charles and she  
13 then eventually came out in the fall to shoot footage, I believe in October  
14 or November.  
15  
16 Scott Gast: Okay. What was that footage used for?  
17  
18 Rep. Stutzman: Campaign.  
19  
20 Scott Gast: For some ads?  
21  
22 Rep. Stutzman: Yeah, yeah, yeah. For social media ads.  
23  
24 Scott Gast: Okay. You believe that filming could've happened later in the afternoon  
25 on that Thursday, potentially Friday?  
26  
27 Rep. Stutzman: Yeah. We were ... Christy went over on Thursday?  
28  
29 Scott Gast: Yes.  
30  
31 Rep. Stutzman: Yes, and then she missed the filming and so we had to go back. I believe it  
32 was because that Pete Wilson meeting was a phone call and so we went  
33 back over there before I went to Dale Dykema meeting.  
34  
35 Scott Gast: Okay.  
36  
37 Rep. Stutzman: I do remember that we had to go back.  
38  
39 Scott Gast: Okay.  
40  
41 Rep. Stutzman: I know, yeah, we went back to see it and then that's where we met Wileen.  
42  
43 Scott Gast: All right. Unless you want to add anything further on the California trip,  
44 we can move on to another topic.  
45

1 Rep. Stutzman: I believe that's it. I guess one thing I would just clarify, again on this email  
2 that you referenced between John, Brendon, and Chris, Brendon never  
3 expressed to me about the need. He said, "I still need the money from the  
4 flight for the boys." That was all going to John and Brendon. Generally,  
5 John would relay the message to me, so I don't recall a direct conversation  
6 with Brendon about that.  
7  
8 Scott Gast: Okay. Do you recall any conversations with Mr. Marston?  
9  
10 Rep. Stutzman: No.  
11  
12 Scott Gast: Okay.  
13  
14 Rep. Stutzman: Again, generally John does that or it's done by email. I generally don't  
15 communicate directly with the treasurer.  
16  
17 Helen Eisner: After the email was forwarded to you, I think it was September 21st if I'm  
18 getting that correct, a few days after the original email chain, what  
19 conversations did you have with Chief of Staff then?  
20  
21 Rep. Stutzman: They would have more than likely happened in the office. He may have  
22 said, "Hey, there's a couple of things that we're still taking care of."  
23 Generally, I'm not a micromanager to where I need to know every detail.  
24 John handles those things, Brendon was handling those things, so more  
25 than likely John and I had that conversation. Also, we did get a ... What do  
26 you call it? A notice from the FEC regarding the trip. We asked about it  
27 and they sent over, I believe ... Is that right?  
28  
29 Cleta Mitchell: It was that advisory opinion to John, was sent to John.  
30  
31 Rep. Stutzman: Yeah. Did we produce that? I don't know if that's ...  
32  
33 Cleta Mitchell: I think they have that.  
34  
35 Rep. Stutzman: Yes.  
36  
37 Scott Gast: Yeah, we do have that.  
38  
39 Rep. Stutzman: Yes. I never saw that but I know John was the one that took care of that.  
40  
41 Scott Gast: Just to kind of close the loop on that, was it a conversation with Chief of  
42 Staff when you relayed the decision that you would pay the invoice from  
43 Edgerton Travel personally?  
44  
45 Rep. Stutzman: Say that again, I'm sorry.  
46

1 Scott Gast: There was this conversation in the email chain about whether the  
2 campaign would pay for it. Campaign Manager, Mr. Marston, having the  
3 facts that they had, said no. Was that relayed to you through Chief of  
4 Staff?  
5

6 Rep. Stutzman: Yes. Yes, more than likely.  
7

8 Scott Gast: Did you then relay to him the decision that you would pay for that invoice  
9 personally?  
10

11 Rep. Stutzman: Yes.  
12

13 Scott Gast: Okay.  
14

15 Rep. Stutzman: Yeah, more than likely.  
16

17 Scott Gast: Do you recall any discussion about that? Did you discuss whether ...  
18

19 Rep. Stutzman: It was in September, we would've been in session. Every time I come into  
20 the office, John has a variety of things that we run through and it was  
21 probably in a conversation like that.  
22

23 Scott Gast: Okay.  
24

25 Helen Eisner: Any conversation with Campaign Manager would've been relayed through  
26 Chief of Staff?  
27

28 Rep. Stutzman: I do not recall a direct conversation with Brendon around this time of the  
29 trip. Why Brendon ... This is the first time I ... Even though this message  
30 was forwarded to me, I did not go back and look through it, like I do with  
31 a lot of other emails. Usually, we talk about it in the office. If John  
32 believes it's something that I have to take care of he will make sure that I  
33 specifically see the email. He sent it to me but we talked about it. Why  
34 Brendon did not know about more details of the trip, I don't know. Again,  
35 we had a communication problem within the campaign, which played  
36 itself out in October.  
37

38 Cleta Mitchell: I have found this one document which is the Wileen Charles invoice and it  
39 is our document number MS-1.2.MS00023. That is the invoice for the  
40 shooting of the video in the ... I guess what you're saying is it was a result  
41 of a meeting that you had during the California trip.  
42

43 Rep. Stutzman: California trip, yeah. Through Christy, that was another Christy contact.  
44 Christy was very involved in our messaging and so she was always ... We  
45 were trying to make sure that we had sharp, crisp video footage and we  
46 developed that relationship with Wileen and Warren through the

1 California trip, and then they eventually came to Indiana to shoot the  
2 footage.

3  
4 Scott Gast: Okay. I want to talk to you about mileage reimbursements and just get a  
5 sense of how that process works in your operation. I think it makes sense  
6 to start with mileage reimbursements out of the MRA and then talk about  
7 the campaign separately. When you are traveling to official events and  
8 intending to seek reimbursement from the MRA for mileage, how do you  
9 typically travel? What vehicle do you use? Is it a personal vehicle, is it a  
10 different vehicle, is it a staff member's vehicle?

11  
12 Rep. Stutzman: All vehicles from June of 2015 are personal vehicles now. Prior to June of  
13 2015, we had a campaign vehicle.

14  
15 Scott Gast: Okay.

16  
17 Rep. Stutzman: When we had a campaign vehicle, and again, we received ... We asked  
18 Administration or Ethics, specifically, how do we handle official travel?  
19 Because a lot of times you're going to go do an official event and then  
20 you're going to go do a campaign event. Since we could not use an official  
21 vehicle to go to campaign-related events, the campaign purchased a  
22 vehicle. Then we didn't have to ... The campaign absorbed all the cost and  
23 then we could do campaign and official from that vehicle and then the  
24 taxpayer wouldn't be paying for the vehicle. It was all campaign-related.  
25 We generally used that vehicle. From time to time there would be travel,  
26 like I said, we have a home here as well as back in the district, so from  
27 time to time, I'll drive. There's times when the family is with me driving  
28 back and forth, so that mileage is, it's a standard ... I think we got the  
29 mileage off of MapQuest, specifically. It's always the same, I think it's a  
30 588 or something like that sort of number on the MRA reimbursements.  
31 We just always use the same one, no matter what the route is, that's the  
32 shortest route.

33  
34 Scott Gast: Okay.

35  
36 Rep. Stutzman: On a trip like that, I will send an email ...

37  
38 Cleta Mitchell: Wait, let's stop. Are you finished talking about the campaign vehicle  
39 versus the personal? Why don't you finish that part?

40  
41 Rep. Stutzman: Oh, yeah. I'm sorry. The campaign vehicle, I was advised by Brooks  
42 Kochvar and Brendon Del Toro to sell the campaign vehicle, buy a  
43 personal vehicle that would then be reimbursed by the campaign and we  
44 could be reimbursed for official travel, which was very small. There was  
45 very little official reimbursement over the last year compared to the  
46 campaign because most of it was campaign-related.

1  
2 Scott Gast: Okay.  
3  
4 Rep. Stutzman: Now all vehicles are personally owned by Christy and I.  
5  
6 Scott Gast: Okay. Talking about...  
7  
8 Rep. Stutzman: Or leased.  
9  
10 Scott Gast: Taking about the campaign vehicle, prior to June 2015, you had  
11 mentioned you checked with Ethics and that I think got lost. What did you  
12 check with them about and what was the response?  
13  
14 Rep. Stutzman: To be sure that we could purchase the vehicle through the campaign and  
15 use it to go to official events. Because sometimes you ... We wanted to be  
16 sure that we weren't subsidizing the official office through the campaign.  
17 They came back and told us that if you have an official vehicle, you can't  
18 go to a campaign stop, from what I recall, what I understand. Without,  
19 yeah. If you had a campaign vehicle, you could go to official stops but you  
20 could not receive any reimbursement. If you look at our records, you won't  
21 see any reimbursement for official mileage through the campaign, up until  
22 ... Excuse me, up until June, the end of May 2015.  
23  
24 Scott Gast: Okay.  
25  
26 Rep. Stutzman: After May, that's when all vehicles were owned personally, or leased, by  
27 Christy and I.  
28  
29 Scott Gast: Then just to finish up the pre-June 2015, when you would travel for  
30 campaign purposes, would you seek mileage reimbursement for the use of  
31 the campaign car?  
32  
33 Rep. Stutzman: Okay, say that again.  
34  
35 Scott Gast: I just want to make sure that when you were traveling with the campaign  
36 car for campaign events, did you seek reimbursement for the mileage?  
37  
38 Rep. Stutzman: That would be illegal.  
39  
40 Scott Gast: Okay. Now, post-June 2015, how did that process work for the MRA, first  
41 of all?  
42  
43 Rep. Stutzman: Again, they're all personal vehicles now, post-June of 2015, and we have  
44 folders in the Yukon, which is the newest vehicle that we lease, and that's  
45 the one that we generally use on the campaign and for any official travel in  
46 the district. Brian Prisock is our driver, typically drives and we have a

1 folder in the vehicle that everything is logged. I think we submitted those  
2 to you and you can see what's campaign and what's official. Our standard  
3 of practice is if we are driving from Howe to an official event, that is  
4 categorized as official travel from that point, from B to C. If it's a  
5 campaign related event, then it is recorded in the campaign ledger. Then at  
6 the end of two weeks or a month, Bryan turns those in to the appropriate  
7 side and then John Hammond and Mary Wells in our office look at them,  
8 just double check and be sure that we have them recorded appropriately.  
9

10 Scott Gast: Okay.

11

12 Rep. Stutzman: That's in the Yukon. The Yukon, I don't believe, is ever travel to DC. I  
13 never brought it out to DC. It's always been either my car which I keep out  
14 here, so that's only been one trip out here and then our Lexus which is my  
15 wife's vehicle generally. I'll use that from time to time, back and forth on  
16 breaks and things like that.

17

18 Scott Gast: Okay. It appears on many occasions you drive between DC and the  
19 District, rather than fly?

20

21 Rep. Stutzman: No. I probably, it's all in the records. You can see I fly a lot. It's a nine  
22 hour drive. It's not that far. I have dogs and so I don't generally take them  
23 on the plane with me.

24

25 Scott Gast: Sure. Did your official office at any point have a car?

26

27 Rep. Stutzman: No.

28

29 Scott Gast: Okay.

30

31 Rep. Stutzman: No.

32

33 Scott Gast: Just for the record, have you at any time submitted any requests for  
34 reimbursement for mileage, either from the MRA or the campaign, for  
35 mileage that you did not travel?

36

37 Rep. Stutzman: That would be illegal.

38

39 Scott Gast: Is that a no?

40

41 Rep. Stutzman: That's a no.

42

43 Scott Gast: Have you ever submitted mileage that was excessive over the actual  
44 mileage driven?

45

46 Rep. Stutzman: That would be illegal. That would be a no.

1  
2 Scott Gast: Okay.  
3  
4 Rep. Stutzman: Again, we're very strict on what is reimbursed and if anything, we are err  
5 on the side of caution. If we travel from DC, the one trip, the one time I  
6 traveled home from DC and I stopped, it was last October and I stopped  
7 around the Pennsylvania area to look at some family cemeteries and none  
8 of that mileage was recorded. It is strictly the travel from DC. That's why  
9 we use the MapQuest number, so that if we're getting off and doing  
10 anything different, then I'm not recording that as mileage to be  
11 reimbursed.  
12  
13 Scott Gast: Okay.  
14  
15 Rep. Stutzman: I don't believe those should be reimbursed. Those are personal miles.  
16  
17 Scott Gast: That's all I have on that subject. I want to talk about an incident during  
18 your Senate campaign where you were using private aircraft. This was in  
19 March of this year. Do you recall that circumstance?  
20  
21 Rep. Stutzman: Yes.  
22  
23 Scott Gast: What necessitated the use of private aircraft?  
24  
25 Rep. Stutzman: We double booked. There was an event in Indianapolis and there was an  
26 event in Lake County which is in the far northwestern part of the state. It's  
27 about a two and a half hour drive, but I had an event in Indianapolis in the  
28 morning. I had another event at the same time up in Lake County. We  
29 pulled one back, pushed one forward, but then I had another evening event  
30 in Indianapolis that night. After the fundraiser in the morning of March the  
31 19th, I flew up to Lake County and did that event up there and the flew  
32 right back to Indianapolis to do the event in Indianapolis. It was just not  
33 possible to drive it and that was the only flight that we ever took, that I  
34 ever took. There was questions about how to reimburse that, when to do it  
35 and also how to do it and that was what we had to deal with as well.  
36  
37 Scott Gast: Let me ask the event in the morning, you said it was a fundraiser.  
38  
39 Rep. Stutzman: Correct.  
40  
41 Scott Gast: That was a fundraising event for your Senate campaign?  
42  
43 Rep. Stutzman: Yes.  
44  
45 Scott Gast: What was the event in Lake County?  
46

1 Rep. Stutzman: Another fundraiser.  
2  
3 Scott Gast: Then what was the event in the evening in Indianapolis?  
4  
5 Rep. Stutzman: It was Child 1 Manning's fundraiser for a Riley Hospital and I was a guest  
6 of some of our supporters there.  
7  
8 Scott Gast: That was a charitable event?  
9  
10 Rep. Stutzman: Correct.  
11  
12 Scott Gast: Okay.  
13  
14 Cleta Mitchell: Did you consider that a political event?  
15  
16 Rep. Stutzman: Yeah. Our host took us because they wanted to introduce us to voters and  
17 it was in Indianapolis.  
18  
19 Scott Gast: Okay. Who was on board the flight each way?  
20  
21 Rep. Stutzman: The pilot, Mike Speedy, and myself and Adam Johnson, a campaign  
22 staffer.  
23  
24 Scott Gast: That was the same to and from?  
25  
26 Rep. Stutzman: Correct.  
27  
28 Scott Gast: How do you know Mr. Speedy?  
29  
30 Rep. Stutzman: He's a state representative in Indiana, just become a friend over time.  
31  
32 Scott Gast: Did you reach out to him to ask if you could use the plane or how did that  
33 come about?  
34  
35 Rep. Stutzman: Josh Kelly arranged, the campaign manager at that point, arranged the  
36 logistics and travel for that trip.  
37  
38 Scott Gast: Okay.  
39  
40 Rep. Stutzman: We had checked also with Miller Aviation, which is another charter  
41 service, and they gave us a quote and Mike Speedy gave us a quote as  
42 well. Mike Speedy wanted to in-kind the flight, which they worked  
43 through. Again, I don't know all of the details. He was running into an  
44 FAA problem about how reimbursements take place. I don't know if  
45 you're familiar with that.  
46

1 Scott Gast: A little bit, yes.  
2  
3 Rep. Stutzman: Yeah, so he didn't want to lose his license on the way he billed us. I've  
4 heard this has taken place on other instances as well. We read that the FEC  
5 has certain rules on how reimbursement is to take place. It took some time  
6 for us to develop how to handle that. Josh Kelly was the one who  
7 primarily handled that and Chris Marston and John Hammond as well.  
8  
9 Scott Gast: Okay. Do you know the total cost of the flight, the round trip flight?  
10  
11 Rep. Stutzman: There's an invoice. I think we submitted that to you.  
12  
13 Scott Gast: Do you know whether he paid the entire price, the entire cost of the flight  
14 or some portion of it?  
15  
16 Rep. Stutzman: You should have that in the records as well.  
17  
18 Scott Gast: Okay.  
19  
20 Rep. Stutzman: I believe that was submitted.  
21  
22 Cleta Mitchell: Yes, it was. I mis-numbered it, but it was submitted.  
23  
24 Scott Gast: Do you know whether that invoice has been paid?  
25  
26 Rep. Stutzman: Yes. You should have a record of it. I don't know if you have the record,  
27 but it should have been. I saw an email regarding it and I believe Chris  
28 Marston said that he was paying it.  
29  
30 Scott Gast: Do you know how it was paid? Was it ultimately paid directly by the  
31 campaign? Was it an in-kind contribution?  
32  
33 Rep. Stutzman: It was directly paid. Again, they were trying to do an in-kind contribution.  
34 There were reporters calling and asking questions about it and I don't  
35 recall the exact timeline, but I believe that the decision was made just to  
36 pay a check directly so that way, for one, I believe we had a 30-day  
37 window to pay for the flight and we wanted to pay for it in that 30-day  
38 window. I've been told by staff that there is a 7-day window and there's  
39 also a 30-day window. I don't know what the exact answer is, but I was  
40 leaving that up our staff to handle.  
41  
42 Scott Gast: Do you know whether it was paid in the 30 day window?  
43  
44 Rep. Stutzman: I don't know.  
45  
46 Scott Gast: Do you know if there was any delay?

1  
2 Rep. Stutzman: You should have that in your records.  
3  
4 Scott Gast: Was there anything brought to your attention about, we haven't received  
5 an invoice, or there was some delay?  
6  
7 Rep. Stutzman: I first heard about the delay because, and then I found out that Mr. Speedy  
8 was, again, dealing with a difference of rules between the FAA and the  
9 FEC and so he was wanting to make sure that he invoiced us appropriately  
10 and legally and then we paid him as soon as we got the, as far as I know,  
11 we paid it as soon as we got the invoice from him.  
12  
13 Scott Gast: Was it your understanding that when the arrangements were initially  
14 made, was there a discussion about how the campaign was going to pay  
15 for it, whether this would be an in-kind?  
16  
17 Rep. Stutzman: In -kind. I understood this was going to be an in-kind contribution up to  
18 the limits, whatever limits that Mr. Speedy could contribute to the  
19 campaign through an in-kind contribution.  
20  
21 Scott Gast: Okay. Have you seen the invoice?  
22  
23 Rep. Stutzman: I believe I did.  
24  
25 Scott Gast: I have a copy of it here if we need to look at it, but it seems to be split in a  
26 way.  
27  
28 Rep. Stutzman: Yeah.  
29  
30 Scott Gast: Are you familiar with how it was split? Do you know why that split  
31 occurred?  
32  
33 Rep. Stutzman: For FAA purposes.  
34  
35 Scott Gast: That was for FAA purposes?  
36  
37 Rep. Stutzman: That was my understanding.  
38  
39 Scott Gast: Okay. I don't believe the report, the FEC report, where this would be  
40 reflected has been filed yet. Do you know if that's going to appear?  
41  
42 Rep. Stutzman: Well, it should. I don't know why it would not. Let me think here.  
43  
44 Cleta Mitchell: Do you remember the day on the invoice? It would have been in April  
45 sometime.  
46

1 Rep. Stutzman: It would have been in second quarter so that it would come out in July.  
2  
3 Scott Gast: Okay. You fully intend to have that reflected on the FEC report I assume?  
4  
5 Rep. Stutzman: Yes.  
6  
7 Scott Gast: Okay.  
8  
9 Rep. Stutzman: The flight took place March 19th, which would have been in the first  
10 quarter, and if there's a 30 -day window, which we did it in a 30-day  
11 window, that would be reflected in the second quarter.  
12  
13 Scott Gast: Okay. I think you mentioned that was the only time you had used a private  
14 plane on your campaign. Is that true for both your Senate campaign and  
15 your prior Congressional campaigns?  
16  
17 Rep. Stutzman: I know there was another flight that I took. I was to be at an event in the  
18 southern part of the district in Jade County and my flight from here was  
19 cancelled and so I flew to Columbus and then we had a flight to Jade  
20 County to be there for the event. That was probably three or four years  
21 ago.  
22  
23 Scott Gast: The flight from Columbus to the district, how did you...?  
24  
25 Rep. Stutzman: I don't know how. That was handled by John Hammond. I'm telling you,  
26 you asked me if there were any other flights and I know that there was  
27 another one.  
28  
29 Scott Gast: Was that on a private aircraft or was that on a charter service?  
30  
31 Rep. Stutzman: Charter service.  
32  
33 Scott Gast: Charter service.  
34  
35 Rep. Stutzman: Yeah.  
36  
37 Scott Gast: Okay. Any other instances?  
38  
39 Rep. Stutzman: Not that I recall right off.  
40  
41 Scott Gast: Okay. Those are all the questions I have on the aircraft issue. I have one  
42 final area to talk to you about, which you had mentioned, your campaign's  
43 employment of Gabe Rivera. Mr. Rivera is ...  
44  
45 Rep. Stutzman: That's not, for the record, that was not the Senate campaign.  
46

1 Scott Gast: Correct.  
2  
3 Rep. Stutzman: That is just the Congressional campaign prior to the Senate race.  
4  
5 Scott Gast: Can you tell us the rough time period in which he was employed by the  
6 campaign?  
7  
8 Rep. Stutzman: In 2010, after the 2010 primary, my predecessor resigned and I had just  
9 run for the U.S. Senate seat in that primary and lost. Then we had a caucus  
10 in June and I hired Gabe, I believe, in August. We started conversations in  
11 July right after the caucus when I was selected to be the Republican  
12 nominee. I hired Gabe, I started talking to Gabe in July and I think we  
13 officially hired him August 1st and then he worked within a period of four  
14 years, August to the end of 2010, he worked '11 and '12 and part of '13.  
15  
16 Scott Gast: Okay. Mr. Rivera is your brother-in-law?  
17  
18 Rep. Stutzman: He is, yes. He is my brother-in-law. He would be Christy's sister's  
19 husband.  
20  
21 Scott Gast: Spouse 's sister's husband.  
22  
23 Rep. Stutzman: Yes.  
24  
25 Scott Gast: Okay. How did it come about that you reached out to him or he reached  
26 out to you?  
27  
28 Rep. Stutzman: We had a fundraiser that was working for us in the 2010 Senate campaign  
29 and she, after the campaign was over, she left and I needed a new  
30 fundraiser. I decided I wanted Gabe to come in. He's very organized. He's  
31 a person I trust and I didn't have any, other than a person that I've used  
32 prior, I didn't have any other relationships with fundraisers. There's not a  
33 lot of fundraisers in Indiana and I knew that Gabe would be a good person  
34 to talk to. I spoke to him and explained to him what the job description  
35 would be. He did some campaign seminars through the Republican, I think  
36 it's through the NRCC maybe, and he did a great job.  
37  
38 Scott Gast: What had he been doing immediately prior?  
39  
40 Rep. Stutzman: I believe he was working at a Toyota dealership.  
41  
42 Scott Gast: As a salesperson?  
43  
44 Rep. Stutzman: Yes.  
45  
46 Scott Gast: Who's idea was it to explore Mr. Rivera as a possibility?

1  
2 Rep. Stutzman: It was mine.  
3  
4 Scott Gast: Was there anything that prompted that?  
5  
6 Rep. Stutzman: I needed a fundraiser and I wanted somebody I could trust and Gabe had a  
7 sales background. He worked for a not-for-profit and did some fundraising  
8 with them. He was just the person that came to mind.  
9  
10 Scott Gast: Did other individuals ... were they interviewed? Were they considered?  
11 Did you have other candidates?  
12  
13 Rep. Stutzman: Let's see. I don't recall. It was a fast moving campaign because of  
14 everything that was happening with the resignation of my predecessor. But  
15 again, I saw ... and we checked there was no impropriety. My  
16 predecessor's son-in-law was actually his campaign treasurer and  
17 fundraiser. So I had seen precedent of that before. It wasn't an issue with  
18 us. We did check to make sure everything was done appropriately but we  
19 had seen other candidates do the same thing.  
20  
21 Scott Gast: Who did you check with?  
22  
23 Rep. Stutzman: I believe John checked with ... No it would not have been John, because  
24 John was not the chief of staff. It would have been the FEC.  
25  
26 Scott Gast: Would that have been at this time a campaign manager versus the chief of  
27 staff?  
28  
29 Rep. Stutzman: Yeah.  
30  
31 Scott Gast: Who was your campaign manager at the time?  
32  
33 Cleta Mitchell: For the 2010 Congressional race? Is that what you're asking? So what  
34 would that have been, June through November?  
35  
36 Scott Gast: Yeah.  
37  
38 Rep. Stutzman: I believe it was Rob Green. Yeah it was Rob. Rob had worked on our  
39 Senate race and then left and then came back and worked on our  
40 congressional campaign. Because then Rob then came out, and worked in  
41 official office here in D.C.  
42  
43 Scott Gast: Okay and you said that he checked with the FEC?  
44  
45 Rep. Stutzman: I mean I don't have any document or anything like that but we did double  
46 check. And like I said, I knew from my predecessor, who I had worked

1 for, his campaign treasurer was his son-in-law. But I know that we  
2 checked because there was a question, what would happen, what would  
3 Gabe's employment be after the campaign. As we talked about whether it  
4 be an opportunity in the official office. If that would have been a nepotism  
5 violation so Gabe was not eligible to work in the official office. So I know  
6 we got that information at some point. I'm assuming Rob Green checked  
7 that out with the FEC.  
8

9 Scott Gast: You mentioned that he had had fundraising experience for a non-profit?

10

11 Rep. Stutzman: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

12

13 Scott Gast: Could you explain what that experience was?

14

15 Rep. Stutzman: That was a small Christian ministry in South Carolina that he worked for.

16

17 Scott Gast: And what did he do for that entity?

18

19 Rep. Stutzman: In a small Christian ministry you do a lot of things.

20

21 Scott Gast: Was he specifically tasked with fundraising?

22

23 Rep. Stutzman: No. I don't believe, that was not a specific task. But it was one of the  
24 broader tasks.

25

26 Scott Gast: Okay. Any other fundraising experience - either political campaign or  
27 non-profit?  
28

29 Rep. Stutzman: I don't believe so. But his sales background is what really prompted me to  
30 be interested. Because if you can sell cars, you can sell a politician. In a  
31 sense of asking for campaign contributions. It was also that he was a very  
32 detailed, and he performed very well. He did events. He is a very detailed  
33 person. He had great relationships with donors. He developed  
34 relationships with donors. He did a great job.  
35

36 Scott Gast: And his title...?

37

38 Rep. Stutzman: You know, I would say this too. The reporter in that article, says that ...  
39 Maybe it was in a conversation that I had with the reporter. But he said  
40 somewhere that the fundraising went up after Mr. Rivera was gone from  
41 the campaign. Well there was also a change in my committee assignments  
42 as well. And I went from Ag, Budget, and Veteran Affairs to Financial  
43 Services which that generally ... their PACs give more to an A committee  
44 candidate, than they do to a B, C committee candidate. So again the  
45 reporter is showing his lack of understanding of how some things work as  
46 far as committee assignments and fundraising and things like that. So our

1 fundraising went up; but that was after ... But also there was a change in  
2 my committee assignments which affected that as well.  
3  
4 Scott Gast: When was that change? Was that in 2014? The change in committee  
5 assignments?  
6  
7 Rep. Stutzman: It was the beginning of 2013.  
8  
9 Scott Gast: What was his title when he was hired?  
10  
11 Rep. Stutzman: He was Campaign Fundraiser, Finance Director, I mean we were not big  
12 on titles officially. He was the Finance Director, if I remember his  
13 business card the last time I saw. But he was also event coordinator as  
14 well, he had a variety of tasks.  
15  
16 Scott Gast: And generally what were his responsibilities?  
17  
18 Rep. Stutzman: Fundraising, event coordinating, relationship building. That's generally  
19 what a fundraiser does.  
20  
21 Scott Gast: And at any point during his time with your campaign in that position, did  
22 you have any concerns or issues with his performance?  
23  
24 Rep. Stutzman: No.  
25  
26 Scott Gast: Were you satisfied with how much was he was raising and the events he  
27 was putting on?  
28  
29 Rep. Stutzman: Yup.  
30  
31 Scott Gast: After the 2010 election. We went into an off-year obviously.  
32  
33 Rep. Stutzman: Mm-hmm (affirmative).  
34  
35 Scott Gast: Did you maintain a campaign staff during that off-year?  
36  
37 Rep. Stutzman: Very small, Rob Green came to D.C. and worked in the official office. Joe  
38 Knepper was a young man who worked on our campaign, he became the  
39 Campaign Manager, but it was primarily Gabe. I come from the safest  
40 Republican seat in Indiana, fundraising is a harder task when you're in a  
41 district like that. So Gabe was our main employee from the campaign. Just  
42 focusing on fundraising.  
43  
44 Scott Gast: Was that a full-time position throughout the entire cycle?  
45  
46 Rep. Stutzman: Yes.

1  
2 Scott Gast: When I asked you about Mr. Rivera's compensation, who set his  
3 compensation?  
4  
5 Rep. Stutzman: That was an agreement between he and I.  
6  
7 Scott Gast: How did you set his compensation?  
8  
9 Rep. Stutzman: We compared it to other fundraisers typically. And I know that Cleta  
10 submitted a chart showing. If I remember correctly an email that Chris  
11 Martson sent over to, I believe it was you, in 2011, a full year his salary  
12 was roughly 70,000 and the following year it was roughly 64,000.  
13 Roughly. So again, if you look at our fundraisers since then, I'm sure  
14 they've all been paid higher than that. When we set a retainer, a base  
15 salary, there is also ability for bonuses, if they meet certain benchmarks  
16 then there is bonuses for that.  
17  
18 Scott Gast: Was that the structure for Mr. Rivera's compensation as well?  
19  
20 Rep. Stutzman: Yes. All of our fundraisers. We've always done a bonus structure of some  
21 sort for their salaries.  
22  
23 Scott Gast: Did Mr. Rivera generally meet the benchmarks and get bonuses or did he  
24 fall short?  
25  
26 Rep. Stutzman: Yeah, generally. Again, I mean a lot of the fundraising falls on me as the  
27 candidate. He developed call lists for me, he developed face to face  
28 meetings, he developed events. But we worked together, making sure that  
29 we were... Very similar to the California trip. You find contacts, you call  
30 them, set up a meeting and pursue support. I'll bet that out of 10 phone  
31 calls that I make, maybe 2 of them become actual contributors to the  
32 campaign. So it's a long day of fishing.  
33  
34 Scott Gast: Sure. I want to walk through his compensation for the time he was there.  
35 Just to get a sense of how that was put together. He was initially hired, it  
36 appears, at a rate of \$4000 per month; does that sound correct?  
37  
38 Rep. Stutzman: Mm-hmm (affirmative). It would be about \$36,000 a year.  
39  
40 Scott Gast: And how did you come up with that initial figure?  
41  
42 Cleta Mitchell: \$4000 a month or \$3000 a month?  
43  
44 Scott Gast: I'm sorry, I'm not doing the math.  
45  
46 Cleta Mitchell: It was \$4000?

1  
2 Scott Gast: \$4000 a month.  
3  
4 Rep. Stutzman: Did you say \$4,000 a month? So it would be \$48,000.  
5  
6 Scott Gast: Yeah \$4,000 a month. Thank you.  
7  
8 Helen Eisner: Lawyers occasionally have to do math.  
9  
10 Scott Gast: So how did you arrive at that initial compensation amount?  
11  
12 Rep. Stutzman: We just compared it to other fundraisers which he had been on the lower  
13 end because he didn't have political experience. So we felt he needed to be  
14 lower than what a political fundraiser who had experience ... I talked to  
15 other candidates in the district and came up with that number.  
16  
17 Scott Gast: What had his predecessor, I guess in your Senate campaign, do you recall  
18 what that person's compensation was?  
19  
20 Rep. Stutzman: No.  
21  
22 Scott Gast: It would appear that several months later, mid-November of 2010,  
23 probably right after the election, he got an increase in his compensation to  
24 \$6,000 per month. And that was through March of the next year.  
25  
26 Rep. Stutzman: Yeah.  
27  
28 Scott Gast: Why the increase in the compensation at that point?  
29  
30 Rep. Stutzman: Well, generally I mean after you win, things generally get better and  
31 easier, so there was ... His performance was good. He deserved an  
32 increase. Again, we would have been looking at a \$72,000 a year salary  
33 and ... I would have to go back and look at what our fundraisers are, but  
34 that's generally what they run in Indiana.  
35  
36 Scott Gast: And then April 1st, 2011, a couple months after the election in the middle  
37 of the off-year, you went up to \$6,600 a month. And maintained that until  
38 July of 2012.  
39  
40 Rep. Stutzman: Okay.  
41  
42 Scott Gast: Why an increase of \$600 then?  
43  
44 Rep. Stutzman: I don't know how payments were made with the bonuses. I don't know if  
45 that includes bonuses. I know Chris Marston was our campaign treasurer  
46 so his payments would have been through Chris Marston. I would assume

1 that bonuses were a part of that, if you're taking that directly off of checks  
2 that were payed to Gabe.  
3  
4 Scott Gast: Were any of these increases or discussions based on Mr. Rivera's need for  
5 money?  
6  
7 Rep. Stutzman: No. It was performance. It was always performance.  
8  
9 Scott Gast: Okay. Then in the middle of July of 2012 through the end of the year, so  
10 before the 2012 election, he had a decrease in salary from \$6,600 to  
11 \$3,600 per month. Pretty substantial decrease. Why that decrease?  
12  
13 Rep. Stutzman: There was a transition, he was leaving the campaign but said he would be  
14 willing to work for the campaign until the transition took place. We  
15 interviewed a variety of new fundraisers then Amy Stansfield was the next  
16 fundraiser after Gabe. She was from Indianapolis, originally from Ohio  
17 and he just helped make that transition with her take place.  
18  
19 Scott Gast: Was that the time of the transition prior to the 2012 election or was it  
20 2013? Because he continued to be paid...  
21  
22 Rep. Stutzman: Yeah, I think he got paid until May, or June of 2013. So he would have  
23 been part of that transition.  
24  
25 Scott Gast: When was the new person hired?  
26  
27 Rep. Stutzman: I want to say the beginning of 2013. Or maybe the summer of 2012.  
28  
29 Scott Gast: So then I guess I go back to July.  
30  
31 Rep. Stutzman: And she also had other clients as well. So I guess we were one of her  
32 clients. So there was a period there where there was more overlap then  
33 normal, but it was because we were one of her clients. That's why we  
34 decreased Gabe's salary.  
35  
36 Scott Gast: Now if that happened at the end of 2012, the decrease happened in July.  
37 So that would have been four and a half months, five months, before the  
38 new person was hired, he was at a decreased salary.  
39  
40 Rep. Stutzman: Mm-hmm (affirmative).  
41  
42 Scott Gast: Why at that point did the salary go down?  
43  
44 Rep. Stutzman: So 20 ... Do you have a document I could look at?  
45  
46 Scott Gast: I actually have don't. It's summarized here.

1  
2 Rep. Stutzman: Okay, where did you get that information?  
3  
4 Scott Gast: Your attorney provided that information.  
5  
6 Clela Mitchell: Do you want me to pull that chart?  
7  
8 Scott Gast: That may be helpful.  
9  
10 Clela Mitchell: Okay.  
11  
12 Rep. Stutzman: So you're saying in July of 2012 his salary went down?  
13  
14 Scott Gast: From \$6,600 per month to \$3,600 per month.  
15  
16 Rep. Stutzman: So there would have been a period where he was the only fundraiser on  
17 the staff. We didn't have much of a race in 2012 or 2014.  
18  
19 Clela Mitchell: This is our document number MS-2.5.Campaign00002 and this was  
20 submitted on June the 6th, 2016. And it is a chart showing the  
21 compensation paid to Gabe Rivera. That's what you're summarizing. I'm  
22 showing that to Congressman Stutzman.  
23  
24 Rep. Stutzman: I think if you read this, I think it came from Chris Marston, treasurer, it  
25 said that "for ease of presentation, I list his monthly rate of pay." I don't  
26 know how Chris calculated bonuses and things like that. So from 7/16 -  
27 12/31 down to \$3,600. That would have been through the race of 2012.  
28 And we didn't have much of a race in 2012. I don't recall why it was  
29 moved down that much. I don't know.  
30  
31 Scott Gast: I would say it seems odd that he was earning a substantially higher  
32 monthly payment during the off-year, when typically people are not  
33 thinking about elections, may not be as intense period of fundraising. And  
34 the closer to the election, the amount went down. So I'm asking if there  
35 was some reason for that.  
36  
37 Rep. Stutzman: I mean I don't know. We could ask Chris Marston for that. I don't know. Is  
38 this an average for those months?  
39  
40 Scott Gast: I have the information that is there.  
41  
42 Clela Mitchell: The monthly rate of pay. But I would, on the record, I would say that I  
43 would not necessarily agree with that presumption about not raising  
44 money in the off-year. If you are an incumbent the way you avoid a  
45 primary or a general election opponent is by having substantial cash on

1 hand by end of the off-year. So actually the off-year fundraising is very  
2 important.  
3  
4 Rep. Stutzman: You raise a good chunk of your money in the off-year. And then if you  
5 have a race you continue probably at that pace or increase. But if you don't  
6 have a race, things just continue to decline because people don't feel the  
7 need to give to you.  
8  
9 Scott Gast: Is that your recollection as to why the adjustments in salary?  
10  
11 Rep. Stutzman: There's somewhere, and I don't know the exact time ... But Christy and  
12 Wendy started a bridal shop. And it's in Fredericksburg. Gabe's originally  
13 from Fredericksburg. They wanted to move back to Fredericksburg and I  
14 cannot tell you exactly when he started to draw a paycheck from the bridal  
15 shop. But more than likely he was working part-time on the campaign  
16 because we didn't have much of a race. And he began to draw a salary  
17 from the bridal shop. I cannot tell you specifically what date he started to  
18 draw a salary but that was probably part of the explanation there.  
19  
20 Scott Gast: Okay. Do you know when it was that he moved to Virginia?  
21  
22 Rep. Stutzman: I don't.  
23  
24 Scott Gast: Do you know a rough time period?  
25  
26 Rep. Stutzman: It was probably in 2011 or 12. Somewhere in there. He commuted back  
27 and forth. I know there was a time period when he commuted back and  
28 forth. That was also one of the reasons why we decided to go a different  
29 direction as well. I needed the fundraiser to be in-state.  
30  
31 Scott Gast: What were the arrangements for the commute? Was it something that he  
32 did weekly, monthly? How much time would he spend in each place?  
33  
34 Rep. Stutzman: A lot of fundraising is done by email, by phone. He would go back for  
35 different events that I had. Fundraising events, things like that nature.  
36 Those records would all be in the FEC reports on his travel.  
37  
38 Scott Gast: Okay. Then just to continue on, in the beginning of 2013 his salary was  
39 further reduced from \$3,600 a month to \$1,000 per month.  
40  
41 Rep. Stutzman: Mm-hmm (affirmative).  
42  
43 Scott Gast: You had mentioned that you had hired a new finance director end of 2012  
44 beginning of 2013. Is that the reason for the decrease here?  
45

1 Rep. Stutzman: He would have been part-time at that point. So he would have been  
2 drawing less salary.  
3  
4 Scott Gast: Did he continue to provide fundraising services up until May 31st, 2013?  
5  
6 Rep. Stutzman: And beyond.  
7  
8 Scott Gast: And beyond? Okay. So from the beginning of the year to May of 2013,  
9 this was the transition period.  
10  
11 Rep. Stutzman: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Yeah, to Amy Stansfield.  
12  
13 Scott Gast: And both Mr. Rivera and [New Finance Director] were working on  
14 fundraising at the time?  
15  
16 Rep. Stutzman: I believe she was hired at the beginning of 2013. January 2013, I believe.  
17 Again, those would be in the FEC reports.  
18  
19 Scott Gast: Why that change? Why hire someone new?  
20  
21 Rep. Stutzman: Gabe wanted to move back to Fredericksburg, Virginia. And I felt I  
22 needed somebody in-state.  
23  
24 Scott Gast: What were the circumstances of the departure? Was that an amicable  
25 separation? Was he disappointed that -  
26  
27 Rep. Stutzman: No. Christy and I are investors into the bridal shop and I'm a business  
28 partner with him. I trust him. It was a normal process, agreed upon by both  
29 of us, that he wanted to be back in Fredericksburg. And he worked for  
30 some time from Fredericksburg as a fundraiser. But knowing that  
31 eventually he was going to work at the bridal shop where he works now.  
32  
33 Scott Gast: Okay. I believe those are all the questions I have on that.  
34  
35 Helen Eisner: I don't believe I have any further questions.  
36  
37 Scott Gast: Those are all the questions that we have for you. Unless there's anything  
38 that you would like us to know or would be helpful to us.  
39  
40 Rep. Stutzman: That's all I have.  
41  
42 Scott Gast: All right. We appreciate you sitting down with us and talking with us.  
43  
44 Rep. Stutzman: Sure.  
45  
46 Scott Gast: We'll stop recording.

# Exhibit 2

1 **Representative Stutzman's Chief of Staff**  
2 **Transcript of Interview**  
3 **June 22, 2016**

4 Scott Gast: For the record, this is Scott Gast with the Office of Congressional Ethics,  
5 joined by my colleagues Helen Eisner and Konstantine Kastens. We're  
6 here with Representative Stutzman's Chief of Staff ("Chief of Staff"),  
7 who's accompanied by his attorney, Cleta Mitchell. It's June 22nd. We  
8 typically like to begin these interviews with a little bit of background  
9 information. If you could tell us your current employment situation? How  
10 long have you been in that position? What your general duties are?

11 Chief of Staff: Currently chief of staff for congressman Marlin Stutzman. I have been in  
12 that position since middle of May of 2014. I've been with the  
13 congressman prior to that since December of 2010. I started as legislative  
14 director. Do you want any other work history? I'm glad to give it.

15 Scott Gast: What did you do before joining the congressman?

16 Chief of Staff: Prior to that I was in Indiana. I had taken the bar exam. I had run a  
17 congressional campaign. My other stint on the Hill was with Steve Buyer  
18 from Indiana. Another Indiana congressman, where I'm from originally. I  
19 worked for him just for two years, '04 to '06, just legislative aide and staff  
20 assistant. I went to law school full time in between.

21 Scott Gast: What are your general duties as chief of staff to Mr. Stutzman?

22 Chief of Staff: A number of things. Staff development, overseeing staff, most  
23 administrative matters as far as his official schedule goes. Making sure  
24 that staff reimbursements and other things are processed. If the member  
25 has questions as it pertains to use of official funds or use of official time,  
26 I'm usually the conduit between Ethics and Administration. If at that time  
27 it needed to be roped in for something and be explained better we've done  
28 that in the past. I was there for, in this duty, for probably less than a year  
29 before his campaign started up. It was less official items over the last year.

30 Basically just manage the staff. I have my eye on policy and  
31 communication, stuff like any chief of staff does and it's my background.  
32 A lot of what I've spent time doing is working with our legislative staff,  
33 the younger staff, and helping them with financial services, some of the  
34 areas I worked in when I was legislative director, committee work. It's  
35 something I like doing still and try to keep a hand in.

36 Leases for district offices, make sure those are up to date. Go through all  
37 of the GSA and all of the procedures you have to do there. Now  
38 unfortunately closing down an office. All the procedures that are at work

1 with House Administration. Figure out what we can do, what we can't do,  
2 property and things like that. I hope that's complete enough. I'm glad to  
3 answer any other questions related to duties.

4 Scott Gast: Do you have or did you have any role with Representative Stutzman's  
5 campaigns, either for House campaigns or for his Senate campaign?

6 Chief of Staff: Let me start with House campaigns. My role when I was chief of staff, and  
7 as I said, when I was chief of staff it was less than a year from then until  
8 when Senator Coats retired and basically he had decided he was going to  
9 announce. From that time, my real political responsibility related to a lot  
10 of chief of staff fundraising with the NRCC, that communication.

11 He's in a very safe seat. He always had campaign managers and a finance  
12 director. I didn't have to deal with that part, although I was aware of,  
13 similar too on the Senate campaign, had to be aware of the schedule where  
14 he was going after he was leaving DC and make sure that certain official  
15 things like votes and when he had to be back in Washington were carved  
16 out. That kind of coordination on the schedule was an integral part of my  
17 involvement with any of those campaigns, but certainly much more at  
18 times with the Senate campaign just because it was an active campaign.  
19 He didn't have, that I remember, a really active race.

20 Helen Eisner: How much of your time would you say during the week you spent in  
21 either of those roles? First I guess when you were working for the House  
22 side of the campaign and then later on in the Senate?

23 Chief of Staff: Maybe 20% the most. Maybe less than that. I don't carve it out as a  
24 specific period of time, but when it had to do with working the schedule  
25 ... I just don't know. I never thought of it as a percentage. I was always in  
26 the office and I wasn't really going back to Indiana to do campaign things.  
27 I wasn't reviewing campaign expenditures or anything like that. It wasn't  
28 that involvement. It was getting on the phone and figuring out, where does  
29 he need to be, who's picking him up and you guys still haven't told us  
30 what's supposed to be on Monday and Tuesday so we can at least let the  
31 Member know. There's an appropriate handoff from the official office to  
32 the campaign. That's the best I know how to describe it. Sorry I don't have  
33 a percentage for you. I'm not even sure if 20% is accurate or not.

34 Scott Gast: You said you weren't involved in reviewing campaign expenditures?

35 Chief of Staff: It was not a primary responsibility. Some things would have come across  
36 my desk in that time period, but I was never authorized to make a  
37 campaign expenditure, not authorized to do campaign travel expenditures.  
38 That really rested with the Member or the campaign team. We've had ...  
39 Sorry, I'm skipping around a little, but on the Senate campaign, which is

1 really most of my experience with campaign, we had two different staffs,  
2 full staffs, which created a lot of interesting communication issues. One  
3 staff for six months had changed and then a new campaign staff.

4 I was really only involved initially with the first campaign staff much  
5 more heavily I would say as far as just coordination. This is really only a  
6 result of the fact that I knew the campaign manager from his time as a  
7 chief of staff on the hill. We had good communication on scheduling.

8 Scott Gast: Who was that?

9 Chief of Staff: Brendon Del Toro.

10 Scott Gast: When you say two campaign staffs, did that change ... I guess it was  
11 around September 2015?

12 Chief of Staff: I don't know when it changed exactly because I wasn't on the inside  
13 making the decisions. The congressman made the decision to change the  
14 staff. I think that Brendon. resigned in October, but he may have made a  
15 change with his general consultant in September and then I believe some  
16 other people left the staff before the end of the year or by the end of the  
17 year. He hired a completely new team that wanted to do things I think  
18 their own way.

19 Helen Eisner: Who was the general consultant that you just mentioned?

20 Chief of Staff: It was a guy named Brooks Kochvar.

21 Helen Eisner: How do you spell that?

22 Chief of Staff: K-O-C-H-V-A-R. Really from April of 2015 when he announced until  
23 whenever the congressman decided to change his campaign staff. Brooks  
24 oversaw the campaign along with Brendon Del Toro. They were the ones  
25 discussing expenditures, it's back to your question, how they're building a  
26 database. I wasn't involved in who were we choosing as vendors, vetting  
27 those ... I was asked to do something with the campaign when the  
28 congressman decided he wanted to announce and I politely declined and  
29 said I'd like to stay in the official office because I like working on the Hill.

30 Scott Gast: I just want to go back to when you mentioned that the authority to make  
31 campaign expenditures rested with the Member or the campaign team.  
32 Can you tell us who the campaign team was that had that authority?

33 Chief of Staff: It'd really be Brendon ... My knowledge of it, again, I don't know how  
34 many times someone's authorized something. I assumed the general  
35 consultant could do it, but the way I always envisioned it was the

1 campaign manager was making expenditure decisions. Probably and  
2 hopefully in consultation with the Member. I don't know.

3 I'm sure if there is a large expenditure, that had to be discussed. To build  
4 an infrastructure for a Senate campaign, to hire new staff. I was not  
5 involved in that. I assume the campaign manager was responsible, similar  
6 to a chief of staff being responsible for official staff, be responsible for  
7 campaign staff. I'm sure it was a shared negotiation with the general  
8 consultant. I just don't know how that broke out. I wasn't involved in  
9 really any of those conversations.

10 Scott Gast: Just to close the loop on that, besides that trio of the candidate, the general  
11 consultant, the campaign manager, were you aware of anybody else  
12 involved in the-

13 Chief of Staff: There were people that could ... Authorized to make expenditures I think  
14 of as travel and going on a contract with people. I'm sure there are  
15 individuals that could get reimbursed for gas for instance or someone  
16 might have had a gas card ... I just don't know who that would have been.  
17 There is a staffer that drove him around that was a shared staffer on the  
18 campaign. He was not authorized to make certainly not big expenditures.  
19 Any campaign expenditure he made he had to report to the campaign  
20 manager. I never saw any of those. If he did I don't know. I guess that's  
21 the answer to that question.

22 Scott Gast: On the big picture thing, anybody besides that trio?

23 Chief of Staff: No. My understanding of the campaign apparatus, and again, that lasted  
24 for just six months really. That was that group. Then I really know less  
25 even about how the second group operated. That's ...

26 Helen Eisner: You said that occasionally campaign expenditure issues would come  
27 across your desk even though perhaps you weren't in charge of  
28 authorizing such payments. In what context would they come across your  
29 desk?

30 Chief of Staff: I'm trying to think of things that would have come across. Nothing big.  
31 Let's talk about the big things that I know about for campaign  
32 expenditures, travel for instance. Travel choices were really made,  
33 especially campaign travel, was dictated by the schedule of the campaign.  
34 They told us what they were doing. Those were made, the Member then  
35 said, "I need to go back X, Y and Z."

36 I'm trying to think of other campaign expenditures. I just may have been  
37 CC-ed on emails. I don't want to say I wasn't aware of campaign  
38 expenditures. I was not authorized to green light any expenditures without

1 the Member's permission. That may have been true for even the campaign  
2 staff. I don't know. He was very involved in the campaign. It probably  
3 wouldn't be unheard of, similar to official expenditures, to ask. I just don't  
4 know. There could be things. I could have had an email that said, "We're  
5 hiring this campaign group, team. Just wanted you to be aware." If that's  
6 helpful. I'm trying to remember. If I remember something I'll certainly  
7 share it.

8 Scott Gast: That is helpful. I want to talk to you about the Stutzman family trip to  
9 California in August of 2015.

10 Cleta Mitchell: Could we refer to it differently?

11 Scott Gast: Sure.

12 Cleta Mitchell: Not that Stutzman family trip because I think that's presupposing that it  
13 was a Stutzman family trip. It was a trip to California which the  
14 congressman's wife and children accompanied him, but it was a campaign  
15 trip.

16 Scott Gast: We'll just call it the California trip in August of 2015.

17 Cleta Mitchell: That's good.

18 Scott Gast: Are you familiar with that trip?

19 Chief of Staff: I am.

20 Scott Gast: What was the primary purpose of that trip?

21 Chief of Staff: My understanding of the primary purpose of the trip was to fundraise, to  
22 do a fundraising trip.

23 Cleta Mitchell: For?

24 Chief of Staff: For Stutzman for Senate, his Senate campaign.

25 Scott Gast: Were there other purposes for the trip?

26 Chief of Staff: There were some overlapping, I wouldn't say they were official purposes,  
27 but there were constituents out there. Part of what I was doing is, my  
28 awareness of all the different schedules that he was keeping, was to make  
29 sure those constituents could possibly intersect with him so long as he met  
30 his obligations to the campaign. Most of those obligations were, obviously  
31 they're in California, fundraising. He had a national fundraiser in addition.

1 There's another person actually that you might put down, someone who  
2 could probably get reimbursed expenses, but she could not approve them.  
3 We had a national fundraiser since the beginning of the campaign who  
4 planned a fundraising trip.

5 Scott Gast: Was that Laura Van Hove?

6 Chief of Staff: It was, yeah.

7 Scott Gast: Was there any personal purpose or aspect to the trip?

8 Chief of Staff: There were ... I'll just let you know what I was aware of. I knew that  
9 Christy and the boys at some time were going to do a Universal Studios  
10 tour. In fact at one point, as sometimes happened, she forwarded me some  
11 emails and said, "I would like to go to Universal Studios with the kids at  
12 some point." I don't know if it was on the weekend or when it was. "How  
13 do I do that?"

14 One, you need to pay personally. If you're going to do anything personal  
15 in that trip. They did. They paid I think personally and arranged for those  
16 tickets prior to that trip. The Universal Studios was the personal thing that  
17 I was aware of. The constituent part was on I think Saturday potentially.  
18 That was a group of constituents brought there by a radio host on a trip  
19 that was I think themed something like "American Exceptionalism" and  
20 had something to do with Ronald Reagan. I was coordinating at the  
21 request of the Member, try to find time that he could see those constituents  
22 while they were there on that trip. Separate deal to see them.

23 Scott Gast: Just to take a step back, how did the idea for this trip come up?

24 Chief of Staff: I'll tell you just the first time I dealt with anything related to California  
25 and this travel group. Would have been ... It's possibly October or  
26 November of 2014. In that time period the congressman came to me and  
27 asked me to, he asked me if this group, these guys on the radio-

28 Scott Gast: This is Pat Miller?

29 Chief of Staff: Pat Miller, he's a well-known radio host, if he could advertise using their  
30 names. I said, my first answer and gut always, just the safe answer is no.  
31 "Okay, can you ask Ethics" is always the second question. "Sure, I'm glad  
32 to ask Ethics." Ask Ethics. I'm sure I communicated that back to the  
33 Member and the radio host, told him what he couldn't do. Can't mention  
34 Stutzman's name in trying to promote your group and that was that.

35 The idea of any kind of California trip as it pertains to constituents I don't  
36 think came up until maybe February or March of the next year. They were

1 still presumably planning their trip. That's the earliest I've heard about  
2 that trip. Then, let's see, Coats retires in March and the congressman starts  
3 to hire up staff. By the time he announces, I think he has at least a national  
4 fundraiser and all these other pieces in place. I'm sure they staffed up after  
5 that.

6 The understanding was, just based on the schedule, something that I was  
7 trying to get a handle on, having not worked for a Member who'd been in  
8 a statewide race before, is what are the time commitments going to be?  
9 Where is he going to have to go? One of the things that was raised, and it  
10 was either through the campaign manager or the national fundraiser to me,  
11 is that he's going to have to go to California, Texas, hubs of fundraising,  
12 New York, Boston, these kinds of places. All of which he ended up I think  
13 going to some of those places at least one or two times.

14 When that came up I don't know. It was certainly ... could have been  
15 before June, could have been right when June was ... June 2015. I'm not  
16 sure. I guess my point being is there is this constituent trip that was  
17 already being planned. Already told them what they couldn't do. Then  
18 there's also just national fundraising that was going to get done at a  
19 number of places. I think this was when the congressman decided he was  
20 going to do that in conjunction with everything else that was happening in  
21 the state.

22 Scott Gast: For the constituent trip, did Representative Stutzman have a role in that  
23 trip?

24 Chief of Staff: He ended up joining them when he was in California. Is that what you  
25 mean? I just don't know what you mean by role?

26 Scott Gast: Why did Pat Miller want to use his name in advertising for the trip?

27 Chief of Staff: Because people that know him from the district, and Pat Miller knows him  
28 well like so many others in his home district, they probably wanted to give  
29 an advantage to their group. Often times these things come up, whether  
30 it's an auction or something like that, you have to tell them no, once you  
31 run the traps with Ethics. This was another example of that. I'm pretty  
32 sure I was the one that had to transmit that over to Pat Miller.

33 Scott Gast: I guess my question is why Mr. Stutzman? Was he going to host the trip?  
34 Was he going to participate in the trip? Did he have some connection to  
35 the trip that made sense to have him be a-

36 Chief of Staff: Pat Miller was not guaranteed ... My knowledge of it was that Pat Miller  
37 was not guaranteed that he was going to see the congressman when he was  
38 in California. I was told, and I think the congressman was told as well, that

1 because this was a political trip, you need to fill it up, you need to let the  
2 national fundraiser have as much time as she needs. That means Thursday,  
3 Friday, Monday. All those days were given over to the national fundraiser  
4 to potentially fill in. This was an evolving process. You know you have to  
5 plan a trip like this. I assume it takes the national fundraiser a while to talk  
6 to people to host or whatever, set up meetings. Directly I don't know his  
7 role with it. He knew Pat Miller well.

8 Cleta Mitchell: I think what they're trying to come at is why Marlin Stutzman and not  
9 somebody else?

10 Chief of Staff: Because Marlin Stutzman's their hometown congressman, the radio show  
11 and all the constituents were from the area. That would have, I assume that  
12 has some appeal to people going on the trip.

13 Scott Gast: Did Mr. Stutzman plan on attending, joining the tour?

14 Chief of Staff: Once the California, the political trip was planned, he wanted to intersect  
15 with the group if possible, if it worked around what he was already doing  
16 there on his political campaign, fundraising business. That was what was  
17 told to me at least.

18 Scott Gast: It sounds as if the genesis of this trip was he was going to participate in  
19 this Pat Miller tour. Then once the Senate opportunity came along it was  
20 decided to build in a fundraising trip around the tour? Is that fair to say?

21 Chief of Staff: I don't think it is. I was not aware at least that he had committed to the trip.  
22 Remember, I'm reviewing this on whether he could ... He had not told me  
23 he was going on the trip. When I said, "You couldn't advertise," we didn't  
24 book flights at that point, we didn't talk about it in a scheduling meeting.  
25 We basically didn't talk about it. Part of this could be a function of the  
26 Christmas break. We basically didn't talk about it until sometime into the  
27 new year. It didn't even come back. Not as a Pat Miller trip, not as a  
28 political trip.

29 Scott Gast: But ultimately it was scheduled at the same time the tour was traveling.

30 Chief of Staff: I can't guess on how it was scheduled. I know that the campaign had the  
31 Pat Miller ... I don't know how that decision was made. I guess I'll put it  
32 that way.

33 Scott Gast: Who would have made that decision?

34 Chief of Staff: I'm not sure. I assume it would be in conjunction with the Member and the  
35 campaign.

1 Helen Eisner: When it came to your attention in October, November of 2015, this idea of  
2 potential advertisement, which you've told us that you talked to Ethics  
3 about, at that point had the congressman committed to the trip?

4 Chief of Staff: Like I said, I didn't know. To my knowledge, he had not committed to the  
5 trip. Actually when I gave the answer that Ethics gave back to both the  
6 congressman and Pat Miller we didn't talk about it again until really the  
7 new year, some point in the new year, in any context that I remember. He  
8 wanted to do the Pat Miller trip. That's clear. Why would I have been  
9 asked otherwise to vet this? Once I vetted it, I don't remember talking  
10 about it at length until the new year.

11 Scott Gast: I want to show you an email. This is, for the record, Bates labeled THMS-  
12 0387. This appears to be an October 9th, 2014 email from Mr. Stutzman to  
13 you and Mary Wells, who I understand is your congressional office  
14 scheduler?

15 Chief of Staff: Correct.

16 Scott Gast: Copy to Representative Stutzman's Spouse ("Spouse"), Mr. Stutzman's  
17 spouse, and Pat Miller, who we've discussed was the radio host. Subject,  
18 "Santa Barbara." If you want to take a minute to look over that. It looks  
19 like Marlin is expressing an interest in scheduling this trip with Pat Miller,  
20 going to the Reagan Library, the Reagan Ranch, Capitol Records,  
21 Universal Studios.

22 Chief of Staff: In spring he's saying, yeah. I don't remember if I had checked with Ethics  
23 prior to this. My guess is I had not yet because I probably would have  
24 given him an answer back. This would probably be prior to checking with  
25 Ethics. I'd have to ask them what the call log looks like. My guess is I had  
26 not checked with Ethics as it pertained to them potentially traveling with  
27 that group.

28 Scott Gast: Does this appear to be around the time that you first learned of an idea for  
29 a California trip?

30 Chief of Staff: First time I learned of an idea of constituents traveling to California and  
31 his interest in joining them.

32 Scott Gast: Then a similar email I want to share with you. For the record, this one is  
33 THMS-0390. This email is from you to [Representative Stutzman and  
34 Spouse], copied to Mary Wells. This one is in February. If you want to  
35 take a minute.

36 Let me just read the first sentences here: "The political trip we are  
37 planning for August revolves around Pat Miller's trip as well. They are

1 looking at plugging you into the agenda on Sunday August 16th or 17th.  
2 We can work the rest of your travel around these dates as long as they  
3 work for your personal calendar.” This suggests that this was, like I asked  
4 earlier, the political trip was built around this Pat Miller-

5 Chief of Staff: That’s not how I thought about it. I understand how you’re reading about  
6 that revolves around the Pat Miller trip. I was clearly dealing with and  
7 discussing this with the national fundraiser and I’m not sure if at that point  
8 they had already even determined dates. It’s still up in the air. Then the  
9 personal calendar had some reference to what are you doing in the rest of  
10 the summer around the trip, meaning when can you actually go on this trip  
11 so I can transmit that over to the campaign team and let them plan a trip.

12 That was my role. “You have official things. Do you have personal things  
13 that we need to know to wall off both for campaign and official what are  
14 you going to do?” They had expressed an interest though, clearly at that  
15 point. It must have been end of the new year we had a discussion about it  
16 to link up with the Pat Miller crew if it worked. I think that’s all I’m trying  
17 to express, not that everything he was doing revolved around that because  
18 if that was the case, I don’t think he would have planned all the things they  
19 did on that trip for him as far as fundraising business.

20 Scott Gast: This reference to plugging him into the agenda, did Mr. Stutzman have a  
21 formal role at any point with the Pat Miller tour?

22 Chief of Staff: A formal role? Not that I know of.

23 Scott Gast: Was he a speaker at any event?

24 Chief of Staff: Like I said, to my knowledge and helping put all these different pieces, the  
25 itinerary together, was that he joined them on Saturday at one of their  
26 events that they had on their agenda, the Reagan Library, and maybe  
27 something that evening. If that’s what you mean by formal participation, I  
28 guess so.

29 Scott Gast: As far as you’re aware he didn’t have a formal speaking role or as a tour  
30 guide?

31 Chief of Staff: Like I said, I wasn’t on the trip and I never asked if he spoke there, but  
32 yeah, I just don’t know, sorry.

33 Scott Gast: One other thing on this email. There’s the reference to personal calendar.  
34 At this point was there a discussion about some personal aspect to the trip?

35 Chief of Staff: At this point no. Like I said, and I think I made this clear, I’ll clarify it  
36 again. What it means is I don’t think at this point and I know at this point,

1 there had been no decision one, that he was definitely going to go, and  
2 two, when that was going to be. In relation to personal calendar, we've got  
3 the August recess and they've got things that they do personally and try to  
4 make sure that they're not carving out a family vacation or something like  
5 that that interferes with these dates that are being kicked around by the  
6 collective.

7 Scott Gast: Let me ask then, in addition to ... keeping in mind, should there be a  
8 California trip, they'd like to link up with the Pat Miller group, they'd like  
9 to do the political things. Was there also a discussion that they would like  
10 to do some personal things while in California?

11 Chief of Staff: I mentioned already what I was aware of, which was the Universal  
12 Studios, as something that the kids and the wife had expressed interest in  
13 at some stage while they were there. I again told her that these had to be  
14 paid personally and made sure they were prior to the trip. This is the  
15 Universal Studios part.

16 Helen Eisner: When did you become aware of the Universal Studios part?

17 Scott Gast: I couldn't tell you. It probably was after this. I'm just not sure when.

18 Helen Eisner: There was the Universal Studios, you mentioned potentially some other  
19 activities that Mr. Stutzman's wife discussed with you.

20 Chief of Staff: She may have wanted to do Capitol Records, it's something she always  
21 had mentioned, things like that. She would run a bunch of ideas and I'd  
22 tell her either one, you can or can't do it, or this is how you have to do it.  
23 Then Universal Studios was the one where I was forwarded an email  
24 where I wanted to make sure that she knew that it needed to be paid for  
25 personally and that it got executed that way, because my understanding of  
26 this trip was that it was a political fundraising trip, predominant purpose of  
27 it was that. Then anything inside of that that you're doing that has nothing  
28 to do with the fundraising needed to be paid for personally. That's how I  
29 operated at least. That was the one that I was probably most involved in as  
30 far as a personal expenditure until I was aware of personal expenditures  
31 way after the fact.

32 Scott Gast: I'd like to walk through the agenda with you and just go event by event,  
33 your understanding of the various events. Before we jump into that, based  
34 on your understanding of the California trip, the entire trip, can you give  
35 us a sense of your understanding of what percentage of time was spent on  
36 campaign activities versus official activities versus personal activities?

37 Chief of Staff: I don't know if I knew a percentage. I know what the layout was going to  
38 look like. The idea was, and all those different events, I did not take place

1 in planning any of those political events. That was the extent of my  
2 coordination with the national fundraisers to say, “You have Thursday,  
3 Friday, and Monday to fill in. What are you going to fill in? If you need  
4 Saturday or something then let us know.”

5 That was the understanding. Then they just go and they plan. They have  
6 the relationships with the donors and the hosts or whatever it may be. My  
7 role wasn’t so much to keep track of a percentage, but it was to make sure  
8 that as much time they could get on the calendar politically I can make  
9 sure I walled up, play defense on this Pat Miller stuff. The understanding  
10 with the congressman, as things were filling up, was you might not get to  
11 see the Pat Miller group even though that may have been a desire.

12 They of course ended up seeing them just for that one day. I was really  
13 dealing with Pat Miller mostly because it was someone we dealt with in a  
14 press capacity, just throughout the years. Having vetted this thing already I  
15 just was trying to be that conduit there so he could see the constituents if it  
16 worked out. It wasn’t necessarily clear it was going to work as it was  
17 scheduled, but it did.

18 Scott Gast: Let’s go ahead and walk through the agenda.

19 Cleta Mitchell: I was going to ask you about that because if you’re using the calendar as  
20 the agenda that isn’t the final agenda. You have in your documents many  
21 iterations that have the agenda. I just want to make sure that it is clear on  
22 the record that what is in the calendar is not necessarily what ended up  
23 happening. That was put on the calendar, but there were actually separate  
24 documents which you have that show more of a tick tock of all the  
25 different events. That’s pretty sparse.

26 Scott Gast: That is one of the reasons why I’d like to do this, is to make sure we have  
27 the accurate understanding of what actually occurred. I have two things to  
28 use as we walk through, one of which is the calendar with the  
29 understanding that it may not be a complete and accurate representation.  
30 The other is the California trip packet that you sent prior to the trip. I think  
31 that’s the best to use as we walk through this. Just for the record, the two  
32 documents that we have in front of us are, the email is THMS-0394 and  
33 following, the second document is THMS-0230, so we have that clear.

34 Cleta Mitchell: Which one is the first one you’re going to refer to?

35 Scott Gast: I think I’m going to refer to the email. If you need to refer to the calendar,  
36 we can do that as well. Let’s just dive right in. Wednesday, August 12th,  
37 aside from a few press calls that morning, it appears the Stutzmans  
38 traveled to the airport to fly to Los Angeles. Just a question about, is the  
39 Detroit airport the most convenient ...

1 Chief of Staff: It's one of the, it can be. It can be one of the most convenient just  
2 depending on the times. There's no direct flights into Howe, Indiana. Fort  
3 Wayne, Southbend, Detroit, Indianapolis sometimes if you have to go to  
4 the southern part of the district. Since redistricting in 2010 we snake a  
5 little further down.

6 Scott Gast: How did the Stutzmans get to the airport that day?

7 Chief of Staff: I'm not sure. I don't remember. Maybe I knew at one point.

8 Scott Gast: It looks like the first event, if we flip to the next page on the calendar, was  
9 the 7:00 pm dinner with Hallmark at Madeos in West Hollywood. Are you  
10 familiar with that dinner?

11 Chief of Staff: Not really. I'm familiar with it, that it was on the itinerary. I put a lot of  
12 this together, but didn't set any of it up, if that makes sense. To reference  
13 this email, I was taking what we already knew was set up from the  
14 national fundraiser and the campaign side and just essentially telling him  
15 what his day by day agenda was going to be as we sometimes do, send  
16 them off back to the state or in this case the trip that I wasn't obviously on.

17 Scott Gast: Was this dinner an official, campaign or personal event?

18 Chief of Staff: I don't know how you characterize it. Like I said, I don't think I set it up. I  
19 don't know how I would characterize it. I don't know enough about who  
20 was there and what it was and who set it up.

21 Scott Gast: Do you have an understanding of how it came to be on the schedule?

22 Chief of Staff: It could have been the congressman setting it up. There could have been  
23 individuals there that we were trying to get a political meeting set up and  
24 this was in lieu of that. I just don't know.

25 Scott Gast: Looking at the list of attendees spelled out there, are you familiar with the  
26 people listed there?

27 Chief of Staff: Let me see. Yeah.

28 Scott Gast: Who are those folks?

29 Chief of Staff: They're affiliated -- I'm not sure how they met the Stutzmans -- but  
30 they're affiliated with Hallmark and TV production and people that have  
31 been friends and supporters I guess. I don't know if they supported him  
32 politically at all. I can't speak to that. They were I would say supportive of  
33 his political future. I don't have a personal relationship with any of them. I

1 know who they are because they had been to Washington maybe once and  
2 I had met them. That's all I know.

3 Helen Eisner: Are you referring to all of these individuals or any individuals in  
4 particular?

5 Chief of Staff: I don't know the Lissings, Madisons, or the Davidsons. I know the Krevoy  
6 name. I know Brad Krevoy, I've met him before. I know Bill Abbott and I  
7 know the name Paris Abbott is his daughter, but I've never met her. I've  
8 only met Bill Abbott and Brad Krevoy. Bill Abbott I think is the Hallmark  
9 CEO and Brad Krevoy does something in TV production. I think they're  
10 close with the Stutzmans. That's all I know.

11 Scott Gast: When you say Hallmark, are you referring to the Hallmark TV channel?

12 Chief of Staff: Hallmark channel, yeah, I think that's right.

13 Scott Gast: Is it fair to say that the Abbotts and the Krevoy's are personal friends with  
14 the Stutzmans?

15 Chief of Staff: I don't know how I would characterize their relationship, but yeah,  
16 personal, professional, political. They've met while he was in office.  
17 Again, I just don't know when they met and what capacity.

18 Scott Gast: Was this dinner a fundraiser?

19 Chief of Staff: I actually don't know the answer to that. There were a lot of meetings here  
20 that were not fundraisers that were prospecting fundraising trips. I just  
21 don't know how he would have characterized it.

22 Scott Gast: Let me show you this email. This for the record is THMS-0421. This is a  
23 July 22nd, 2015 email from Spouse to you, Mr. Stutzman, looks like you  
24 again. I want to look at the first paragraph, third sentence: "Marlin said he  
25 would count a dinner with Bill Abbott as an FR dinner." What did you  
26 take that to mean?

27 Chief of Staff: I typically ignore those. Typically my goal is to work with the Member  
28 and to be frank I was never comfortable getting emails or instructions  
29 from the spouse. I typically would just deal with the Member. If he counts  
30 it as a fundraising dinner or he thinks he's raising money from them then  
31 that's his characterization ultimately. He's the one authorized on the  
32 campaign side to do that. Again, it was a campaign trip. If it was official  
33 I'd probably have more to say about it. I was trying to coordinate  
34 schedules at this stage. I was taking emails from Christy, not emailing her,  
35 trying to set something like this up. If that's how he characterized it ... I  
36 don't know.

1 Scott Gast: Did you have any conversations with Mr. Stutzman about the dinner?

2 Chief of Staff: I can't remember. I sent him an itinerary that said, "This is what you're  
3 doing." If that counts as a conversation, but that's really, I'm getting it  
4 from other sources. In this instance Pam Slay had clearly already been in  
5 touch with the Member's spouse and her saying that congressman thinks  
6 it's a fundraising dinner. Then what Laura Van Hove said and then also  
7 when Pat Miller could be available if it worked with their schedule. That  
8 was what I knew about those trips.

9 It was usually how someone was characterizing it to me. I tried to stay  
10 away from trying to referee what was campaign ... If it was official, using  
11 official funds, that's when I call Ethics or call Administration or talk to the  
12 Member about it. "Is this an official trip, you're going back for Indiana, or  
13 are you doing campaign?" I'm not trying to ... That's all I know about  
14 that, that trip, but of course I knew that that was on the schedule.

15 Scott Gast: Aside from this email did you have any communications with Spouse  
16 about this particular dinner?

17 Chief of Staff: I might have, I don't know. I could have. You see stuff here, I don't know  
18 what I would have said to her after I talked, tried to work out a mutually  
19 agreeable time with this group of people.

20 Scott Gast: What about with Laura Van Hove or anyone on her staff? Did you have  
21 any conversations with them about this?

22 Chief of Staff: I might have because I believe some of these individuals ... actually Brad  
23 Krevoy, you've got to forgive me because I may not remember all the  
24 emails. I haven't gone back and looked at all of them, but Brad Krevoy  
25 strikes me as somebody who Laura Van Hove had identified as a potential  
26 fundraiser or hosting a fundraiser. I'm probably, as I was going back and  
27 forth with her saying, "What do you have scheduled?" she would fill in  
28 details such as, "I think Brad Krevoy might be somebody. Marlin will  
29 hand over names and say, 'Here are people that might politically support  
30 me that I know in California.'"

31 Then she would look for other people as well. Brad Krevoy strikes me as  
32 someone that's a familiar enough name to me that we may have traded  
33 emails about him. I don't know, but it sounds familiar. She may have been  
34 trying to get a fundraiser on the books with him. This might have been lieu  
35 of that. I'm not sure.

36 Scott Gast: Do you recall getting any report after the trip about this dinner, how it  
37 went, any follow up?

1 Chief of Staff: I don't. I don't remember getting any feedback on it. In fact, I didn't talk  
2 to the congressman during the entire trip and potentially afterwards, I'm  
3 not sure. We may have traded emails about unrelated items during the trip,  
4 but I don't, actually seem to remember not talking to him much at all  
5 during the trip. As far as what the results were from fundraising or  
6 otherwise, that really was left over to the campaign side of things came in.  
7 Maybe somebody said something to me about it, this was a successful trip,  
8 just general political awareness, but I don't know.

9 Scott Gast: Do you know who paid for the dinner?

10 Chief of Staff: I don't. Sorry. Most all the payments that were done in California on the  
11 ground, personal, campaign or otherwise, the congressman knew about it.  
12 I didn't know anything about. There was a national fundraising staff on  
13 the ground for part of the trip and it's in the itinerary. Presumably she was  
14 aware of expenses and paying for things and reimbursements, etc. Again,  
15 campaign reimbursements stuff I wasn't privy to.

16 Scott Gast: Then it appears that they spent the evening at Frank Luntz's home. That  
17 night, if you look right above the-

18 Chief of Staff: Yeah, that's what I was told.

19 Scott Gast: What was your understanding about those arrangements?

20 Chief of Staff: I don't know much about those arrangements. They came up, then they  
21 didn't come up. We had hotels booked. Then we didn't have hotels  
22 booked. As it pertained to their arrangements, and even the Davidsons, I  
23 didn't know much about the Davidsons until August, until very close to  
24 the trip. I have never met them or if I have I don't remember. As it  
25 pertains to the Frank Luntz, I had no role in arranging that trip. Our  
26 scheduler may have been late in touch with the people there to coordinate  
27 it, but I certainly didn't talk to Frank Luntz or email him or call him or ask  
28 him anything about those arrangements. That was part of the trip that was  
29 ... I just wasn't really arranging. I was responsible for saying, "Here's  
30 where you're staying," putting all these things together.

31 Scott Gast: Were you involved at all in consulting with Ethics about-

32 Chief of Staff: I had asked Ethics-

33 Cleta Mitchell: Let him finish asking the question.

34 Scott Gast: Consulting Ethics about the permissibility of staying at Mr. Luntz's home?

1 Chief of Staff: He had brought it up, and I'm not sure when ... We had a bit of a  
2 disagreement on, back and forth there. I think his understanding was that  
3 you could do it. My initial reaction was, "Why are we doing this? But I'll  
4 gladly run the traps." My recollection was as I ran the traps as it was  
5 described to me of his relationship with Mr. Luntz and I think the answer  
6 was that it was something he could do if it was done in a certain way.

7 I don't know how exactly I transmitted that to him. I still wasn't ... I'm  
8 always more comfortable just doing the normal thing. I don't know much  
9 about his relationship with Frank Luntz. I know who Frank Luntz is  
10 obviously, but I don't know what the nature of their relationship is other  
11 than it was as it was described to me and as I was asked to go to Ethics  
12 and ask. I was often put in these situations where I'm asked to vet  
13 something that I'm still not wild about. That's what I was asked to do.

14 Scott Gast: How was that relationship described to you, the relationship between Mr.  
15 Stutzman and Mr. Luntz?

16 Chief of Staff : As I remember it, it was described as a personal friendship relationship.  
17 That's I guess how it was described. Mr. Luntz had never been, that I  
18 know, was never a political donor or anything like that. I believe that the  
19 congressman had thought ... The congressman seemed to have an  
20 impression that other Members had stayed maybe at his place or had a  
21 similar arrangement. That was why he kept asking me to check. Asked,  
22 "Check with this Member. Check with this Member." I'm not going to  
23 check with a Member. Maybe I did, but I'm going to check with Ethics.  
24 I'm going to describe the relationship exactly as how you describe it,  
25 congressman, because that's the only way to get an answer that resembles  
26 staying within the rules.

27 Scott Gast: Did you do that? Did you have a conversation with Ethics?

28 Chief of Staff: I did. I'm sure it's logged somewhere. I don't know if I wrote notes about  
29 it or not.

30 Scott Gast: What was their answer?

31 Chief of Staff: I think their answer was, as it was described, he could do it. I don't know if  
32 there were other things he needed to do as far as a disclosure or something  
33 like that. I would have probably transmitted that over to the congressman.  
34 If they would have said he couldn't do it, I would have certainly said that.  
35 There've been plenty instances like that and other instances where he  
36 doesn't even believe my answer and I need to put him on the phone with  
37 House Administration or in this case Ethics.

1 It's not a comfortable role for me because I'm not an FEC attorney. I don't  
2 know anything about ... You know generally about in-kind contribution  
3 ... it wasn't what I was asked to do. I was asked to call Ethics and say,  
4 "Can he stay at a personal friend's house while he's on this trip?" That's  
5 what I was asked to do and that's what I did. I don't know if it was my  
6 role, but no one else can really call House Ethics from outside.

7 Scott Gast: You had mentioned that there were hotel arrangements, then there weren't.  
8 Do you know ultimately where the Stutzmans stayed each night of the  
9 trip?

10 Chief of Staff: To be honest, when all this stuff came out in April I still didn't know. We  
11 had to go back. In fact, we thought he was staying at a Hilton or  
12 something and our scheduler even thought that. Then the Frank Luntz  
13 thing rang a bell, but I don't know how many days or nights he stayed  
14 there. Like I said, I had little or no communication with him during that  
15 trip. Because it was August recess, I don't think a lot of feedback on what  
16 he was doing.

17 Scott Gast: Did you subsequently learn where he stayed for each night?

18 Chief of Staff: I'm sure I did. I'm sure I learned that he was at Frank Luntz's house, if not  
19 all the nights most of the nights. That was my understanding. Again, even  
20 on this press stuff, I didn't go in all the details because the campaign was  
21 handling that part. He certainly stayed there one or more nights is my  
22 understanding after the fact. At least after the fact.

23 Scott Gast: You had mentioned the Davidsons. Can you tell us who the Davidsons  
24 are?

25 Chief of Staff: I know now, but I know as of today that they're the pastors. I don't know  
26 who they are. Maybe he's mentioned to me that they were pastors and  
27 maybe I'd met them before, but I really don't think I had. I didn't see their  
28 name pop up, at least as I remember it, until August of the trip being  
29 planned. I don't remember seeing a lot of emails. I didn't communicate  
30 with the Davidsons. I don't know if our scheduler did, but I don't think so.  
31 It would have been very intermittent and probably would have been CC-ed  
32 on an email from the spouse again. Some things were planned.

33 Scott Gast: I want to move on to-

34 Chief of Staff: But friends, some sort of family friend is what I knew them to be at some  
35 stage.

36 Scott Gast: I want to move on to Thursday, August 13th. The first entry here in the  
37 itinerary has Spouse and the sons traveling to Universal Studios. We

1 referenced this before. I think you had said this was a personal day for  
2 Spouse and the boys-

3 Chief of Staff: I didn't say it was a personal day. I said that Universal Studios was a  
4 personal expenditure that I tried to make sure that they paid for.

5 Scott Gast: Was there any political or official aspect to that activity?

6 Chief of Staff: Not that I know of.

7 Scott Gast: It notes here that they were going to meet the Abbotts and the Krevoys at  
8 the park. Do you know why they met them there?

9 Chief of Staff: I assume they were just trying to be good hosts. I'm not sure. There were  
10 clearly emails between the spouse and the people at the Universal Studios,  
11 separate and apart from what we were planning. When I caught some of  
12 those emails or forwards I tried to make sure that whatever you're doing  
13 you need to make sure you pay personally for that part. If you're doing  
14 something that's personal while you're on this political trip you need to  
15 make sure it's paid for personally. That was my understanding of that part  
16 of the day.

17 Helen Eisner: How did you communicate that?

18 Chief of Staff: Probably by phone. There are emails I'm sure that ... Even with the  
19 Universal Studios people, they wanted to be very good hosts. You can be  
20 nice and friendly and meet somebody at the gate, but they need to pay for  
21 their tickets.

22 Scott Gast: As far as you are aware was there anything more to the visit than visiting  
23 the theme park?

24 Cleta Mitchell: Excuse me. We don't know ... I think he's already said he doesn't know  
25 anything about that. You're presupposing they visited the theme park. I  
26 don't even know if they visited the theme park.

27 Chief of Staff: I'll back up because we haven't really gone over this. I don't know what  
28 ... even though I set the itinerary up I don't know after the fact who went  
29 where and when. I barely knew where they were staying at night, but I did  
30 know all these things were coming together and all the things he needed to  
31 know before he left. Whether things changed or now while they're on the  
32 ground, I truly don't know and I don't believe I was ever made aware. I  
33 wouldn't know what they did for the rest of the day. I don't know if they  
34 cancelled Universal Studios. I would have heard about it probably.

1 Scott Gast: Let me ask it this way then. To your knowledge was there to be anything  
2 else to the visit to Universal Studios other than a day at the theme park?

3 Chief of Staff: Not that I remember, but they-

4 Cleta Mitchell: Do you know or do you not know?

5 Chief of Staff: I'm trying to remember and I think there is something. I think that they  
6 wanted to do something related to filming. See a filming or see something  
7 when they were in the park. I just don't remember what it was. I had not  
8 looked at these emails, but I remember there was something about a  
9 filming. I'm sure it had to do something with working with Pam Slay or  
10 something back and forth. I don't know what that was. I don't really know  
11 what it was, meaning I don't know what the purpose of that was or how  
12 long they did it or who was there that I remember. I think there was  
13 something else later on the park. I just don't see it on the itinerary so I  
14 don't remember it.

15 Scott Gast: Next on the schedule, we switch over to Mr. Stutzman's schedule. It looks  
16 like he, to summarize what happened during his day, he met up with  
17 National Fundraising Consultant Employee ("FR Consultant"), an  
18 employee of LVH Consulting; was scheduled to have two events with  
19 either donors or potential donors to the campaign. Was that your  
20 understanding of the schedule, his schedule for that day?

21 Chief of Staff: I wrote it down and sent it to him and yes, that's my understanding.

22 Scott Gast: The evening notes that the dinner is open. Do you know what the  
23 Stutzmans did for dinner that evening?

24 Chief of Staff: Let's see. I sent this on August 11<sup>th</sup>. At the time it was open. I don't think I  
25 know what they did. If someone sent me an email and said, "We had a  
26 nice dinner at this place," I don't remember it. I think that was to basically  
27 say there's an open spot. Either fill it personally or it's still open and there  
28 was still time -- in fact, up to this trip Laura was still back and forth with  
29 certain people to try to arrange meetings. There's emails to that effect.

30 Whether they came together or not is another. That was to let everybody  
31 know. In fact on this email, I'm aware of what is said, but that can always  
32 change. It's like going back to Indiana. There's open slots and you're  
33 trying to make everybody aware that there's open slots. At that point in  
34 time I'm sending it around to let everyone know there's an open slot. It's  
35 unfilled time.

36 Scott Gast: Do you know where the Stutzmans spent the night that evening?

1 Chief of Staff: I don't remember. It could have been Frank Luntz's house every night. I  
2 just don't know.

3 Scott Gast: Going on to Friday August 14th, the first entry notes that for Spouse and  
4 the children, the schedule's open. Do you know what Spouse and the boys  
5 did that day?

6 Chief of Staff: I do not.

7 Scott Gast: Mr. Stutzman's schedule, similar to the day before, he met with FR  
8 Consultant from LVH Consulting. Was scheduled to have a meeting with  
9 Governor Pete Wilson. Do you know if that meeting actually occurred?

10 Chief of Staff: I don't know if it did, but I seem to remember something going on with the  
11 scheduling between the two. Whether they ended up connecting on the  
12 phone. Something happened either while he was on the ground or very  
13 close to the trip after this email. When I sent this email that meeting was  
14 set as it was explained to me from Laura Van Hove, their team.

15 Scott Gast: Then it looks like he met with Dale Dykema, that afternoon. Do you know  
16 whether-

17 Chief of Staff: I don't. If that happened or didn't happen, I don't remember if it got  
18 cancelled. The Pete Wilson meeting sticks out as something that maybe  
19 had an interruption while he was on the ground or just before. I seem to  
20 remember some back and forth on that.

21 Scott Gast: For the four campaign meetings on the schedule for Thursday and Friday  
22 for Mr. Stutzman, did you get any kind of report after the fact how the  
23 meetings went, were they productive?

24 Chief of Staff: This as a while ago. Like I said, I don't remember. Laura could have sent  
25 me something that says, "These meetings went great or yes, we got ..."  
26 CC-ed me and sent something to the campaign manager and said, "I just  
27 had a great meeting we did. This was politically helpful and this could be  
28 a fundraiser as a result," but that wouldn't have been a regular thing for  
29 me to get. I want to say no, but I just don't remember.

30 Scott Gast: Aside from the four meetings on the itinerary, with the caveat that Pete  
31 Wilson may or may not have occurred, are you aware of other meetings  
32 that Mr. Stutzman had on those days?

33 Chief of Staff: I can't remember any meetings, but I may have been made aware of other  
34 meetings. I'm not sure. But no, I'm not aware of any, are coming to mind.

1 Scott Gast: It notes on the itinerary that they were to overnight at the Hilton Garden  
2 Inn - LAX El Segundo. Do you know whether that actually-

3 Chief of Staff: I'm not sure if they did that or not. This would have been -- again, this is  
4 way after the fact. This is how little I knew about the overnight  
5 arrangements. Besides checking on the Frank Luntz thing. This I don't  
6 know if he ended up either using this hotel or charging the campaign or  
7 not. In fact, that came up when we were, campaign team was going  
8 through this as this reporter was asking questions about it. I don't think  
9 they could find the charge, but I could be mistaken about that. I don't  
10 know if he stayed there or not is the answer.

11 Scott Gast: When you say when the campaign team went through-

12 Chief of Staff: They were dealing with a reporter who was asking about everything under  
13 the sun in April of 2015. This guy that wrote all these articles.

14 Scott Gast: Was it April 2015 or 2016?

15 Chief of Staff: April 2016. I apologize. Thank you for the correction. April 2016. They  
16 were not the campaign team at the time. They asked them, do you know  
17 anything about the trip. I seem to remember going through some of this  
18 and there being an open question on whether he stayed there or not. I don't  
19 remember what the result was.

20 Scott Gast: Again, it's an open dinner listed on there. Do you know what the  
21 Stutzmans did for dinner that evening?

22 Chief of Staff: It was free as of the time I sent the email and that's all I know right now.

23 Scott Gast: Moving on to Saturday, August 15th. It appears that that day began with a  
24 tour of Capitol Records. Was that official, campaign, or personal?

25 Chief of Staff: I don't know how he would characterize it. They have been on a trip  
26 before and been to Capitol Records with other Members of Congress and I  
27 believe that was the impetus of the congressman and his spouse wanting to  
28 go. He had been with some other Members before on a trip with the RSC.  
29 I don't know, maybe a couple of years ago. That's how it came up that  
30 they wanted to do that. Then Michael Landon, Jr., this lunch was  
31 described to me as a potential donor at one point. Whether that was before  
32 or after the trip, I'm not sure.

33 Helen Eisner: Described to you by whom?

34 Chief of Staff: The congressman.

1 Scott Gast: Back to the Capitol Records tour. You said you don't know how Mr.  
2 Stutzman would characterize it. Based on your understanding and the  
3 information that you had, how would you characterize it?

4 Chief of Staff: I can't remember who ... The Capitol Records tour, like I said, came  
5 about as a result of being on this Member trip and going there. I don't  
6 know what the purpose of going to Capitol Records was at that time. If  
7 there was policy discussed, if it was political, what it was. I didn't have a  
8 role or much of a role ... I didn't have a role in planning that previous trip.  
9 I assumed that this would have been a continuation of whatever is  
10 provided there. I don't know. I didn't really have a characterization of it to  
11 be honest.

12 Scott Gast: Let me share with you this email. If you want to take a look at that and see  
13 if it refreshes your recollection. For the record this is THMS-0413 to 0415.

14 Chief of Staff: I remember getting forwarded this email. I was obviously not on these  
15 original emails. It's simply just a forward from the spouse. Clearly  
16 planning something with the Capitol Records people. She was the contact  
17 with the Capitol Records people. That's why I don't know that much about  
18 what they did. When they're referencing this singing, my understanding  
19 was that was when they were with other Members at Capitol Records. The  
20 nature of that tour at that time I don't know what that was. Just as I don't  
21 really know the nature of the tour at Capitol Records.

22 I'm assuming I'm getting forwarded this because this is Christy trying to  
23 work, Mrs. Stutzman trying to work her part of the schedule. That's not  
24 the most common thing, but it's not uncommon either. Sometimes you  
25 push back on that. This was something she clearly had taken the reigns on,  
26 which is why I am not as informed about the purpose of the tour and the  
27 initial tour. I think I see later on it's referenced that they visited with  
28 Members of Congress; Congressman Scales, if she means Congressman  
29 Scalise, led the tour. This was a group tour. I didn't know enough about  
30 the previous trip to know what they did on that tour.

31 Scott Gast: In that email that you were just looking at, there's some references to the  
32 various laws, regulations, policies etc. that those in the entertainment  
33 industry deal with on a daily basis.

34 Chief of Staff: I see it, okay, now. Like I said, this was a forward. This very well could be  
35 the first time that I've really read the email.

36 Scott Gast: Please take a minute to look through it.

1 Chief of Staff: I don't think I realized the small reference to the guide, policy related to  
2 the arts. Maybe that's what they discussed on the previous trip. I don't  
3 know. I think she was forwarding me to say basically this is set up.

4 Scott Gast: Back to that initial email on the second page, she also references having  
5 "eight to ten people with us, most of whom would love hearing your  
6 perspective and understanding of the industry better." That seems to  
7 suggest some official purpose.

8 Chief of Staff: I don't know what it suggests. I really don't. I just don't know what it  
9 suggests.

10 Scott Gast: Were you aware-

11 Chief of Staff: When you talk about policy-

12 Cleta Mitchell: I just want to interject here for the record so that the transcript is clear that  
13 Chief of Staff was not part of this discussion. He was not copied on the  
14 initial emails and only at, it looks as though, at the end of a chain of emails  
15 it was forwarded to Chief of Staff. You're asking him to speculate about  
16 Mrs. Stutzman and the people at Capitol Records. I just want to put that,  
17 that's clear for the record because ...

18 Chief of Staff: I'm trying to answer in a number of different ways that I was getting  
19 forwarded this after clearly it was being planned.

20 Scott Gast: In your position in the official office, did the official office have any nexus  
21 to this tour?

22 Chief of Staff: Not that I know of? I don't think so. If there was any coordination with the  
23 schedule perhaps, logistics, but that would have been it. It would have  
24 been getting to and from and it really would have been in relation to the  
25 Member. I don't even know if the Member was on this trip. I guess he was  
26 planning to go on it. Not that I know of or remember. I don't think there  
27 was a nexus there. I certainly wasn't setting up or I certainly was not  
28 setting up official trips during a campaign travel. I would not have  
29 initiated that.

30 Scott Gast: Spouse referenced initially eight to ten people coming. Later, she says six  
31 to eight people. Do you know who ...

32 Chief of Staff: I don't but it's very possible ... If she had handed off something to our  
33 scheduler to cement in the calendar, finish it off and arrange it, or just  
34 make sure they have contact information or something like that, I might  
35 have been CC-ed or something that somebody asked, but there were a lot  
36 of emails about this trip. A lot of which things I didn't initiate or have to

1 do with or was planning directly trying to put all this together. On this  
2 particular one I had, not that I know of, but it's possible that someone, like  
3 our scheduler might have said, "They're going to be here at this time and  
4 they can arrive then."

5 Mrs. Stutzman may have ... I don't know if she did this or not, but may  
6 have handed that off for the scheduler to just make sure didn't interfere  
7 with anything else that potentially could be on the congressman's schedule  
8 at the time, which sometimes she did which is helpful because then you  
9 don't run into conflicts. I don't know if that occurred. I don't remember if  
10 that occurred or not.

11 Scott Gast: We referenced this, the next item on the itinerary was this lunch with  
12 Michael Landon, Jr. You said that Mr. Stutzman may have described his  
13 as a potential donor to you at some point.

14 Chief of Staff: At one point, before or after, I'm not sure when.

15 Scott Gast: Did you have an understanding of whether this was a political, personal,  
16 official lunch?

17 Chief of Staff: Like I said, I believe I was told that he was a potential donor before the  
18 trip, but again, I can't fully remember that and he would have just told me  
19 that.

20 Scott Gast: Do you recall learning anything after the fact about how...

21 Chief of Staff: I don't. Like I said, if I got some feedback, I may have gotten feedback  
22 occasionally but it would have been intermittent. I wasn't in charge of  
23 fundraising or directly related to fundraising. I've seen that and I didn't  
24 pore through FEC reports to check.

25 Scott Gast: Do you know who paid for the lunch?

26 Chief of Staff: I don't.

27 Scott Gast: The final item on the itinerary that day is dinner on the Queen Mary. Are  
28 you familiar with that?

29 Chief of Staff: I think that is part of the constituent travel trip. That was another thing that  
30 he did that day. I think I may have been mistaken earlier when I thought  
31 both of those were in the same day, the Reagan Library and the Queen  
32 Mary, but I'm familiar with that, mostly because there was an invoice after  
33 the fact that needed to get paid. Somebody needed to get paid for it, the  
34 travel company or something like that. There was a general question on  
35 how it was paid for, is it constituents, etc. I was running the traps with the

1 treasurer to make sure if there was something he needed to do personally  
2 just out of an abundance of caution or whatever, that he did it personally.  
3 The congressman just asked me to look into it, basically to ask if the  
4 campaign could pay for it. The answer from the treasurer was no and I  
5 believe he paid for personally.

6 Helen Eisner: Who was the treasurer that you're referring to?

7 Chief of Staff: Chris Marston. He's been his treasurer for all of his campaigns I think, or  
8 most of them.

9 Scott Gast: What was the rationale for the request to have the campaign pay for it?

10 Chief of Staff: I don't know.

11 Scott Gast: Did Mr. Stutzman explain why he asked you to see if the campaign could  
12 pay for it?

13 Chief of Staff: No, but it wasn't an insignificant amount of money. In his mind he may  
14 have thought he was ... politicking, he was meeting with voters that are  
15 also constituents. I don't know where his head was at, it was moving very  
16 fast, asked me to look into it. The answer comes back with a pretty long  
17 explanation on why not, which is all I needed to know. I thought, "You  
18 can't pay for it with official, so you need to pay this with personal  
19 money."

20 Scott Gast: Let me show you this email exchange which ... I'm sorry.

21 Chief of Staff: We're going to stick with the itinerary here, too?

22 Scott Gast: Yes. We'll get through that. This for the record is THMS-0441 to 443. If  
23 you want to take a minute to look at that.

24 Chief of Staff: I'm familiar with this exchange.

25 Scott Gast: Is this the exchange that you referenced about Mr. Stutzman asking you-

26 Chief of Staff: I believe it is.

27 Scott Gast: I want to direct your attention to the second page. Actually, starting on the  
28 first page, Campaign Manager emailed you, "How is this at all a campaign  
29 expense, taking the family to the Reagan Library?" Let me ask you, is it  
30 correct that the invoice was both for the dinner on the Queen Mary and for  
31 the tour charges at the Reagan Library?

1 Chief of Staff: That's my recollection. I'm not looking at it, but it was 700 and something  
2 dollars, sticks out in my head. That's because I was getting, for whatever  
3 reason, and I don't think I was the appropriate person to be asking, the  
4 travel agent was asking for his money. I was trying to get that taken care  
5 of.

6 Scott Gast: Then later Campaign Manager notes that his anger is not directed at you:  
7 "This is ridiculous though."

8 Chief of Staff: This is September. If I can just give you a little context.

9 Scott Gast: Please.

10 Chief of Staff: Mr. Del Toro resigned in October. At this point, probably a  
11 communication breakdown between, this is an assumption, between the  
12 campaign and the Member. I think just general frustration. The campaign  
13 manager, I think this illustrates the role of the campaign manager which is,  
14 all of these things -- they're all possible -- went to the campaign manager  
15 to litigate with the Member on what should be spent and how it should be  
16 spent.

17 Scott Gast: You note then in response to that, "We have a spending and a revenue  
18 problem."

19 Chief of Staff: That was sort of a joke. It was done in jest. It related to just overall  
20 campaign expenses, whether it's staff and something else. It's Hill speak,  
21 too, which is not raising a lot of money, but a lot of money flowing out.  
22 Obviously we know what the legal answer was or at least Chris Marston's  
23 not a lawyer, but from the treasurer, which is really what I was getting at.  
24 Brendon and I know each other. He's trying to say, "I'm not really mad at  
25 you." I'm saying, "I completely understand, but I also know you're  
26 worried about these expenses." He's keeping an eagle eye on these  
27 expenses. That's not an insignificant expense for any campaign.

28 Scott Gast: Was the spending problem that you reference here, did that include in any  
29 way a concern about spending on inappropriate-

30 Chief of Staff: No, that wasn't a reference to that, but there's a lot of spending on a  
31 campaign and not all of it is in the control of the campaign manager. I  
32 assume that's an inside reference to the fact that there's exorbitant  
33 spending on all campaigns. This email chain is an attempt for me at the  
34 request of the Member to make sure that there was not any inappropriate  
35 spending in the sense ... I got an answer back from the treasurer. I  
36 conveyed it to the congressman and he paid personally for this particular  
37 expense.

1 Helen Eisner: You mentioned that this is something that you've seen in a lot of  
2 campaigns, spending/revenue issues?

3 Chief of Staff: No, it's just something in the general knowledge of campaigns. Everything  
4 is about how much money you have and how much money you have left  
5 to spend on things.

6 Helen Eisner: In this email chain you refer to it as a problem. Why is it a problem?

7 Chief of Staff: Let me just say this. That was in jest and I really wouldn't read very much  
8 into that. It was really more of an inside between Brendon and myself, not  
9 to indicate anything inappropriate, but to say, "Not raising a lot of money"  
10 and we both probably thought the request for a campaign to pay for this  
11 was not campaign expense, but I'm running the traps for the Member. It's  
12 not my job to figure out the campaign expenses. That's why it's going  
13 over to the campaign manager for him and the treasurer to ask because I'm  
14 not authorized to charge the campaign that kind of money. We needed a  
15 straight answer on it. He's just frustrated that it's even getting asked in the  
16 first place. This is somebody who's in charge of the budget and trying to  
17 make sure they have money to win a race, that he resigned two weeks  
18 later. There's some issues there potentially.

19 Scott Gast: I think you had characterized this earlier as, "We can't pay for it out of the  
20 campaign. We can't pay for it out of official. It's got to be personal." Do I  
21 have that correct?

22 Chief of Staff: That's maybe what I said. I think basically it's the only other way this  
23 person could be made whole, is personal, if it couldn't be official or  
24 campaign.

25 Scott Gast: Could the reimbursement come from the Member's Representational  
26 Allowance, the MRA?

27 Chief of Staff: I don't believe so. I know he's never asked me to check and I ... I just  
28 wasn't asked to check and frankly didn't think to check. I had already  
29 been getting harassed by this person for a while to get this invoice paid.  
30 This would have been a month after and this person's running a business. I  
31 didn't ask or I didn't call down to House Administration or something like  
32 that. I didn't think about it in that context. I thought about this as either a  
33 political trip with some personal expenses that were carved out to be paid  
34 appropriately and that's it. I didn't think of it as a strictly official event. I  
35 never characterized it that way to anybody.

36 Scott Gast: One other line in the email between you and Campaign Manager I want to  
37 ask about. He mentioned that he still needs the money for the flight for the  
38 boys. What was that reference to?

1 Chief of Staff: Maybe I can back up a little?

2 Scott Gast: Sure.

3 Chief of Staff: As it pertains to the California trip is what he's referencing. At the time  
4 that he had ... he authorized the flights to be booked for himself, his wife  
5 and boys. I believe it was June 12th and on June 12th he authorized that.  
6 At that point he had a national fundraiser, campaign manager, general  
7 consultant, campaign team, all aware of this trip and the national  
8 fundraiser was planning this trip, these other events.

9 We go through this process. He goes on the trip and at some point before  
10 this email obviously, and after the trip, I believe the general consultant and  
11 campaign manager come to DC and they basically say ... More of an  
12 optics thing but just ... This was one big campaign meeting, moving to the  
13 Fall. Essentially say, "This one doesn't look so good for the boys." I don't  
14 know if they ever really had a straight answer on how the flights were  
15 supposed to be paid for based on the characterization of the trip, but they  
16 thought out of an abundance of caution this needs to be discussed.

17 Where I left it with Brendon, he's not really asking me because I'm  
18 charged with getting the money from the congressman for the trip. It was  
19 really when I talked to him and the general consultant, they needed to talk  
20 to the Member and explain why the campaign couldn't pay for it. If they  
21 truly came to the conclusion, the campaign could not pay for the boys,  
22 then they needed to work with the candidate to figure out how to unravel  
23 that.

24 Like I said, I'm not an FEC attorney, I'm not charged ... I very  
25 infrequently had to go to the FEC and at a Member's request to ask  
26 something, but I always point, and this is a perfect instance, where I'm  
27 asking the treasurer what is the deal with this particular expense. When  
28 asked I'm going to go to the people that are paid to do it on that side of  
29 things. I'm just not the right person to answer the question.

30 But he's referencing ... Their belief was that they should reimburse the  
31 boys. Whether that was because of a legal thing or whether it was because  
32 the optics. I tend to remember it because of the optics. We were going  
33 through opposition research. They had done opposition research on the  
34 candidate and said, "Where are our weak spots? Let's clean this up." He  
35 announced in May. Even though it looks like a lot has happened since then  
36 they really hadn't done a full vetting on the candidate. This was one issue  
37 that just came up.

38 I said, "You guys handle it with the candidate, one to help foster a little  
39 more communication." It didn't really work out very well, but between

1 them I didn't like being the buffer on this thing. This wasn't a ... That's  
2 what that was in reference to, the boys' California trip.

3 Cleta Mitchell: Let me point out here, you have a copy of this because you asked for this  
4 and it is in the record. I can give you the numbers of the documents, but  
5 you did talk to the FEC about this-

6 Chief of Staff: I'll go back on that. On June 11th, between June 11th or June 12th, I was  
7 asked to check on whether boys can go on political trips. I don't remember  
8 if I was asking specifically about this trip, but the timeline seems to  
9 suggest I was. Going through a fact pattern, I was only calling the  
10 congressional relations person because I told the Member that's the only  
11 contact with the FEC I have. She's not an enforcement individual. This  
12 isn't a lawyer. I talked to her on the phone, a woman named Amy Pike. I  
13 think sometime that day or maybe the day after she sends me an opinion  
14 that she was relying on for whatever advice she had given me. I conveyed  
15 that to the Member but with some caution.

16 Cleta Mitchell: What did it say?

17 Chief of Staff: It was an opinion that seemed to suggest that the boys' trip could be paid  
18 for by the campaign in this instance. At least that's what she said she was  
19 relying on when we were talking on the phone. I either gave it to the  
20 congressman or emailed it to him. I doubt I emailed it to him. I bet I gave  
21 it to him and said, "Look, I only called the congressional relations  
22 division, but here is this opinion. This is what she was relying on. I gave  
23 her the fact pattern. This is now on your ..." Again, he's authorized to  
24 make the call, but that was in many faxes that I obtained before the flight  
25 was purchased for the boys and the only thing I was asked to do about it  
26 prior to that.

27 Scott Gast: We do have those documents.

28 Cleta Mitchell: Yes.

29 Scott Gast: Back to, you said, in an effort I guess to foster communication, you  
30 suggested the Member and the campaign manager, consultant, discuss this.  
31 What was the ultimate resolution?

32 Chief of Staff: I don't fully know. I don't know other than I don't believe it had been paid  
33 for. My understanding was that was supposed to be arranged before  
34 Brendon left. That was one thing he was going to finish and handle. One  
35 way or another tell him, examine it with an attorney and with your  
36 treasurer and find out whether it's the real thing or not, because what I ... I  
37 showed it to Brendon and to Brooks. I said, "I am not an FEC person. This

1 is what the congressional relations people went to and here it is. Why isn't  
2 this correct?"

3 Scott Gast: Just so I'm clear, was there a decision made to reimburse the campaign at  
4 that time?

5 Chief of Staff: I believe there may have been a decision to reimburse by the campaign  
6 team at some stage. For what reason I don't know. If it was optics ... I  
7 found out later on there's a bunch of different opinions of what is the  
8 predominant purpose of a political trip and what can be paid for and what  
9 cannot. All I know is what I went to go fetch, which is this FEC opinion  
10 that was the basis of the opinion given to me by congressional relations. I  
11 related to the Member and then he subsequently asked the campaign to  
12 book the flights for the boys and the ...

13 Scott Gast: Fast forwarding to April of this year when the reporter started asking  
14 questions. There was some information that suggested that Mr. Stutzman  
15 reimbursed his campaign for the airfare of the two children and the  
16 spouse. Did that happen at that time?

17 Chief of Staff: I don't know if it was for the spouse. I don't remember what the decision  
18 was. He made the decision obviously to reimburse the campaign  
19 potentially in attempt to kill the story, not because he was told he was ...  
20 what he had to do legally. It was happening very fast and it was mostly  
21 with the campaign and the treasurer, but somebody advised him that you  
22 need to just reimburse because we can't have this story. I don't know when  
23 it was in April. It was a couple of weeks before the election. I don't know  
24 what the calculus was there. I don't know if it was for the spouse. I  
25 thought it was for the boys. Maybe he did the spouse as well again for  
26 optics. I don't know the reason.

27 Scott Gast: My question is as to the timing, the boys' airfare was not reimbursed in  
28 September when you had this email conversation?

29 Chief of Staff: Like I said I don't know. My assumption was it had occurred. My  
30 assumption that it was going to be discussed between ... Let me put it that  
31 way, not that it had occurred, that it was going to be discussed between the  
32 campaign manager and maybe the general consultant also, although I don't  
33 know if he was still around at this point, to resolve. Whether they had  
34 emails or something back and forth I just, I don't remember being  
35 involved in an email where he's saying, "Pay for the boys. This is not  
36 appropriate." Certainly wasn't before he went on the trip and everyone  
37 was aware of the trip. The campaign people were. Sorry, that's as much as  
38 I remember.

1 Scott Gast: Getting back to the schedule. We're almost through. Moving on to Sunday  
2 August 16th. This appears to be a tour of the Reagan Library with Pat  
3 Miller's group and lunch under Air Force One. We talked about this in the  
4 context of the invoice that you received from the tour company. Was this  
5 tour, based on your understanding, an official, campaign or personal  
6 activity?

7 Chief of Staff: I don't know. I really don't know. There were constituents on there. I  
8 wasn't asked to characterize it for official because I wasn't trying to figure  
9 out if the MRA could pay for it. I didn't characterize this trip in its totality  
10 because the people driving the schedule, this was the national fundraiser.  
11 We were giving them open days and they were responsible for filling in  
12 those days with political things, fundraising things. This was with voters  
13 and constituents on a boat. Then he paid for his share personally, finally  
14 after the trip, when it was invoiced.

15 Scott Gast: To your understanding, was there any official component to this tour?

16 Chief of Staff: Other than constituents being there, not that I knew of, but there are  
17 constituents there. It's the only way I would draw a nexus between this  
18 group and the congressman's official duties. I don't think I was looking at  
19 it as an official travel.

20 Scott Gast: Was there a political aspect to the tour?

21 Chief of Staff: There may have been. I don't know what happened on the tour or how it  
22 was discussed. The radio host is a political commentator. He's a political  
23 show and has political views in line with the congressman's. I don't know  
24 how he characterized it. I wasn't there to see what occurred.

25 Helen Eisner: Scott, if you don't mind.

26 Scott Gast: Please.

27 Helen Eisner: Who were the constituents who were on the tour?

28 Chief of Staff: I only found out after the fact, after your data request, having to ask the  
29 travel agent who was there. I was told there were going to be constituents  
30 on the trip and I think most were all going to be constituents. The list was  
31 handed over.

32 Cleta Mitchell: You have that.

33 Chief of Staff: To be honest I don't even know if I've looked at it, but there were  
34 constituents on there I think-

1 Helen Eisner: So when you received, introduced the list, was that the first time that you  
2 learned that there were constituents-

3 Chief of Staff: No, I would have known that there were constituents on the trip in October  
4 and November because the fact pattern was given to me. There would be  
5 constituents ... October of 2014. There were constituents going out,  
6 wanting to go on a trip with a radio host, wanting to arrange this trip.  
7 Congressman's name and his spouse's name would be used for advertising  
8 at that point again. To remind you, I called Ethics. The answer was no. We  
9 didn't discuss the Pat Miller trip in my memory until the next year.

10 Helen Eisner: What communications, I understand the timeline for when you learned  
11 about constituents, but what communications did you have with the  
12 constituents prior to the trip?

13 Chief of Staff: Just the leader of the group or the person that I understood to be the leader  
14 of the group was Pat Miller and with the travel agent if nothing to  
15 coordinate the schedule or what they're doing. This would have been  
16 closer to the actual trip. The congressman could intersect with the  
17 constituents if it worked with the political schedule that Laura Van Hove  
18 was setting up. If it didn't work then that was ... The understanding with  
19 the congressman was, "Okay," but I think they were going to try to make  
20 it work.

21 Helen Eisner: What about with any other member of the staff? Did those constituents  
22 have any type of contact, besides Pat Miller, with any other member of  
23 your staff?

24 Chief of Staff: The travel agent might have had some contact with our scheduler who  
25 was, like myself, putting a lot of this stuff together. I think they went to  
26 her. This I don't think was not necessarily the right person to go to if you  
27 wanted the campaign to pay for it, but they went to the scheduler.  
28 Somebody gave them her name. Just needed the invoice paid. So if that  
29 counts as a constituent. I don't believe the travel agent went on the trip.  
30 Again, I haven't looked at that list close enough to know. Pat Miller was  
31 the leader of the group.

32 Scott Gast: Just to finish up on the schedule, Monday August 17th, according to the  
33 itinerary the Stutzmans were to visit the Reagan Ranch.

34 Chief of Staff: When is that? Sorry.

35 Scott Gast: On Monday, August 17th.

36 Chief of Staff: Yep.

1 Scott Gast: Based on your understanding, was that an official, a personal or campaign  
2 event?

3 Chief of Staff: I don't know, the group that organizes it, what their designation is. I think  
4 this offer had been made to the congressman, an open offer, as they do for  
5 some Members of Congress to tour the Reagan Ranch. I was asked then to  
6 get a hold of those individuals to see if they could go on that tour.

7 Helen Eisner: Stop the recording?

8 Scott Gast: We'll take a break here. We'll pause the recording.

9 [BREAK]

10 Scott Gast: For the record, this is Scott Gast with Helen Eisner and Konstantine  
11 Kastens of the OCE, with Chief of Staff and his counsel Cleta Mitchell.  
12 When we left you were explaining that there had been an open offer to Mr.  
13 Stutzman to visit the Reagan Ranch and that you had been asked to reach  
14 out to the Reagan Ranch folks to arrange a tour.

15 Chief of Staff: Correct.

16 Scott Gast: Who asked you to arrange the tour?

17 Chief of Staff: The congressman.

18 Scott Gast: Do you know who attended the tour?

19 Chief of Staff: I do because I think at some point there was a forward of a final list very  
20 close to the event and it was the Member ... They keep it limited to  
21 members in their immediate group or whatever. I believe it was the  
22 Member, I could be wrong, Member, boys, the Davidsons, and maybe  
23 somebody else. I don't know.

24 Scott Gast: And Spouse?

25 Chief of Staff: Yes.

26 Scott Gast: She attended?

27 Chief of Staff: Yes.

28 Scott Gast: Do you know if there were any expenses associated with the trip?

29 Chief of Staff: I don't know.

1 Scott Gast: Okay. Having gone through this itinerary now -- and obviously later that  
2 day the Stutzmans flew back to Indiana, or back to Detroit -- are you  
3 aware of any other events or activities that the Stutzmans engaged in that  
4 aren't reflected?

5 Chief of Staff: Not aware of any.

6 Scott Gast: I want to ask you about Spouse 's participation in the events. Back in April  
7 of this year when there was some reporting on this trip in the news media,  
8 the campaign manager at the time, Josh Kelley, had explained that  
9 Stutzman's wife and sons attended some campaign events with him and  
10 that the whole family attended at least one campaign dinner. Spouse  
11 attended other campaign meetings as well. Do you know which events  
12 Spouse participated in?

13 Chief of Staff: I do not.

14 Scott Gast: Do you know which event Mr. Kelley was referring to when he says the  
15 whole family attended at least one campaign dinner?

16 Chief of Staff: They may have been ... He may have, and I don't know this ... The press  
17 was really ... The response to the press was dealt with by the Member and  
18 his campaign manager at the time, so what he was referring to I'm not  
19 sure. What he could have been referring to was the dinner on the first  
20 night, potentially. Again, I don't know what was, just looking at this  
21 itinerary, I don't know or don't remember what was filled in for certain  
22 dinners or what she would have attended. I didn't get a lot of feedback  
23 after the fact on what she went to line-by-line. It's just not something we  
24 would have done.

25 Scott Gast: When the idea for the trip first came up, were there any discussions in  
26 which you were involved about whether Spouse or the children would join  
27 Mr. Stutzman on the trip?

28 Chief of Staff: I don't remember, although, it definitely was ... When I was asking Ethics  
29 about the advertising in October or November of 2014, in that isolated  
30 question, I at least knew it would have been Christy because I was asking  
31 about whether they could advertise for the congressman and his wife for  
32 the trip itself. This was an exploratory thing where they were trying to  
33 figure out if there was something, a trip that they were going to do, any  
34 way that they could participate in. That's how I would characterize that  
35 initial question about the trip. I don't remember the boys coming up. They  
36 do travel with their sons and pay personally for their sons where it's

1 appropriate in a variety of instances so it wouldn't have surprised me that  
2 kids would have been in the discussion, I just don't remember it being  
3 discussed. I didn't raise that with Ethics and I don't think it was asked of  
4 me to raise it with Ethics.

5 Scott Gast: We somewhat touched on this earlier but were there any discussions about  
6 the appropriateness of the campaign paying for the wife or the children  
7 prior to the trip?

8 Chief of Staff: I don't remember that.

9 Cleta Mitchell: Now wait a minute. Are you asking him whether there was discussion  
10 about whether it was appropriate for the campaign to pay?

11 Scott Gast: For the expenses of Spouse and the children.

12 Cleta Mitchell: We've already had a discussion about this. He called the FEC. He talked to  
13 Amy Pike. He'd sent the advisory opinion. You have it.

14 Chief of Staff: And that was, as I said before, that was the extent of my investigation into  
15 that particular question. Which was really the boys and the spouse, but that  
16 particular fact pattern with the congressional relations division person.

17 Scott Gast: Conversations with Mr. Stutzman?

18 Chief of Staff: I don't remember. Nothing that would've said it was inappropriate but  
19 obviously had a discussion because he asked me. He wanted to do it ... He  
20 thought it should have been, if it's a political trip and they're participating,  
21 they should have been able to do it. I didn't know the answer so he said,  
22 "Who could you call over that you know?" I knew one person over there  
23 that I'd ever worked with before, was Amy Pike, so I went to Amy Pike.  
24 Then I showed him what she relied on. The extent of the discussion after  
25 that I don't know. I probably would have said ... I don't know what I said  
26 after that, but nothing to say that it was inappropriate just that maybe I  
27 didn't know the entire answer. I'm not an FEC attorney.

28 Scott Gast: When I talked to you a little bit about who paid the expenses for the trip,  
29 we talked about the airfare for the family. Did the campaign pay for the  
30 airfare for anyone else to attend this trip? Let me note, with FR  
31 Consultant, I believe it is, from LVH consulting, aside from her, did the  
32 campaign pay for anyone else?

1 Chief of Staff: Not to my knowledge. Again, I wasn't going through the expense reports  
2 at the end of the quarter at FEC. I didn't know if anybody else was being  
3 paid.

4 Scott Gast: Any family friends? The Davidsons, for example?

5 Chief of Staff: Like I said, I didn't know about the Davidsons until very close to the trip  
6 and nothing came across my desk or I think our scheduler's desk to  
7 execute flights on the campaign for the family friends at the Member's  
8 request.

9 Scott Gast: Are you aware of who paid for the vehicle rental during the time in  
10 California?

11 Chief of Staff: I believe the campaign but I'm not entirely sure of that. I think, after going  
12 through the records at the request of the reporter, that was who paid for the  
13 ... The campaign paid for the vehicle.

14 Scott Gast: There is an email that suggests that Mary Wells was asked to find a rental  
15 car that would hold at least six people. Do you know who the six people  
16 were that were meant to travel in the rental car?

17 Chief of Staff: I don't know.

18 Scott Gast: Okay.

19 Chief of Staff: I could assume but I don't know.

20 Scott Gast: Were there any discussions about who should pay for the rental vehicle  
21 prior to the trip?

22 Chief of Staff: The only thing I tried to make sure, and this is what I've tried to do and  
23 hopefully the emails bear this out, and there's a question about the rental  
24 car ... Congressman wanted to reserve the rental car, didn't want to lose it,  
25 and our scheduler was trying to make sure that the logistics got taken care  
26 of. There was a fear, I don't know if it was the congressman's, whatever,  
27 they were going to run out of rental cars. She makes the reservation then I  
28 instruct her that this needs to get passed over to the campaign with the  
29 understanding they need to figure out the payment. But the reservation  
30 was made. After that, I don't know what happened with the rental car but I  
31 know that after the fact it was paid for by the campaign.

32 Scott Gast: Okay. I want to talk about the reimbursement that Mr. Stutzman made for  
33 certain expenses around this time of April of this year.

1 Chief of Staff: Okay.

2 Scott Gast: We referenced this a little bit. It sounds as if a reporter contacted the  
3 campaign, the congressional office, whoever it may be, and was asking  
4 questions about this campaign spending on this trip. Can you tell us about  
5 the discussions that you had after the reporter contacted ...

6 Chief of Staff: Some were with our attorney so I don't know if I can...

7 Scott Gast: Aside from your conversations with your attorney.

8 Chief of Staff: It would have been conversations just with the congressman or with Josh  
9 and maybe the treasurer and maybe my awareness that they were thinking  
10 of having him reimburse to try to kill the story. There was a healthy  
11 discussion back and forth from a lot of different parties about whether he  
12 needed to or not. The question with the need was really surrounding as it  
13 pertained to kind of the press calculus. The campaign ... These calls were  
14 all fielded by Josh. I never spoke to the reporter. I don't know the reporter.  
15 I don't know if the congressman spoke to the reporter. That was the  
16 decision that was made by the ... So I knew he was going to be  
17 reimbursing. The decision had been made to reimburse for something as it  
18 pertained to flights. Like I said earlier, I don't remember if it was the  
19 spouse and the kids or ...

20 Scott Gast: How were those expenses identified? Why reimburse those expenses  
21 versus, for example, the rental car...

22 Chief of Staff: You'd have to ask the treasurer. I think they had pretty detailed discussions  
23 with the congressman and I think, again, because of the nature of the  
24 questions from the reporter, that was how they reacted to the payment. He  
25 was willing to pay. It was very close to the election and it was more of a  
26 timing thing than anything. As far as trying to ... I think he ... I don't know  
27 what he thought but I think the idea was, when these discussions were  
28 occurring, that personal payments would put the story behind you as it  
29 pertains to the other legal aspect. It wasn't ... There was a characterization  
30 of the trip that made some of it problematic for the treasurer.

31 Scott Gast: And you are not sure which expenses were ...

32 Chief of Staff: You said the spouse and the boys. It could have been that out of an  
33 overabundance of caution and I think in later stories they may have said,  
34 "I tried to just do the most that I could." Whether that was the right thing  
35 or not. Tried to do the most he could do so there was no appearance of

1                               impropriety. I think that's what they ended up deciding on. Christy's flight  
2                               could have easily been reimbursed, I just don't remember. But if that's  
3                               what they said that's probably what occurred.

4    Scott Gast:                Is it your understand that that reimbursement has been made?

5    Chief of Staff:            It's my understanding.

6    Scott Gast:                Okay. I want to ask you briefly about an event at the time of Mr.  
7                               Stutzman's birthday in 2015. Are you aware of such an event?

8    Chief of Staff:            Okay. Yeah. A political event?

9    Scott Gast:                I believe so. What is your awareness of ... First of all, when is Mr.  
10                              Stutzman's birthday?

11   Chief of Staff:            I'm not even sure.

12   Scott Gast:                Roughly.

13   Chief of Staff:            I think it's in August. It's around this trip or maybe it's at the end of  
14                              August.

15   Scott Gast:                Okay.

16   Chief of Staff:            There is an event he does, almost every year I think. It's a political event, I  
17                              believe, and my guess is that'd be no different in the Senate campaign.  
18                              They do a political event.

19   Scott Gast:                What is the event?

20   Chief of Staff:            I think it's a fundraiser or a small dollar thing where the community  
21                              comes. Kind of a grass roots. At least that's how it had been in the past or  
22                              my understanding of it. I've never attended. It was usually arranged to just  
23                              have families all meet on a farm somewhere. I think they've had it at  
24                              different locations around the state. It's really ... It may be a fundraiser but  
25                              I don't think that's the primary purpose. It's to get a bunch a people, kind  
26                              of grass roots stuff, and they used his birthday as the hook I think.

27   Scott Gast:                There was some suggestion that concerns were raised about the campaign  
28                              paying for airfare for the family to fly from DC to Indiana to attend this  
29                              event. Are you aware of concerns expressed about that?

30   Chief of Staff:            No. Like I said, the only thing I would have looked into as it pertains to  
31                              political travel, would have been my question with the FEC. In asking a

1 similar question about California, but Indiana would fall in that category, I  
2 guess.

3 Scott Gast: Did anyone raise concerns with the campaign spending on airfare for the  
4 family with you?

5 Chief of Staff: They might have. Just like you saw the emails with Brendon. They may  
6 have said, "What is this?" because the Member was making the decisions  
7 on the travel. The Member was making a lot of decisions and there's  
8 clearly there was maybe some frustration there. They'd probably go to me  
9 to vent but nothing that I was necessarily going to do about it.

10 Helen Eisner: If anyone raised concerns, who would that have been?

11 Chief of Staff: If anyone would have raised concerns about spending?

12 Helen Eisner: About this particular event. You said there might have been someone and  
13 they would've gone to –

14 Chief of Staff: It could've been ... Whoever was ... Brendon was the campaign manager at  
15 the time. He may have said this ... Why are we paying for the boys? They  
16 ... The campaign manager, as I understand, is supposed to look after the  
17 money and make sure there's not needless expenses. Not inappropriate but  
18 needless and trying to hold onto that money. When the Members start  
19 making unilateral decisions, that's when I think they get frustrated.

20 Helen Eisner: What conversations did you have with Campaign Manager about this  
21 particular event?

22 Chief of Staff: I don't remember a bunch, but there might have been in emails or  
23 something where –

24 Cleta Mitchell: If you don't remember, don't guess.

25 Helen Eisner: Let me just clarify. You said you don't remember a bunch. Do you  
26 remember one?

27 Chief of Staff: No, I don't remember having a discussion about it, but it was a campaign  
28 event that had to go on the schedule. Most schedule items that were  
29 happening back in Indiana on the campaign I would've talked to Brendon  
30 about. I just don't know about the flights.

31 Scott Gast: I want to move on to a couple other areas, hopefully much briefer than the  
32 California trip. The first is the employment by Mr. Stutzman's

1 congressional campaign of his brother-in-law Gabe Rivera. Do you know  
2 Mr. Rivera?

3 Chief of Staff: I know him.

4 Scott Gast: Are you familiar with his work for the campaign?

5 Chief of Staff: I'm familiar.

6 Scott Gast: How did it come about that he was hired by the campaign?

7 Chief of Staff: I'm not sure. I did not have anything to do with his hiring.

8 Scott Gast: Do you know who did?

9 Chief of Staff: No.

10 Scott Gast: What was his position when he was hired?

11 Chief of Staff: His position, to my knowledge, was finance director.

12 Scott Gast: Do you know when he was hired?

13 Chief of Staff: I do not. I believe he was there when I arrived in the official office in  
14 2010, but I'm not sure.

15 Scott Gast: Do you know who his predecessor was?

16 Chief of Staff: No. I don't know if there was one. Like I said, I don't remember who it  
17 was. I wasn't involved with the campaign at that time.

18 Scott Gast: Are you familiar with Mr. Rivera's experience, background,  
19 qualifications?

20 Chief of Staff: No.

21 Scott Gast: Generally...

22 Chief of Staff: I was only privy to his work as the finance director and what that entailed.

23 Scott Gast: What generally were his responsibilities as finance director?

24 Chief of Staff: Like I said, I wasn't responsible for the hiring or managing campaign staff,  
25 but my understanding is he did the fundraising for the congressman at a  
26 set period of time. When he got hired, I don't know, and arranged  
27 fundraisers and was the single point of contact for all the campaign

1 finance operations. He would've coordinated with the treasurer and done  
2 what the finance director does.

3 Scott Gast: Was this a full-time position?

4 Chief of Staff: I believe so.

5 Scott Gast: What was your impression of how he carried out the responsibilities?

6 Chief of Staff: I don't think I'm in a position that I could characterize how he did his job. I  
7 think that's all very dependent on the Member's performance as well,  
8 particularly in the finance position, how willing are they to do calls, et  
9 cetera, et cetera. He's a nice guy. He worked hard. He was responsive  
10 when I needed to know when is he going to be at this event, or what's he  
11 going to do. That was a very small amount of time that I would have had  
12 any significant interaction with him on that, to understand how he did his  
13 job.

14 Scott Gast: At any point during the time where you and Mr. Rivera overlapped, did  
15 you have any concerns with the fundraising done by the congressional  
16 campaign?

17 Chief of Staff: I might have, but everybody has fundraising concerns. You never have  
18 enough.

19 Scott Gast: Did you have any concerns specifically with Mr. Rivera's performance?

20 Chief of Staff: I might have. I don't think so. I had no more, no less, that I remember, than  
21 anybody else. Just all personalities, and sometimes it's easier to judge from  
22 the cheap seats, but no, not that I remember. He's a nice guy and hard  
23 worker.

24 Scott Gast: Were you aware of his compensation that he received?

25 Chief of Staff: Not really. I would've been aware of the transition, when he was  
26 transitioning, and this was under a different chief of staff, but he was  
27 transitioning off the campaign at some stage. I would've been probably  
28 looped into those emails with the treasurer and maybe the chief of staff at  
29 the time, but that would've been the real overlap. No overlap while I was  
30 chief of staff with Gabe Rivera and his employment on the campaign, at  
31 least I didn't think he was employed with the campaign at that time since  
32 May of 2014, which is when I was made chief of staff.

33 Scott Gast: Did you have a sense of whether his compensation was reasonable, was on  
34 the higher end, lower end...?

1 Chief of Staff: Here's what I can say about that, and this is only because I know how we  
2 set up, how the campaign had set up the successor to him and her salary.  
3 Her salary was based on ... It had a lower base salary, I believe, than Gabe  
4 Rivera; however, it was higher incentively. I don't know if Gabe's contract  
5 was as well, but I don't believe it was to that extent.

6 Helen Eisner: Why not?

7 Chief of Staff: I don't know the answer to that. I think the person that we hired had been  
8 with some other campaigns and probably had a different arrangement she  
9 wanted to strike with the campaign and the Member and the candidate. I  
10 just can't guess on that.

11 Scott Gast: Why did Mr. Rivera leave the campaign?

12 Chief of Staff: I'm not entirely sure. I'm not entirely sure.

13 Scott Gast: Do you know what he went on to do after he left the campaign?

14 Chief of Staff: I know he is involved in running a bridal operation, bridal shop in  
15 Fredericksburg which is where, I believe, they reside. I haven't had a lot of  
16 interaction with him, so I don't know what other ways he makes money, if  
17 there are other ways.

18 Scott Gast: Was the departure from the campaign amicable, was there ...

19 Chief of Staff: There was a transition, and the transition lasted two or three months. He  
20 has been there since Marlin had started so to download all of that  
21 information and the people that ... His successor was from the Indianapolis  
22 area which is where I'm from. Congressman's district, of course, is in  
23 northeast Indiana. Takes a while to get to know the personalities, the  
24 people. That transition occurred, and then he left. What he went on to do  
25 after that, I don't know, but he's doing it. The bridal shop is what I'm  
26 aware of as something he was doing for employment.

27 Scott Gast: Did you have discussions with Mr. Stutzman about Mr. Rivera's  
28 performance?

29 Chief of Staff: I may have had discussions about general campaign fundraising, but I  
30 would've had the same discussions about his successor and just general  
31 performance where it was helpful and where he asked for it. I gave him  
32 suggestions on where we can improve if there were things to improve on,  
33 particularly because it affected a realm I was involved in, especially when

1 I was chief of staff -- NRCC, other fundraising things that he wasn't  
2 initially responsible for but helped him think through if that makes sense.

3 Scott Gast: At any time were there discussions about his status as a relative of a  
4 candidate, of Mr. Stutzman?

5 Chief of Staff: There might have been. I haven't worked in a lot of offices and certainly  
6 haven't been involved with the finance director in those offices. I wasn't  
7 with my previous office. I wasn't in a position that had that awareness.  
8 There could have been. Don't remember.

9 Scott Gast: At any point did you have a concern that Mr. Rivera was not performing  
10 up to the level of his compensation, that he was being overcompensated  
11 for the work he was performing?

12 Chief of Staff: I'm not sure I did. I think that everybody from time to time has questions  
13 about performance, but I doubt I ever said this person is so overpaid, why  
14 are we doing this? I don't think I would've drawn those two things  
15 together, but you can always do better in fundraising, so I said the same  
16 things about his successor in private discussions with the congressman.

17 Scott Gast: Your opinion was he qualified for the position?

18 Chief of Staff: I think he was. I think he knew the Member, and I think he knew the area  
19 well and, to my understanding, he had come off of his most recent  
20 congressional campaign, and that's a qualification in and of itself because  
21 you know the treasurer, you know the mechanics, and you know the  
22 people, the main people, the people who are raising you money. A large  
23 part of that job is relationships, and if you have relationships with the  
24 donors then that's a helpful thing, and it's hard to teach.

25 Scott Gast: I was just a little confused. You said he came off of the congressional  
26 campaign?

27 Chief of Staff: I meant no longer working for the congressional campaign. He worked for  
28 the congressional campaign only. He worked for his previous U.S. Senate  
29 run maybe. I don't know when he started, but he worked for the  
30 congressional campaign while I was in the official office for some period  
31 of time. Two or three years.

32 Scott Gast: You believe he worked for Mr. Stutzman's first Senate campaign?

33 Chief of Staff: I don't know the answer to that, but it's possible. I don't know who did the  
34 fundraising at that point.

1 Scott Gast: I want to ask you another subject: the use of a private aircraft by the  
2 Senate campaign. There was some reporting about the use of a private  
3 aircraft in March of 2016 and whether or not there was the appropriate  
4 accounting with that. Are you familiar with the use of the private aircraft?

5 Chief of Staff: I am.

6 Scott Gast: What was the reason for using the private aircraft?

7 Chief of Staff: As it was explained to me, the reason was they had a scheduling conflict  
8 on the campaign side. They had two events, and they weren't going to be  
9 able to make both of them.

10 Scott Gast: Both campaign events?

11 Chief of Staff: Yeah.

12 Scott Gast: How did the idea of using a private aircraft come up?

13 Chief of Staff: I don't remember exactly how I came across it. It was either the campaign  
14 manager and/or the Member wanting me to ask about it. I immediately  
15 raised a red flag about it. This would've been in March of 2016, and at that  
16 point my first answer is no because I always operated under the rule that I  
17 didn't even know there was a scenario where there was an exception that  
18 you could do it. I said I'm not ... It came across my desk very, very late. I  
19 think it was very close to whenever they ended up taking the trip.

20 I then called Sarah, a counsel in the Ethics office. I talked to her. She said  
21 there is a very narrow exception which I was surprised to hear. That was  
22 about it. She sent me a follow up email confirming with a colleague that  
23 that was the case, but it was very narrow. I then conveyed to the treasurer,  
24 who was also surprised there was even an exception, and the campaign  
25 manager, and the exact details of the conversation I don't remember, but I  
26 remember the tone with the campaign manager.

27 First of all, it was very, very close to the trip, and I didn't feel comfortable  
28 ... One, I wasn't responsible for knowing the rules, but I was asked to run  
29 it down. I didn't feel comfortable that everybody was on the same page.  
30 Unless they could get on the same page, my advice was don't take the trip.  
31 For all I knew at that point, I didn't know they had actually taken the trip  
32 because of some of the conversations I had following my discussion the  
33 same day I finished my conversation with the counsel.

1 I was running the traps on the Ethics stuff and then passing it onto the  
2 treasurer and the campaign manager, Josh Kelley, at the time. That was  
3 March. We didn't really talk about private planes at all until April where I  
4 got an email. I don't know when it was. It was in mid-April, after this  
5 reporter starts asking us, so past mid-April. This is the campaign manager,  
6 cc-ing the Member and me and saying, "Look, you can do this." He had  
7 Googled something, and he sent some law firm's report about it.

8 Some of this stuff I looped our attorney on, so I can't go into too much  
9 detail but I did suggest, apart from any of the legal stuff, was that this is  
10 just a bad idea. You're already going through all this press. Why even do  
11 it? Optics. Why would you do this anyway if you don't have a clear  
12 answer? I also just thought it was a little ridiculous that he was sending me  
13 things he had Googled in April about a private plane. It was at the end of  
14 the campaign. There's no reason to push it.

15 Scott Gast: After consulting with Ethics, did you relay that information?

16 Chief of Staff: I did, I forwarded it to Josh Kelley and to the Member and maybe also to  
17 our attorney ... At that time, I asked for very specific detail, Code and  
18 everything, forwarded it on, what the exception was. Because what I  
19 wanted to do is take it out of Ethics' hands and say, "OK, here are the  
20 ethics rules and only in this very narrow set of circumstances, if you  
21 reimburse the FEC correctly, does this work." So I sent that on, this is for  
22 the April discussion, they decided not to take that flight in April, the April  
23 flight that came up under discussion. This is separate, apart from the  
24 reporter asking about it afterwards, the March flight afterwards.

25 Scott Gast: I was a little confused; your consultation with Ethics and forwarding this  
26 on, this was prior to the March flight?

27 Chief of Staff: Two times I talked to Ethics. First time I talked to Ethics was on very  
28 short notice. I caught wind, I saw on an email that was forwarded from the  
29 Political Director that there was something about a flight. I don't know if I  
30 called the campaign manager or I called the Member and said, "What is  
31 this?" We had not dealt with private planes, at least nothing had been put  
32 in front of me for the entire campaign, or ever really since I've been in the  
33 position. This seemed odd to me. So I call, I said, "I need to talk to Ethics,  
34 you guys cannot do this until I talk to Ethics, and at least figure out if it's  
35 possible." I kind of knew it wasn't possible, so it was a "no, but" situation.  
36 So I called Ethics, the counsel, this is in March, maybe a day or two before  
37 the event, the event in question, that he took it, when he took the flight.

1 I got some information on the phone, she sent a brief email back. I didn't  
2 ask for anything following up because really I didn't want them to take it  
3 at all, I thought it was too short notice. The event they were trying to go to  
4 didn't strike me as worthwhile. If you don't have all your I's dotted and T's  
5 crossed. So I conveyed that to the Treasurer, I looked back, I called the  
6 Treasurer, I called the campaign manager to convey those things and that's  
7 all I was assigned to do on the Ethics part. He was back in Indiana for  
8 doing campaign stuff.

9 Scott Gast: And the flight actually was taken?

10 Chief of Staff: I learned after the fact that it was taken.

11 Scott Gast: Who found the plane?

12 Chief of Staff: I don't know the answer to that.

13 Scott Gast: You don't know how that was arranged?

14 Chief of Staff: The gentleman that owns the plane is a State Rep. Everybody knew the  
15 State Rep. I didn't have any communication with the State Rep on this  
16 issue at all. It could have been the Member, could have also been the  
17 Campaign Manager, could have been both, could have been the Political  
18 Director, I have no idea.

19 Scott Gast: You don't know who made those ... Do you know what the arrangements  
20 were?

21 Chief of Staff: No. I know that at one point the Political Director sends over the schedule  
22 and says what they think the arrangements are. At that point I'm running  
23 traps with Ethics and then conveying that to the Treasurer and to the  
24 Campaign Manager. Like the day before or something like that.

25 Scott Gast: The flight was from Indianapolis to Lake County and back?

26 Chief of Staff: That's my understanding.

27 Scott Gast: Do you know who was aboard the flight?

28 Chief of Staff: I don't.

29 Scott Gast: Then it appears a reporter started asking questions about this in April  
30 2016, of this year and the Campaign Manager informed you that he's  
31 asked the campaign to pay an invoice. Do you recall that?

1 Chief of Staff: I recall talking to the Campaign Manager after they told me that he took  
2 the flight. At that point I ... I don't think it had registered that he had taken  
3 the flight in March so all this stuff was new to me. They actually executed  
4 the private plane flight after I had this discussion about the ethics.

5 Clela Mitchell: What was your understanding from what Ethics told you?

6 Chief of Staff: My understanding was that you can do it if you process it properly. And I  
7 have documentation from the counsel's office that backs that up, per my  
8 April inquiry as well.

9 Scott Gast: Fast forward to when the reporter called...

10 Chief of Staff: Called the Campaign Manager.

11 Scott Gast: Called the Campaign Manager and you were made aware of the inquiry.  
12 Had the payment for the flight been processed at that point?

13 Chief of Staff: I don't know. But I suspect not.

14 Scott Gast: What was the discussion prompted by the reporter's inquiry then?

15 Chief of Staff: I don't know, like I said I was never on the phone or ... I may have been  
16 made aware of what the Campaign Manager thought the reporter was  
17 asking, but I was never directly in contact with the reporter.

18 Scott Gast: Let me show you this email, and see if this refreshes your recollection.  
19 This is, for the record, THMS-0751-0752. In that initial email, it looks like  
20 Josh Kelley emails you that he's instructed Marston, the Campaign  
21 Treasurer, to "Pay Speedy based on the two estimates I got from private  
22 charters prior to this flight." So is it your understanding that at the time  
23 this inquiry was made the payment had not been made?

24 Chief of Staff: That's what it looks like.

25 Scott Gast: Are you familiar with these two estimates that Mr. Kelley was referring  
26 to?

27 Chief of Staff: Not really. He was doing this with Mike Speedy and with the treasurer,  
28 because the FEC part of that ... That's why I call the Treasurer either first  
29 or right after the Campaign Manager, after I got an answer from Ethics  
30 that they need ... The crux of the exception is that you actually reimburse  
31 it according to FEC rules. That's not my purview, so at that point that's  
32 why I called the Campaign Manager and Treasurer, they need to hammer  
33 out how they do that. But in the ... When I was talking to them about the

1 March flight, in my mind, it was much more of, "We don't need to do  
2 this," versus really explaining the rules in April.

3 Scott Gast: Right. Did you have a discussion at the time Mr. Kelley sent this email  
4 about why the –

5 Chief of Staff: I'm sure we did.

6 Scott Gast: About why the payment hadn't been made?

7 Chief of Staff: No, I don't believe so.

8 Scott Gast: Do you know why the payment hadn't been made?

9 Chief of Staff: No. I'll just back up and this is the extent of my conversations with the  
10 campaign team about the March flight that's reported on. It was ... I either  
11 caught it or I was asked to call Ethics very close to the event. I called  
12 Ethics, I have email back from Ethics confirming that timeline. I then  
13 called the Campaign Manager and the Treasurer to let them know this is  
14 so narrow of an exception. Unless you can figure out the FEC part of it, I  
15 don't want anything to do with this. And I said, call our attorney. I may  
16 have even said the same thing to the Member, I just don't remember. I  
17 went back and looked though, I did call the Treasurer and the Campaign  
18 Manager after an itinerary was sent that had a private plane on it.

19 Scott Gast: And then fast forward to the inquiries from the reporter. No discussions  
20 that you recall about why hadn't this been paid yet?

21 Chief of Staff: I may have had a discussion on the phone. I don't ... I wasn't in ... Like I  
22 said that was the extent of the conversation I had about the March flight,  
23 and I ... Not entirely sure I knew they had taken that flight.

24 Scott Gast: At the time of the reporter's call though, you were aware that they had  
25 taken the flight?

26 Chief of Staff: Yes, after talking to the Campaign Manager and the Member. Because I  
27 was trying to figure out ... I wasn't aware of how he knew about it or what  
28 or –

29 Scott Gast: Did they tell you why the payment hadn't been made yet?

30 Chief of Staff: No. I mean if they did I ... I don't know.

31 Scott Gast: Did you have an understanding of why it hadn't been made at that point?

32 Chief of Staff: No.

1 Scott Gast: And then Mr. Kelley says he instructed the Treasurer to pay; do you know  
2 what amount was to be paid?

3 Chief of Staff: I don't, and I also don't know what period of time he's referring to as far as  
4 "I have instructed Marston." I don't know if that's past tense, concurrently,  
5 whatever.

6 Scott Gast: Do you know that if the use of the private plane has been paid for at this  
7 point?

8 Chief of Staff: I don't know the answer. I think so.

9 Scott Gast: Given that you don't know for sure, were there discussions about whether  
10 that was going to be paid as an in-kind contribution from the owner of the  
11 plane, or as a direct disbursement from the campaign?

12 Chief of Staff: Just picking up conversations between the Member and the Campaign  
13 Manager, there was a question as to how it's reimbursed and how the ...  
14 the pilot ... how he was structured. So what is the company? Was it a  
15 private plane? I guess FEC rules ... And this is why I was handing this off.  
16 FEC rules are different so part of the exception when I called Ethics it  
17 really hinges on the FEC thing, getting that right. That's why there was  
18 probably a back and forth that I picked up on, on how they reimburse it.  
19 I'm sure I talked to Josh once and him saying something like "I got an  
20 invoice," or something that's market value. I said, "As long as it gets, it's  
21 done according to FEC rule. But this was on the payback discussion, this  
22 wasn't to take the plane.

23 Scott Gast: Okay. Aside from this March flight and the April flight that was discussed  
24 but not taken, are you aware of other instances in which the campaign has  
25 used private aircraft?

26 Chief of Staff: I'm not aware of any.

27 Scott Gast: Okay. Final topic I want ask you about briefly, mileage reimbursement  
28 from both the MRA and the campaign. When Mr. Stutzman travels in his  
29 district does he usually drive himself? Does he have someone drive him?

30 Chief of Staff: He usually has somebody with him. It's either ... Depends on what it is and  
31 what the event is. More and more a campaign would have campaign  
32 people with him at least at the event.

33 Scott Gast: When they would travel do you know what vehicle would generally be  
34 used?

1 Chief of Staff: He uses his personal vehicle for most recently and for the campaign I  
2 believe they've most recently used a Chevy Tahoe or something he had  
3 purchased, either just before the campaign or just after he started the  
4 Senate campaign.

5 Scott Gast: I understand that the congressional campaign had purchased and owned a  
6 vehicle itself, is that correct?

7 Chief of Staff: That's my understanding, yeah.

8 Scott Gast: What was that vehicle?

9 Chief of Staff: It was some other type of SUV, I don't know what it was exactly.

10 Scott Gast: And we understand that the campaign has gotten rid of that?

11 Chief of Staff: Yeah that was ... They had gotten rid of that before the congressman  
12 bought a personal vehicle. He didn't want ... I don't know what the reasons  
13 were, I think that he just wanted to have a personal vehicle and have that  
14 off the campaign ledger. A campaign vehicle that is.

15 Scott Gast: And how did the campaign get rid of it?

16 Chief of Staff: I don't know, it was done, it was moved, the Treasurer figured it out and I  
17 don't know how he did that, how they sell it back or whatever.

18 Scott Gast: When the campaign owned the vehicle did the type of travel then lead to a  
19 change in the vehicle used? For example, if he was travelling to a  
20 campaign event would Mr. Stutzman use the campaign owned vehicle ...

21 Chief of Staff: Yeah.

22 Scott Gast: Versus if he was travelling unofficially?

23 Chief of Staff: I didn't deal with the campaign owned vehicle very much because the  
24 campaign owned vehicle was owned ... I mean I don't know even know if  
25 it was owned when I was ... It may have been owned when I was Chief of  
26 Staff, but it never would have been used on the Senate campaign, not to  
27 my knowledge. So there wouldn't have been that instance, it was just his  
28 personal vehicle ... To my knowledge it was a personal Tahoe or  
29 something, SUV they were driving around.

30 Scott Gast: And this is post or around –

31 Chief of Staff: This is post-Senate.

1 Scott Gast: The time of the Senate announcement?

2 Chief of Staff: Correct.

3 Scott Gast: Over the last two years... we've reviewed some of the mileage  
4 reimbursement requests that Mr. Stutzman has submitted. First to MRA,  
5 and he's received several thousand dollars. Do you review the MRA  
6 reimbursement requests?

7 Chief of Staff: I'll tell you how we do our MRA process in the office and this is, I'll be  
8 specific as possible. We have a Finance Administrator who deals with  
9 finance. She's been there since the Congressman started in office. So she's  
10 carried over through two Chiefs of Staff and then for me. So she's ...  
11 There's some continuity there. I deal most directly with district staff  
12 reimbursement. That goes first through our District Director to confirm  
13 that it was indeed, matches up with some official event they're doing, just  
14 an extra failsafe for me, doesn't always happen the right way. I have to go  
15 back and ask what stuff is for, but it's a pretty decent process and I try to  
16 be very thorough about that. Then I will submit those to the Finance  
17 Administrator. I wanted the district staff thing as much as possible just so I  
18 could see, mostly so I could see what people were doing in the district for  
19 official ... I'm not in the district all that often.

20 Scott Gast: Does it go through the District Director to you?

21 Chief of Staff: It is supposed to, and it didn't always. Some people were not adhering to  
22 that and I either send it back or ... I'd look at it myself and I knew enough  
23 about the district calendar to say, "Yes, this is an official event," and then  
24 we can send it on to finance.

25 Scott Gast: And then you send it the Finance Administrator?

26 Chief of Staff: Then I send it to the Finance Administrator and all the vouchers, like any  
27 invoice, a phone bill or something, come back and I review them so I can  
28 review the budget and keep track of cash flow and that kind of thing. But I  
29 do that in conjunction with our finance person.

30 Scott Gast: And how does it work for reimbursement requests submitted by  
31 Representative Stutzman?

32 Chief of Staff: It's a little different. Ultimately I am ... I help with the MRA but if he is  
33 submitting, let's say a car trip from the airport to something else in a  
34 personal vehicle in the district, he'll submit it often times to our scheduler  
35 and she'll just do the leg work of filling the form out, just as you would as

1 a staff member fill a form out and sign it. It would go to Myrna, that's our  
2 Finance Administrator. Then I would see... What I see on the back end is  
3 the voucher mostly. My understanding is, I know this because I filled it  
4 out as staff, not as staff but I've seen these things go out which is point A  
5 to point B this ... What I was seeing mostly was the vouchers, but I did  
6 see, from time to time I would see the ...

7 Scott Gast: Supporting documentation?

8 Chief of Staff: Right, supporting documentation.

9 Scott Gast: You said "mostly."

10 Chief of Staff: Just mostly because sometimes it would go right to Myrna. I'd be out of  
11 the office or something like that, it would go to Myrna and then I would  
12 see the voucher on the back end. Mary just kind of helped, kind of moved  
13 things along. Congressman might ask, "Where's my reimbursement for  
14 this?" And she'd move it through.

15 Scott Gast: Mary being Mary Wells.

16 Chief of Staff: Sorry, yeah. Mary Wells, the scheduler.

17 Scott Gast: In reviewing the reimbursement requests for Mr. Stutzman, did any  
18 requests ever raise red flags with you?

19 Chief of Staff: No. Most of our disagreements, not disagreements but just challenges, our  
20 relationship has been talking to House Administration about flights. Just  
21 trying to explain ... You don't always get a straight answer from the  
22 Committee on Ethics. Sometimes I'd call down there, I'd get one answer. I  
23 call him, he'd ask me to call back, same fact pattern. I talk with somebody  
24 else, I get a different result and in that instance we still err on the side of  
25 caution. Sometimes I had to put him in front of whoever is making these  
26 decisions so they can, not so much explain why, but explain it, why this  
27 other individual said he could and you're saying he can't. We really tried to  
28 be ... In those instances where you're able to catch something, that's before  
29 you purchase a flight. You try to be, I try to be the buffer there and make  
30 sure that –

31 Cleta Mitchell: House Administration or House Ethics?

32 Chief of Staff: It depended, House Admin for MRA and travel but also Ethics sometimes.  
33 It depended what you were asking, and they're very good about shipping

1 you back and forth. If you have just a strictly MRA question or if it's kind  
2 of a mixed deal that –

3 Scott Gast: What were the questions that you would bring to them –

4 Chief of Staff: Here's one example, which is, let's say you have a recess week and you  
5 have official business back and forth in between that recess week.

6 Clela Mitchell: Back and forth between what?

7 Chief of Staff: Between DC and the district. What's ... I don't know all the possible  
8 reasons or what they characterize as official so often times I'm calling  
9 down there to say "Is this official? Does this ..." And they'll always give  
10 you a wishy-washy answer but I try to wait for them to say yes until we  
11 execute on a flight. That's usually when there's an open question between  
12 the Congressman and myself, and I'm usually on the side of ... I'll look  
13 into it but I just don't know.

14 Scott Gast: Back to the reimbursement requests that Mr. Stutzman would submit. At  
15 any point did you have to go and have to seek additional information or  
16 have questions about mileage that he submitted for reimbursement?

17 Chief of Staff: Not that I can remember, and maybe that's because the way our process is  
18 set up, but I really think that I really looked at them, maybe more in depth  
19 since we've turned in the requests to you all. A lot of that was done prior  
20 and plus a lot of the reimbursements weren't a lot of official  
21 reimbursements for 2015, 2016 by the nature of the campaign, in relation  
22 to the campaign. Most of the flights he was taking were campaign. If  
23 you're going to the southern part of the state and not stepping foot in your  
24 district it's at least a campaign trip, but it certainly isn't official. That's  
25 where we would talk about things. If that helps.

26 Scott Gast: Sure. It looks like Mr. Stutzman will drive between DC and Indiana?

27 Chief of Staff: He has occasionally driven, I wouldn't say it's most of what he does, but  
28 he has driven, I think, since he's been in office occasionally back and  
29 forth.

30 Scott Gast: And why is that?

31 Chief of Staff: I think one, because ... I don't know if he needs a car there or he has his  
32 family there and they need multiple cars and he needs to be able to get  
33 around, I'm not sure. I also think there is no direct airport, I also think he  
34 just likes driving, and he likes, I just think he likes driving. Most often

1                    though when it came to our official calendar and trying to get him to  
2                    events, we'd almost always fly because timing doesn't always work to  
3                    drive and have a car. He'd have to make do, and he had a home there.

4    Scott Gast:        Let me just ask you, are you aware of any times where Mr. Stutzman may  
5                    have submitted mileage reimbursement for mileage that he didn't actually  
6                    drive or that ...

7    Chief of Staff:    No.

8    Scott Gast:        Was excessive or that was otherwise inappropriate?

9    Chief of Staff:    No. Not that I know of. Every trip that he took I released, I could have  
10                    looked at least on the calendar that he, he would have been able to take it,  
11                    or he took it.

12   Scott Gast:        I believe those are all the questions that I have.

13   Helen Eisner:      I just have one question and this goes back a bit. Something that you  
14                    mentioned when we were going through the calendar of events for the  
15                    California trip. And this goes to the Universal Studios day on August 13th.  
16                    And you talked about something that you might remember involving Pam  
17                    mentioning filming of something?

18   Chief of Staff:    I just think they were doing, I think that the spouse, Christy Stutzman, was  
19                    working on things once they got to the park on what they could, what they  
20                    were going to do. I don't know if there was a filming going on that they  
21                    just wanted to take a peek at. I'm not sure what they actually ended up  
22                    doing on any of these trips. My primary involvement was to make sure  
23                    that they paid personally for that and not do anything inappropriate. She  
24                    didn't really know the rules so when I could catch something like that, I  
25                    did.

26   Helen Eisner:      So this was a filming that they observed or attended, but not something  
27                    that involved ...

28   Chief of Staff:    I don't know if they attended, like I said I don't know who attended ...

29   Helen Eisner:      Just for clarification ...

30   Cleta Mitchell:     He just said he doesn't know.

31   Helen Eisner:      OK, I'm ...

1 Cleta Mitchell: You keep trying to speculate about things where he said he doesn't know,  
2 he wasn't there, he doesn't know.

3 Helen Eisner: Well, I'm trying to clarify, so if he doesn't know that's a perfectly  
4 appropriate answer.

5 Cleta Mitchell: It is appropriate –

6 Helen Eisner: You had mentioned something earlier, I think I needed some clarity on it,  
7 if you do know the answer, happy to get that. If you don't that's fine too.

8 Chief of Staff: I said everything I remember which is that there may have been some  
9 arrangement of a filming inside of the timeline they were at Universal  
10 Studios but my primary involvement was to make sure that they paid  
11 personally for the tickets for the Studio.

12 Helen Eisner: OK. Understood.

13 Scott Gast: And just to clarify, there were discussions about them possible attending a  
14 taping? You don't know whether that actually happened or not?

15 Chief of Staff: I think so.

16 Scott Gast: You think so.

17 Chief of Staff: Yeah, I think so.

18 Scott Gast: OK. Is there anything else that you think would be helpful for us to know?

19 Chief of Staff: Cleta's going to tell me not to say anything, so I guess I'm not going to say  
20 anything.

21 Cleta Mitchell: I don't mind you saying anything, just don't guess.

22 Chief of Staff: Yeah, any time I said "I think I don't remember" I really truly tried to say I  
23 don't remember, but if other questions come up I'm glad to cooperate and  
24 tried to be, particularly with the MRA, extremely careful when questions  
25 arise on the official spending, I've tried to ask those questions. I think  
26 there are logs in Ethics and House Administration that prove that. Thank  
27 you.

28 Scott Gast: We appreciate your time and sitting down with us, we'll go ahead and end  
29 the recording.

30

# Exhibit 3



John Hammond &lt;[REDACTED]&gt;

## Trips & Questions

1 message

John Hammond <[REDACTED]>  
 To: Marlin Stutzman <[REDACTED]>  
 Cc: Mary Wells <[REDACTED]>

Thu, Jan 29, 2015 at 12:59 PM

Marlin:

Here are a few updates on trips and some questions:

### (1) Indiana (February 8-9th)

-February 8th is IU Game

-February 9th in the morning you said there were personal items you wanted to get done in Howe

**QUESTION:** The first thing I have scheduled is the speech to the ABC group in 1pm at Ceruti's. Do you want to schedule a donor lunch at 11:30pm in Fort Wayne and a possible meeting at 3pm before you head out (flight leaves FW at 4:45pm)

### (2) Florida - NRCC (February 13-15)

-Only point to make here is that once you give your \$100,000 check on February 3rd you are all paid up for March Dinner and fully eligible to attend. I'll have the check to give you before Conference on the 3rd.

**QUESTION:** Do you still want to not do activities? No cost for you but costs for the family.

### (3) Vancouver (February 16-19th)

**-QUESTION:** if NRCC has donors (US Citizens) that live in Vancouver, would you be willing to do meetings or do you want to leave that entire trip personal? It would probably be only one or two meetings if at all.

### (4) Club for Growth (February 27-28th)

-I am having JohnO prepare some talking points once we have a better idea of the topic panel. It will be on economic freedom. The Governor will be there that same day to keynote the lunch.

### (5) Miami (March 8-10)

-after talking with Mario's political staff this morning, I'm confident we will have a breakfast or lunch fundraiser in Miami on either March 9th or 10th.

**-QUESTION:** We will look up flights that leave Tuesday, March 10th (late afternoon or early evening) that get you to Indianapolis and Christy back to DC. Sound good? This way we can start figuring out hotel pricing, etc.

### (6) Indianapolis (March 10-12)

**-QUESTION:** Are you ok with leaving out of Indianapolis around noon on Thursday, March 12th? Want to stay at Hilton downtown?

-We can talk on Monday about the Indianapolis trip but it will likely include the following:

\*Now a series of meals with legislators (3 at a time)

\*Donor meetings (Doug Bowen, Auto Dealer event?, Brian Cardinal, Salins, etc)

\*Possible fundraisers set up by Amy S.

### (7) Berlin (March 27-April 3)

**-QUESTION:** Is it possible Can you do the personal day on the back end of your trip? While you definitely would have to pay for the front end personal day (Frankfort to Berlin aifare plus hotel room), there is a chance that on the back end, you might not have to pay for airfare from Berlin to Frankfort. Before I check with Ethics and the travel agency we need to know if there is flexibility still. Thanks. [MARY ALREADY TALKED TO YOU AND WE WILL FOLLOW UP WITH OPTIONS]

**(8) Indiana (April 7-9)**

-Silent No More event on April 7th in Kosciusko County

-**QUESTION 1:** Do you want to fly out on April 7th making the first event the Silent No More event in the evening?

-**QUESTION 2:** Can we have April 8th be our big district fundraiser. If I can set this date in stone Amy Stansfield can start working on a venue, hosts, etc.

**(9) Indiana - LaGrange County Lincoln Day (Thursday, May 7)**

-**QUESTION:** Do you want us to RSVP you to the LaGrange County Lincoln Day? You are not in session this day.

-At the request of the county chair I reached out to Pat Miller to request that he speak. Pat said he can do it so I will follow up with them.

**(10) California (Third Week of August)**

-Pat Miller's part of this trip looks very likely to happen on August 14-17th. Talked with him this morning. We should know more next week. They will be in touch with Reagan Ranch this week and will build out the rest of their agenda accordingly. We should talk about what you want to do politically when you are out there.

###

# Exhibit 4



John Hammond <[redacted]>

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**California part two - dates**

2 messages

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**John Hammond** <[redacted]> Tue, Feb 17, 2015 at 10:15 AM  
To: Marlin Stutzman <[redacted]>, Christy Stutzman <[redacted]>  
Cc: Mary Wells <[redacted]>

Marlin & Christy-

The political trip we are planning for August revolves around Pat Miller's trip as well. They are looking at plugging you into the agenda (still up in the air) on Sunday August 16th and August 17th. We can work the rest of your travel around these dates so long as they work for your personal calendar.

If you both could let me know if these dates work as soon as possible then I can get back to the trip organizers and begin to plan the political part of the trip.

Thanks,

John

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**John Hammond** <[redacted]> Wed, Feb 18, 2015 at 10:38 AM  
Draft To: Marlin Stutzman <[redacted]>, Christy Stutzman <[redacted]>  
Cc: Mary Wells <[redacted]>

Marlin-

Just checking back in on this. I have been called numerous times by Pat's travel agent and would like to get him an answer when

[Quoted text hidden]