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“No African Americans take to the streets in protest to demand Whites to love us more. We demand a behavior change!” Rev. George C. Gilbert, Jr.

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John Roberts' Wife Made Millions From Elite Law Firms, Major Companies: Whistleblower Docs



"It almost makes you wonder whether the Supreme Court of the United States is suffering a massive, systemic ethics crisis," said one critic.

By Julia Conley

A whistleblower from the legal recruiting firm Major, Lindsey & Africa says Jane Sullivan Roberts, the wife of U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts, was paid \$10.3 million in commissions over seven years from her job as a headhunter at the company, where she placed attorneys with law firms—including at least one that argued a case before the Supreme Court after the placement was made.

Sullivan Roberts was paid the money between 2007 and 2014, having taken a job with the company two years after her husband was confirmed to the Supreme Court, according to a report out Friday from *Business Insider*.

The whistleblower, Kendal Price, said in a sworn affidavit in December that he believed "at least some of [Roberts'] remarkable success as a recruiter has come because of her spouse's position."

Price's complaint was reported on earlier this year by *Politico* and *The New York Times*, and *Insider* published new documents regarding the case.

"When I found out that the spouse of the chief justice was soliciting business from law firms, I knew immediately that it was wrong," Price, who worked alongside Sullivan Roberts from 2011-2013 at Major, Lindsey & Africa, told *Business Insider*. "During the time I was there, I was discouraged from ever raising the issue. And I realized that even the law firms who were Jane's clients had nowhere to go. They were being asked by the spouse of the chief justice for business worth hundreds of thousands of dollars, and there was no one to complain to. Most of these firms were likely appearing or seeking to appear before the Supreme Court. It's natural that they'd do anything they felt was necessary to be competitive." *Insider* noted that a spokesperson for the Supreme Court told *The New York Times* in a prior statement that all nine of the court justices are "attentive to ethical constraints" and obey federal financial disclosure laws.

However, Price's whistleblower complaint was released weeks after *ProPublica* reported that Justice Clarence Thomas financially benefited for years from gifts from Republican megadonor Harlan Crow, and sold

property to him—none of which was previously disclosed to the government as is required by law.

Earlier this week, *Politico* revealed that days after his confirmation, Justice Neil Gorsuch sold his share of a property to the CEO of a major law firm—and disclosed the sale, but not the buyer. Sullivan Roberts' \$10.3 million commission at her legal recruiting firm was listed as "salary" on Roberts' financial disclosure forms. "The balance of Roberts' income did not come at a steady rate from a single employer, as 'salary' suggests," reported *Insider*. "It was paid by the deal and based on a sizable cut of her clients' salaries—a compensation model which varies from year to year depending on her ability to capitalize on her network. The ultimate sources of her income were the firms hiring Major, Lindsey & Africa-backed candidates. Their identities and the specific amounts that they paid Roberts for her services remain unknown. "Price called the justice's characterization of his wife's commissions "misleading." "Characterizing Mrs. Roberts' commissions as 'salary' is not merely factually incorrect; it is incorrect as a matter of law," Bennett Gershman, a law professor at Pace University, wrote in a memo supporting Price's claims. "The legal distinction between these terms is clear, undisputed, and legally material. If the chief justice's inaccurate financial disclosures were inadvertent, presumably he should file corrected and amended disclosures." Considering the recent reports on Gorsuch and Thomas, court observers suggested the latest news is more evidence that the Supreme Court is "suffering a massive, systemic ethics crisis."

"What's the public confidence in a system," asked Joshua Dratel, an attorney for Price, "when the firms which are appearing before the court are making decisions that are to the financial benefit of the chief justice?"

Julia Conley is a staff writer for Common Dreams.

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Excerpt from the article "The Sweet Sixteen"



By Arthur Ward

Family: This is the point at which the establishment of our reparational due has to transition from cosplayers, politics, and emotionality to cold historic empiricism – riding on objectively conclusive calculations finalizing with a substantive end.

Evanston, IL and no other “local reparations” scheme has, can, or will accomplish this. Housing is an understandable target for local atonement regarding municipally committed circumscriptions, deprivations, and direct harms of various kinds. But – in a reparations environment – every entity targeted for eventual recompense being extracted, that extraction must come to a comprehensive conclusion. Mere housing assistance, something that should only be done in an “equity” environment should NEVER in any way be intentionally mislabeled as “reparations” and mercilessly “sold” as such to an unjustified, uninformed, and very hungry constituency.

Any organization that lays this trick bag on the public will in time be perceived as dirty cajolers and open swindlers. You must know what you are looking at, Family. Politicians that accept the flatteries of those corrupt organizations and

implement their fraudulent suggestions could be perceived as either full idiots or willfully corrupt themselves. Once that targeted electorate figures things out? Oops!!!

Back to a comprehensive conclusion. One cause can generate a multiplicity of effects. Those effects land where they land. And far reach where they eventually reach. *There*. And in the case of Black exclusion, diminution, and traumatization – comprehensive conclusions born of exhaustive examinations are the only correct ends. With direct cash payments. Understand? Ends that run far deeper and wider than *nearly symbolic acts of local atonement*. Far deeper than the mere dragging of a defendant into a courtroom to institutionally adjudicate a tort or injury claim.

Far more than questionably fair hearing and ambiguously just recompense. And quoting the quote from above: “*Finally, NAARC is extensively engaged in providing assistance to and certifying municipal, local, and state reparations initiatives utilizing the milestone Evanston Reparations Initiative, which was certified by NAARC, as a flexible replicable model.*” OK? “Flexible?” “Replicable?” A “certification?” Attached to what authority? A “model?” What? Where else is this working? The Evanston reparations sh*t scheme is something that even legislatures whose members possess *the lowest* straight-to-hell moralities and commit *the highest* prosecutable levels of corruption – should be too embarrassed to replicate. Point Blank.

As far as handling Reparations at ANY level; I would trust Rachel Dolezal to provide better expertise than Kamm Howard. I would have a higher confidence of trust with Bernie Madoff than Robin Rue Simmons. That’s what we’re dealing with.

“The National African American Reparations Commission (NAARC) is comprised of leading African American activists, scholars, professionals, and experts in the fields of law, economics, politics,

health, education, politics, health, education, religion, labor, and community development.”

See that quote? The way that the scheme in Evanston is falling apart – it doesn’t seem like all of the experts cited in the quote are providing any real expertise or sound advice. For example: One major thing that was not covered or dealt with was the tax liability impact on cash payments. The State of Illinois has an income tax. That means the potential tax liability on a \$25K payment can be up to 40% between state and federal. Where were those “experts” in the fields of “law, economics, and politics?” Where was the “pre-reparations” groundwork that should have been done at the state and federal levels to get legislation passed to make these kinds of payments tax exempt? Insurance and other-generated settlements or indebtedness erasures are tax exempt. They couldn’t get “local reparations” exempt as well? A “no brainer” – if you are a “reparations expert” it would seem to me. Shouldn’t all reparational transactions be smooth, seamless, and unencumbered?

Bottom-up “local reparations” schemes edge American Reparations (which is potentially the most serious and consequential atonement project in world history) into “unserious” territory. Folks like Kamm Howard (Reparations United) have come up with stupid-sounding terms like “*reparations triage.*” What? – We have Pan African caballists dreaming up unneeded and interposing non-profit structures like “trust authorities” and “stakeholder authorities.” When everyone else that has been repaired by the federal government so far receives their money directly from the United States Treasury with no intermediaries touching it? We shouldn’t get the same non-paternalistic treatment? Can’t grown people handle their own money?

Check out this quote from a quote on page 5 of Kamm Howard’s horribly written book: “Laying the Foundation For Local Reparations” (ISBN 9798657538717): Read more of this article at

Freedmen Absolute at:

<https://freedmenabsolute.com/2023/04/08/the-sweet-sixteen/>

Has Fox News really 'found religion' by firing Tucker Carlson?



If Fox News has seen any kind of light in jettisoning its most hateful voice, it's the light of the almighty dollar.

By Rev. Graylan Scott Hagler and Ariel Gold

Tucker Carlson got fired!

Many liberals are celebrating, calling it a reckoning — a win for racial justice and decency. With this bombshell revelation, some might even believe that Fox News has finally gotten religion and seen the error of its ways. It's better late than never, they say. Salvation is always possible.

But if Fox did find religion, why did it take so long? Religion is not something that is found overnight. It is a conversion that moves us when it takes hold at the core of our being. It's hard to believe that Fox has suddenly seen the light and come to the conclusion that the blatant racism, hatred and xenophobia that the network has trafficked in for so long is not something they want to continue. Does Fox News want us to believe that it has seen the light and knelt at the altar of repentance because it finally jettisoned the leading and most incendiary voice of racial hatred?

Why now?

Why has the network at this moment felt a need to jettison Tucker Carlson from his throne? Fox had no problem previously with the racism, xenophobia, replacement theories, conspiracy theories and the blatantly white supremacist tropes spewing from his mouth each evening. The network not only did not have a problem with Carlson's lies, half-truths, and propagandist rhetoric, it benefited enormously and was the cornerstone of ratings and advertising dollars. If Fox suddenly found religion, it was a different religion than the voice Paul heard on the road to Damascus that caused a radical change of heart. It was a different religion than the bright light of revelation from heaven that makes one turn away from one's complacency and complicity — from slavery, Jim Crow, unabashed and unchecked capitalism, and patriarchy. It was a different religion than that which makes one realize there is no salvation for Jews that can be brought from a state that justifies apartheid for safety.

At best, the kind of religion Fox found was the \$787.5 million judgment agreement kind of spirit. It was not the fear of fire and brimstone and souls burning in hell. It was not the inability to live in one's own skin and sleep at night while doing nothing to stop the extrajudicial execution of Black and Brown in their own homes and neighborhoods and/or to stop refugee children from being separated from their parents and held in concentration camps at the U.S.-Mexico border. At best, the payout of nearly \$1 billion dollars to Dominion Voting Systems, and the other legal threats looming, is Fox's interpretation of dangling over the fires of hell.

If Fox has seen the light, even just the light of financial salvation, then it will purge itself not just of Carlson, but of all of the minions of hell that continue to pollute its airwaves with the filth of hatred, racism and white supremacy. Why fire Carlson but continue to offer airtime to white supremacist ideologues like Laura Ingraham and Maria Bartiromo, who have each engaged in the

same distortions that Carlson is guilty of? Why exchange one divisive and hateful personality for another? True religion requires clear directional change. Repentance requires amends.

Can you imagine if it had been a Black or Brown person on the air spewing anti-white rhetoric, embracing hate-filled divisive ideologies, and fanning historical flames of the country's tendencies towards violence? How long will they be allowed on the air? The very same day that Fox ousted Carson, CNN fired Don Lemon. Was the exact same day timing of the firings — weeks after Lemon said that Nikki Haley was “not in her prime” and CNN sent him to sensitivity training — a coincidence? Perhaps it was a joint sacrifice to the Gods of ratings, the almighty God of the dollar by networks who claim to be arch-enemies but are part of the same system.

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Prominent Pastor Speaks Out Against Christian Nationalism as 'Heresy'



The Rev. William Barber II speaks during the Democratic Presidential Committee (DNC) summer meeting on August 23, 2019, in San Francisco, California

The traditional approach to politics and faith is often seen as a competition between two sides: left vs. right, woke vs. unwoke, Red State Jesus vs. Blue State Jesus. However, the Rev. William J. Barber II, a MacArthur “genius grant” recipient and contemporary leader who has been compared to Martin Luther King Jr., has developed a different approach: “fusion politics.”

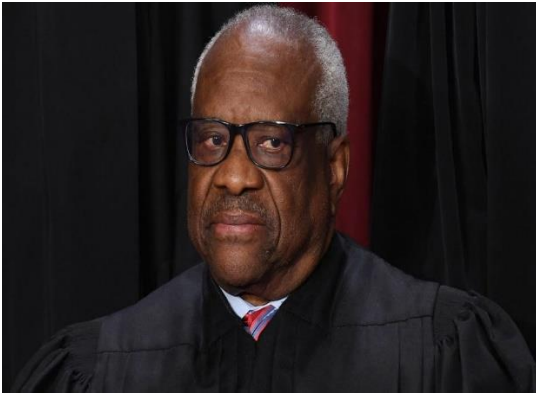
This approach brings together coalitions that often transcend the traditional conservative vs. progressive divide. Barber believes that by uniting marginalized groups such as the poor, immigrants, working-class whites, religious minorities, people of color, and members of the LGBTQ community, a powerful force for change can be created. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Barber argues that these groups share a common enemy, citing how the same forces that demonize immigrants also attack low-wage workers, the same politicians that deny living wages also suppress the vote, and the same people who deny the climate crisis and refuse to act are also willing to deny access to healthcare to millions of Americans. By leading one of the nation's most sustained and visible anti-poverty efforts as co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral

Revival, Barber has become one of the country's most prominent activists and speakers, known for his fusion politics approach.

Clarence Thomas: Here Are All The Ethics Scandals Involving The Supreme Court Justice

Alison Durkee



Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas has come under fire from Democrats and ethics experts for accepting trips from and selling real estate to GOP megadonor Harlan Crow without disclosing it—the latest in a series of recent scandals involving Thomas that have fueled calls for him to recuse himself from cases or be removed from office and the court to impose a binding code of ethics.

Harlan Crow Trips: ProPublica first reported Thomas has for years accepted trips from GOP megadonor and developer Harlan Crow, including on his private jet and superyacht, without disclosing them on financial disclosures as federal law requires.

Harlan Crow Real Estate: Thomas and his family also sold a string of properties in Savannah, Georgia, to Crow in 2014 without disclosing that as required, ProPublica reports—including the home where his mother still lives—which Crow told the publication he purchased so he could eventually build a museum dedicated to the justice.

Financial Disclosures: Thomas has made a series of other “errors and omissions” on financial disclosure reports, which the *Washington Post* reported includes reporting real estate income for decades from a company that shut down in 2006 and has in the past had to amend his financial disclosures multiple times, including after failing to report his wife’s income in the 2000s.

Ginni Thomas Conservative

Activism: Thomas’ wife, Ginni Thomas, is a right-wing activist, which has raised considerable ethics concerns about overlap between her and her husband’s work—particularly as the *New Yorker* reported groups she’s been involved with have submitted briefs before the Supreme Court, including a group that has weighed in on the court’s pending case about affirmative action in university admissions.

Ginni Thomas 2020 Election: Thomas pushed efforts to overturn the 2020 election results as her husband was hearing cases on it, including sending text messages to then White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows, which fueled calls for Thomas to resign or face impeachment over the perceived conflict of interest.

January 6: Ginni Thomas has also confirmed she briefly attended the rally on January 6 that preceded the attack on the Capitol building and publicly criticized the House January 6 Committee, and the justice has come under

fire for failing to recuse himself in a case concerning former President Donald Trump's records being turned over to the committee—in which he was the only justice to dissent and believe the records should have been withheld.



Ginni Thomas Funding: The *Post* reported in March that a conservative group Ginni Thomas formed in 2019 had raised nearly \$600,000 from anonymous donors funneled through a right-wing think tank that filed an amicus brief at the Supreme Court during the same time, and ethics experts said Clarence Thomas should have recused himself from that case if his wife was paid by the group.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

Democrats in Congress have pushed for Chief Justice John Roberts and the Justice Department to investigate the relationship between Thomas and Crow and the justice's failure to disclose it, and could call Thomas to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee. Thomas' failure to report his dealings with Crow could violate the Ethics in Government Act, Democrats and ethics experts have suggested, which carries a punishment of a year in prison or a fine if violated. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) has also called for the justice's impeachment over his associations with Crow, though that's unlikely to happen. Justices are impeached and removed from office in the same way as presidents, with

a majority vote in the House and two thirds majority in the Senate—which is unlikely to happen, given Republicans' control of the House and narrow minority in the Senate. Congressional Republicans are also likely to stand in the way of efforts by Democrats to enact legislation that would impose stricter ethics rules and disclosure requirements on justices.

BIG NUMBER

58%. That's the share of respondents (including 40% of Republicans) in a recent *Economist/YouGov* poll who said they strongly or somewhat disapprove of Thomas accepting "luxury trips without disclosing them." Only 43% said they believe Thomas violated the law by doing so, though that's higher than the 28% who said he didn't. The justice had a 41% favorability rating among respondents, higher than the 37% who view him negatively, fueled by a 67% favorability rating among Republicans.

CHIEF CRITIC

Thomas issued a statement following the ProPublica report about accepting trips from Crow defending his failure to disclose it. "Early in my tenure at the Court, I sought guidance from my colleagues and others in the judiciary, and was advised that this sort of personal hospitality from close personal friends, who did not have business before the Court, was not reportable," Thomas said. "I have endeavored to follow that counsel throughout my tenure and have always sought to comply with the disclosure guidelines." Ginni Thomas has also hit back against accusations that her activism has an impact on her husband's work, including her efforts after the 2020 election. "I did not speak with [Clarence Thomas] at all about the details of my post-election activities, which were minimal," Ginni Thomas testified to the House January 6 Committee.

KEY BACKGROUND

Thomas' ethics controversies have been part of a broader string of ethics concerns at the 6-3 conservative Supreme Court. Justice Samuel Alito has come under fire following reporting that an anti-abortion advocate knew the court's 2014 ruling in *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby* before it was publicly announced and was tipped off by an associate who had dinner with Alito and his wife. Conservative justices have also drawn scrutiny for socializing and appearing at events alongside right-wing politicians and figures, among other concerns. The controversies have ramped up efforts to pressure Supreme Court justices to be bound by a code of ethics, which lower federal judges are forced to follow but justices on the high court are not. Democrats are trying to force the court to adopt a code of ethics through legislation or budgetary proposals, though those efforts still face long odds—given Republicans' likely opposition. The *Post* reported in February the court has reportedly been discussing how to take up an ethics code for years, but has yet to make any progress on it.





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