

U.S. Chamber Sues Against CFPB's Anti-Discrimination Efforts While Its Leadership Has Troubling History On Racial Issues

SUMMARY: The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce, the "[world's largest business organization](#)," is [lead plaintiff](#) in a major banking industry [lawsuit](#) against the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's (CFPB's) anti-discrimination enforcement policies. The Chamber has claimed that "[the CFPB is pursuing an ideological agenda](#)," even though consumer advocates have noted that "[consumers of color have long faced discrimination](#)" in financial services.

Notably, the U.S. Chamber's membership includes [Wells Fargo](#), which is known for its "[historically racist treatment of Black customers](#)." Wells Fargo's top lobbyist is currently [William M. Daley](#), a former Obama and Clinton White House figure who helped create a U.S. Chamber center that had a "[prominent role in attacking](#)" consumer protections in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis. While a top JPMorgan executive, Daley also [lobbied](#) the Obama White House against creating the CFPB while his bank had a [\\$30 billion](#) subprime mortgage business.

An Accountable.US review of the U.S. Chamber's leadership ranks has found that at least nine of its most senior figures have concerning histories on race and discrimination that have likely influenced the group's opposition to the CFPB's efforts to counter bias in the banking sector. These figures include:

- **U.S. Chamber President and CEO [Suzanne Clark](#)** is on the [board](#) of credit reporting agency TransUnion, which has been criticized for its central role in perpetuating "[systemic racial injustice](#)" and [inequality](#), and was sued by the CFPB in April 2022 for violating a [January 2017 settlement](#) agreed to just six months before Clark joined the board. In response to this lawsuit, TransUnion [attacked](#) the "CFPB's current leadership" for "seek[ing] headlines through press releases and tweets."
- **U.S. Chamber Senior Vice President for Strategic Advocacy [Jack Howard](#)** worked for former Speaker [Newt Gingrich](#) (R-GA) when he used "[racist undertones](#)" to push back on welfare programs and for former Senate Majority Leader [Trent Lott](#) (R-MS), who was forced to [resign](#) as Majority Leader after he strongly [praised](#) the late segregationist Senator Strom Thurmond (R-SC) at his birthday party.
- **[Lisa A. Rickard](#) is U.S. Chamber EVP and counselor to its president**, according to her [LinkedIn profile](#), and has led its Institute for Legal Reform, where she [complained](#) about the CFPB's action against Ally Bank's discriminatory auto lending practices that harmed about [300,000](#) consumers of color.
- **U.S. Chamber SVP and President of its [Global Energy Institute](#) [Martin "Marty" Durbin](#)** was [EVP](#) and [Chief Strategy Officer](#) for the American Petroleum Institute as it blamed "[genetics](#)" and other factors for the harm oil pollution does to minority communities and he has [publicly promoted](#) the Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipelines, both condemned for [environmental racism](#).
- **U.S. Chamber [board member](#) and [treasurer](#) [Gerald L. Shaheen](#)** was [Group President](#) of Caterpillar, which has faced multiple racial discrimination lawsuits since Shaheen left the company, including one which said a manager made "[references to lynching and 'planet of the apes'](#)."
- **U.S. Chamber SVP and President of its [foundation](#) [Carolyn Cawley](#)** was a [Deputy Director](#) for former Republican California Governor Pete Wilson, whose notorious "[anti-diversity](#)" legacy included bans against affirmative action, bilingual education, and public services for undocumented immigrants.

- **U.S. Chamber Board member [Brackett Denniston](#)** was a [longtime executive](#) for General Electric, which settled for \$14 million in multiple racial [discrimination lawsuits](#) during his time with the company.
- **U.S. Chamber Executive Committee member [Thomas Wilson Jr.](#)** is the [Chairman, President, and CEO](#) of the Allstate Insurance Company, which has given over \$700,000 to the Republican State Leadership Committee and state lawmakers which have led [voter suppression](#) efforts.
- **U.S. Chamber Executive Committee member [Chris Womack](#)** is the current Chairman, President, and CEO of Georgia Power and former [Executive Vice President](#) for Southern Company, utilities companies which have given over \$420,000 to the Republican State Leadership Committee and state lawmakers which have led [voter suppression](#) efforts.

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The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce Is Lead Plaintiff In A Lawsuit By “A Powerful Alliance Of Trade Groups” Against The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau’s (CFPB’s) Anti-Discrimination Enforcement Practices, Which The Chamber Claims Are Part Of “An Ideological Agenda.”

September 2022: The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce And “A Powerful Alliance Of Trade Groups” Is Suing The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) Over Its Anti-Discrimination Enforcement Practices, With The Chamber Claiming The Bureau Is “Pursuing An Ideological Agenda.”

September 2022: “A Powerful Alliance Of Bank Trade Groups” Sued The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), Claiming It Abused Its Power By Requiring Banks To Test On How They “Inadvertently Disadvantage Certain Groups, Including Racial Minorities.” “On Wednesday, a powerful alliance of bank trade groups sued the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and its director, Rohit Chopra, in federal court in Texas, claiming Mr. Chopra is abusing his power by forcing banks to submit to regular tests of how their treatment of customers may inadvertently disadvantage certain groups, including racial minorities.” [The New York Times, [09/28/22](#)]

The Lawsuit Claimed The CFPB Overstepped Its Authority By Adding “‘Discrimination’ And ‘Disparate Impact’” Criteria To Its Regular Examinations Of Banks And Other Lenders. “The trade groups are claiming that the C.F.P.B. overstepped the bounds of its duties when it added ‘discrimination’ and ‘disparate impact’ as categories to its regular exams of banks and other lenders under a provision in the Dodd-Frank financial regulation law that bars banks from engaging in ‘unfair, deceptive or abusive acts or practices.’” [The New York Times, [09/28/22](#)]

The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce Was The Lead Plaintiff In The Lawsuit:

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA;
LONGVIEW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE;
AMERICAN BANKERS ASSOCIATION;
CONSUMER BANKERS ASSOCIATION;
INDEPENDENT BANKERS ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS; TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS; and TEXAS BANKERS ASSOCIATION.

Plaintiffs,

[Case 6:22-cv-00381, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, [09/28/22](#)]

In A Press Release About The Lawsuit, U.S. Chamber Chief Policy Officer Neil Bradley Claimed, “‘The CFPB Is Pursuing An Ideological Agenda.’” “‘The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is operating beyond its statutory authority and in the process creating legal uncertainty that will result in fewer financial products available to consumers,’ said U.S. Chamber Executive Vice President and Chief Policy Officer Neil Bradley. ‘The CFPB is pursuing an ideological agenda that goes well beyond what is authorized by law and the Chamber will not hesitate to hold them accountable.’” [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, [09/28/22](#)]

- **U.S. Chamber Press Release: U.S. Chamber Sues to Hold Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Accountable to the Rule of Law and Consumers** [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, [09/28/22](#)]

The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce Claims To Be “The World’s Largest Business Organization.” “The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the world’s largest business organization. Our members range from the small businesses and chambers of commerce across the country that support their communities, to the leading industry associations and global corporations that innovate and solve for the world’s challenges, to the emerging and fast-growing industries that are shaping the future.” [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, accessed [10/12/22](#)]

Consumer Advocates, The National Consumer Law Center, Condemned The Chamber’s Lawsuit As “Outrageous,” Noting That Consumers Of Color “Have Long Faced Discrimination” And That Banks’ Statements Against Racism Were “Meaningless” When Their Trade Groups Undermine Anti-Discrimination Enforcement.

The National Consumer Law Center (NCLC) Condemned The Lawsuit, Stating That “It Is Outrageous These Trade Associations Could Suggest That Discrimination In Any Financial Service Is Not Unfair Or Abusive.” “A recent lawsuit by industry trade groups, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the American Bankers Association, and the Consumer Bankers Association, seeks to prevent the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) from using its unfair, deceptive, or abusive acts and practices (UDAAP) authority to combat discriminatory practices in banking and other financial services. It is outrageous these trade associations could suggest that discrimination in any financial service is not unfair or abusive or that the CFPB

should not be monitoring the financial industry for discrimination wherever it occurs.” [National Consumer Law Center, [10/07/22](#)]

The NCLC Noted That “Consumers Of Color Have Long Faced Discrimination And Have Less Access Or More Expensive Access To Financial Products And Services Than White Americans.” “Consumers of color have long faced discrimination and have less access or more expensive access to financial products and services than white Americans, and this discrimination exists beyond the credit markets covered by fair lending laws. People of color are more likely to be unbanked, to suffer unexplained disparities in credit scores and reports used for purposes beyond credit, and to experience discrimination in multiple areas throughout their financial lives.” [National Consumer Law Center, [10/07/22](#)]

NCLC Added That Many Banks Represented By The Trade Groups That Filed The Lawsuit Have Denounced Racism, Yet Said Their “Words Are Meaningless When, Hidden Behind Their Trade Associations, Companies Are Seeking To Dismantle Efforts To Detect And Combat Discrimination.” “Many banks and other companies represented by the organizations suing the CFPB have made public statements denouncing racism and announcing their commitment to eradicating discriminatory practices. We commend those values, but words are meaningless when, hidden behind their trade associations, companies are seeking to dismantle efforts to detect and combat discrimination. We call on banks and the members of the Chamber to be consistent in adhering to the values they espouse by insisting that their associations drop this lawsuit.” [National Consumer Law Center, [10/07/22](#)]

U.S. Chamber Member Wells Fargo—Known For “Historically Racist Treatment Of Black Customers”—Is Represented By Top Lobbyist William Daley, Who Helped Created A U.S. Chamber Center That Had A “Prominent Role In Attacking” Consumer Protections After The 2008 Financial Crisis And Who Lobbied The Obama White House Against Creating The CFPB.

U.S. Chamber Member Wells Fargo Is Known For “Historically Racist Treatment Of Black Customers.” Facing The “Second Largest Fair Lending Settlement” In The Wake Of The 2008 Financial Crisis For A “Pattern Of Discrimination” And Approving Far Fewer Mortgage Refinancing Applications From Black Applicants In 2020.

Wells Fargo Has Disclosed Membership In The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce, Paying \$25,000 Or More In Dues In 2021:

Wells Fargo trade association memberships
\$25,000 or more

[...]

U.S. Chamber of Commerce

[Wells Fargo, accessed [10/13/22](#)]

July 2012: The Justice Department Filed “The Second Largest Fair Lending Settlement” Of \$233.4 Million Against Wells Fargo For Engaging In A “Pattern Of Discrimination Against African-American And Hispanic Borrowers” From 2004 Through 2009. “The Department of Justice today filed the second largest fair lending settlement in the department’s history to resolve allegations that Wells Fargo Bank, the largest residential home mortgage originator in the United States, engaged in a pattern or practice of discrimination against qualified African-American and Hispanic borrowers in its mortgage lending from 2004 through 2009. The settlement provides \$184.3 million in compensation for wholesale borrowers who were

steered into subprime mortgages or who paid higher fees and rates than white borrowers because of their race or national origin. Wells Fargo will also provide \$50 million in direct down payment assistance to borrowers in communities around the country where the department identified large numbers of discrimination victims and which were hard hit by the housing crisis.” [The U.S. Department of Justice, [07/12/12](#)]

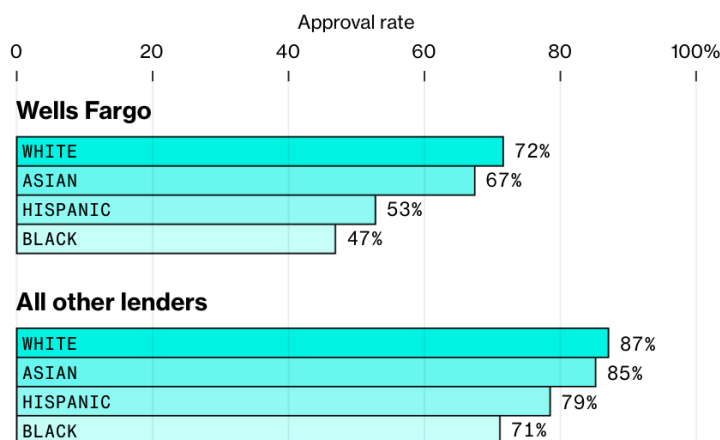
- From 2004 To 2007, Wells Fargo Steered Around 4,000 African-American And Latino Borrowers Into “Subprime Mortgages,” While White Borrowers With Similar Credit Received Prime Loans.** “The settlement, which is subject to court approval, was filed today in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia in conjunction with the department’s complaint, which alleges that between 2004 and 2008, Wells Fargo discriminated by steering approximately 4,000 African-American and Hispanic wholesale borrowers, as well as additional retail borrowers, into subprime mortgages when non-Hispanic white borrowers with similar credit profiles received prime loans.” [The U.S. Department of Justice, [07/12/12](#)]

2022: Wells Fargo Was Sued For Racial Discrimination By A Black Homeowner Who Was Denied Mortgage Refinancing—The Homeowner Cited A 2022 Bloomberg Report Showing That Wells Fargo Denied “More Than Half Of All Black Refinancing Applicants In 2020 — A Far Higher Rate Than Other Banks.” “A Black homeowner who recently sought to refinance his mortgage with a new loan from Wells Fargo is suing the bank, claiming racial discrimination. The customer, Aaron Braxton, is tying his complaint to a news report this month that the bank denied more than half of all Black refinancing applicants in 2020 — a far higher rate than other banks, according to a lawsuit filed late Friday in federal court in the Northern District of California.” [The New York Times, [03/21/22](#)]

- The Bloomberg Report Found That Wells Fargo Accepted Only 47% Of All Black Borrowers Refinancing Applications While 72% Of The Bank’s White Applicants Were Approved—Meanwhile, Other Lenders Approved A Combined 71% Of Applications From Black Borrowers.** “The lawsuit cites a recent analysis by Bloomberg of data that banks regularly report to the federal government. [...] It found that the bank had accepted just 47 percent of all Black borrowers’ applications, while other lenders had approved a combined 71 percent of their Black customers’ applications. By contrast, 72 percent of Wells Fargo’s white customers had their applications approved.” [The New York Times, [03/21/22](#)]

Disparity by Lender

Wells Fargo approved fewer than half of Black homeowners’ refinancing applications in 2020.



Source: Bloomberg analysis of Home Mortgage Disclosure Act data for 8 million completed applications to refinance conventional loans in 2020.

[Bloomberg, [03/11/22](#)]

The Lawsuit Alleged That Wells Fargo’s “Lending Algorithms Have Amplified The U.S. Financial System’s Historically Racist Treatment Of Black Customers.” “In the lawsuit, Mr. Braxton claims that the bank’s lending algorithms have amplified the U.S. financial system’s historically racist treatment of Black customers.” [The New York Times, [03/21/22](#)]

Wells Fargo Has Also Been Accused Of Locating Its Branches “Predominantly In White Neighborhoods.” “Wells Fargo’s decisions to place its branches predominantly in white neighborhoods have also added to the harm, Mr. Braxton said in the suit.” [The New York Times, [03/21/22](#)]

Wells Fargo’s Vice Chairman Of Public Affairs William M. Daley—Former Obama Chief Of Staff, Former Clinton Commerce Secretary, And Former JPMorgan Chase Vice Chairman—Helped Create A U.S. Chamber Center That Had A “Prominent Role In Attacking” Consumer Protections And Regulation In The Wake Of The 2008 Financial Crisis.

William M. Daley Is Wells Fargo’s Vice Chairman Of Public Affairs, “Leading” Its Public Affairs Operations And Its Government Relations And Public Policy Efforts. “William M. Daley is vice chairman of Public Affairs for Wells Fargo and a member of the company’s Operating Committee. He joined Wells Fargo in 2019, leading the Public Affairs organization, which includes Communications & Brand Management, Government Relations & Public Policy, Social Impact, Sustainability, and the Business Execution Office.” [Wells Fargo, accessed [10/13/22](#)]

Daley Was Previously President Obama’s Chief Of Staff, President Clinton’s Secretary Of Commerce, As Well As Vice Chairman For JPMorgan Chase And BNY Mellon, Among Other Roles. “Throughout his career, William has held numerous roles in both public service and finance. A lawyer by profession, he served as White House Chief of Staff to President Barack Obama. Prior to this role, he served as U.S. Secretary of Commerce in the Clinton administration, and in 2000, ran then-Vice President Al Gore’s presidential campaign. In the private sector, William served as vice chairman at JPMorgan Chase and later at BNY Mellon. He previously served as president of SBC Communications and president and chief operating officer at Amalgamated Bank of Chicago.” [Wells Fargo, accessed [10/13/22](#)]

2005-07: William Daley Co-Chaired A U.S. Chamber Committee On Deregulation That Became The Chamber’s Center For Capital Markets And Competitiveness, Which “Played A Prominent Role In Attacking Derivatives Regulation And Consumer Protections” In The Wake Of The 2008 Financial Crisis. “From 2005 to 2007, he co-chaired a Chamber of Commerce committee on financial (de)regulation. The ‘Commission on the Regulation of Capital Markets in the 21st Century’ eventually became the Chamber’s Center for Capital Markets Competitiveness, which played a prominent role in attacking derivatives regulation and consumer protections last year. The Hill called the group one of the ‘loudest voices on financial legislation’—and they weren’t exactly singing the praises of reform efforts.” [ProPublica, [01/06/11](#)]

While Daley Was A JPMorgan Executive, He Lobbied The Obama White House Against Creating The CFPB Following The Financial Crisis, Reportedly Arguing That There Were Already “Sufficient Safeguards” Against Bank Abuses While Daley’s Bank Had A \$30 Billion Subprime Mortgage Business.

Following The 2008 Financial Crisis, Daley Lobbied Then-White House Chief Of Staff Rahm Emanuel To Not Proceed With Creating A Consumer Financial Protection Agency. “The floating of William Daley for the post of White House chief of staff has started a predictable, but nevertheless revealing examination of how his personal politics line up with those of the president. [...] Equally illuminating, however, is the stance Daley took on the other major piece of domestic legislation passed during the past two years: financial regulatory reform. Daley, reportedly, was not exactly enamored with a new consumer financial protection agency, a key

element of the plan and one of the president's most cherished provisions, going so far as to lobby White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel to drop the idea." [HuffPost, [01/04/11](#)]

- **Headline: William Daley, Rumored Chief Of Staff Nominee, Opposed Consumer Protection Agency** [HuffPost, 01/04/11]

Daley, Then An Executive For JPMorgan Chase, Told Emanuel That The Bank Would Not Lend Its Support In Creating A New Consumer Agency, Reportedly Arguing That “Sufficient Consumer Safeguards Were Already On The Books.” “A reader points out this article from the April 7, 2010 Wall Street Journal: ‘But when White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel called a top J.P. Morgan executive to ask for the bank's support in creating a new consumer-protection agency, the executive--former Commerce Secretary William Daley--said no, according to people familiar with the conversation. His boss believed that sufficient consumer safeguards were already on the books.’” [HuffPost, [01/04/11](#)]

While Daley Was With JPMorgan Chase, The Bank Had A “\$30 Billion Subprime Mortgage Business.” “So too does Daley's position, from 2005 through 2007, as a co-chair of the Chamber of Commerce's ‘Commission on the Regulation of Capital Markets in the 21st Century’ -- a committee that played a role lobbying on derivatives regulation and consumer protections -- as well as the fact that JPMorgan Chase, where he served as an executive, had a \$30 billion subprime mortgage business.” [HuffPost, [01/04/11](#)]

U.S. Chamber President And CEO Suzanne Clark Is On The Board Of Credit Reporting Agency TransUnion, Which Has Been Criticized For Its Central Role In Perpetuating “Systemic Racial Injustice” And Inequality And Was Sued By The CFPB In April 2022 For Violating A January 2017 Settlement Agreed To Just Six Months Before Clark Joined The Board.

Suzanne Clark Has Been The President And CEO Of The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce Since March 2021, Previously Serving As The Group’s President, A Senior Executive Vice President, And Executive Vice President Since 2017.

Suzanne Clark Became The President And CEO Of The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce In March 2021. “Suzanne Clark is president and chief executive officer of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, a director on two corporate boards, a former business owner, and an entrepreneur at heart.” [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, accessed [10/12/22](#)]

- **Suzanne Clark Became The Chamber’s President And CEO In March 2021.** [Linkedin Profile for Suzanne Clark, accessed [10/12/22](#)]

Clark Was Previously The Chamber’s President From June 2019 To March 2021, A Senior Executive Vice President From January 2017 To June 2019, And An Executive Vice President From September 2014 To January 2017:

President and CEO

Mar 2021 – Present · 2 mos

As president and CEO of the world's largest and most diverse business association, Clark drives the organization's mission and strategy and leads a team of nearly 500 to serve members, advocate for all businesses, and foster a strong economy that creates jobs and opportunity. She leads the transformation of the more than 100-year-old institution in a rapidly changing macro-environment, with a focus on even bolder advocacy, strong and diverse coalitions in business and government, and investment and innovation for the future.

President

Jun 2019 – Mar 2021 · 1 yr 10 mos

Washington D.C. Metro Area

Senior Executive Vice President

Jan 2017 – Jun 2019 · 2 yrs 6 mos

Washington D.C. Metro Area

Executive Vice President

Sep 2014 – Jan 2017 · 2 yrs 5 mos

[LinkedIn Profile for Suzanne Clark, accessed [10/12/22](#)]

Clark “Led A Multiyear Effort To Strengthen The Chamber’s Well-Known Influence, Advocacy, And Impact.” “Clark has led a multiyear effort to strengthen the Chamber’s well-known influence, advocacy, and impact, while modernizing its work and attracting new members from the fastest-growing and most innovative sectors of the U.S. economy.” [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, accessed [04/29/21](#)]

Clark Has Been On The Board Of Credit Reporting Agency TransUnion Since 2017, Which Has Been Criticized For Its Central Role In A Scoring System That Has Been A “Perpetuator Of Systemic Racial Injustice” And Deepening Economic Inequality.

Suzanne Clark Has Been On The Board Of TransUnion Since 2017, Serving On Its Audit And Cybersecurity Committees. “Clark serves on the boards of two public companies and several nonprofit organizations. At AGCO, a Fortune 500 global leader in the design, manufacture, and distribution of agricultural equipment, she chairs the Compensation Committee and is a member of the Succession Committee. At TransUnion, a provider of global risk and credit information, she serves on the Audit and Cybersecurity committees.” [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, accessed [10/12/22](#)]

- **Clark Has Been A Director At TransUnion Since 2017.** [LinkedIn Profile for Suzanne Clark, accessed [10/12/22](#)]

President Biden Has Signaled That He May “Fire” TransUnion And The U.S.’s Other Two Other Credit Reporting Bureaus, Which Have A Monopoly On Credit Reports. “TransUnion, Equifax, and Experian, the three credit reporting bureaus, would be rivaled or perhaps even replaced by a national public credit reporting agency if President Joe Biden’s campaign trail promise comes to fruition. Under Biden’s plan, the three private companies would no longer monopolize credit reports. Instead, there would be a public registry housed in the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB).” [The Balance, [02/04/21](#)]

- **HEADLINE: Biden May Move to Fire the Big 3 Credit Bureaus** [The Balance, [02/04/21](#)]

Multiple Studies Have Shown That TransUnion And The Other Credit Bureaus Have “A Discriminatory Effect Against African-American And Latino Communities” And Serve To Entrench Economic Inequality. “Critics and researchers have blasted the role that the three credit bureaus have played in entrenching economic inequality. Credit scores have a discriminatory effect against African-American and Latino communities, numerous research studies have shown, even though they don’t take race into account.1 On top of that, false credit reports are common and notoriously difficult for consumers to correct.” [The Balance, [02/04/21](#)]

The U.S.’s Credit Scoring System Has Been Criticized As A “Perpetuator Of Systemic Racial Injustice” That “Embed[s] Existing Racial Inequities In Our Credit System And Economy.” “Worried about the use of big data for corporate gain? Look no further than the credit scoring system in the US, which has profound impact on our daily lives and is a source and perpetuator of systemic racial injustice. In response to aggressive marketing by the ‘big three’ multinational credit bureaus – Equifax, Experian and TransUnion – employers, landlords and insurance companies now use credit reports and scores to make decisions that have major bearing on our social and economic opportunities. These days, your credit history can make or break whether you get a job or apartment, or access to decent, affordable insurance and loans. Credit reports and scores are not race neutral. Rather, they embed existing racial inequities in our credit system and economy – to the point that a person’s credit information serves as a proxy for race.” [The Guardian, [10/13/15](#)]

- **HEADLINE: Credit scores in America perpetuate racial injustice. Here's how** [The Guardian, [10/13/15](#)]

One Consumer Advocate Found That Credit Scorers’ Algorithms “Disproportionately Label Black And Latinx People As Riskier Borrowers.” “Credit scores and the companies that issue them reproduce the racial wealth gap and bolster the discriminatory policies that create it. In the current system, credit scoring and other lending algorithms disproportionately label Black and Latinx people as riskier borrowers, according to Demos. Those groups are also more likely to have a ‘thin file,’ or short credit history, which allows for many lenders to view them as risky as well.” [Fortune, [12/18/20](#)]

Because Minorities Are “Disproportionately Targeted” By Predatory Financial Companies, They Are “More Likely Than Their White Counterparts To Have Damaged Credit.” “People and communities of color have been disproportionately targeted for high-cost, predatory loans, intrinsically risky financial products that predictably lead to higher delinquency and default rates than non-predatory loans. As a consequence, black people and Latinos are more likely than their white counterparts to have damaged credit.” [The Guardian, [10/13/15](#)]

In April 2022, The CFPB Filed A Lawsuit Against TransUnion For Violating A 2017 Settlement—Settled Just Six Months Before Suzanne Clark Joined Transunion's Board—In Which The Company Agreed To Pay "\$13.9 Million In Restitution To Victims And \$3 Million In Civil Penalties" With The Agreement Legally Binding To "The Company, Its Board Of Directors, And Its Executive Officers."

April 12, 2022: Under Director Rohit Chopra, The CFPB Filed A Lawsuit Against TransUnion And Associated Parties For Violating A 2017 Law Enforcement Order Over "Deceptive Marketing, Regarding Its Credit Scores And Other Credit-Related Products." "Today, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) is filing a lawsuit against TransUnion, two of its subsidiaries, and longtime executive John Danaher for violating a 2017 law enforcement order. The order was issued to stop the company from engaging in deceptive marketing, regarding its credit scores and other credit-related products. After the order went into effect, TransUnion continued its unlawful behavior, disregarded the order’s requirements, and continued employing deceitful digital dark patterns to profit from customers. The Bureau’s complaint also alleges that TransUnion violated additional consumer financial protection laws." [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, [04/12/22](#)]

- **In Announcing This Lawsuit, CFPB Director Chopra Called TransUnion An "Out-Of-Control Repeat Offender That Believes It Is Above The Law" And Slammed The Company's Leadership As "Either Unwilling Or Incapable Of Operating Its Businesses Lawfully."** "TransUnion is an out-of-control repeat offender that believes it is above the law,' said CFPB Director Rohit Chopra. 'I am concerned that TransUnion's leadership is either unwilling or incapable of operating its businesses lawfully.'" [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, [04/12/22](#)]

January 3, 2017: The CFPB And TransUnion Settled Charges It Had "Deceptively Market[ed] Credit Scores And Credit-Related Products, Including Credit Monitoring Services," With The Company Agreeing To Pay "\$13.9 Million In Restitution To Victims And \$3 Million In Civil Penalties." "On January 3, 2017, the CFPB settled charges with TransUnion and its subsidiaries for deceptively marketing credit scores and credit-related products, including credit monitoring services. As part of the settlement, TransUnion agreed to pay \$13.9 million in restitution to victims and \$3 million in civil penalties." [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, [04/12/22](#)]

- **As Part Of This Settlement, TransUnion Agreed To Several Changes To Its Business Practices—including "Obtain[ing] The Express Informed Consent Of Customers For Recurring Payments For Subscription Products Or Services"—That Were Legally Binding To "The Company, Its Board Of Directors, And Its Executive Officers."** "TransUnion and its subsidiaries also agreed to a formal law enforcement order that, among other things, required the credit reporting giant to warn consumers that lenders are not likely to use the scores they are supplying, obtain the express informed consent of customers for recurring payments for subscription products or services, and provide an easy way for people to cancel subscriptions. The order was binding on the company, its board of directors, and its executive officers." [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, [04/12/22](#)]

In Response To This Lawsuit, TransUnion Called The Bureau's Claims "Meritless" And Slammed The "CFPB's Current Leadership" For "Seek[ing] Headlines Through Press Releases And Tweets."

April 12, 2022: In Response To The CFPB's Lawsuit, TransUnion Released A Statement In Which It Called The Bureau's Claims "Meritless" And Attacked The Actions Of The "CFPB's Current Leadership" As "Seek[ing] Headlines Through Press Releases And Tweets." "In response to a complaint filed today by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, TransUnion issued the following statement: The claims made by the CFPB against TransUnion and John Danaher, a former executive, are meritless and in no way reflect the consumer-first approach we take to managing all our businesses. [...] Despite TransUnion's months-long, good faith efforts to resolve this matter, CFPB's current leadership refused to meet with us and were determined to litigate and seek headlines through press releases and tweets. The CFPB's unrealistic and unworkable demands have left us with no alternative but to defend ourselves fully." [TransUnion, [04/12/22](#)]

Jack Howard, Senior Vice President Of Government Affairs For The Chamber Of Commerce, Worked For Newt Gingrich (R-GA) When The Former House Speaker Used "Racist Undertones" To Push Back On Welfare Programs And Senator Trent Lott (R-MS), Who Praised Segregationist Senator Strom Thurmond (R-SC) At His Birthday Party.

Jack Howard Is The Senior Vice President Of Government Affairs For The Chamber Of Commerce, Where He Has Worked Since 2013.

Jack Howard Is The U.S. Chamber's Senior Vice President Of Government Affairs, "Responsible For Maximizing The Chamber's Advocacy Tools," Including Lobbying And "Voter Education Efforts." "Jack Howard is Senior Vice President for Strategic Advocacy at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, responsible for

maximizing the Chamber’s advocacy tools—including lobbying, regional operations, and voter education efforts—to grow the number of pro-business champions on Capitol Hill. With more than 25 years of government service, Howard served in the White House as deputy assistant to President George W. Bush.” [U.S. Chamber Of Commerce, accessed [10/12/22](#)]

Howard Was The Senior Counsel For Speaker Of The House Newt Gingrich (R-GA) From 1993 To 1998.

Howard Was The Senior Counsel For Speaker Of The House Newt Gingrich From 1993 To 1998. [OpenSecrets, accessed [10/12/22](#)]

1993-1998	Speaker of the House Revolving Door Personnel: (76)	Senior Counsel (Newt Gingrich)
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[OpenSecrets, accessed [10/12/22](#)]

Newt Gingrich Used “Racist Undertones,” And False Racially-Coded Crime Stories To Push For Welfare Reform In the 1990s—An Effort Which Was Seen As Backlash Against Civil Rights-Era Public Benefit Programs.

Newt Gingrich Led The Charge For The Welfare Reform Policies Of The 1990s, Which Were “Fueled By Racist Undertones.” “The political context for the 1996 reforms, then, was fueled by racist undertones that played into public angst about rising taxes and the national debt that were attributed to the high payout of welfare checks to people who were not carrying their own weight. This emotionally charged environment distorted the poverty debate, and paved the way for a reform bill that many saw as excessively punitive in its harsh treatment of poor families. Although credited to the Clinton administration, the blueprint for the 1996 welfare reform bill was crafted by a caucus of conservative Republicans led by Newt Gingrich as part of the Contract with America during the 1994 congressional election campaign.” [The Nation, [08/22/16](#)]

The Welfare Reform Efforts Of The 1990s Were Seen As Backlash To Civil Rights Era Expansions Of Public Benefits Programs That Greatly Benefitted Black Americans. “Welfare reform greatly benefited Black Americans — and was almost immediately unpopular for it [...] One of the largest government programs in the post-New Deal era, President Lyndon B. Johnson's ‘Great Society’ sought to remedy the racial wealth gap. During the 1960s, the median Black family income rose 53%, while Black employment doubled in professional, technical, and clerical occupations, and average Black educational attainment increased by four years, University of Houston history professors write. The proportion of Black people below the poverty line went from 55% in 1960 to just 27% by 1968.” [Business Insider, [08/11/20](#)]

In 1994 And 1995, Gingrich Repeatedly Told False, Racially-Coded Stories About Crimes Committed By Minorities That He Attributed To The Welfare Policies Of Democrats—including One That Blamed An “Imaginary Black Man” For The Murder Of Children. “In fact, Gingrich has decades of racially coded messaging under his belt. In 1994 and 1995, he repeatedly spouted off, blaming a series of horrific mostly minority-related crimes on liberal Democrats and the sort of welfare state society they had created – rather than holding the criminals themselves responsible. The most infamous of these involved Susan Smith, the step-daughter of a local Christian Coalition leader, who killed her two children, then blamed an imaginary black man. It further emerged that Smith had been molested by her right-wing Christian step-father, and attempted suicide several times as a teenager – nothing at all to do with liberals, Democrats, welfare or Blacks. In another case, it was the victims who were on welfare, rather than the criminals.” [Al Jazeera, [05/24/11](#)]

Gingrich’s Welfare Reform Push Placed Stricter Eligibility Requirements For Public Benefit Programs While Restricting Public Benefits For Certain Groups Of Immigrants. “The new bill replaced the AFDC program with Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). Stricter work requirements required single mothers to find work within two years of receiving benefits. A five-year lifetime limit was imposed for receiving

benefits. To reinforce traditional family values, a core principle of the Republican Party, teenage mothers were to be prohibited benefits, and fathers who were delinquent in child support payments were threatened with imprisonment. States were banned from using federally funded TANF for certain groups of immigrants and restrictions were placed on their eligibility to Medicaid, food stamps and Supplementary Social Security Income (SSI).” [The Nation, [08/22/16](#)]

After The Welfare Reform Gingrich Pushed For, Only 25% Of People Eligible For Public Assistance Were Receiving It—A Rate That Stood At 75% Before The Reform. “Before Clinton, about 75% of people who were eligible for welfare were receiving it. But by 2000, four years after Clinton's program was enacted, only about 25% were, Schram's research found.” [Business Insider, [08/11/20](#)]

- **Business Insider: “In Other Words, At A Time When Black Americans Were Given Significantly More Access To Public Assistance, Measures Were Enacted To Make Assistance Harder To Access.”** [Business Insider, [08/11/20](#)]

Gingrich Publicly Attacked Affirmative Action In the 1990s, Characterizing The Policy As, “Tell Me What Your Racial Makeup Is And I'll Tell You Whether Or Not You Get The Next Slot.”

Newt Gingrich Publicly Opposed Affirmative Action In The 90s, Claiming It Was A System That Said: “Tell Me What Your Racial Makeup Is And I'll Tell You Whether Or Not You Get The Next Slot.” “Mr. Gingrich, a Georgia Republican, said he would like affirmative action to focus on poor people, provided they were willing to work extra hard, without putting more expectations on the institutions asked to educate or hire them. [...] He said he was skeptical of "a system that says, ‘Tell me what your racial makeup is and I'll tell you whether or not you get the next slot.’” [New York Times, [06/17/95](#)]

Jack Howard Was The Deputy Chief Of Staff For Then-Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-MS) And Was Also Staff Director For Lott When He Was House Minority Whip.

Jack Howard Was Deputy Chief Of Staff For Then-Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-MS) From 1999 To 2001 And Was His Staff Director From 1986 To 1989. [OpenSecrets, accessed [10/12/22](#)]

1999-2001	Senate Majority Leader	Deputy Chief of Staff (Trent Lott)
	Revolving Door Personnel: (51)	
[...]		
1986-1989	House Minority Whip	Staff Director (Trent Lott)
	Revolving Door Personnel: (29)	

[OpenSecrets, accessed [10/12/22](#)]

Shortly After Howard Left Lott’s Office, Lott Was Forced To Resign From His Role As Senate Majority Leader For Praising The 1948 Presidential Campaign Of Segregationist Strom Thurmond, Claiming America ““Wouldn’t Have All These Problems”” If Thurmond Had Been Elected.

In 2002, Lott Attended The 100th Birthday Party Of Famed Segregationist Strom Thurmond. “The US senate majority leader, Trent Lott, bowed to the politically inevitable today and resigned his post as US senate majority leader, two weeks after praising the segregationist 1948 presidential campaign of Strom Thurmond. Republicans, Democrats and many media outlets have been calling for Mr Lott's head since his comments at a 100th birthday party for Mr Thurmond.” [The Guardian, [12/19/02](#)]

Lott Claimed That If America Had Elected Strom Thurmond President In 1948—Who Openly Ran On A Platform Of Opposing The “Social Intermingling Of Races”—America “Wouldn’t Have Had All These Problems.” “At issue are three sentences in Mr. Lott's tribute last Thursday to Mr. Thurmond, a South Carolina Republican who ran for president in 1948 on a Dixiecrat platform opposing 'social intermingling of the races.' With Mr. Thurmond by his side, Mr. Lott, Republican of Mississippi, said: 'I want to say this about my state: When Strom Thurmond ran for president, we voted for him. We're proud of it. And if the rest of the country had followed our lead, we wouldn't have had all these problems over all these years, either.'” [New York Times, [12/10/02](#)]

Lott Eventually Was Forced To Resign As Senate Majority Leader Due To His Comments About Thurmond. “The US senate majority leader, Trent Lott, bowed to the politically inevitable today and resigned his post as US senate majority leader, two weeks after praising the segregationist 1948 presidential campaign of Strom Thurmond. Republicans, Democrats and many media outlets have been calling for Mr Lott's head since his comments at a 100th birthday party for Mr Thurmond.” [The Guardian, [12/19/02](#)]

According To Her LinkedIn Profile, Lisa Rickard Is U.S. Chamber EVP And Counselor To Its President, And Has Led Its Institute For Legal Reform, Where She Complained About The CFPB’s Action Against Ally Bank’s Discriminatory Auto Lending That Harmed About 300,000 Consumers Of Color.

Lisa A. Rickard Is U.S. Chamber EVP And Counselor To Its President And Has Been With The Chamber Since 2003, According To Her LinkedIn Profile, Serving As One Of Its “Top Leaders” And Previously Leading Its Institute For Legal Reform (ILR), Growing It Into A “A Comprehensive, Multifaceted Global Legal Reform Campaign.”

U.S. Chamber Executive Vice President And Counselor To The President Lisa A. Rickard Has Been With The Chamber And Its Institute For Legal Reform Since 2003 And Is “One Of The U.S. Chamber’s Top Leaders On A Range Of Issues.” “Lisa A. Rickard is executive vice president and counselor to the president of the U.S. Chamber. She is one of the U.S. Chamber’s top leaders on a wide range of issues, with a strong focus on legal reform. She plays a significant role in maintaining the Chamber’s long-term position as the world’s most influential advocate for business.” [U.S. Chamber of Commerce via Archive.org, 06/22/22, accessed [10/12/22](#)]

- **Rickard Was Still The U.S. Chamber’s Counselor To The President And Executive Vice President As Of October 12, 2022, According To Her LinkedIn Profile:**



U.S. Chamber of Commerce

12 yrs 10 mos

- **Counselor to the President**
2020 - Present · 2 yrs 10 mos
- **Executive Vice President**
2010 - Present · 12 yrs 10 mos
- **President, Workforce Freedom Initiative**
2010 - Mar 2018 · 8 yrs 3 mos



President

U.S. Chamber Institute for Legal Reform

2003 - 2019 · 16 yrs

Washington D.C. Metro Area

[LinkedIn Profile for Lisa A. Rickard, accessed [10/12/22](#)]

While Rickard Led The U.S. Chamber Institute For Legal Reform (ILR) From 2003 To 2019, It Grew Into “A Comprehensive, Multifaceted Global Legal Reform Campaign.” “Rickard served as president of the U.S. Chamber Institute for Legal Reform (ILR) from 2003 to 2019. Under her leadership, ILR developed from a strong national legal reform organization into a comprehensive, multifaceted global legal reform campaign with cutting-edge legislative advocacy, communications, and voter education initiatives.” [U.S. Chamber of Commerce via Archive.org, 06/22/22, accessed [10/12/22](#)]

While ILR President, Rickard Complained About Regulators “Piling On” Companies, Specifically Bemoaning The CFPB’s Multi-Million Dollar Settlement With Ally Bank Over Its Discriminatory Auto Loan Practices That Harmed About 300,000 Borrowers Of Color.

While ILR President, Rickard Complained About Financial Regulators “Piling On” Companies, Specifically Citing The CFPB’s \$98 Million Settlement With Ally Bank Over Its Auto Loan Discrimination Practices. “Writing in Metropolitan Corporate Counsel, ILR President Lisa A. Rickard laments the era of prosecutorial ‘piling on’ in which the collective result is multiple ‘punishments’ that grossly distort justice. She points to a recent London conference of the world’s top financial regulators in which the global ‘piling on’ phenomenon was on full display. In the United States alone, she writes, ‘investigators have no obligation to prove a connection between the misconduct they allege and the settlement they demand as ‘settlement amounts are picked out of thin air.’ Rickard cites the case of Ally Bank, in which the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) extracted a \$98 million settlement over allegations of auto loan discrimination. This, despite internal CFPB documents showing the agency believed its own case was weak but that it had ample ‘leverage for a large settlement.’” [U.S. Chamber Institute for Legal Reform, [05/11/16](#)]

December 2013: The CFPB And The U.S. Justice Department Ordered Ally Bank To Pay \$80 Million In Damages For Its “Discriminatory Auto Loan Pricing Policies.” “In December 2013, together with the Department of Justice (DOJ) and pursuant to a federal court order, we ordered Ally Financial Inc. and Ally Bank to pay \$80 million in damages to consumers harmed by Ally’s discriminatory auto loan pricing policies. Today, harmed borrowers participating in the settlement were mailed checks by the Ally settlement administrator, totaling \$80 million, plus interest.” [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, [04/29/21](#)]

- **Ally Paid An Additional \$38.9 Million To Consumers That It Determined Were Affected By Its Discriminatory Practices.** “In addition to the \$80 million in settlement payments for consumers who were overcharged between April 2011 and December 2013, and pursuant to its continuing obligations under the terms of the orders, Ally recently paid roughly \$38.9 million to consumers that Ally determined were both eligible and overcharged on auto loans issued during 2014.” [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, [04/29/21](#)]

The CFPB Found That Ally’s Interest Rates Resulted In “African-American, Hispanic, Asian And Pacific Islander Borrowers Paying More For Auto Loans Than Similarly Situated Non-Hispanic White Borrowers.” “We found that Ally had a policy of allowing dealers to increase or ‘mark up’ consumers’ risk-based interest rates, and paying dealers from those markups, and that the policy lacked adequate controls or monitoring. As a result, we found that between April 2011 and December 2013, this markup policy resulted in African-American, Hispanic, Asian and Pacific Islander borrowers paying more for auto loans than similarly situated non-Hispanic white borrowers.” [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, [04/29/21](#)]

The Administrator For The Settlement Found About 301,000 Borrowers Who Were Overcharged By Ally’s Discriminatory Practices. “Through that process, the settlement administrator identified approximately 301,000 eligible, participating borrowers and co-borrowers who were overcharged as a result of Ally’s discriminatory markup policy during the relevant time period, representing approximately 235,000 loans.” [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, [04/29/21](#)]

While Rickard Was ILR President, The Group’s Board Member FedEx Fought To Limit Class Action Lawsuits After 20,000 Black And Hispanic Workers Sued For Racial Discrimination, Ultimately Forcing FedEx To Pay A \$53.5 Million Settlement.

FedEx Was An ILR Board Member As It Fought To Limit Class Action Lawsuits After It Was Sued By 20,000 Black And Hispanic Workers Who Filed A Racial Discrimination Lawsuit Alleging FedEx Treated Them Unfairly In Promotions And Evaluations. “FedEx, ILR Board Member Since 2004 [...] FedEx wants to limit the ability of individuals to join together to file class action lawsuits because it has been the target of them so many times. In 2003, 20,000 African American and Hispanic workers filed a racial discrimination lawsuit against FedEx Express alleging that minorities had been passed over for promotions and treated unfairly in evaluations.” [American Association for Justice, [October 2011](#)]

FedEx Settled The Class Action Lawsuit For \$53.5 Million And Promised It Would Reform Its Human Resources Department. “FedEx settled the lawsuit in 2007 for \$53.5 million and a promise that it would reform its human resources department.” [American Association for Justice, [October 2011](#)]

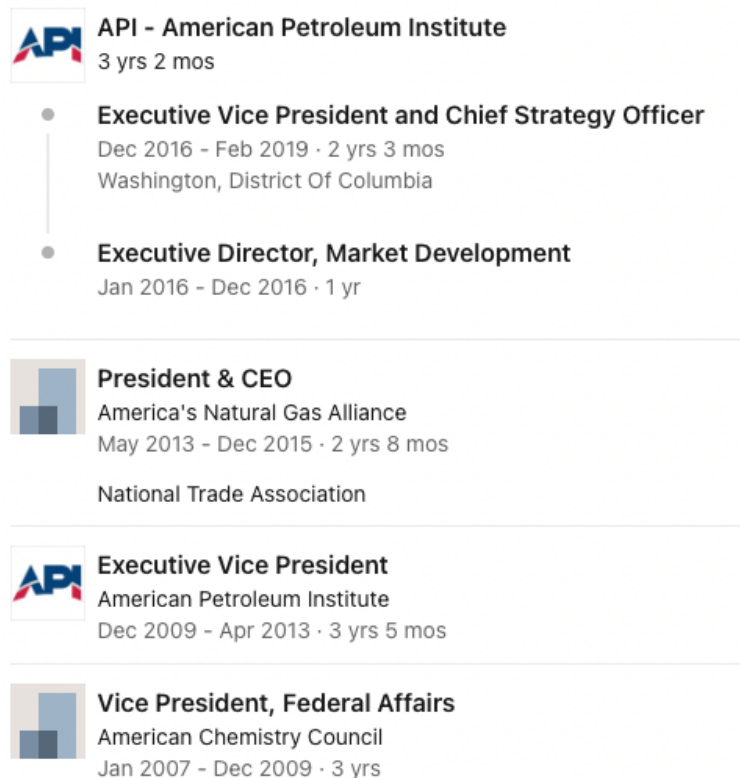
Marty Durbin, U.S. Chamber SVP And President Of Its Energy Institute, Was EVP And Chief Strategy Officer For The American Petroleum Institute As It Blamed “Genetics” And Other Issues For The Harm Oil Pollution Does To Minority Communities And He Has Publicly Promoted The Keystone XL And Dakota Access Pipelines, Both Condemned For Environmental Racism.

Marty Durbin Is The U.S. Chamber’s Senior Vice President Of Policy And President Of The Chamber’s Global Energy Institute.

Martin (Marty) Durbin Is Senior Vice President Of Policy For The U.S. Chamber And President Of Its Global Energy Institute. “Martin Durbin Senior Vice President, Policy [...] Martin (Marty) Durbin is president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s Global Energy Institute (GEI). Durbin leads GEI’s efforts to build support for meaningful energy action through policy development, education, and advocacy, making it a go-to voice for commonsense energy solutions.” [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, accessed [10/12/22](#)]

While Marty Durbin Was EVP And Chief Strategy Officer For The American Petroleum Institute, The Group Callously Blamed Issues Such As “Genetics, Indoor Allergens And Unequal Access To Preventative Care” After Multiple Studies Showed That Oil Industry Pollution Disproportionately Affects The Health Of Communities Of Color.

Marty Durbin Was The American Petroleum Institute’s Executive Vice President And Chief Strategy Officer From December 2016 To February 2019, Its Executive Director Of Market Development From January 2016 To December 2016, And An Executive Vice President From December 2009 To April 2013. [Linkedin Profile for Marty Durbin, accessed [10/12/22](#)]



API - American Petroleum Institute
3 yrs 2 mos

- Executive Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer**
Dec 2016 - Feb 2019 · 2 yrs 3 mos
Washington, District Of Columbia
- Executive Director, Market Development**
Jan 2016 - Dec 2016 · 1 yr

President & CEO
America's Natural Gas Alliance
May 2013 - Dec 2015 · 2 yrs 8 mos
National Trade Association

API Executive Vice President
American Petroleum Institute
Dec 2009 - Apr 2013 · 3 yrs 5 mos

Vice President, Federal Affairs
American Chemistry Council
Jan 2007 - Dec 2009 · 3 yrs

[Linkedin Profile for Marty Durbin, accessed [10/12/22](#)]

A 2017 Study Showed That African-Americans Faced A Disproportionate Health Risk From Oil Industry Pollution. “African-Americans face a disproportionate risk of health problems from pollution caused by the oil and gas industry, and the situation could worsen as President Donald Trump dismantles environmental regulations, according to a report issued on Tuesday by a pair of advocacy groups.” [Reuters, [11/14/17](#)]

API Initially Declined To Comment On The NAACP Study. “Officials for the American Petroleum Institute and the American Fuel and Petrochemicals Manufacturers, which represent the country’s largest fossil fuels companies, did not immediately comment on the report.” [Reuters, [11/14/17](#)]

Two Days Later, API Characterized The NAACP Study As An “Attac[k]” On “Our Industry.” “The health of African American communities is a genuine cause for concern in our country. But attacking our industry is the wrong approach and detracts from the real work that should be done to reduce disparately high rates of disease among African Americans.” [American Petroleum Institute, [11/16/17](#)]

The American Petroleum Institute Dismissed The Findings, Blaming Health Disparities On Issues Such As “Genetics, Indoor Allergens And Unequal Access To Preventative Care.” “I’ve read an NAACP paper released this week that accuses the natural gas and oil industry of emissions that disproportionately burden African American communities. As a scientist, my overall observation is that the paper fails to demonstrate a causal relationship between natural gas activity and the health disparities, reported or predicted, within the African American community. Rather, scholarly research attributes those health disparities to other factors that have nothing to do with natural gas and oil operations – such as genetics, indoor allergens and unequal access to preventative care.” [American Petroleum Institute, [11/16/17](#)]

While An Executive VP And Chief Strategy Officer For The American Petroleum Institute, Durbin Penned An Op-Ed Pushing The Dakota Access Pipeline, Which Critics Condemned As “Racist” As Tribal Leaders Warned Of “Catastrophic Damage” To Their Sovereign Lands, Drinking Water, And Sacred Burial Grounds.

Marty Durbin Op-Ed Headline: America needs Keystone, Dakota pipelines [The Eagle-Tribune, [01/29/17](#)]

Durbin Was The Executive Vice President And Chief Strategy Officer For The American Petroleum Institute At The Time Of The Op-Ed. “Marty Durbin is executive vice president and chief strategy officer for the American Petroleum Institute, the only national trade association that represents all aspects of American’s oil and natural gas industry.” [The Eagle-Tribune, [01/29/17](#)]

- **Marty Durbin Was The American Petroleum Institute’s Executive Vice President And Chief Strategy Officer From December 2016 To February 2019, Its Executive Director Of Market Development From January 2016 To December 2016, And An Executive Vice President From December 2009 To April 2013.** [Linkedin Profile for Marty Durbin, accessed [10/12/22](#)]

Durbin Advocated The Dakota Access Pipeline As Safe And As A Job-Creating Project. “The Dakota Access pipeline was also ruled safe after a comprehensive, transparent and inclusive permitting process. Linking the energy-rich Bakken and Three Forks shale plays in North Dakota with major refiners in Illinois, the 1,172-mile project was actually 60 percent complete before the Obama administration halted construction in 2016, sending thousands of workers home. The pipeline is a \$3.78 billion investment supporting 8,000 to 12,000 jobs in four states. Finishing the job means well-paying work for America’s construction sector – a highly trained workforce – and a long-term investment in U.S. energy security.” [The Eagle-Tribune, [01/29/17](#)]

Critics Condemned The Dakota Access Project As “Racist,” As Dakota And Lakota Tribe Representatives Argued The Pipeline “Could Cause Catastrophic Damage To Their Lands, Drinking Water And Ancient Burial Grounds.” “Representatives from the Dakota and Lakota tribes claim the pipeline could cause catastrophic damage to their lands, drinking water and ancient burial grounds. Many opponents claim the manner in which the pipeline was planned and executed is racist.” [WBEZ Chicago, [11/07/16](#)]

- **HEADLINE: The Dakota Access Pipeline And Environmental Racism** [WBEZ Chicago, [11/07/16](#)]

Race Was A “Key Issue” In The Dakota Access Dispute, With The Standing Rock Sioux Suing The Federal Government For Failing To Consult With The Tribe Before Approving The Pipeline. “But there’s also another key issue at play: race, and the need to recognize indigenous tribes’ right to self-determination. The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, located just South of the pipeline, has sued the federal government for failing to consult the tribe before the Army Corps of Engineers discreetly approved the pipeline in July. As the Washington Post reported, the pipeline will run under the Missouri River, the major natural water supply,

and through sacred areas that aren't considered official parts of the Standing Rock Indian Reservation." [Vox, [10/28/16](#)]

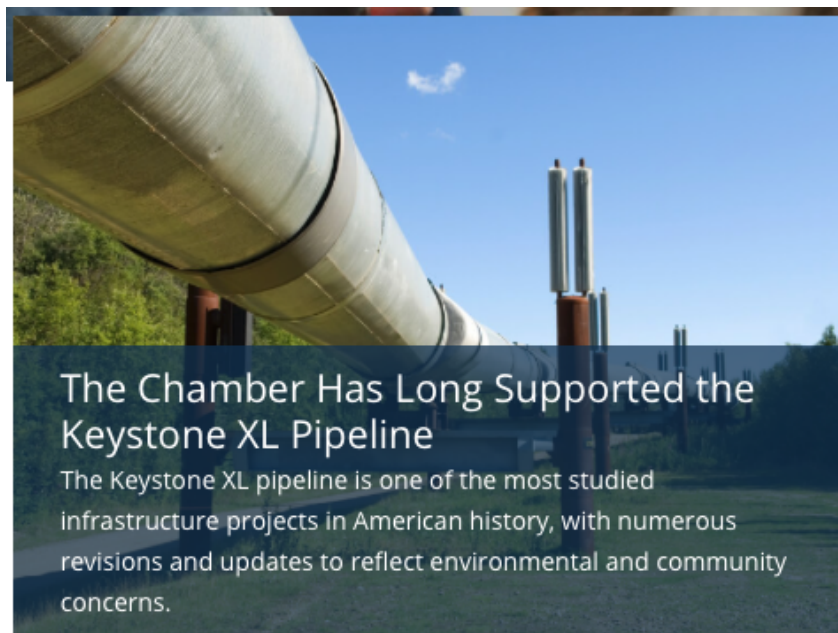
A Federal Judge Ultimately Ruled That The Government And Corporations Failed To Consult The Tribe. "And while a federal judge has affirmed the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's concerns that corporate and government entities alike failed to consult them, American history shows there is a violent history of denying indigenous groups sovereignty over their own lives." [Vox, [10/28/16](#)]

2016: "Militarized" Police Forces Arrested Dozens As Members Of The Standing Rock Sioux And Their Allies Protested The Pipeline. "Tensions are rising in North Dakota as Standing Rock Sioux members, activists, and allies protest the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline, which could damage their water supply. NBC News reported that at least 141 people were arrested on Thursday after protesters (who refer to themselves as protectors) were met with militarized police force." [Vox, [10/28/16](#)]

Marty Durbin Condemned Biden's Day One Opposition To The Keystone XL Pipeline, Calling It A "Politically Motivated Decision" As Native American Tribal Leaders Praised The Decision To Halt It, Calling The Pipeline "An Extension Of The Racial, Environmental And Social Injustices We Have Suffered."

After President Biden Announced His Intention To Revoke The Keystone XL Permit On His First Day In Office, Marty Durbin Issued A Statement On Behalf Of The Chamber Claiming "This Is A Politically Motivated Decision." "On January 20, 2021, President Biden announced his intention to revoke the Presidential Permit to construct the pipeline. In response, Global Energy Institute President Marty Durbin said: 'The Chamber opposes President Biden's action to revoke the permit for the Keystone XL pipeline. The pipeline—the most studied infrastructure project in American history—is already under construction and has cleared countless legal and environmental hurdles. This is a politically motivated decision that is not grounded in science. It will harm consumers and put thousands of Americans in the building trades out of work. Halting construction will also impede the safe and efficient transport of oil, and unfairly single out production from one of our closest and most important allies.'" [Global Energy Institute, accessed [04/29/21](#)]

The Global Energy Institute's Homepage Declared, "The Chamber Has Long Supported The Keystone XL Pipeline," As Of October 2022



[Global Energy Institute, accessed [10/12/22](#)]

Tribal Leaders In South Dakota Applauded Biden’s Decision To Halt Keystone XL After Opposing The Project “For More Than A Decade.” “Tribal leaders in South Dakota are applauding President Joe Biden's day one move to halt the Keystone XL Pipeline at the country's northern border, calling the action a willingness to listen to Native American voices. Tribes in South Dakota have been opposed to and protesting the pipeline's construction for more than a decade.” [Argus Leader, [01/21/21](#)]

The Chairman Of The Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Praised Biden’s Decision, Calling Keystone XL “An Extension Of The Racial, Environmental And Social Injustices We Have Suffered.” “Chairman of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Harold Frazier said the project posed a danger to tribal land and people. ‘This project has scarred our territorial and treaty lands with its presence and threatened our people like a dagger to our throats,’ Frazier wrote Wednesday night. ‘We have witnessed the invasion of our land and the genocide of our families – this project is an extension of the racial, environmental and social injustices we have suffered.’” [Argus Leader, [01/21/21](#)]

Gerald L. Shaheen, U.S. Chamber Board Member And Recent Treasurer, Was Group President Of Caterpillar, Which Has Since Faced Multiple Racial Discrimination Lawsuits, Including One Alleging A Manager Made “References To Lynching And ‘Planet Of The Apes.’”

U.S. Chamber Board Member And Recent Treasurer Gerald L. Shaheen Was Group President Of Caterpillar, Inc. Until 2008, After Working For The Firm For 41 Years.

Gerald L. Shaheen Was A Member Of The U.S. Chamber’s Board Of Directors, As Of October 12, 2022:

Gerald L. Shaheen
FORD Motor Company
Scottsdale, AZ

[U.S. Chamber of Commerce, accessed [10/12/22](#)]

Gerald L. Shaheen—The U.S. Chamber’s Current Treasurer —Was The Group President Of Caterpillar, Inc. Until February 2008 After Working For The Company For 41 Years. “Gerald L. Shaheen Treasurer, U.S. Chamber of Commerce [...] Gerald L. Shaheen is retired group president of Caterpillar Inc. in Peoria, Illinois. He was responsible for the design, development, and production of Caterpillar’s large construction and mining equipment, as well as the company’s U.S. operations division. He was also responsible for the company’s marketing and sales operations in North America, its components business, and its research and development division. During his 41 years with the company, he held numerous marketing and management positions, both in the U.S. and Europe, and at one time had responsibility for Caterpillar’s business in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and the former Soviet Union.” [U.S. Chamber of Commerce via Archive.org, 09/24/21, accessed [10/12/22](#)]

- **Shaheen Retired As Caterpillar Group President On February 1, 2008.** [Rental Equipment Register, [10/12/17](#)]

- [Suzanne Clark](#), President and Chief Executive Officer
- [Mark Ordan](#), Chair of the Board and Chair of the Executive Committee
- Brackett Denniston III, Vice Chair of the Board
- Gerald L. Shaheen, Treasurer

[U.S. Chamber of Commerce, accessed [10/19/22](#)]

Caterpillar Has Since Faced Multiple Discrimination Lawsuits, Including One Federal Complaint From Employees Alleging That Managers Were Allowed To “Discriminate, Harass, And Retaliate Against Black Workers,” With One Complaining That A Floor Inspector Made “References To Lynching And ‘Planet Of The Apes.’”

HEADLINE: Mitchell: Caterpillar Inc. called out on alleged racial bias [Chicago Sun-Times, [07/24/16](#)]

2016: Five Caterpillar Employees Filed A Federal Discrimination Lawsuit Against The Company, Alleging The Company Allowed Managers To “Discriminate, Harass, And Retaliate Against Black Workers.” “Johnson is one of the plaintiffs in a federal discrimination suit filed last week against Caterpillar Inc., one of the state’s largest employers, over something they say happened at its Aurora plant. ‘The Facility Manager grabbed Johnson’s arm and refused to allow him to go to the restroom, telling him, ‘Sit down, you can wait,’ according to the lawsuit. Beyond that, Johnson and the others who are suing — Cory Jones, Eddie Jones, Columbus McGrew and Derrick Moore — accuse managers at the Aurora facility of being allowed to discriminate, harass, and retaliate against black workers. And they say Caterpillar didn’t respond to complaints about discriminatory behavior.” [Chicago Sun-Times, [07/24/16](#)]

Other Discrimination Cases Accused Caterpillar’s Managers Of “Using Racial Slurs Or Committing Other Blatant Racist Acts.” “Some recent employment discrimination cases have accused supervisors of using racial slurs or committing other blatant racist acts. But most of the complaints that people call me with are more nuanced, similar to those outlined in this lawsuit.” [Chicago Sun-Times, [07/24/16](#)]

One Worker, Who Was With Caterpillar From 2005 To 2013, Said The Company Denied Him “Resources And Support,” Such As Phones, Desks, And Computers, That It Provided To Similarly Situated Non-Black Workers. “Derrick Moore, who worked for Caterpillar from 2005 through 2013, says in the suit that that even after he passed a test to become the only African-American quality specialist/inspector, the company denied him the ‘resources and support’ it gave to the non-African-American inspectors, such as ‘company phones, desks and computers.’” [Chicago Sun-Times, [07/24/16](#)]

Another Worker Said A Floor Inspector’s Racist Comments Included “References To Lynching And ‘Planet Of The Apes.’” “In one of the complaints in the suit, Cory Jones says a floor inspector made ‘offensive and threatening comments about African-Americans, including references to lynching and ‘Planet of the Apes.’” [Chicago Sun-Times, [07/24/16](#)]

The Lawsuit Alleged More Widely That Black Workers Were “Underrepresented In The Work Force And In Management” In The Plant. “Caterpillar employs about 2,800 employees at the Aurora plant, where the lawsuit says African-Americans are underrepresented in the work force and in management.” [Chicago Sun-Times, [07/24/16](#)]

U.S. Chamber SVP And Foundation President Carolyn Cawley Was A Senior Aide To Former California Governor Pete Wilson, Whose Notorious “Anti-Diversity” Legacy Included Bans Against Affirmative Action, Bilingual Education, And Public Services For Undocumented Immigrants.

Carolyn Cawley, U.S. Chamber SVP And President Of Its Nonprofit Foundation Was A Senior Aide To Former Republican California Governor Pete Wilson—Whose Legacy Of “Anti-Diversity” Policies Included Banning Affirmative Action, Prohibiting Bilingual Education, And Blocking Undocumented Immigrants From Public Services.

Carolyn Cawley, Senior Vice President For The U.S. Chamber And President Of The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce Foundation, Worked For Former Republican California Governor Pete Wilson As A Deputy Director For The Bay Area. “Carolyn Cawley is president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation and senior vice president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The Foundation is the nonprofit affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world’s largest business federation representing more than 3 million member companies. [...] Earlier in her career, she served on the speechwriting staff for President George H.W. Bush and later as an aide to California Governor Pete Wilson.” [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, accessed [10/12/22](#)]

- **From 1991 To 1993, Cawley Was A Deputy Director For The Bay Area While An Aide To The Office Of The Governor Of California.** [Linkedin Profile for Carolyn Cawley, accessed [10/12/22](#)]



[Linkedin Profile for Carolyn Cawley, accessed [10/12/22](#)]

Gov. Wilson, Who Left Office In 1999, Left A “Legacy” Of “Anti-Diversity Policies He Championed And Helped Enshrine Into California Law.” “Former California governor Pete Wilson left the governor’s mansion in 1999, but his legacy lived on in the anti-diversity policies he championed and helped enshrine into California law.” [The Guardian, [07/31/20](#)]

Wilson Pushed Policies To Ban Affirmative Action, Prohibit Bilingual Education, And Worked To Block Undocumented Immigrants From Public Services. “As governor, Wilson used his pulpit to push reforms that were widely viewed as racist – including a ban on affirmative action, a prohibition on bilingual education, and an effort to exclude undocumented immigrants from public services.” [The Guardian, [07/31/20](#)]

Under Wilson, California Became The First State To Ban Affirmative Action—The Ban Still Stood, As Of 2021. “California in 1996 became the first of eight states to ban affirmative action. Previous efforts to undo the ban in California have fallen short, but the conversation is gathering new momentum amid a national reckoning on racial injustice and a pandemic taking the heaviest toll on communities of color.” [The Guardian, [07/31/20](#)]

- **California’s Proposition 16, Which Was On The Ballot In November 2020, Would Have Repealed The Affirmative Action Ban.** “But as the state heads toward another election day, and support grows to overturn the ban on affirmative action, one more piece of Wilson’s legacy may soon unravel. In late June, state senators voted overwhelmingly to send the proposal to voters, who can repeal the ban at the ballot box in November by voting yes on Proposition 16.” [The Guardian, [07/31/20](#)]

- **Proposition 16 Ultimately Failed.** “Proposition 16, which would have repealed California’s law that prevents UCLA and other public universities from considering race in admissions, was defeated Nov. 3 when at more than 57% of Californians voted no on the measure.” [UCLA, [11/18/20](#)]
- **A Referendum On The Affirmative Action Ban Is On The Ballot Again In November 2022.** “Twenty-four years ago, California was consumed by debate over affirmative action. A charismatic Black businessman named Ward Connerly led support for Proposition 209, a ballot initiative to ban racial preferences in admission to the state’s world-renowned public universities. The measure passed with 55 percent of the vote and inspired similar changes in nearly a dozen other states. This November, with an initiative to repeal Proposition 209 on the ballot, California voters will have the opportunity to change their minds.” [The New York Times, [08/21/20](#)]

Wilson Backed A Controversial Proposition To Block Undocumented Immigrants From Public Services, Even Running A Racist Ad Showing Migrants Running Past The Border—Although The Proposition Passed, It Was Later Struck Down As Unconstitutional. “In the final stretch of Wilson’s 1994 bid for re-election, facing a challenge from the Democrat Kathleen Brown, the governor signed on to a controversial measure, Proposition 187, which sought to exclude undocumented immigrants from public services, including schools. A now infamous video aired during the re-election campaign includes grainy footage of a group of assumed-to-be migrants running through the port of entry south of San Diego, while a narrator in an ominous tone warns of invasion. ‘They keep coming. Two million illegal immigrants in California. The federal government won’t stop them, yet requires us to pay billions to take care of them.’” [The Guardian, [07/31/20](#)]

- **“Voters Approved Prop 187 By A Wide Margin. Though Later Struck Down As Unconstitutional, Wilson’s Legacy Would Be Forever Tied To A Campaign Seen Widely As Racist.”** [The Guardian, [07/31/20](#)]

Wilson Also Backed A Proposition “That Effectively Banned Bilingual Education” And Created A “Two-Tiered Education System” In The State—Nearly 75% Of Voters Repealed The Proposition In 2016. “Wilson also embraced Proposition 227, a ballot measure that effectively banned bilingual education in California by mandating classes be taught mostly in English. Its supporters pointed to schools where children struggled for literacy and argued without evidence that “hundreds of thousands of students” were languishing in Spanish-only schools. The law effectively created a two-tiered education system in California. [...] In 2016, nearly 75% of Californians voted to repeal the ban on bilingual education, sending it to the scrapheap of history alongside Prop 187.” [The Guardian, [07/31/20](#)]

In 2020, A San Diego Park Removed A Statue Of Gov. Wilson Due To His Discriminatory Legacy.

October 2020: A San Diego Park Removed A Statue Of Wilson Due To His Discriminatory History. “A statue of former California Gov. Pete Wilson was removed from a San Diego park after critics said the governor supported laws and policies that hurt immigrants and LGBTQ community members, a newspaper reported.” [Associated Press, [10/16/20](#)]


U.S. Chamber Executive Committee Member Brackett Denniston Was A Longtime Executive For General Electric, Which Settled For \$14 Million In Multiple Racial Discrimination Lawsuits During His Time With The Company.

Brackett Denniston III Is A Member Of The U.S. Chamber’s Executive Committee.


The U.S. Chamber’s Executive Committee Includes Brackett Denniston III, Senior Counsel For Goodwin Procter LLP. [U.S. Chamber Of Commerce, accessed [10/12/22](#)]

Denniston Worked At General Electric For Over 20 Years, Serving As General Counsel From 2004 To 2005 And Senior Vice President, Secretary, And General Counsel From 2005 To 2015.

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 **Senior Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel**
GE
Dec 2005 – Dec 2015 · 10 yrs 1 mo
Fairfield, CT

- Director of GE Capital Corporation and the GE Foundation
- Member of GE's Corporate Executive Council
- Chairman of the Policy Compliance Review Board, the governing compliance board of GE

 **GE**
9 yrs

General Counsel
2004 – 2005 · 1 yr
Fairfield, CT

Vice President and Senior Counsel for Litigation and Legal Policy
1996 – 2004 · 8 yrs
Fairfield, CT

[LinkedIn Profile for Brackett Denniston, accessed [10/12/22](#)]

While Denniston Was An Executive At GE, The Company Faced Numerous Racial Discrimination Lawsuits, With Over \$14 Million In Settlements During That Time.

In 2008, 62 Workers Sued A GE Subsidiary For A Racially Discriminatory Environment, Alleging They Were Called Racial Slurs, Denied Restroom And Injury Breaks, And Fired Or Disciplined Arbitrarily Based On Race. Sixty-two people sued two years ago, alleging discrimination by Baghouse Associates, a company that GE bought in 2004. The laborers, all but one of whom lived in the Monroeville area, worked for Lacy Enterprises, which supplied workers to Baghouse Associates. The workers traveled to power plants and heavy industrial operations in various places throughout the country to change filters. The plaintiffs alleged that their GE supervisor subjected them to a barrage of racial slurs and insults, denied them breaks to use the restroom or treat injuries, and arbitrarily fired or suspended black workers because of their race.” [AL.com, [12/13/10](#)]

- **In 2010, GE Settled The Lawsuit For \$3 Million, With The Condition That The Workers Do Not Pursue Further Lawsuits Against GE And That GE Would Not Have To Admit Wrongdoing.** “General Electric Co. agreed to pay \$3 million to settle a racial discrimination lawsuit brought by black laborers from the Monroeville area, according to federal court records. Attorneys on both sides have declined to comment on the settlement reached last month a day before a civil trial was set to begin. But a transcript of the Nov. 29 settlement conference indicates that the plaintiffs agreed to the \$3 million figure. The plaintiffs agreed to waive any future claims against GE, its employees or anyone associated with them. They also agreed to sign confidentiality agreements prohibiting them from discussing the settlement or any of the allegations they made. GE did not admit any wrongdoing in agreeing to the terms, according to the transcript, which was released last week.” [AL.com, [12/13/10](#)]

In 2005, General Electric Was Sued For Racial Discrimination, With Plaintiffs Claiming Black Managers Were Routinely Passed Up For Promotions And Paid Less Than White Counterparts. “US manufacturing giant General Electric (GE) is accused of passing over black managers for promotion and paying them less than their white counterparts. Marc Thomas, head of GE's Aviation Materials unit, claims the firm halted his career and has filed a lawsuit demanding \$450m (£246m) in damages. Court papers allege that black managers fill about 5% of positions at GE.” [BBC News, [05/18/05](#)]

- **The Suit Was “Quietly” Settled In 2006.** “G.E. has faced discrimination charges before. Two years ago, Marcel T. Thomas, then the chief executive of GE Aviation Materials, sued G.E. after he received a negative evaluation and a negligible raise. Mr. Thomas, who is black, charged racial discrimination, and sought to have his suit certified as a class action. He never received the certification, and Mr. Thomas and G.E. quietly settled.” [New York Times, [06/01/07](#)]

In 2006, GE Was Forced To Settle A Racial Discrimination Suit For \$11 Million To A Former Chief Engineer Of Indian Descent. “A former chief engineer for General Electric Co. (GE) of Indian descent has been awarded \$11 million in an age and racial discrimination lawsuit. [...] The Associated Press reports a six-member jury found that GE discriminated against and illegally fired Hermant Moody, awarding him \$591,423 in back pay, \$500,000 in compensatory damages and \$10 million in punitive damages. In the suit, Moody said he watched younger, white males pass him by in promotions and management positions since joining the company in 1998, according to the AP. He also alleged GE has not contributed to his pension fund since 1987 by maintaining a young work force and laying off or firing employees as they become older.” [PlanSponsor, [07/21/06](#)]

Thomas Wilson Jr., A Member Of The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce Executive Committee, Is The Chairman And CEO Of The Allstate Insurance Company, Which Has Given Over \$700,000 To The Republican State Leadership Committee And State Lawmakers That Have Led Voter Suppression Efforts.

Thomas Wilson Jr., The Chairman, CEO, And President Of The Allstate Insurance Company, Is An Executive Committee Member Of The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce

U.S. Chamber Executive Committee Member Thomas J. Wilson Is The Chairman, CEO, And President Of The Allstate Insurance Company. [Executive Committee, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, accessed [10/19/22](#)]

The Allstate Insurance Company Gave Over \$615,000 To The Republican State Leadership Committee, Which Attacked A Judge For Striking Down A Voter ID Law And In 2021 Started An “Election Integrity” Commission Criticized As A Voter Suppression Effort

The Allstate Insurance Company Has Given Over \$615,000 To The Republican State Leadership Committee Since 2013. [OpenSecrets, accessed [04/29/21](#)]

In The 2016 Election Cycle, The RSLC Funded Ads During The Arkansas Supreme Court Primary That Attacked A Candidate For Striking Down Arkansas’s 2013 Voter ID Law. “In the recent Arkansas Supreme Court primary, JCN and the RSLC spent more than \$1 million combined. The groups' ads were criticized for misleading voters, and a judge even blocked a JCN attack ad, ruling that it was libelous.

Among the ads aired by the RSLC was one attacking an Arkansas Supreme Court justice for joining in a ruling to strike down the state's 2013 voter ID law." [Facing South, [07/20/18](#)]

February 2021: The RSLC Launched An "Election Integrity" Commission For State Policymakers. "The RSLC, the committee arm of the GOP that oversees electing and protecting state legislature and state senate officials in statehouses coast to coast as well as electing GOP secretaries of state in all 50 states, announced Wednesday morning a commission to highlight and put forward legislative solutions to stop voter fraud and secure American elections. The commission, co-chaired by Alabama Secretary of State John Merrill and Michigan state Sen. Ruth Johnson, will consider ideas from state lawmakers nationwide to develop best practices and recommendations for bills that legislatures coast to coast should pass into law to secure elections in the future." [Breitbart, [02/17/21](#)]

- **Democrats Called The RSLC Commission An Attempt At "Voter Suppression."** "Meanwhile, Democrats responded on Wednesday by criticizing the commission as a coordinated effort of 'voter suppression.' 'Republicans are using the lies they told about election integrity to launch a coordinated effort to roll back voting rights nationwide,' said Jessica Post, president of the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee, in a news release. 'Republicans are working to make sure that they never lose another presidential election and we need to stop them.'" [CNN, [02/17/21](#)]

From 2015 To 2020, Allstate Has Given Almost \$120,000 To Legislators Who Supported Voter Suppression Bills.

Allstate Has Given \$57,575 In 2020 To Supporters Of Voter Suppression Bills. [Public Citizen, [04/05/21](#)]

From 2015 To 2020, Allstate Has Given \$118,587 To Supporters Of Voter Suppression Bills. [Public Citizen, [04/05/21](#)]

Chris Womack, A Member Of The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce Executive Committee, Is The Current CEO Of Georgia Power And Former Executive Vice President For Southern Company, Utilities Companies Which Have Given Over \$431,000 To The Republican State Leadership Committee And State Lawmakers That Have Led Voter Suppression Efforts.

Chris Womack Is An Executive Committee Member Of The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce.

Christopher Womack Is An Executive Committee Member Of The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce. [Executive Committee, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, accessed [10/12/22](#)]

Womack Is The President Of Georgia Power, The Largest Subsidiary Of Southern Company, Where He Served As The Executive Vice President And President Of External Affairs.

Christopher Womack Is The Chairman, President, And CEO Of Georgia Power, The Largest Subsidiary Of Southern Company. "Chris Womack was named chairman, president and CEO of Georgia Power in 2021. He leads Georgia Power in serving its 2.6 million customers across the state. The company is the largest subsidiary of Southern Company, one of the nation's leading energy providers." [Our Leadership, Southern Company, accessed [10/12/22](#)]

Womack Previously Served As Executive Vice President And President Of External Affairs For Southern Company. “Prior to his current role, he served as executive vice president and president of external affairs for Southern Company where he led overall external positioning and branding efforts including the company's public policy strategies and oversaw the company's governmental and regulatory affairs, corporate communication initiatives and other external and strategic business engagements.” [Our Leadership, Southern Company, accessed [10/12/22](#)]

Georgia Power And Southern Company Gave Almost \$85,000 In Contributions To Georgia State Legislators Who Co-Sponsored The State’s Voter Suppression Bill, Despite Taking Credit For Racial Equity Action.

According To Sierra Club’s Georgia Chapter, Georgia Power And Southern Company Gave \$84,675 To Georgia State Legislators Who Sponsored Anti-Voting Bills, Despite Taking Credit For Action To Advance Racial Equity. “Over the past year, Georgia Power has portrayed itself as an ally of voting rights advocates and black communities by releasing public statements encouraging its employees to vote and committing to taking action for racial equity. At the same time, Georgia Power and its parent company, Southern Company, donated \$84,675 to State Legislators who sponsored these anti-voting bills.” [Sierra Club Georgia Chapter, accessed [04/29/21](#)]

Additionally, Georgia Power And Southern Company Have Given Over \$340,000 Combined To The Republican State Leadership Committee, Which Attacked A Judge For Striking Down A Voter ID Law And In 2021 Started An “Election Integrity” Commission Criticized As A Voter Suppression Effort.

As Of 2022, Georgia Power Had Given \$36,235 To The Republican State Leadership Committee. [OpenSecrets, accessed [10/19/22](#)]

Georgia Power Gave \$27,500 To The Republican State Leadership Committee In 2020 Alone. “The RSLC’s largest donors include conservative interest groups, corporations and some of America’s wealthiest individuals. [...] Significant donors from Georgia in 2020 include Waffle House, which donated \$50,000, Georgia Power Company, which donated \$27,500, and the Chairman of Grady Memorial Hospital, Pete Correll, who donated \$25,000.” [Georgia Public Broadcasting, [01/14/21](#)]

As Of 2022, Southern Company Has Given \$307,236 To The Republican State Leadership Committee. [OpenSecrets, accessed [04/29/21](#)]

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