

## As Florida's Attorney General, Pam Bondi Appeared To Sell Her Office Out To Corporate Interests That Paid Millions To The Republican Attorneys General Association (RAGA) In Exchange For Dropped Lawsuits, Amicus Briefs, And Firings

**SUMMARY:** Pam Bondi's track record as Attorney General of Florida (2011-2019) was marred by financial conflicts of interest as corporate interests endowed the Republican Attorneys General Association (RAGA) and the Republican State Leadership Committee (RSLC)—which funneled donations to support her re-election and allowed her to expense tens of thousands annually on travel and dinners. Donations from these special interests routinely preceded political favors, like avoiding damaging lawsuits and earning help in challenging federal regulations that harmed their bottom lines.

Bondi's long history of selling her office out to corporate interests includes:

- [Firing two attorneys](#) and dropping the housing foreclosure fraud lawsuits they were leading against predatory banks after one defendant, Lender Processing Services, contributed \$31,972 to RSLC and RAGA;
- [Dropping a tax fraud lawsuit](#) against Expedia and several other online travel agencies after Expedia contributed \$192,530 to RSLC and RAGA;
- Opting not to pursue lawsuits against shady companies—hospital debt collector [Accretive Health](#) and for-profit online college [Bridgepoint Education](#)—at the behest of their lobbyists after RAGA received tens of thousands of dollars from the companies;
- Filing amicus briefs in [Shew v. Melloy](#) (2014), a lawsuit seeking to overturn a Connecticut semi-automatic weapons ban, and [NRA v. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives](#) (2014), an attempt to lower the federal age of eligibility to purchase handguns from 21 to 18, after RSLC and RAGA had taken \$133,853 in contributions from the NRA;
- Filing amicus briefs in multiple lawsuits that attempted to reduce the EPA's regulatory authority under the [Clean Air Act](#) and [Clean Water Act](#), following more than \$1.26 million in contributions to RSLC and RAGA from fossil fuel interests;
- Filing an [amicus brief](#) in support of the petitioners in *National Mining Association v. McCarthy* (2014), an attempt to reduce the EPA's regulatory authority under the Clean Water Act, after the National Mining Association contributed \$25,000 to RAGA;
- Filing an [amicus brief](#) in support of the petitioners in *Murphy v. NCAA* (2018), a Supreme Court Case that ultimately legalized sports betting at the state level, after RAGA had received \$40,000 from the gambling industry's premier trade association.

**Pam Bondi, President-Elect Trump's Nominee For U.S. Attorney General, Was Deeply Enmeshed In The Republican Attorneys General Association (RAGA) During Her Eight Years As Attorney General Of Florida**

## **President-Elect Trump Nominated Former Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi To Be His Next U.S. Attorney General**

**November 2024: President Trump Nominated Pam Bondi To Be U.S. Attorney General, Hours After Matt Gaetz Withdrew His Nomination.** “US President-elect Donald Trump has nominated veteran prosecutor Pam Bondi as his new pick for attorney general, hours after Matt Gaetz withdrew his name from consideration.” [BBC, [11/22/24](#)]

**Pam Bondi, A Republican, Served As Florida’s Attorney General From 2011 To 2019.** “President-elect Donald J. Trump quickly swept aside Thursday’s bad headlines about Matt Gaetz by speedily substituting Pam Bondi, a fellow Florida Republican with a starkly different profile — but a similar reputation for fealty — to be his attorney general. Ms. Bondi, 59, is a lobbyist and Trump loyalist who served as Florida’s attorney general from 2011 to 2019.” [The New York Times, [11/21/24](#)]

## **As Florida’s Attorney General, Bondi Was Firmly Enmeshed In RAGA’s Network, Receiving Thousands Of Dollars’ Worth Of Purchases Annually And Engaging Readily With Corporate Lobbyists In Luxury Settings**

*The Republican Attorneys General Association Is A Fundraising Group Whose Mission Is To Elect And Re-elect Republican AGs, But The Group Has Also Been Accused Of Trading Contributions For Political Favors*

**The Republican Attorneys General Association (RAGA) Helps Elect And Re-Elect Republican Attorneys General.** “RAGA elects and re-elects Republican attorneys general nationally to promote and protect the Constitution, freedom, and opportunity for future generations.” [Republican Attorneys General Association, accessed [10/30/24](#)]

- **RAGA Split From The Republican State Leadership Committee (RSLC) In Early 2014.** “The Republican State Leadership Committee, a powerful outside group that has helped fund conservative gains in state elections nationwide, is splitting apart as a collection of GOP attorneys general seeks to chart its own course for the 2014 elections. A group of attorneys general approached the RSLC board on Jan. 13 to convey its plans to incorporate the Republican Attorneys General Association as a separate entity, two Republicans told POLITICO.” [POLITICO, [1/21/14](#)]
- **RAGA Has Been Accused Of Running A “Pay-To-Play” Scheme Where The Organization’s Members Will File Lawsuits On Behalf Of Business Interests That Fund The Group.** “Raga members have been criticised as a “pay-to-play” operation for filing lawsuits in support of business interests that help fund the attorneys general group, including fossil-fuel companies opposing climate-change rules.” [The Guardian, [6/23/23](#)]

### **From The Start, RAGA Solicited Contributions From Corporate Lobbyists And Their Clients.**

“Republican attorneys general were the first to create a party-based fund-raising group, 14 years ago. An initial appeal for contributions to corporate lobbyists and lawyers said that public policy was being shaped “via the courthouse rather than the statehouse.” It urged corporate lawyers ‘to round up your clients and come see what RAGA is all about.’ The U.S. Chamber of Commerce alone has contributed \$2.2 million this year to the group, making it the association’s biggest donor. The Democrats at first fought the idea, but two years later formed a counterpart. Dickstein, and a handful of other law firms, moved to capitalize by offering lobbying as well as legal assistance to deal with attorneys general, whom Dickstein called ‘the new sheriffs in town.’” [The New York Times, [10/29/14](#)]

*RAGA, Which Formed In 1999, Operated As An Arm As The Republican State Leadership Committee (RSLC) From 2002 To 2014, After Which It Left And Became Its Own Distinct Legal Entity*

**RAGA Was Established By 12 Republican Attorneys General In 1999.** “RAGA was originally formed in 1999. In 2002, the Republican State Leadership Committee (RSLC) was formed, of which RAGA operated as a

branch. In January 2014, plans to establish RAGA as its own independent entity were announced and executed. When RAGA was formed in 1999, there were 12 Republican attorneys general. At the end of 2014, there were 27 Republican attorneys general.” [Ballotpedia, accessed [12/2/24](#)]

**RAGA Joined The Republican State Leadership Committee (RSLC) When It Formed In 2002.** “RAGA was originally formed in 1999. In 2002, the Republican State Leadership Committee (RSLC) was formed, of which RAGA operated as a branch. In January 2014, plans to establish RAGA as its own independent entity were announced and executed. When RAGA was formed in 1999, there were 12 Republican attorneys general. At the end of 2014, there were 27 Republican attorneys general.” [Ballotpedia, accessed [12/2/24](#)]

**2014: RAGA Split From The RSLC And Became Its Own Distinct Legal Entity.** “RAGA was originally formed in 1999. In 2002, the Republican State Leadership Committee (RSLC) was formed, of which RAGA operated as a branch. In January 2014, plans to establish RAGA as its own independent entity were announced and executed. When RAGA was formed in 1999, there were 12 Republican attorneys general. At the end of 2014, there were 27 Republican attorneys general.” [Ballotpedia, accessed [12/2/24](#)]

- **RAGA Reportedly Split Off From RSLC Because Its Members Wanted More Control Over The Considerable Donations They Brought In For The Organization.** “To the extent that there has been friction between the attorneys general and the rest of the RSLC — and accounts differ on the level of tension that currently exists — it has everything to do with the legal officials’ desire for more decision-making power when it comes to the deployment of money that they bring in. Attorney general races are natural destinations for corporate and big-donor cash, given the broad discretion these officials have when it comes to initiating legal action. Lieutenant governor and secretary of state races — other offices serviced by the RSLC — do not necessarily carry the same level of importance to major campaign contributors.” [Politico, [1/21/14](#)]

*As Florida’s Attorney General, Pam Bondi Was An Active Member Of RAGA, Receiving Tens Of Thousands Of Dollars’ Worth Of Airfare And Accommodations From The Organization*

**As Florida’s Attorney General, Bondi Was A “Rising Star” In The Republican Party And An Active Member Of RAGA.** “Ms. Bondi, the Florida attorney general, for example, received nearly \$25,000 worth of airfare, hotels and meals in the past two years just from events sponsored by the Republican Attorneys General Association, state disclosure reports show. That money came indirectly from corporate donors... The email records show a similarly detailed interaction with the office of Ms. Bondi, the Florida attorney general and a fast-rising star in the Republican Party.” [The New York Times, [10/29/14](#)]

**As Florida’s Attorney General, Bondi Received Tens Of Thousands Of Dollars’ Worth Of Airfare, Hotels, And Meals From RAGA Over A Two-Year Span, According To A New York Times Investigation.** “Ms. Bondi, the Florida attorney general, for example, received nearly \$25,000 worth of airfare, hotels and meals in the past two years just from events sponsored by the Republican Attorneys General Association, state disclosure reports show. That money came indirectly from corporate donors.” [The New York Times, [10/29/14](#)]

**A 2014 New York Times Investigation Unveiled That Corporate Lobbyists Had Spent Thousands Of Dollars Wooing Then-Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi Across A Multitude Of Settings.**

**(03) Pam Bondi and Dickstein: A Mutually Beneficial Relationship**

Attorney General Pam Bondi of Florida, an up-and-coming star in the Republican Party, has been a major target of attention by Dickstein Shapiro. Here is a look at that relationship.

[...]

**A Trip to Hawaii — and Another Invitation From Dickstein** p. 13  
**Corporate-Funded Gifts to Bondi: Meals, Activities, Gift Bag** p. 14  
**Dinner in D.C.? Another Dickstein Invitation, September 2011** p. 16  
**Invitation to Dinner With Dickstein — Palm Beach, Fla., November 2011** p. 17  
**Bondi Goes to the Breakers** p. 18

[The New York Times, public records via DocumentCloud, [10/28/14](#)]

*The Republican Attorneys General Association Supported Pam Bondi's 2014 Re-election Campaign By Funneling \$200,000 To Justice For All PAC, A Political Group That Supported Bondi*

**October 2014: The Republican Attorneys General Association Contributed \$200,000 To Justice For All, A State Political Action Committee In Florida.**

Recipient Name	Recipient Location	Amount	Date ↑
<b>Justice for All</b> Contribution (Refunded)	Tampa, FL	\$100K	October 29, 2014
<b>Justice for All</b> Contribution	Tampa, FL	\$100K	October 6, 2014

[ProPublica, accessed [12/2/24](#)]

- **Justice For All Was A Political Group That Supported Pam Bondi's Causes.** "Dickstein, its partners and clients have also contributed money directly to Ms. Bondi's political causes, through two political groups affiliated with Ms. Bondi — named Justice for All and For Justice for All..." [The New York Times, accessed [12/2/24](#)]

**As Florida's Attorney General, Bondi Dropped Multiple Tax Fraud Lawsuits And Fired Staff At The Behest Of Corporate RAGA Donors Targeted By Her Republican Predecessor**

**2011: Bondi Fired Two Attorneys Who Were Leading Foreclosure Fraud Investigations Against A Jacksonville Bank At The Behest Of The Bank's Counsel, After Which The Bank Contributed \$31,972 To RSLC From 2011-2013**

**2011: Bondi Fired Two Attorneys Who Were Leading Investigations Into Law Firms Handling Foreclosures On Behalf Of Banks.** "Bondi already has agreed to an outside probe of the dismissals of two attorneys who were leading foreclosure fraud investigations. And another employee resigned in August after suggesting there were cases that weren't being pursued due to politics... Then two attorneys -- Theresa Edwards and her colleague June Clarkson -- were forced out of their jobs in late May despite positive job reviews. Both women had been involved with investigations into law firms handling foreclosures on behalf of banks." [St. Augustine Record, [9/2/11](#)]

- **The Attorneys Were Fired "Despite Positive Job Reviews."** "Then two attorneys -- Theresa Edwards and her colleague June Clarkson -- were forced out of their jobs in late May despite positive job reviews. Both women had been involved with investigations into law firms handling foreclosures on behalf of banks." [St. Augustine Record, [9/2/11](#)]

- **Bondi's Chief Of Staff Claimed The Departures Were Due To Professional "Shortcomings," Which One Attorney Claimed Was "A Lie."** "Carlos Muniz, the chief of staff for Bondi, has insisted that Clarkson and Edwards were forced to resign due to their 'shortcomings' on the job and that they warned ahead of time. 'That's a lie,' said Clarkson, who along with Edwards, is now defending homeowners." [St. Augustine Record, [9/2/11](#)]

**Another Attorney In Bondi's Office Resigned Not Long After, Claiming There Were Cases Being Dropped Due To Politics.** "Bondi already has agreed to an outside probe of the dismissals of two attorneys who were leading foreclosure fraud investigations. And another employee resigned in August after suggesting there were cases that weren't being pursued due to politics." [St. Augustine Record, [9/2/11](#)]

**Bondi Had Inherited The Lawsuits From Her Predecessor, Bill McCollum.** "Bondi took over Florida's ongoing lawsuit to block the federal health care overhaul from former Attorney General Bill McCollum. But she also inherited investigations launched by McCollum including a probe into several for-profit colleges." [St. Augustine Record, [9/2/11](#)]

- **Bill McCollum, A Fellow Republican, Was Florida Attorney General From 2007 To 2011.** "Ira William "Bill" McCollum, Jr. (born July 12, 1944, in Brooksville, Florida) is a former Attorney General of Florida, serving from 2007 to 2011... On May 18, 2009, McCollum announced he would run in the Republican primary for Governor of Florida." [Ballotpedia, accessed [11/27/24](#)]

**Bondi Dismissed Two Attorneys From Her Office After An Attorney Representing Lender Processing Services, A Bank They Were Investigating, Had Complained About How They Were Conducting The Investigation.** "The dismissals came months after an attorney representing one of the companies under investigation - Lender Processing Services - complained that both had made 'irresponsible' statements and had already 'tainted the investigation' due to a presentation they had made to court clerks." [St. Augustine Record, [9/2/11](#)]

- **Lender Processing Services Is A Bank Based In Jacksonville, Florida, In 2011.**

**2011 FOR PROFIT CORPORATION ANNUAL REPORT**

DOCUMENT# F09000000934

Entity Name: LENDER PROCESSING SERVICES, INC.

FILED  
Apr 11, 2011  
Secretary of State

Current Principal Place of Business:

601 RIVERSIDE AVE  
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32204

New Principal Place of Business:

Current Mailing Address:

601 RIVERSIDE AVE  
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32204

New Mailing Address:

[Florida Division of Corporations, Lender Processing Services, Inc., *2011 for profit corporation annual report*, filed [4/11/11](#)]

- **Lender Processing Services Had Hired An Attorney Directly From Bondi's Office In May 2011.** "The dismissals came months after an attorney representing one of the companies under investigation - Lender Processing Services - complained that both had made 'irresponsible' statements and had already 'tainted the investigation' due to a presentation they had made to court clerks. That same company wound up hiring a former top aide to McCollum who had a lead role in helping with the state's lawsuit against the federal health care overhaul that has earned Bondi national exposure. Joe Jacquot, who worked in the office until May, has pointed out that he did not supervise the unit the two women worked in. He also sent a memo to McCollum as far back as October where he asked that he not be involved in any discussions involving the company." [St. Augustine Record, [9/2/11](#)]

**Lender Processing Services Contributed \$31,972 To RSLC In 2011-2013.**

Contributor Name	Contributor Location	Amount	Date 
Lender Processing Services	Jacksonville, FL	\$400	November 26, 2013
Lender Processing Services	Jacksonville, FL	\$10K	August 28, 2013
Lender Processing Services, Inc.	Jacksonville, FL	\$350	October 16, 2012
Lender Processing Services, Inc.	Jacksonville, FL	\$10K	September 21, 2012
Lender Processing Services, Inc.	Jacksonville, FL	\$325	May 30, 2012
Lender Processing Services, Inc.	Jacksonville, FL	\$299	March 8, 2012
Lender Processing Services, Inc.	Jacksonville, FL	\$299	February 10, 2012
Lender Processing Services, Inc.	Jacksonville, FL	\$299	November 29, 2011
Lender Processing Services, Inc.	Jacksonville, FL	\$10K	August 31, 2011

Republican State Leadership Committee via ProPublica, accessed [11/26/24](#)

## **2014: Bondi Dropped A Tax Lawsuit Against Travel Companies After Expedia Paid RAGA \$192,530 And At The Urging Of Corporate Lobbyists, Who Had Contributed To RAGA And RSLC And Burnished Her Career With Favors**

*In 2014, Pam Bondi Dropped A Tax Lawsuit Against Travel Companies At The Urging Of Corporate Lobbyists From Dickstein Shapiro, A High-Profile Lobbying Firm*

**In 2009, The Florida Attorney General Filed Suit Against Expedia And Other Online Travel Agencies, Alleging That They Had Illegally Withheld Taxes On Hotel Rooms Booked In Florida.** “*State of Florida Attorney General v. Expedia Inc.*, which was announced in November 2009 and amended the next year to include Orbitz, Priceline, Travelocity and other OTAs, accused the defendants of deceptive practices in their hotel tax recovery methods, but Bondi filed to voluntarily dismiss the suit in April 2013.” [Skift, [10/29/14](#)]

**Pam Bondi Dropped The Travel Agency Lawsuit Before Hearing At The Urging Of Lobbyists From Dickstein Shapiro, A Corporate Law Firm.** “Behind the scenes, Dickstein had been working to get the case dropped... two months later, Ms. Bondi’s office moved to do what the firm had sought. ‘Dismissed before hearing,’ the state court docket shows, as the case was closed in April 2013 even before it was officially taken up by the court.” [The New York Times, [10/29/14](#)]

- **Dickstein Lobbyists Had Met With Bondi To Talk About The Lawsuit, And Later Sent Emails Arguing That Other Online Travel Cases Had Been Dropped By Florida Judges.** “‘Thank you so much for chatting with me last week about the online travel site suit,’ said a January 2012 email to Deputy Attorney General Patricia A. Conners from Christopher M. Tampio, a former lobbyist for the convenience store industry who was hired to work in Dickstein’s attorney general practice, even though he is not a lawyer or a registered lobbyist in Florida. A year later, a second round of emails arrived in Ms. Bondi’s office: first, one inviting Ms. Bondi or her top aide to dinner at Ristorante Tosca in Washington, and then one from a Dickstein lawyer pointing out that similar online travel cases had recently been dismissed by Florida judges.” [The New York Times, [10/29/14](#)]

*RAGA And RSLC Collected \$192,530 From Online Travel Agency Expedia Between 2011-2014*

**Expedia Contributed \$192,530 To RAGA And RSLC Between 2011-2014.**

Contributor Name	Contributor Location	Amount	Date
Expedia, Inc.	Bellevue, WA	\$25K	November 2, 2011
Expedia, Inc.	Bellevue, WA	\$215	November 30, 2011
Expedia, Inc.	Bellevue, WA	\$25K	March 8, 2012
Expedia, Inc.	Bellevue, WA	\$215	May 30, 2012
Expedia, Inc.	Bellevue, WA	\$6,000	July 13, 2012
Expedia, Inc.	Bellevue, WA	\$25K	August 24, 2012
Expedia, Inc.	Bellevue, WA	\$25K	February 15, 2013
Expedia, Inc.	Bellevue, WA	\$315	May 23, 2013
Expedia, Inc.	Bellevue, WA	\$285	August 9, 2013
Expedia, Inc.	Bellevue, WA	\$250	August 9, 2013

[...]

Expedia, Inc.	Bellevue, WA	\$12.5K	August 30, 2013
Expedia, Inc.	Bellevue, WA	\$5,000	August 30, 2013
Expedia, Inc.	Bellevue, WA	\$5,000	August 30, 2013
Expedia, Inc.	Bellevue, WA	\$25K	September 13, 2013
Expedia, Inc.	Bellevue, WA	\$12.5K	October 8, 2013

[...]

Contributor Name	Contributor Location	Amount	Date
Expedia, Inc.	Springfield, MO	\$150	December 19, 2014
Expedia Inc	Springfield, MO	\$25K	September 26, 2014
Expedia Inc	Springfield, MO	\$100	August 6, 2014

[Republican State Leadership Committee via ProPublica, accessed [11/26/24](#); Republican Attorneys General Association via ProPublica, accessed [11/26/24](#)]

*Dickstein Shapiro Had Contributed \$159,060 To RSLC And RAGA Between 2011-2014 And Conducted Personal Favors For Bondi, Which Included Arranging A Cover Story In A Corporate Law Magazine And Sponsoring A Fundraiser At Mar-a-Lago*

**Dickstein Shapiro Contributed A Total Of \$159,060 To RAGA And RSLC Between 2011 And 2014.**

Contributor Name	Contributor Location	Amount	Date
Dickstein Shapiro LLP	Washington, DC	\$35K	November 20, 2014
Dickstein Shapiro LLP	Washington, DC	\$2,000	October 7, 2014
Dickstein Shapiro LLP	Washington, DC	\$3,100	August 11, 2014

[...]

Contributor Name	Contributor Location	Amount	Date ↕
Dickstein Shapiro LLP	Washington, DC	\$110	December 18, 2013
Dickstein Shapiro LLP	Washington, DC	\$35K	September 30, 2013
Dickstein Shapiro LLP	Washington, DC	\$4,500	August 30, 2013
Dickstein Shapiro LLP	Washington, DC	\$4,500	July 31, 2013
Dickstein Shapiro LLP	Washington, DC	\$4,500	July 31, 2013
Dickstein Shapiro LLP	Washington, DC	\$350	March 19, 2013
Dickstein Shapiro LLP	Washington, DC	\$35K	October 5, 2012
Dickstein Shapiro LLP	Washington, DC	\$35K	October 28, 2011

[Republican Attorneys General Association via ProPublica, accessed [11/26/24](#); Republican State Leadership Committee via ProPublica, accessed [11/26/24](#)]

### In 2013, A Partner At Dickstein Shapiro Helped Arrange A Cover Story Featuring Bondi In “Inside Counsel,” A Corporate Lawyer’s Magazine.

#### Promoting Pam Bondi – While Handling Client Matters [🔗](#)

Ms. Kalani, a partner at Dickstein, works to help set up a cover story in a trade magazine called Inside Counsel that will feature Ms. Bondi. At the same time, she discusses Facebook, another Dickstein client, which has worked with Dickstein to build relationships with attorneys general.

[...]

**From:** "Kalani, Lori" <KalaniL@dicksteinshapiro.com>  
**To:** Jennifer Meale <Jennifer.Meale@myfloridalegal.com>  
**Date:** 04/16/2013 03:00 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Facebook and Cyber education

I will have proposed dates and times for the Inside Counsel interview no later than tomorrow COB. I just sent an email regarding Facebook, introducing you to Will Castleberry. He is the best! Between the two of us, we will make this happen.

**On Apr 16, 2013, at 1:49 PM, "Jennifer Meale" <Jennifer.Meale@myfloridalegal.com> wrote:**

Hi Lori,  
It was nice speaking with you today.

I'm checking to see when we may be able to get Inside Counsel down here for an in-person interview with Attorney General Bondi and a photo shoot in late April or early May, and I'll let you know ASAP. Also, I wanted to give you a basic idea of what we were hoping to do with Facebook. One of Attorney General Bondi's top priorities is fighting human trafficking. We currently offer cyber safety classes to middle and high schoolers throughout Florida. We'd like to partner with Facebook to dedicate a short portion of the overall cyber safety presentation to raising awareness about people soliciting victims (for sex trafficking) on social media sites.

[The New York Times, public records via DocumentCloud, [10/28/14](#)]

### March 2014: Dickstein Sponsored A Fundraiser For Bondi At Mar-a-Lago, Where It Funneled Thousands To Her Directly From Its Corporate Clients.

The famed Mar-a-Lago, built in the 1920s and now owned by Donald Trump, serves as the setting for a special fundraising event that Mr. Nash and Ms. Kalani of Dickstein co-host in March 2014.

[...]

Two Dickstein partners, Bernie Nash and Lori Kalani, and the firm, show up as donors on the day of the event. Several days before it, three contributions, of exactly \$3,000 apiece, come from companies controlled by Las Vegas Sands, which has hired Dickstein to lobby attorneys general to ban online poker.



[The New York Times, public records via DocumentCloud, [10/28/14](#)]

## **During Bondi's First Term, Shady Companies—including An "Abusive" Hospital Debt Collection Company And A For-Profit Online School—Contributed Tens Of Thousands To RAGA And Hired Corporate Lobbyists To Talk Her Out Of Filing Suit Against Them**

### **2012: Accretive Health, An Abusive Hospital Debt Collection Firm, Hired Lobbyists To Convince Bondi Not To Sue The Company Following A Damaging Lawsuit In Minnesota And Later Contributed \$25,000 To RSLC**

**Accretive Health Is A Hospital Debt Collection Company That Hired Lobbyists In 2012 To Convince Pam Bondi And Other State Attorneys General Not To Sue The Company, Following A Damaging Lawsuit By The Minnesota Attorney General.** "Mr. Nash and his partners worked to help Ms. Bondi further her political ambitions at the same time they were lobbying her office on behalf of companies under investigation by it. Accretive Health, a Chicago-based hospital bill collection company, whose operations in Minnesota had been shut down by the attorney general's office there for abusive collection practices, had turned to Dickstein Shapiro to try to make sure that other states did not follow Minnesota's lead. Mr. Nash contacted Ms. Bondi's chief deputy and urged the office to take no action. 'We persuaded A.G.s not to sue Accretive Health following the filing of a lawsuit by the Minnesota A.G.,' Dickstein wrote in a recent marketing brochure." [The New York Times, [10/29/14](#)]

- **2012: According To The New York Times, Accretive Health Was Shut Down In Minnesota Following Allegations Of "Abusive Debt Collection Practices."**

#### **Accretive Health Is Targeted by Minnesota Attorney General**

Accretive Health, a Chicago-based health care billing company, was targeted for an investigation based on allegations of abusive debt collection practices. The company hired Dickstein Shapiro to urge other attorneys general not to follow Minnesota's lead. Minnesota filed its lawsuit against Accretive in January 2012, and the case was settled as of July 2012. Here is a copy of the news release detailing the settlement and the allegations against the company.

[The New York Times, public records via DocumentCloud, [10/28/14](#)]

- **2012: Lobbyists Representing Accretive Health Reached Out To Bondi's Office To Convince Her Not To Sue The Company.**

#### **Reaching Out to Florida Attorney General's Office**

Mr. Nash from Dickstein reached out to officials in the Florida attorney general's office, and in other locations, around the United States, to try to prevent other states from following Minnesota's lead, as Accretive operates in locations around the United States. Here is an email chain to Ms. Bondi's office from April 2012 that touches on the topic. .

[The New York Times, public records via DocumentCloud, [10/28/14](#)]

### **The Lobbying Firm Accretive Hired Later Advertised That It Had "Persuaded AGs Not To Sue."**

#### **Dickstein Boasts to Clients: 'Persuaded AGs Not to Sue Accretive'**

Mr. Nash confirmed in an interview that Dickstein had contacted Ms. Bondi's office, among others, as it sought to discourage others from following Minnesota's lead. Here is an excerpt from a marketing brochure put out by Dickstein that boasted, in the middle of the left column, about how it blocked other investigations of Accretive. No other states filed follow-up suits.

[The New York Times, public records via DocumentCloud, [10/28/14](#)]

**2012: Accretive Health Contributed \$25,000 To RSLC.**

Contributor Name	Contributor Location	Amount	Date ↑
<a href="#">Accretive Health, Inc.</a>	Chicago, IL	\$25K	November 26, 2012

Republican State Leadership Committee via ProPublica, accessed [11/26/24](#)

## **Bridgepoint Education, A For-Profit Online School Under Scrutiny For Shady Practices, Contributed \$118,871 To RAGA And RSLC In 2011-2014 And Hired Lobbyists To Convince Bondi And Other State AGs Not To Sue**


**Bridgepoint Education Is A For-Profit Online School That Came Under Fire In 2011 For Shady Business Practices.** “Bridgepoint Education, a for-profit online school that has been under scrutiny for what Mr. Miller, the Iowa attorney general, called ‘unconscionable sales practices,’ turned to Dickstein to set up meetings with Ms. Bondi’s staff, to urge her not to join in the inquiries underway in several states. Again, her office decided not to take up the matter, citing the small number of complaints about Bridgepoint it has received.” [The New York Times, [10/29/14](#)]

- **March 2011: Senate Democrats Held A Hearing On Bridgepoint Education’s Shady Practices, During Which Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA) Called The Business “A Scam, An Absolute Scam.”** “In March 2011, then-Senate HELP committee chairman Tom Harkin (D-IA) held a hearing focusing on Bridgepoint. Harkin presented a series of charts showing that the company had seen rapid growth, with revenues increasing from \$33 million in 2008 to \$216 million in 2010, while experiencing mounting student loan default rates. Harkin said Bridgepoint was ‘a scam, an absolute scam ... premised on aggressively recruiting largely low-income, disadvantaged students ... collecting their federal grants and loans even as the vast majority of students drop out ... and lavishly rewarding executives and shareholders with mostly taxpayer dollars.” [Republic Report, [11/20/18](#)]
- **2012: The U.S. The Department Of Justice Began An Investigation Into Bridgepoint, Citing High Staff Salaries.** “The Justice Department is investigating compensation paid to Bridgepoint Education Inc.’s admissions staff, the for-profit education company disclosed in a regulatory filing Monday.” [MSNBC, [10/15/12](#)]
- **2014: The Democratic Attorneys General Of California, North Carolina, New York, Massachusetts, And Iowa Launched Investigations Or Filed Lawsuits Against Bridgepoint.** “California attorney general lawsuit and verdict against Bridgepoint [...] North Carolina attorney general investigation of Bridgepoint [...] New York attorney general investigation of Bridgepoint [...] Massachusetts attorney general settlement with Bridgepoint [...] Iowa attorney general settlement with Bridgepoint, announced May 16, 2014.” [Republic Report, [4/9/14](#)]
  - **2014: Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller Announced That The State Had Won A \$7.25 Million Settlement From Bridgepoint, Which Would Be Paid Out To Iowa Students Defrauded By The Company.** “Thousands of Iowa students could be in line for refunds from a California-based for-profit school. At a Friday news conference, Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller said Ashford University and its San Diego-based parent company Bridgepoint Education Inc. have agreed to a \$7.25 million settlement that requires it to change certain recruitment and enrollment practices, which Miller alleged ran afoul of Iowa’s consumer fraud law.” [The Gazette, [5/16/14](#)]
- **2016: The DoJ Announced A Second Investigation Into Bridgepoint For Allegedly Violating A Law That Prevents For-Profit Colleges From Collecting Above A Certain Percent Of Their Operating Revenue From Federal Student Aid Funding.** “The Justice Department has launched a probe into whether Bridgepoint Education, the owner of Ashford University and the University of the Rockies, is violating a law that prohibits for-profit colleges from getting more than 90 percent of their operating revenue from federal student aid funding.” [The Washington Post, [6/12/16](#)]

- **2016: The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Won A Settlement In Which Bridgepoint Was Ordered To Refund \$23.5 Million To Students It Had Tricked Into Taking Out Larger Loans Than Advertized, Along With Paying \$8 Million In Civil Penalties.** “For-profit college chain Bridgepoint Education Inc. will refund students \$23.5 million for allegedly tricking them into taking out loans that cost more than advertised, under a settlement with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau announced Monday. The San Diego-based company, which neither admitted nor denied the allegations, will also pay an \$8 million civil penalty, the agency said. The consent order comes one week after another for-profit school operator, ITT Technical Institute, announced it would close its more than 130 campuses after the government banned it from enrolling new students receiving federal aid. The consumer bureau said that Bridgepoint told its students that borrowers ‘normally’ paid off loans with monthly payments as low as \$25, even though the bureau said that amount wasn’t ‘realistic.’” [Wall Street Journal, [9/12/16](#)]

**2022: California Attorney General Rob Bonta Won A \$22.37 Million Settlement With Zovio (Formerly Bridgepoint Education).** “California Attorney General Rob Bonta today issued the following statement after the San Diego Superior Court found in the state’s favor in its lawsuit against Ashford University, an online, for-profit school, and its parent company Zovio, Inc. (formerly Bridgepoint Education). In today’s decision, the San Diego Superior Court found that Ashford University and Zovio violated the law by giving students false or misleading information about career outcomes, cost and financial aid, pace of degree programs, and transfer credits, in order to persuade them to enroll at Ashford. As part of the decision, the court ordered Ashford University and Zovio to pay more than \$22.37 million in penalties.” [California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, [3/7/22](#)]

**2013: Bridgepoint Education Hired Lobbyists To Talk Bondi And Other State Attorneys General Out Of Suing Them.**

**A For-Profit College Under Attack Turns to Dickstein** 

Bridgepoint Education had been targeted in a number of states, including New York, Massachusetts, North Carolina and Iowa, which by May 2014 would reach a \$7.25 million settlement with the for-profit online college. Dickstein was hired to prevent contagion — discouraging other attorneys general like Ms. Bondi from joining in. Here are descriptions of some of the cases, and an excerpt from the Iowa settlement.

[...]

Bridgepoint becomes a major player in the attorney general world, as it tries to defend itself, donating large amounts to both RAGA and DAGA, and setting up meetings, through Dickstein, with front-office lawyers, like Mr. Muniz, from Ms. Bondi’s staff.

[The New York Times, public records via DocumentCloud, [10/28/14](#)]

**Bondi Declined To Sue Bridgepoint Education.** “Bridgepoint Education, a for-profit online school that has been under scrutiny for what Mr. Miller, the Iowa attorney general, called ‘unconscionable sales practices,’ turned to Dickstein to set up meetings with Ms. Bondi’s staff, to urge her not to join in the inquiries underway in several states. Again, her office decided not to take up the matter, citing the small number of complaints about Bridgepoint it has received.” [The New York Times, [10/29/14](#)]

- **None Of The State Attorneys General Who Sued Bridgepoint Education In 2014 Were Republican.** “California attorney general lawsuit and verdict against Bridgepoint [...] North Carolina attorney general investigation of Bridgepoint [...] New York attorney general investigation of Bridgepoint [...] Massachusetts attorney general settlement with Bridgepoint [...] Iowa attorney general settlement with Bridgepoint, announced May 16, 2014.” [Republic Report, [4/9/14](#)]

**Bridgepoint Education Contributed \$118,871 To RAGA And RSLC Between 2011 And 2014.**

Contributor Name	Contributor Location	Amount	Date ₪
Bridgepoint Education	San Diego, CA	\$20K	November 8, 2011
Bridgepoint Education	San Diego, CA	\$299	November 11, 2011
Bridgepoint Education	San Diego, CA	\$299	February 10, 2012
Bridgepoint Education	San Diego, CA	\$299	February 29, 2012
Bridgepoint Education	San Diego, CA	\$5,000	March 23, 2012
Bridgepoint Education	San Diego, CA	\$325	May 11, 2012
Bridgepoint Education	San Diego, CA	\$350	September 26, 2012
Bridgepoint Education	San Diego, CA	\$20K	October 15, 2012
Bridgepoint Education	San Diego, CA	\$5,000	April 5, 2013
Bridgepoint Education	San Diego, CA	\$245	May 23, 2013

[...]

Bridgepoint Education	San Diego, CA	\$375	June 25, 2013
Bridgepoint Education	San Diego, CA	\$12K	October 17, 2013
Bridgepoint Education	San Diego, CA	\$15K	October 28, 2013
Bridgepoint Education	San Diego, CA	\$400	November 26, 2013
Bridgepoint Education	San Diego, CA	\$400	November 26, 2013
Bridgepoint Education	San Diego, CA	\$399	July 29, 2014
Bridgepoint Education	San Diego, CA	\$12K	October 20, 2014

[...]

Contributor Name	Contributor Location	Amount	Date ₪
<b>Melissa Garrett</b> Government Affairs at Bridgepoint Education	San Diego, CA	\$350	January 15, 2014
<b>Elyce C. Morris</b> Legal Counsel at Bridgepoint Education	San Diego, CA	\$350	January 15, 2014
<b>Bridgepoint Education, Inc.</b>	San Diego, CA	\$370	May 5, 2014
<b>Bridgepoint Education, Inc.</b>	San Diego, CA	\$10K	June 25, 2014
<b>Bridgepoint Education, Inc.</b>	San Diego, CA	\$410	October 13, 2014
<b>Bridgepoint Education, Inc.</b>	San Diego, CA	\$15K	October 16, 2014

[Republican State Leadership Committee via ProPublica, accessed [11/26/24](#); Republican Attorneys General Association via ProPublica, accessed [11/26/24](#)]

## **Accretive And Bridgepoint Hired Lobbyists From Dickstein Shapiro, The Corporate Firm That Contributed Nearly \$160,000 To RSLC And RAGA Around That Time**

**Accretive Health And Bridgepoint Education Hired Lobbyists From Dickstein Shapiro To Engage With State Attorneys General, Including Pam Bondi.** “Accretive Health, a Chicago-based hospital bill collection company, whose operations in Minnesota had been shut down by the attorney general’s office there for abusive collection practices, had turned to Dickstein Shapiro to try to make sure that other states did not follow Minnesota’s lead. Mr. Nash contacted Ms. Bondi’s chief deputy and urged the office to take no action... Bridgepoint Education, a for-profit online school that has been under scrutiny for what Mr. Miller, the Iowa attorney general, called ‘unconscionable sales practices,’ turned to Dickstein to set up meetings with Ms. Bondi’s staff, to urge her not to join in the inquiries underway in several states.” [The New York Times, [10/29/14](#)]

- Travel Companies Also Hired Dickstein Shapiro To Talk Bondi Into Dropping A Tax Fraud Lawsuit Her Predecessor Filed Against Travel Companies.** “Perhaps the greatest victory in Florida for Dickstein relates to a lawsuit filed by Ms. Bondi’s predecessor against online reservation companies, including Travelocity and Priceline, which Dickstein then represented, based on allegations that they were conspiring to improperly withhold taxes on hotel rooms booked in the state... Behind the scenes, Dickstein had been working to get the case dropped... two months later, Ms. Bondi’s office moved to do what the firm had sought. ‘Dismissed before hearing,’ the state court docket shows, as the case was closed in April 2013 even before it was officially taken up by the court.” [The New York Times, [10/29/14](#)]

**Dickstein Shapiro Contributed A Total Of \$159,060 To RAGA And RSLC Between 2011 And 2014.**

Contributor Name	Contributor Location	Amount	Date ↕
Dickstein Shapiro LLP	Washington, DC	\$35K	November 20, 2014
Dickstein Shapiro LLP	Washington, DC	\$2,000	October 7, 2014
Dickstein Shapiro LLP	Washington, DC	\$3,100	August 11, 2014

[...]

Contributor Name	Contributor Location	Amount	Date ↕
Dickstein Shapiro LLP	Washington, DC	\$110	December 18, 2013
Dickstein Shapiro LLP	Washington, DC	\$35K	September 30, 2013
Dickstein Shapiro LLP	Washington, DC	\$4,500	August 30, 2013
Dickstein Shapiro LLP	Washington, DC	\$4,500	July 31, 2013
Dickstein Shapiro LLP	Washington, DC	\$4,500	July 31, 2013
Dickstein Shapiro LLP	Washington, DC	\$350	March 19, 2013
Dickstein Shapiro LLP	Washington, DC	\$35K	October 5, 2012
Dickstein Shapiro LLP	Washington, DC	\$35K	October 28, 2011

[Republican Attorneys General Association via ProPublica, accessed [11/26/24](#); Republican State Leadership Committee via ProPublica, accessed [11/26/24](#)]

**As Florida’s Attorney General, Bondi Signed Onto Numerous Amicus Briefs Benefitting The Firearm, Fossil Fuel, Mining, And Sports Betting Lobbies Following Hefty Contributions To RSLC And RAGA**

**Bondi Filed Multiple Amicus Briefs On Behalf Of The Gun Lobby As RSLC And RAGA Collected \$133,853 From The NRA In 2013-2014**

*RSLC And RAGA Collected \$133,853 From The NRA In 2013-2014*

**The National Rifle Association Contributed \$133,853 To RSLC And RAGA In 2013-2014:**

- The National Rifle Association Contributed \$49,883 To The Republican State Leadership Committee In 2013.**

Contributor Name	Contributor Location	Amount	Date ↕
National Rifle Association - Institute for Legisla	Fairfax, VA	\$150	December 4, 2013
National Rifle Association - Institute for Legisla	Fairfax, VA	\$110	October 28, 2013
National Rifle Association - Institute for Legisla	Fairfax, VA	\$399	October 14, 2013
National Rifle Association - Institute for Legisla	Fairfax, VA	\$399	October 14, 2013
National Rifle Association	Fairfax, VA	\$325	June 25, 2013
National Rifle Association Political Victory Fund	Fairfax, VA	\$4,500	May 31, 2013
National Rifle Association	Fairfax, VA	\$4,500	May 3, 2013
National Rifle Association	Fairfax, VA	\$4,500	April 5, 2013
National Rifle Association	Fairfax, VA	\$25K	April 5, 2013
National Rifle Association	Fairfax, VA	\$10K	March 8, 2013

[Republican State Leadership Committee via ProPublica, accessed [11/26/24](#)]

- **The National Rifle Association Contributed \$83,970 To RAGA In 2014.**

Contributor Name	Contributor Location	Amount	Date ↕
National Rifle Association	Fairfax, VA	\$3,000	December 3, 2014
National Rifle Association	Fairfax, VA	\$150	October 2, 2014
National Rifle Association	Fairfax, VA	\$25K	September 4, 2014
National Rifle Association	Fairfax, VA	\$200	July 10, 2014
National Rifle Association	Fairfax, VA	\$4,900	June 25, 2014
National Rifle Association	Fairfax, VA	\$25K	June 5, 2014
National Rifle Association	Fairfax, VA	\$370	May 1, 2014
National Rifle Association	Fairfax, VA	\$25K	February 19, 2014
National Rifle Association	Fairfax, VA	\$350	January 15, 2014

Republican Attorneys General Association via ProPublica, accessed [11/26/24](#)

*2014: Bondi Co-Filed An Amicus Brief Backing A Challenge To A Connecticut Ban On Semi-Automatic Weapons With No Relation To Florida*

**Shew v. Malloy (2014) Was A Lawsuit Challenging A Connecticut Law Banning Various Types Of Semi-Automatic Weapons, Passed In The Wake Of The 2012 Newtown, CT, Mass Shooting.** “On Monday, the United States Supreme Court refused two appeals from Connecticut and New York that asked for assault-weapons ban laws in those states to be reconsidered. Without comment, the eight Justices denied the appeals in *Shew v. Malloy* (the Connecticut case) and *Kampfer v. Cuomo* (the New York case), which involved gun-control laws passed after the 2012 Newtown, Connecticut, mass shootings. The Connecticut law focuses on the sale or possession of semi-automatic weapons with detachable magazines and other features. It banned nearly 200 types of weapons. The New York law is similar.” [The Constitution Center, [6/20/16](#)]

**Bondi Joined 22 Republicans Attorneys General In Filing An Amicus Brief Supporting The Petitioners In *Shew v. Malloy*.**

**United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit**

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June Shew, Stephanie Cypher, Peter Owens, Brian McClain, Hiller Sports, LLC,  
MD Shooting Sports, LLC, Connecticut Citizens' Defense League, Coalition of  
Connecticut Sportsmen, Rabbi Mitchell Rocklin, Stephen Holly,  
*Plaintiffs-Appellants,*

v.

Dannel P. Malloy, in his official capacity as Governor of the State of  
Connecticut, Kevin T. Kane, in his official capacity as Chief State's  
Attorney of the State of Connecticut,  
*Defendants-Appellees.*

*(For Continuation of Caption See Inside Cover)*

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ON APPEAL FROM THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT

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**BRIEF OF ALABAMA, ALASKA, ARIZONA, ARKANSAS, FLORIDA,  
GEORGIA, IDAHO, KANSAS, KENTUCKY, LOUISIANA, MICHIGAN,  
MISSOURI, MONTANA, NEBRASKA, NEW MEXICO, NORTH DAKOTA,  
OKLAHOMA, SOUTH CAROLINA, SOUTH DAKOTA, TEXAS, UTAH,  
WEST VIRGINIA, AND WYOMING AS AMICI CURIAE IN SUPPORT OF  
PLAINTIFFS-APPELLANTS**

[*Shew v. Malloy*, amicus brief of 23 states via Michael & Associates, P.C., [5/22/14](#)]

*2013: Bondi Co-Filed An Amicus Brief Supporting An NRA Lawsuit Seeking To Lower The Federal Minimum Handgun Purchase Age From 21 To 18*

***National Rifle Association v. Bureau Of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, And Explosives (2014) Was A Lawsuit Filed By The NRA Seeking To Lower The Federal Age Of Handgun Purchase From 21 To 18.***

“Under federal law, it is illegal for a licensed firearms dealer to sell a handgun or handgun ammunition to anyone under the age of 21. 18 U.S.C. § 922(b)(1). Because everyone who sells firearms on anything even approaching a regular basis must be federally licensed, this restriction precludes law-abiding adults under the age of 21 from purchasing handguns from the most common (and most logical) sources. According to the panel decision below, this categorical burden on the fundamental right to keep and bear arms passes constitutional muster because law-abiding young adults likely do not possess Second Amendment rights at all...” [*National Rifle Association v. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives*, petition for certiorari to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals via SCOTUSblog, [6/29/13](#)]

***Pam Bondi Co-Filed An Amicus Brief Alongside 21 Other State Attorneys General Supporting The Petitioners In National Rifle Association v. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, And Explosives.***

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC., *et al.*,  
*Petitioners,*

v.

BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS, AND  
EXPLOSIVES, *et al.*,  
*Respondents.*

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On Petition for a Writ of Certiorari to the  
United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

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**BRIEF OF ALABAMA AND 21 OTHER STATES AS AMICI  
CURIAE IN SUPPORT OF PETITIONERS**

[...]

Pamela Jo Bondi  
*Attorney General*  
State of Florida  
The Capitol, PL-01  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

**As RAGA And RSLC Took Over \$1.26 Million From The Fossil Fuel Industry In 2013-2014, Bondi Weighed In On Multiple Lawsuits Against The EPA, Supporting Efforts To Limit Its Authority And Lower Clean Air And Water Standards**

*RSLC And RAGA Collected More Than \$1.26 Million From The Fossil Fuel Lobby In 2013-2014*

**RSLC And RAGA Received At Least \$1,267,000 From The Fossil Fuel Industry In 2013-2014:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Contributor</b>	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Total Amount</b>
<a href="#">2013</a>	American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity	Republican State Leadership Committee	\$56,782
<a href="#">2013</a>	American Gas Association	Republican State Leadership Committee	\$32,270
<a href="#">2013</a>	Koch Industries	Republican State Leadership Committee	\$202,105
<a href="#">2013</a>	American Petroleum Institute	Republican State Leadership Committee	\$75,000
<a href="#">2013</a>	American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers	Republican State Leadership Committee	\$160,000
<a href="#">2013</a>	American Natural Gas Alliance, Inc	Republican State Leadership Committee	\$154,065
<a href="#">2013</a>	Exxon Mobil Corporation	Republican State Leadership Committee	\$150,000
<a href="#">2013</a>	Chevron Policy Government and Public Affairs	Republican State Leadership Committee	\$10,000
<a href="#">2014</a>	American Petroleum Institute	Republican Attorneys General Association	\$50,000
<a href="#">2014</a>	American Coalition for Clean Coal	Republican Attorneys General Association	\$50,000
<a href="#">2014</a>	American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers	Republican Attorneys General Association	\$60,370
<a href="#">2014</a>	American Gas Association	Republican Attorneys General Association	\$15,350
<a href="#">2014</a>	Koch Industries	Republican Attorneys General Association	\$125,415
<a href="#">2014</a>	American Natural Gas	Republican Attorneys	\$50,700



	Alliance	General Association	
<a href="#">2014</a>	Exxon Mobil Corporation	Republican Attorneys General Association	\$60,000
<a href="#">2014</a>	Chevron Policy Government and Public Affairs	Republican Attorneys General Association	\$15,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$1,267,057</b>

*2014: Bondi Filed An Amicus Brief Seeking To Limit The EPA's Authority To Regulate Greenhouse Gas Emissions*

**Utility Air Regulatory Group v. Environmental Protection Agency (2014) Was A Challenge To The EPA's Statutory Authority To Regulatory Greenhouse Gas Emissions Under The Clean Air Act.** "Holding: The Clean Air Act neither compels nor permits the Environmental Protection Agency to adopt an interpretation of the Clean Air Act requiring a stationary source of pollution to obtain a 'Prevention of Significant Deterioration' or Title V permit on the sole basis of its potential greenhouse-gas emission. However, EPA reasonably interpreted the Clean Air Act to require sources that would need permits based on their emission of conventional pollutants to comply with 'best available control technology' for greenhouse gases." [SCOTUSblog, accessed [11/26/24](#)]

**2013: Bondi Filed An Amicus Brief In Utility Air Regulatory Group v. Environmental Protection Agency.**

May 8 2013 Consent to the filing of amicus curiae briefs, in support of either party or of neither party, received from counsel for Texas, and eight other states.

[...]

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 Tallahassee, FL 32399-1050  
 diane.dewolf@myfloridalegal.com  
 Party name: Pamela Jo Bondi, Attorney General of Florida

[Supreme Court, docket No. 12-1146, accessed [11/25/24](#)]

*2014: Bondi Co-Filed An Amicus Brief Seeking To Limit The EPA's Authority To Set Pollution Standards For Bodies Of Water, In A Lawsuit Concerning Efforts To Clean Up The Chesapeake Bay*

**American Farm Bureau Federation v. EPA (2014) Was A Lawsuit In Which The American Farm Bureau Federation, An Agriculture Trade Association, Sued To Block The EPA's Efforts To Regulate Extreme Pollution Flowing Into The Chesapeake Bay.** "Florida, Texas and Alaska are nowhere near the Chesapeake Bay. But that hasn't stopped those states from trying to intervene in the EPA's cleanup of the mid-Atlantic estuary. Earlier this month, the attorneys general from those states and 18 others filed an amicus brief [PDF] on behalf of the American Farm Bureau Federation, which is suing to limit the extent of the Environmental Protection Agency's Chesapeake Bay cleanup effort. The Farm Bureau argues that the EPA exceeded its authority in regulating the amount of pollutants flowing into the bay, which the federal agency says is severely contaminated." [MSNBC, [2/26/14](#)]

**The Broader Question At Hand Was The EPA's Authority To Set Maximum Pollution Limits In Bodies Of Water For State Water Quality Standard Compliance.** "At question is how far the EPA can go in setting limits to 'the maximum amount of pollution a body of water can receive and still meet state water quality standards.'" [MSNBC, [2/26/14](#)]

**Bondi Co-Filed An Amicus Brief Alongside 20 Other Attorneys General In *American Farm Bureau Federation v. EPA*.**

<b>IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT</b>
AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION, et al.,  <i>Plaintiffs-Appellants,</i>  v.  ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY,  <i>Defendant-Appellee.</i>
On Appeal from the United States District Court For the Middle District of Pennsylvania (No. 11-cv-67-SHR)
<b>BRIEF OF THE STATES OF KANSAS, INDIANA, MISSOURI, ALABAMA, ALASKA, ARKANSAS, FLORIDA, GEORGIA, KENTUCKY, LOUISIANA, MICHIGAN, MONTANA, NEBRASKA, NORTH DAKOTA, OKLAHOMA, SOUTH CAROLINA, SOUTH DAKOTA, TEXAS, UTAH, WEST VIRGINIA, AND WYOMING AS <i>AMICI CURIAE</i> IN SUPPORT OF REVERSAL</b>

[*American Farm Bureau Federation v. EPA*, amicus brief via the Wayback Machine, [3/7/14](#)]

**2014: Bondi Co-Filed An Amicus Brief Supporting The National Mining Association In A Challenge Against The EPA's Clean Water Act Permitting Authority, As The Trade Group Contributed More Than \$75,000 To RSLC And RAGA Between 2012 And 2014**

***National Mining Association v. McCarthy* (2014) Was An Industry-Backed Lawsuit Challenging The EPA's Authority To Issue Certain Permits Under The Clean Water Act.** "In June 2009, the Army Corps of Engineers and EPA adopted an Enhanced Coordination Process to facilitate their consideration of certain Clean Water Act permits. The Enhanced Coordination Process allows EPA to screen Section 404 mining permit applications submitted to the Corps. EPA then initiates discussions with the Corps on proposed mining projects that EPA considers likely to damage water bodies. In 2011, EPA also promulgated a Final Guidance document relating to those Clean Water Act permits. Among other things, the Final Guidance recommends that States impose more stringent conditions for issuing permits under Section 402. The States of West Virginia and later Kentucky, along with coal mining companies and trade associations—whom we will collectively refer to as plaintiffs—challenged the Enhanced Coordination Process and EPA's Final Guidance before the district court as exceeding EPA's authority under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act and the Clean Water Act." [*National Mining Association v. McCarthy*, opinion of the Supreme Court via CaseText, [7/11/14](#)]

- **The National Mining Association Is A Trade Association Representing The U.S. Mining Industry.** "America's mining industry supplies the essential materials necessary for nearly every sector of our economy – from technology and healthcare to energy, transportation, infrastructure and national security. The National Mining Association (NMA) is the only national trade organization that serves as the voice of the U.S. mining industry and the hundreds of thousands of American workers it employs before Congress, the federal agencies, the judiciary and the media, advocating for public policies that will help America fully and responsibly utilize its vast natural resources." [National Mining Association, accessed [11/26/24](#)]

**2013: Pam Bondi Filed An Amicus Brief Supporting The Petitioners In *National Mining Association v. McCarthy* (Formerly *National Mining Association v. Perciasepe*).**

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
 FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT**  
**NATIONAL MINING ASSOCIATION, et al.,**  
*Plaintiffs – Appellees,*  
**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY and  
 CITY OF PIKEVILLE, KENTUCKY,**  
*Intervenors for Plaintiffs – Appellees,*  
 v.  
**BOB PERCIASEPE, Acting Administrator of the  
 United States Environmental Protections Agency, et al.,**  
*Defendants – Appellants,*  
**SIERRA CLUB, et al.,**  
*Intervenors for Defendants – Appellants.*

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**ON APPEAL FROM THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
 FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
 LEAD CASE NO. 10-cv-01220 (Hon. Reggie B. Walton)**

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**CORRECTED BRIEF OF THE STATES OF ALABAMA, ALASKA,  
 FLORIDA, KANSAS, MICHIGAN, MONTANA, NEBRASKA,  
 OHIO, OKLAHOMA, SOUTH CAROLINA, and VIRGINIA  
 AS AMICI CURIAE IN SUPPORT OF APPELLEES**

[*National Mining Association v. McCarthy*, amicus brief of 11 states via DocumentCloud, [7/23/13](#)]

**The National Mining Association Contributed More Than \$75,000 To RSLC And RAGA Between 2012-2014:**

Date	Contributor	Recipient	Amount
<a href="#">8/3/12</a>	National Mining Association	Republican State Leadership Committee	\$25,000
<a href="#">4/26/13</a>	National Mining Association	Republican State Leadership Committee	\$25,000
<a href="#">11/26/13</a>	National Mining Association	Republican State Leadership Committee	\$295
<a href="#">4/4/14</a>	National Mining Association	Republican Attorneys General Association	\$25,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$75,295</b>

**2017: Bondi Co-Filed An Amicus Brief Seeking To Legalize Sports Betting At The State Level As RAGA Collected \$40,000 From The Casino Lobby In 2016-2017**

***Murphy v. NCAA* (2017), Formerly *Christie v. NCAA*, Was A Lawsuit Seeking To Overturn A Federal Law That Barred Most States From Legalizing Sports Betting.** “But the 10th Amendment is at the heart of an important Supreme Court case this fall, in which New Jersey and a group of horse-owners will argue that a federal law that bars virtually all states from legalizing sports betting violates the Constitution... *Christie v. NCAA*.” [SCOTUSblog, [8/14/17](#)]

**2017: Pam Bondi Co-Filed An Amicus Brief Alongside 17 Other States Supporting The Petitioners In *Christie v. NCAA*.**

GOVERNOR CHRISTOPHER J. CHRISTIE, *et al.*,  
*Petitioners,*

v.

NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, *et al.*,  
*Respondents.*

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ON WRIT OF CERTIORARI  
TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT

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BRIEF OF *AMICI CURIAE* STATES OF  
WEST VIRGINIA, 17 OTHER STATES, AND THE  
GOVERNORS OF KENTUCKY, MARYLAND, AND  
NORTH DAKOTA  
IN SUPPORT OF PETITIONERS

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[...]

PAMELA JO BONDI Attorney General State of Florida
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[*Christie v. NCAA*, amicus brief of 18 states via SCOTUSblog, [9/5/17](#)]

**2018: The Supreme Court Ruled 6-3 In *Murphy v. NCAA* To Overturn The Law, Effectively Legalizing Sports Betting At The State Level.** “Holding: Provisions of the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act that prohibit state authorization and licensing of sports gambling schemes violate the Constitution’s anticommandeering rule; no other PASPA provisions are severable from the provisions at issue. [...] Judgment: Reversed, 6-3, in an opinion by Justice Alito on May 14, 2018. Justice Alito delivered the opinion of the court, in which Chief Justice Roberts and Justices Kennedy, Thomas, Kagan, and Gorsuch joined, and in which Justice Breyer joined as to all but Part VI–B. Justice Thomas filed a concurring opinion. Justice Breyer filed an opinion concurring in part and dissenting in part. Justice Ginsburg filed a dissenting opinion, in which Justice Sotomayor joined, and in which Justice Breyer joined in part.” [SCOTUSblog, accessed [11/26/24](#)]

**RAGA Received \$40,000 From The American Gaming Association In 2016-2017:**

Date	Contributor	Amount
<a href="#">2/24/16</a>	American Gaming Association	\$15,000
<a href="#">3/1/17</a>	American Gaming Association	\$25,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$40,000</b>

- The American Gaming Association Is A Casino Lobbying Group.** “Since the federal ban was lifted in 2018, states and sovereign tribal nations have had the opportunity to establish frameworks for legal sports betting, which protect consumers and create tax benefits for local communities... The AGA firmly believes additional federal regulatory oversight of legal sports betting is unwarranted.” [American Gaming Association, accessed [11/26/24](#)]

**2016: The American Gaming Association Filed An Amicus Brief In *Murphy v. NCAA*.**

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GOVERNOR CHRISTOPHER J. CHRISTIE, *et al.*,  
*Petitioners,*

v.

NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, *et al.*,  
*Respondents.*

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NEW JERSEY THOROUGHBRED HORSEMEN'S  
ASSOCIATION, INC.  
*Petitioner,*

v.

NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, *et al.*,  
*Respondents.*

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**On Petitions for Writs of Certiorari  
to the United States Court of Appeals  
for the Third Circuit**

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**BRIEF OF THE AMERICAN GAMING  
ASSOCIATION AS *AMICUS CURIAE* IN  
SUPPORT OF PETITIONERS**

[*Christie v. NCAA*, amicus brief of the American Gaming Association via SCOTUSblog, [11/14/16](#)]

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