



# Chief Of Lobbying

## *Biden's Favorite Lobbyist Is Getting Bumped Up To His Chief Of Staff*

**Obama, In 2008: “[Lobbyists] Will Not Run My White House, And They Will Not Drown Out The Voices Of The American People When I’m President.”** OBAMA: “I won’t take money from PACs, won’t take money from federal registered lobbyists. (Applause.) They have not funded my campaign, they will not run my White House, and they will not drown out the voices of the American people when I’m president.” (Sen. Barack Obama, Remarks At Ault Park Pavilion, Cincinnati, OH, 10/9/08)

- **Obama: “We’re Going To Have To Change The Culture In Washington So That Lobbyists And Special Interests Aren’t Driving The Process.”** (Sen. Barack Obama, [Second Presidential Debate](#), Nashville, TN, 10/7/08)

### **FORMER LOBBYIST STEVE RICCHETTI WILL BECOME BIDEN’S CHIEF OF STAFF**

**Next Month, Steve Ricchetti Will Become Vice President Biden’s New Chief Of Staff.** “Vice President Biden is getting a new chief of staff. Steve Ricchetti, the vice president’s counselor since March of 2012, will replace chief of staff Bruce Reed, who returns to the private sector next month.” (David Jackson, “Biden Has Staff Changes,” [USA Today](#), 11/13/13)

**“Last Year, One Of K Street’s More Prominent Democratic Lobbyists, Steve Ricchetti, Was Hired As A Counselor To Vice President Biden. Ricchetti Hadn’t Been Registered Since 2008, So He Also Didn’t Need A Waiver.”** (Kevin Bogardus, “‘The Good Lobbyist’ To Join Obama Administration,” [The Hill](#), 7/9/13)

- **From 2001 To 2011, Ricchetti Served As The President Of The Lobbying Firm Ricchetti Inc.** ([Center For Responsive Politics](#), Accessed 11/13/13)
- **Ricchetti’s Clients Included AT&T Eli Lilly And The American Hospital Association.** “Steve Ricchetti, who starts work for Biden today, founded a lobbying firm with clients including AT&T, drug-maker Eli Lilly, and the American Hospital Association.” (T.W. Farnum, “Biden Hires Former Lobbyist,” [The Washington Post](#), 3/5/12)

**A Top White House Adviser Said Ricchetti Was Hired Because Biden “Really Wanted Him” And They “Didn’t Think It Would Get Much Traction Outside The Fake Umbrage Crowd Anyway.”** “‘We knew we were going to get hit for this,’ one top Obama adviser in the White House told me a week after the Ricchetti announcement. ‘But Biden really wanted him and fought for him. And we didn’t think it would get much traction outside of the fake umbrage crowd anyway.’ Maybe, too, the reelection campaign hiring Broderick Johnson— a former lobbyist for AT& T, BellSouth, and Microsoft, among other companies— would get them spanked. For a day or two, tops.” (Mark Leibovich, [This Town](#), 2013)

- **“This Had Become The Essential Team Obama MO Whenever The Cynical Realities Of Washington Collided With Its Shiny Ideals From 2008. Acknowledge The Exception, Wait Out The Indignant Blog Posts And Press Releases, And Move On. That Lobbying Ban Was So Four Years Ago Anyway.”** (Mark Leibovich, *This Town*, 2013)

**The Washington Post’s Dana Milbank: “Ricchetti Has Been Through The Revolving Door More Often Than A Bellhop At The Mayflower Hotel.”** “Ricchetti has been through the revolving door more often than a bellhop at the Mayflower Hotel: Blue Cross Blue Shield, then the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, then the Clinton White House, then lobbying, then back to the Clinton White House, then more lobbying, this time starting Ricchetti Inc. with his brother, Jeff. (A call seeking comment from Ricchetti Inc. wasn’t returned.)” (Dana Milbank, Op-Ed “Settling In To Washington’s Ways,” [The Washington Post](#), 3/6/12)

- **Milbank: Ricchetti Is Demonstrative Of “Just How Flimsy Obama’s Ethical Reforms Have Been.”** “But his appointment shows just how flimsy Obama’s ethical reforms have been — and how absurd the official standards are for who is a ‘lobbyist’ in the influence industry. For many Americans, this sort of chicanery adds to a suspicion that the fix is in.” (Dana Milbank, Op-Ed “Settling In To Washington’s Ways,” [The Washington Post](#), 3/6/12)

### ***In 2008, Obama Attacked Then-Senator Clinton For Her Ties To Ricchetti***

**Obama Attacked Sen. Clinton For Having Lobbyists Bundle Donations For Her Campaign, Including Steve Ricchetti.** OBAMA CAMPAIGN: “Five Of Clinton’s \$100,000 Bundlers Are Federally Registered Lobbyists. Five of the ‘HillRaisers’ listed on Clinton’s web site are federally registered lobbyists: Steve Ricchetti, John Merrigan, Yashar Hedayat, Matthew ‘Mac’ Bernstein, and Gary Mauro. HillRaisers are defined as anyone who raises more than \$100,000 for Clinton’s campaign. [Clinton Bundling List; Senate Office of Public Records]” (Ben Smith, “Obama Pushes Back On Expectations,” *Politico’s Ben Smith*, 6/7/07)

**Obama Attacked Clinton For Requesting Earmarks For A Ricchetti Client.** OBAMA CAMPAIGN MEMO: “We know that Clinton has requested at least two earmarks linked to top fundraisers and donors – GM lobbyist Steve Ricchetti and billionaire Alan Gerry. Will her campaign release the other earmark requests she has made that are linked to fundraisers, campaign donors, or donors to the Clinton Library?” (Obama For America, “Memo: Clinton On Earmark Transparency Lets Have A Chat After The Election,” Press Release, 3/14/08)

## **THE WHITE HOUSE LOBBYIST BAN HAS BEEN OBAMA’S “BIGGEST BROKEN PROMISE” SINCE HIS FIRST TERM**

**“Other Lobbyists Have Been Granted Waivers To Serve In The Administration Despite Being In Violation Of The Two-Year Cooling-Off Period For Lobbying.”** (Kevin Bogardus, “‘The Good Lobbyist’ To Join Obama Administration,” [The Hill](#), 7/9/13)

- **In A Second Term, K Street Expected The Obama Administration To “Quietly Open Its Doors To More Lobbyists Through Waivers.”** “When President Barack Obama took office, he immediately installed unprecedented revolving-door restrictions that banned federal lobbyists from serving in his administration without a waiver. And in his rhetoric, he made no secret of his disdain for the influence industry. Few people, from lobbyists to those who keep tabs on them, expect radical changes in Obama’s relationship with K Street during his second term. But many predict that his administration will quietly open its doors to more lobbyists through the waivers. And they expect the president to court the business community, as he did in December during fiscal cliff negotiations, and like-minded activists when it will help him sell his priorities on Capitol Hill.” (Kate Ackley, “Obama Expected To Ease Lobby Posture,” [Roll Call](#), 1/20/13)

**PolitiFact: “We Rate Obama's ‘Revolving Door’ Policy For Former Lobbyists His Biggest Broken Promise.”** (Angie Drobnic Holan, “Not So Fast On Obama Revolving Door Policy,” [PolitiFact](#), 1/23/09)

- **PolitiFact: “Obama Was Very Clear With His Promise. He Said No Lobbyists Would ‘Work On Regulations Or Contracts Directly And Substantially Related To Their Prior Employer For Two Years.’ No Means None. Promise Broken.”** (Angie Drobnic Holan, “Former Lobbyist In The White House? It’s Okay If They Say It’s Okay,” [PolitiFact](#), 3/17/09)
- **The Center For Responsive Politics Reports That 393 Individuals Have Been Through Obama’s Revolving Door, With Over 130 Individuals Who Are Former Or Current Registered Lobbyists.** ([Center For Responsive Politics](#), Accessed 11/13/13)

**Thomas Hale Boggs, Chairman Of Major Washington Lobbying Firm Patton Boggs: “There Are Lots Of Lobbyists Working For The Administration.”** BOGGS: “Now they’ve greatly changed that [last year, the Obama re-election campaign hired former lobbyist Broderick Johnson, and in March, Joe Biden tapped former lobbyist Steve Ricchetti as an adviser], there are lots of lobbyists working for the administration, which is probably going to make it work better in the second term.” (Catherine Ho, “Lobbying Icon Boggs Predicts Obama Win, Weighs In On Election’s Impact On K Street,” [The Washington Post](#), 10/7/12)

***The Obama Administration Has Been A “Boon To Lobbyists” In And Out Of His White House***

**Mark Leibovich In *This Town*: “One Of The Stubborn Truths Of Obama-Era Washington Is That Everyone Is Now, In Effect, A Special Interest, A Free Agent, Performing Any Number Of Services, In Any Number Of Settings. It Goes Well Beyond The Technical Classification Of ‘Registered Lobbyists.’”** (Mark Leibovich, *This Town*, 2013)

**“Obama’s Aggressive Change Initiatives Were In Fact A Boon To Lobbyists.”** (Mark Leibovich, *This Town*, 2013)

- **“Whenever There Is Complicated New Legislation, There Will Be Plenty Of Business For Lobbyists. ‘Complication And Uncertainty Is Good For Us,’ Said The Democratic Mega-Lobbyist Tony Podesta, Who Speaks With A Bug-Eyed Intensity Leavened By Frequent Giggles At The Ends Of His Sentences.”** (Mark Leibovich, *This Town*, 2013)

**Obama’s Distinction Between Registered Lobbyists And Those Who Do Other Public Relations Issue Advocacy Is A Difference That Many On K Street Say Makes Little Sense And Causes More To Move Into The Shadows Of Lobbying Disclosures.** “The Obama administration has drawn a clear distinction between registered lobbyists and those who do public relations or other types of issue advocacy. It’s a difference that many on K Street say makes little sense and actually causes more work to move out of the sunlight of lobbying disclosures and into the shadows.” (Kate Ackley, “Administration Staffers Head Out The Revolving Door,” [Roll Call](#), 3/26/12)

- **“‘The Pledge Is More A PR Thing Than Anything Else,’ One K Street Executive Said. ‘When You Need To Get Around It, You Get Around It. It’s A Joke, And Everyone Knows It’s A Joke.’”** (Kate Ackley, “Administration Staffers Head Out The Revolving Door,” [Roll Call](#), 3/26/12)

**“At The Same Time, Washington Is Now Crawling With People Who Are Not Registered To Lobby But Who Nonetheless Get Paid To Advocate Full-Time For Some Business, Organization, Or Industry Agenda (Either Directly To A Powerful Official Or Via Some PR Work).”** (Mark Leibovich, *This Town*, 2013)

- **“In Other Words, They Are Engaged In Lobbying Even If Their Work Does Not Meet The Legal Standard Requiring Them To Register As Lobbyists. This Ilk Is Known Around Town**

**As ‘Unregistered Lobbyists.’”** (Mark Leibovich, *This Town*, 2013)