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COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY,  
joint with the  
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY,  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

INTERVIEW OF: JOEY LANGSTON

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Washington, D.C.

The interview in the above matter was held in Langston Lott Law Firm, 254 South  
Front Street, Booneville, Mississippi, commencing at 10:01 a.m.

1     Appearances:

2

3

4

5     For the COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY:

6

7     ██████████, SENIOR COUNSEL

8     ██████████, CHIEF COUNSEL FOR INVESTIGATIONS

9     ██████████, GENERAL COUNSEL

10    ██████████, MINORITY SENIOR COUNSEL

11    ██████████, MINORITY PROFESSIONAL STAFF MEMBER

12

13    For the COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY:

14

15    ██████████, DIGITAL DIRECTOR

16    ██████████, COUNSEL

17    ██████████ MINORITY OVERSIGHT COUNSEL

18

19

20    For JOEY LANGSTON:

21

22    CASEY LOTT

23    Langston & Lott

24    100 South Main Street

25    Booneville, MS 38829

1 Mr. [REDACTED]: All right, we'll go on the record.

2 This is a transcribed interview of Mr. Joey Langston. Chairman Comer and  
3 Chairman Jordan have requested this interview as part of this committee's impeachment  
4 inquiry investigation into the Biden's family's influence peddling and extensive receipt of  
5 money.

6 Will the witness please state your name for the record.

7 Mr. Langston. Joey Langston.

8 Mr. [REDACTED]: On behalf of the Committee on Oversight and Accountability and  
9 the Committee on the Judiciary, I want to thank Mr. Langston for appearing here today.  
10 The committee appreciates your willingness to appear voluntarily.

11 My name is [REDACTED], and I'm senior counsel with Chairman Comer's staff.

12 I will now ask everyone else on the majority and minority committee staff to  
13 introduce themselves as well.

14 Mr. [REDACTED] [REDACTED], Chairman Comer's staff.

15 Mr. [REDACTED]: [REDACTED], Judiciary.

16 Mr. [REDACTED]: [REDACTED], Chairman Jordan's staff.

17 Ms. [REDACTED]: [REDACTED], Judiciary Committee, Ranking Member Nadler's staff.

18 Mr. [REDACTED]: [REDACTED], Oversight Committee, Ranking Member Raskin's staff.

19 Ms. [REDACTED]: [REDACTED], Oversight Committee, minority staff.

20 Mr. [REDACTED]: And [REDACTED], Chairman Comer's Oversight staff.

21 Mr. [REDACTED]: I'd like to go over a few of the ground rules and guidelines that we  
22 will follow during the interview that have been previously discussed with your lawyer.

23 First, our questions today will occur in rounds. The majority will ask questions  
24 for up to an hour, and then the minority staff will have an opportunity to ask questions  
25 for an equal period of time if they choose. Typically, we take a short break at the end of

1 each hour, but if you would like to take a break apart from that, please just let me know.  
2 I'm happy to do that.

3 As you can see, there's an official reporter taking down everything we say to make  
4 a written record, so we ask that you give verbal responses to all the questions today.

5 Do you understand everything so far?

6 Mr. Langston. Yes.

7 Mr. [REDACTED]. To ensure the court reporter can make a clear record, we'll do our  
8 best to limit the number of people directing questions at you during any given hour to  
9 just those people on the staff whose turn it is. It's also important that we don't talk over  
10 one another or interrupt each other if we can help it, and that goes for everybody present  
11 here today at today's interview.

12 We encourage the witnesses who appear before the committee to freely consult  
13 with counsel if they so choose. It's my understanding that you're accompanied by  
14 counsel today.

15 Could your counsel please state your name for the record.

16 Mr. Casey. Casey Lott for Joseph Langston.

17 Mr. [REDACTED]. Thank you.

18 We want you to answer our questions in the most complete and truthful manner  
19 possible, so we'll take our time. If you have any questions or you do not understand one  
20 of the questions, please just let me know.

21 If you honestly don't know the answer to a question or do not remember, it is best  
22 not to guess. Please give us your best recollection, and it's okay to tell us if you learned  
23 information from someone else. Just indicate how you came to know the information.

24 If there are things you don't know or can't remember, just say so, and please  
25 inform us who, to the best of your knowledge, might be able to provide a more complete

1 answer to the question.

2 You should also understand that, although this interview is not under oath, but by  
3 law you're required to answer questions from Congress truthfully.

4 Do you understand that?

5 Mr. Langston. I do.

6 Mr. [REDACTED]. And this also applies to questions posed by congressional staff during  
7 an interview.

8 Do you understand this?

9 Mr. Langston. Yes.

10 Mr. [REDACTED]. Witnesses that knowingly provide false testimony could be subject to  
11 criminal prosecution for perjury or making false statements.

12 Do you understand this?

13 Mr. Langston. I do.

14 Mr. [REDACTED]. Furthermore, you cannot tell half-truths or exclude information  
15 necessary to make the statements accurate. You're required to provide all the  
16 information that would make your response truthful. A deliberate failure to disclose  
17 information can constitute a false statement.

18 Do you understand this?

19 Mr. Langston. Yes.

20 Mr. [REDACTED]. Is there any reason you're unable to provide truthful answers to  
21 today's questions?

22 Mr. Langston. No.

23 Mr. [REDACTED]. Additionally, if you choose to confer with your attorney in a  
24 sidebar, or if there are any interruptions or interjections from your attorney or the  
25 minority, the majority's time will be paused for the duration of those interruptions.



1 Q And so I guess '83 to 2008, 30 years. Am I doing the math right? How  
2 many years have you been a practicing lawyer?

3 A Well, let's see.

4 Q '93, 2003 -- yeah, 25.

5 A Twenty-five.

6 Q Twenty-five years.

7 And what type of -- when you were a lawyer, what type of cases did you work on?

8 A Well, initially, in 1983, my father had what is typically referred to as a  
9 country law practice, small town, Mississippi, and we did a lot of different things,  
10 including personal injury, wrongful death, criminal defense, social security, domestic  
11 relations, et cetera. You know, basically everything that walked in the door we were  
12 going to either do it or refer it.

13 And, later, my brother and I -- my brother practiced in a separate firm in Jackson,  
14 Mississippi -- became active in the mass tort and class action litigations, many of which  
15 originated in Mississippi. Asbestos, pharmaceuticals like fen-phen originated in  
16 Mississippi, and we became active in those type of litigations later in my practice.

17 Q When you talk about your brother, who's your brother?

18 A Shane Langston.

19 Q And, when you were practicing as a lawyer, did you work -- it was a small  
20 firm? Was it your firm? Was your name on the door? Whose name was on the  
21 door?

22 A Initially, it was my father and my brother-in-law, Duncan Lott. My father's  
23 name was Joe Ray Langston, and he died early. He had a heart condition. But he died  
24 in 1986. So I practiced for 3 years with him.

25 Thereafter, I effectively built the practice from where he left off to where I retired.

1 Q Understood. I'm sorry to hear that about your father.

2 How successful was the firm when you were running it?

3 A Well, when my father was running it, I would call it locally successful.

4 Q Okay.

5 A He rarely went out of State, or as I call local.

6 We're sitting in Prentiss County, Mississippi, right now. His practice was  
7 primarily Prentiss County and the counties that touched Prentiss County.

8 So, later, whenever I started practicing law and got involved in other litigations, I  
9 practiced all over the world.

10 Q You talk about the mass tort cases that you were working on. For example,  
11 asbestos. Did you have any big, big cases that you won, significant, large sum cases that  
12 you won?

13 A Well, I was a generally known as a trial lawyer. That term gets tossed  
14 around a lot, and people think of it in its general sense. But I was the type of lawyer  
15 that actually tried cases. Normally, I would be lead trial lawyer in the cases that I tried.

16 I tried -- and this is an approximation. My secretaries used to keep up with it  
17 but -- 86 jury trials in my time as a lawyer, and we tried them all over the country, and we  
18 represented clients from all over the world.

19 Q And, at one point, I saw online you were trial lawyer of the year. What did  
20 that look like? And what year was that in?

21 A If I had -- I may be wrong by a year or two, but I think it was around 2007.

22 Q Okay.

23 A Maybe 2005, something like that.

24 And that was an award given by the -- I can't remember which group in  
25 Mississippi, but it was a group in Mississippi.



1 Q Understood.

2 When you were a lawyer -- so just looking at the time perspective from 1983 to  
3 2007, 2008. I understand you were a practicing lawyer. We just talked about your law  
4 firm.

5 Did you ever have any businesses or ventures that you were also working on and  
6 also investing in? Or did you just primarily work out of your law firm?

7 A I always worked out of my law firm, and I won't say that I didn't conduct any  
8 business other than law practice. You know, I would buy and sell properties. I would  
9 get involved in the stock market. I did other business, but my primary business was the  
10 practice of law.

11 Q Okay. Understood.

12 I want to now turn to just -- I'm sure you're familiar with these names. I just kind  
13 of want to get a background, an understanding of who they were and kind of your  
14 involvement with them.

15 A Okay.

16 Q Just kind of just generally speaking for now, we'll kind of get maybe a little  
17 more in detail a little bit later, but just an understanding of who Mr. Dickie Scruggs is.

18 A Dick Scruggs is a gentleman that lives in Oxford, Mississippi now. Originally  
19 he was from the Coast, Pascagoula, and he was a lawyer. Dickie is older than me, but he  
20 was a lawyer that practiced in -- on the Coast, but he represented clients from all over the  
21 country in asbestos litigation and later in tobacco litigation.

22 Q Can you just give me a general history or just a synopsis of what the tobacco  
23 litigation was about? Did you have any involvement with it?

24 A I did. Let me start by saying that my brother and his law firm initially  
25 introduced me to the tobacco litigation in Mississippi. Now, there were several lawyers

1 that I knew in Mississippi who participated in tobacco litigation, but it was different than  
2 the tobacco litigation you may be familiar with.

3 They would represent individual smokers in suing tobacco companies for illnesses  
4 that became known as tobacco-related illnesses.

5 Rarely, in fact, I can't think of any, did those cases on behalf of the plaintiffs turn  
6 out to be wins. They were normally losses.

7 A theory was developed by people here in Mississippi, not by me but by other  
8 people, that there was a claim to be made on behalf of the States, every State, all 50,  
9 against the tobacco industry for the reimbursement of Medicaid dollars spent treating  
10 tobacco-related illnesses.

11 You're familiar with the history probably of tobacco companies, and you've  
12 probably seen clips of the seven dwarfs, or whatever they called them, when they took an  
13 oath, and they told the congressional committees that they weren't aware of any  
14 diseases caused by tobacco smoking, dipping, whatever it may be. Well, that wasn't the  
15 truth.

16 And tobacco litigation on behalf of the States began in Mississippi. Dick Scruggs  
17 was one of the primary people involved in developing the theory and going from State to  
18 State to meet with attorneys generals in an effort to represent the various States against  
19 the tobacco industry for Medicaid claims.

20 Q Understood.

21 That was -- so your involvement, I guess -- Mr. Scruggs, where is he today? Is he  
22 still practicing?

23 A He's not practicing, but he lives in Oxford, Mississippi.

24 Q Okay, and when did he -- do you know when he stopped practicing law?

25 A About 2008.

1 Q Okay.

2 And you talked -- you described this litigation that's going on and conversations  
3 that are happening with State attorney generals and testimony before Congress. What  
4 timeframe was that going on?

5 A Well, I think the testimony before Congress by the tobacco CEOs was  
6 probably in the '70s. I don't know. I wasn't practicing law at that time, but it's a  
7 well-known and often referred to clip from committee hearings in Congress when the  
8 CEOs of the major tobacco companies all took an oath and all said they weren't aware  
9 that tobacco would cause any illnesses.

10 Q And did you ever do any business with Mr. Scruggs?

11 A Yes.

12 Q And when did you start doing business with Mr. Scruggs?

13 A I would say -- I'm just guessing about the date, but I would say mid-'90s.

14 Q Okay. And what did that look like?

15 A Maybe before, maybe '94, '93. But I was -- I'm started something a while  
16 ago that I didn't finish.

17 My brother and his law firm brought the first secondhand smoke inhalation case  
18 in the country, and it was filed here in Mississippi, and it was being litigated in a county  
19 south of here called Jonestown, Mississippi. Coincidentally, that's where my brother  
20 and sister and I were born. That's where my parents were originally from.

21 And my brother was involved in representing a barber who cut hair for 30 or  
22 40 years and never smoked but developed lung cancer. And the lung cancer was  
23 developed, according to the doctors, from his inhalation of secondhand smoke.

24 So my brother was involved in tobacco litigation initially on the secondhand  
25 smoke inhalation matter in Jones County, Mississippi. So was my sister, Cindy Lott.

1           So that's where I was first introduced to tobacco litigation. I never represented a  
2 smoker who sued a tobacco company for illnesses and whatever, and those cases, to my  
3 knowledge, have never been successful.

4           So there's an assumption of the risk defense with the smoker. They assume the  
5 risk by smoking and so forth.

6           So the secondhand smoke inhalation theory and the theory of reimbursing States  
7 for Medicaid dollars spent treating tobacco-related illnesses were unique theories  
8 developed by people in this State, and many lawyers got involved with those theories.  
9 Many represented the State of Mississippi and other States.

10           Q    Okay. So, in the '90s, did your law firm pair up with Mr. Scruggs' law firm?  
11 Were you joint counsel on cases? What did that look like?

12           A    Yes. I was never counsel of record in any tobacco litigation.

13           Q    Okay.

14           A    But I did pair up with Dick Scruggs at his request. I worked on some of the  
15 tobacco litigations that he was involved in on behalf of a number of States. And I don't  
16 know the exact number, but I think it was initially, you know, 23, 24, 25, 26 States that he  
17 represented.

18           He was engaged by the individual States, probably the attorneys generals in each  
19 of those States, and there was a lot of work to be done, as you can manage, representing  
20 that many States who were asserting Medicaid claims against the tobacco industry to  
21 recover dollars spent treating tobacco illnesses in each State.

22           And so I was one of the lawyers that he reached out to, to participate. I wasn't  
23 one of the primary lawyers by any means. There were a lot of lawyers involved in every  
24 State with the tobacco litigation.

25           Mr. ██████████. Was it your brother who introduced you to Mr. Scruggs?

1           Mr. Langston. No, it wasn't my brother. But let's see. I honestly don't  
2 remember who introduced me to him, but after the '90s, when I was -- after I -- after he  
3 became known to me, then I did a lot of work with him. I spent a lot of time with him,  
4 and we pursued not just that litigation matter but other litigation matters together.

5                           BY MR. [REDACTED]:

6           Q    What types of other litigation?

7           A    I was the national litigation coordinator for the what at the time I believe  
8 was the largest class action in the history of the country, the HMO litigation, which was  
9 situated down in south Florida.

10                   And, ultimately, that case was split up on two tracks. Those representing the  
11 patients and those representing the HMO caregivers. So those cases were ultimately  
12 resolved, and one track was granted class action status. The other track was not.

13                   And so that was one that we did, and we looked at many others. In fact, Dick  
14 Scruggs and I went to DOJ at their request in D.C. to make a pitch to represent the Federal  
15 Government for Medicare dollars spent treating tobacco-related illnesses. We hired  
16 experts. We provided memos, met on more than one occasion with people at DOJ  
17 about whether or not DOJ would pursue a Medicare claim on behalf of the Federal  
18 Government, similar to what the States had done with Medicaid claims.

19                   But, ultimately, they were happy to get the reports of our experts. They were  
20 happy to get our insights and memos, but they chose to do the litigation in-house, and I  
21 believe they did.

22                   Mr. [REDACTED] What was the timing on that when you met with DOJ?

23                   Mr. Langston. Good question. And this is an estimate by me, but I'm going to  
24 say that it was going to be '96, '7, '8. I'm not certain, but it was after the resolution of  
25 the State tobacco litigation.

1 Mr. [REDACTED]. Thank you.

2 Mr. Langston. You're welcome.

3 Mr. [REDACTED]. Who did you meet with at the meeting at DOJ?

4 Mr. Langston. I can remember one meeting that had more people in it than this  
5 one does.

6 Mr. [REDACTED]. Okay.

7 Mr. Langston. There were a lot of people. There was a Mississippi guy that was  
8 head of DOJ litigation matters, and I only met him that one day, but I can't remember his  
9 name. I'm sorry.

10 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

11 Q And Mr. Scruggs had a big settlement, right? We've been talking about this  
12 with the States and Medicaid. And can you talk a little bit about what that number  
13 looked like and what that process looked like for settling and any involvement you had or  
14 any knowledge about that you had.

15 A I was not involved in the settlement, but I can tell you what I know about it.

16 Many of the attorneys generals in the country went to Washington, and the initial  
17 effort was to try to accomplish a congressional settlement of the tobacco litigation.  
18 Well publicized, not secret.

19 And they at one point thought they had a congressional agreement. And, when I  
20 say that, there were terms that were agreed upon by the attorneys generals from the  
21 States that were involved in it and the decisionmakers at the tobacco companies. The  
22 terms were -- but ultimately there was not adequate congressional support of the  
23 settlement, and so that didn't work. Despite the fact there was some media about it  
24 that it was going to happen, it didn't work.

25 So what they ended up doing was going to each State and settling them State by

1 State. And there is a settlement agreement in place for all 50 States as a result of that  
2 effort.

3 Q Is there a total figure or ballpark number of all the settlements that you're  
4 aware of? I mean, are we talking in the hundreds of millions? Billions? Do you know  
5 that number or no?

6 A I don't. It is in the billions.

7 Q It's in the billions?

8 A It's in the -- in fact, it's in the hundreds of billions, but I don't know the exact  
9 number.

10 Q And moving along to Mr. Timothy Balducci. Who is Mr. Balducci?

11 A Tim Balducci was a young lawyer that I hired out of law school, and he came  
12 to work at my offices here in Booneville, and he stayed for a few years, I can't remember  
13 exactly how long, but then he left and went to work for a law firm in Oxford, Mississippi.

14 Q And when did you hire him?

15 A I can't say but it was either late '90s or very early 2000s.

16 Q Did Mr. Balducci ever work for -- hold a government position within the  
17 State?

18 A If he did, if he did, I think he was a public defender. After he left practicing  
19 here, he went to Oxford, Mississippi, and he, I think, served as a public defender at that  
20 point, which is a State position.

21 Q Are you aware of any of his service as a State auditor?

22 A I'm not. First I've ever heard of that.

23 Q Okay.

24 Was Mr. Steven Patterson? Did he work for the State Auditor's Office? Do you  
25 know Mr. Patterson?

1 A I do know Mr. Patterson. I go way back with him.

2 Q Okay.

3 A Mr. Patterson did not work for the State Auditor's Office. He was elected  
4 State auditor twice.

5 Q Okay.

6 A But, anyway, Balducci, back to him.

7 Q Yeah.

8 A I didn't want to leave you hanging on that.

9 Q Sure, sure, sure.

10 A I hired him out of law school. He worked here for a couple, 2, 3 years, and  
11 then he left to go to work in Oxford. And, when he left the job in Oxford, he asked to  
12 come back here, and he came back to this office.

13 Q Okay. And do you remember when you rehired him?

14 A I'd say it was maybe 2003 or '4, but I'm guessing.

15 Q Okay.

16 And then, moving on to Mr. Patterson, who is Mr. Steven Patterson?

17 A Steve Patterson is a friend of mine. I've known him since I was 17 years  
18 old, and so almost 50 years. And I met him in various political campaigns in Mississippi  
19 beginning in the mid-1970s.

20 And he was twice elected State auditor, as I mentioned, and he later came to work  
21 as a consultant in my law office.

22 Steve has a history in D.C., as well. He worked for Senator John Stennis for many  
23 years. He worked for other campaigns and staffs, but I couldn't tell you exactly who or  
24 when.

25 Q And Mr. Patterson, in 1996, pled guilty to a misdemeanor charge, filing a



1 false affidavit. Any knowledge or any comment on that, on his misdemeanor charge?

2 A I've got all the knowledge about it because I represented him.

3 Q Okay.

4 A Steve was State auditor, and evidently he signed a document indicating that  
5 a -- he went to renew a tag for a vehicle, and he went to renew the tag, and he signed a  
6 document indicating that he had not driven the vehicle the previous year. It had been in  
7 disrepair.

8 Later, it was said that he had, in fact, driven the vehicle, while not much. That  
9 was deemed by some to be filing a false document with the State, and he was being  
10 threatened with being indicted. There were misdemeanor counts that would have  
11 applied to such a factual basis, and there were felony counts that someone could apply.

12 I personally told he and his wife and his two sons that I thought, if we tried the  
13 case, we would win, but I couldn't guarantee anybody because a jury makes those  
14 decisions, not me.

15 Instead, he chose to take the misdemeanor route, pled to a misdemeanor, and  
16 resigned from office. And, when he resigned from office, him having been a long-term  
17 friend of mine, I hired him as a consultant in this office.

18 Q I think you said you met Mr. Patterson -- I don't want to mischaracterize  
19 what you said -- but something with political campaigns.

20 A That's where I met him.

21 Q Okay.

22 A Yeah, I was 17 years old.

23 Q Got it.

24 So when did you get involved with politics? And, when I mean involved with  
25 politics, I mean hosting fundraisers, donations, hosting events, things of that sort of

1 nature.

2 A Well, I can assure you it was after 1983 because my starting salary here at  
3 the Langston Lott Law Firm, my counsel's and my nephew's father was one of my bosses.  
4 They started me out at \$16,500 a year. So it wasn't then. It would have been later.

5 And let me tell you how politics worked for me. I was the kind of guy that would  
6 support somebody that I was friendly with. And, while their political positions were not  
7 unimportant, they weren't the primary thing. I looked for a friendly relationship,  
8 someone with character.

9 And so my wife and I argued through my involvement in politics. She never  
10 warmed up to it, even today, as you might imagine.

11 But, when I was 17 years old, Steve Patterson hired me. He was a campaign  
12 manager for a gubernatorial campaign at that time. He hired me to be the driver of the  
13 candidate. And so I kind of got introduced to politics like that.

14 And, you know, I knew a lot of statesmen, people that were really important to  
15 Mississippi historically. And us being from a poor State, our representation in D.C. was  
16 critical, important, and we had a lot of people that did a lot of great work for the State.

17 And any time I got an opportunity, whether they were Democrats, Republicans,  
18 Independents, I didn't care. If they could help Mississippi, I thought that was a good  
19 person to support.

20 Q So you go from driving for a gubernatorial candidate to -- when did  
21 you -- when you were 17. When did you start hosting events and hosting fundraisers  
22 and things of that nature?

23 A I would have been -- I would say that would be 1980 -- my father passed  
24 away in '86. I struggled to get my arms around the law practice. So I would say the  
25 late '80s. And I've held them for Democrats. I've held them for Republicans. At this

1 very table, in this very room, I held a Democrats for Trent Lott fundraiser. I still have the  
2 buttons.

3 Q And these were for State, local, and Federal candidates?

4 A That's right. Everything from supervisor, sheriff's candidates. You know,  
5 all politics is local. I don't know who said it, but I believe it. But it wasn't me who said  
6 it, but I was impressed with it.

7 Q Did you ever do any lobbying work for any of the candidates, or was it purely  
8 just fundraisers and raising money and hosting events and things of that such?

9 A I have no idea how to do lobbying work. I've never done any lobbying  
10 work. Not sure what that would be.

11 Now, I've hired lobbyists at times to -- in an effort to try to learn what the process  
12 would be but not often.

13 Q What types of process did you learn from lobbyists?

14 A You know, how a bill would work its way through Congress from a concept to  
15 something that would be more tangible, you know, a memo and then taking it through  
16 Congress. But, while I learned that, I never accomplished anything like that and never  
17 really tried to.

18 Mr. ██████████. Why were you looking to understand how that worked, how  
19 Congress worked?

20 Mr. Langston. Well, we spent some time in D.C. during the tobacco wars, and it  
21 seemed that a lot of people were dependent upon lobbyists to navigate Washington and  
22 the Congress and so forth. They didn't know who they could talk to or what they could  
23 talk to them about. And so you hire somebody to tell you.

24 And I didn't do that very often. I just was interested in learning it mainly so I  
25 could stay clear of any violations.

1 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

2 Q Who did you hire as lobbyists for that type of litigation that you were trying  
3 to better understand?

4 A I've hired -- either I or people with -- participating in projects with me hired  
5 lobbyists, and I met with a lot of them. I want to -- one is important because he was a  
6 very good lobbyist. He was a very -- Larry Rasky.

7 And then, on one or two occasions, I would consult with -- there were other  
8 people that were involved in not just the tobacco litigation but the subsequent efforts to  
9 try to put together a Medicare project for the DOJ.

10 Q It's reported that Mr. Scruggs hired Jim and Sara Biden in their entity the  
11 Lion Hall Group for not lobbying but what they called consulting work. Do you have any  
12 knowledge of that arrangement or that --

13 A I do now. I've read about it. You know, it seems to be something that  
14 reporters like to report, because I've read it many times.

15 I can't say that I was aware of it at the time because I don't remember it. Maybe  
16 I did know and just have forgotten it, but I wasn't involved in any of that, in the decision  
17 to hire them, what consulting work they did, or payment of Lion Hall Group by  
18 Mr. Scruggs.

19 Q Okay. Just narrowing the picture a little bit on the campaign and hosting  
20 fundraisers, when did you become involved with Joe Biden's candidacy? And this might  
21 have been Senate campaigns, his Presidential run early on, and then there was one in  
22 2007. When did you become involved with campaigning for Mr. Biden?

23 A I've probably known -- now, let me tell you that my friend Steve Patterson,  
24 Steve was also the chairman of the Democratic Party in Mississippi at some point. And  
25 he became the southern chair. That title may not be correct but for one of the Biden

1 administration campaigns down here. And so he knew the Bidens before I did.

2 And so I met the Bidens through my friend Steve Patterson, and I can't  
3 remember -- I participated in fundraisers for Joe Biden when he was running for Senate  
4 and --

5 Q Do you remember what years for his Senate campaigns?

6 A Oh, gosh. I'm going to say mid- to late '90s. I've known the Bidens for a  
7 long time.

8 Q How did you get to know the Bidens?

9 A Through Steve Patterson.

10 Q And who did you meet first of the Bidens?

11 A I don't know. It was either Jimmy or Joe, but I also met Beau and Hunter.

12 Q When do you think you first met Joe Biden or Jimmy Biden?

13 A I'm going to say late '90s, but I'm uncertain of the exact date, but that's my  
14 best estimate.

15 Mr. [REDACTED]. Just to be clear, Joe Biden did run for President in the '80s.

16 You didn't know him at the time?

17 Mr. Langston. I didn't -- thank you for making that point. I did not know him  
18 then.

19 Mr. [REDACTED]. Okay.

20 Mr. Langston. Yeah.

21 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

22 Q So, sometime after that and sometime before -- during the Senate, but  
23 sometimes -- we're going to get into his 2006, 2007, 2008 run.

24 A Okay.

25 Q But so do you remember where you met him for the first time? Was it at a

1 campaign event? Was it --

2 A I'm sure it was a campaign event. Whether it was a fundraiser locally or  
3 someplace else, I don't remember. And to be honest with you, I'd be shocked if he did  
4 because I think it was just him meeting a new guy among people that he knew very well.  
5 So I doubt he would remember either.

6 Q And when did you meet Jim Biden?

7 A Approximately the same time.

8 Q Same time?

9 A Yeah.

10 Q Okay.

11 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

12 Q And when you say that you would have been the new guy among people  
13 that Joe Biden knew very well, who are these people that --

14 A I'm talking about at a fundraiser where a lot of people would come. You  
15 know, it's kind of a meet-and-greet type thing and shake hands, raise money, and so  
16 forth, that type of thing.

17 Q And among them would be Mr. Patterson probably?

18 A He would be, yeah.

19 Most of the time that I was with either one of them, not all the time but some of  
20 the time that I was with either one of them, Steve would be there, because he knew them  
21 long before I did.

22 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

23 Q How many events do you think you attended of Mr. Biden? A couple? A  
24 lot? Do you have a number?

25 A I'd say more than a couple but less than six.

1 Q Okay. And this was for a Senate campaign and then also for his 2008  
2 Presidential campaign? Does that sound right?

3 A His 2008 Presidential campaign, I wasn't -- I think I did attend something  
4 early. But if I gave money, I'm pretty certain they sent it back because it was in 2008  
5 that my well-publicized issues became publicly known.

6 Q Who sent it back?

7 A The campaign. If I gave money, I'm pretty sure they sent it back, but I'm  
8 not 100 percent on that. But I know I got a lot of campaign contributions that I made to  
9 various people around the country, Republicans and Democrats, that would send money  
10 back to me because I had legal troubles.

11 Q Did you donate to groups beyond his campaign, like PACs or?

12 A I doubt it.

13 Q Running for President?

14 A I don't remember doing that, no.

15 Q Okay. Do you think those groups would have sent the money back, or just  
16 the campaign?

17 A I honestly don't know --

18 Q Okay.

19 A -- which one. I know I got checks back.

20 Q Did you ever host events, any events for Mr. Biden?

21 A Yes, I did host a dinner up at Pickwick. It wasn't a fundraiser. He had  
22 gone to a fundraiser in Mississippi, and I have a home up at the -- Pickwick is a lake near  
23 here. It's on the Tennessee river, and they have a historical restaurant there. So I  
24 invited the Bidens. It was Jim, Joe, and I believe it was Beau came up, and they went to  
25 dinner with a lot of friends of mine. But we didn't raise money.

1 Q And when was this?

2 A I'd say this was early 2000s, something like that. Maybe late '90s.

3 Q So, at some point, Mr. Patterson introduces you to the Bidens. You began  
4 getting involved with fundraising, campaigning for Mr. Biden. But it sounds like, at some  
5 point, you kind of built a relationship of your own with the Bidens. When did that  
6 transform to when you could just pick up the phone and call the Bidens and invite them  
7 down to dinner and they would come?

8 A Well, they would come if they were available. They didn't -- I can assure  
9 you they didn't cancel anything for me.

10 But I did have my own relationship with them, yes. And I considered them both  
11 friends. And it was a comfortable friendship because I never made any demands on  
12 them, nor did they make demands on me.

13 Q And you don't recall when you built that relationship?

14 A I'd say it was starting in the mid- to late '90s. So it's been -- I've known the  
15 Bidens for I want to say over 30 years. I'm estimating.

16 Q When was the last time you've talked with any of the Bidens?

17 A I haven't talked to Joe Biden for something in excess of 15 years. And let  
18 me explain that to you.

19 I always thought that one of the marks of a good friend is you don't put your  
20 friends in bad positions if you can avoid it.

21 As you well know, and as I'm sure you'll ask me, I was involved in some legal  
22 trouble back in 2008, '9, so forth. Thereafter, I certainly wasn't going to reach out to  
23 any friends that I thought would be -- not embarrassed -- my friends wouldn't be  
24 embarrassed by me -- but that I would cause any trouble to. So I didn't reach out.

25 And I've never reached out to Joe Biden since that occurred, and that was in 2008.



1 And I haven't talked to Jimmy Biden I'm going to say since 2000 -- I'm going to say '20 or  
2 '21.

3 Q And you talk about this dinner. Was there -- in the 2006, 2007 timeframe,  
4 it was reported that there was some sort of event at the Oxford Club that you had hosted  
5 or attended for Mr. Biden. Do you have any knowledge about that?

6 A I did not host it, nor did I attend it.

7 Q Okay.

8 A I heard there was one, too, but I wasn't involved by that time.

9 Q Okay.  
10 And then there's reports of Joe Biden going out to -- I heard it's a big deal in this  
11 State. I don't know if y'all are Ole Miss or Mississippi State fans but --

12 A Well, one of each here.

13 Q One of each. Okay, so I'll be careful.

14 But Mr. Biden went to a game at the Grove, and there was some sort of event or  
15 walking through there. Did you have any involvement with that? And when was that,  
16 if you did?

17 A We took him. And, while I can't remember the exact year, you might be  
18 able to check back. I know that Deuce McAllister ran the opening kickoff back against  
19 Georgia, and we won that day. And we haven't beaten Georgia very often. So you can  
20 look and see what date and when that was.

21 But I was there, Beau was there, and Jim was there, and Steve Patterson was  
22 there.

23 Q And did you just invite him down to a tailgate or -- I mean, what was it?  
24 Was it like a campaign event, or was it just a friendly you were hosting them?

25 A We were hosting them, but I honestly can't remember if there was a

1 campaign event or fundraiser involved with it, but there could have been. I'm just  
2 uncertain.

3 Q Okay.

4 And, just switching gears a little bit, so just in this timeframe before -- we'll get  
5 into it in the next hour and be as respectful as possible. But, in this like 2006, 2008 or I  
6 guess even working backwards into the '90s, did you have any business relationships with  
7 Jim or Sara Biden?

8 A Maybe but I'm uncertain of any. I can't remember any business I had with  
9 them during that time, but I can't say absolutely not because I just don't remember. If it  
10 was, it wasn't big business. I can't remember what it was if it was anything. I just  
11 don't remember anything at all.

12 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

13 Q What was your understanding of what, during this time period, what James  
14 and Sara Biden did?

15 A Sara was a lawyer, and she had a very good background, and she was very  
16 smart. She is a very smart lady.

17 And I knew Jim had worked with various people as a consultant, a business  
18 consultant that includes law firms, but not mine, but I knew that he had done that. But I  
19 don't recall business with him in that stage.

20 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

21 Q Okay, so no investments with Jim or Sara during that time?

22 A No investments that I can recall.

23 Q Okay.

24 And you never hired Jim or Sara or any of their entities during that time?

25 A What timeframe are you talking about?

1 Q I wanted to qualify. So we're still in this like 2007, 2008, and then  
2 backwards timeframe. So, you know, backwards, I mean earlier.

3 A Nothing comes to mind.

4 Q Okay.

5 And do you have any knowledge -- you just talked about Sara was a lawyer.  
6 There was a Mississippi law firm that was -- that put her name on the door. I think it  
7 was -- I think it might have been Mr. Patterson, and then it was going to be Patterson,  
8 something, and Biden during this timeframe. Did you have any involvement with  
9 putting her name on the door of a law firm down here in Mississippi?

10 A No.

11 Q Okay.

12 No knowledge of anything like that?

13 A I knew that that was a prospective effort by Tim Balducci and my friend  
14 Steve Patterson. And I don't know anything about who spoke with the Bidens or what  
15 the agreement was between them. I was not a party to any of that.

16 Q Okay. But you're aware it was going to be the Balducci, Patterson, and  
17 Biden law firm, right?

18 A I'm aware now that that's been said. I don't know that they had made a  
19 deal. I don't know anything about that.

20 Q Okay. But, at the time, not reading from reports now, but at the time, you  
21 just had some sort of general awareness that there was a potential, possibly, that they  
22 were going to be doing a deal, but you don't know if the deal actually happened or not?  
23 You can't say?

24 A I can't say.

25 Q Okay.

1           Mr. ██████. We're almost to the hour mark. Do you have anything else?  
2 I'm fine to break now before we move into --

3           BY MR. ██████:

4           Q I just have a general question. Maybe you can put some perspective into  
5 this.

6           A Sure.

7           Q You talk about your long relationship with the Bidens that began in the  
8 mid-'90s. What was your understanding of how the Bidens developed or entered into  
9 Mississippi to begin with? Why were they interested in Mississippi? Do you have any  
10 knowledge of that?

11          A Honestly, I think their interest in Mississippi originated with Steve Patterson.  
12 And Steve, as I said, was the chairman of the Democratic Party in the State of Mississippi.  
13 In fact, I think he probably held regional offices with the Democratic Party.

14           And he was involved with the Bidens very, very early, and I'm not sure if he was in  
15 that first Presidential run, but I suspect that he was. But, anyway, I think that was  
16 primarily their connection to the politics, and Mississippi was Steve.

17           But it's handled differently now, I think, that, you know, national elections seem  
18 to fall on the result of seven or eight States, and Mississippi is not a State that a Democrat  
19 could expect to win in a national race right now. And, thus, I don't think they have a lot  
20 of interest in coming and spending their time and campaign dollars here -- the  
21 Democrats.

22           So I think it's different now than it previously was, but if I were you, I would ask  
23 the same question. Why would they be interested in Mississippi? Because Mississippi  
24 is absolutely so red that why would they waste time.

25           But it was very interesting. You ask about a ball game at Ole Miss. I'll never

1 forget that day. The Bidens go downtown on the square. They go to a sporting goods  
2 place. They buy themselves shirts and hats, and they've got the whole Ole Miss thing  
3 going.

1 [11:00 a.m.]

2 Mr. Langston. And at Ole Miss, Ole Miss is kind of well known for The Grove.  
3 The Grove is a gathering of people among big oak trees that -- and this is tens of  
4 thousands of people that tailgate in a very high-end way, and everybody wants to walk  
5 through The Grove before the ball game.

6 So we walked him through The Grove and you wouldn't believe how many people  
7 recognized him, patted him on the back, yelled to him. And he was shocked that so  
8 many people knew him. I was shocked that that many people in Mississippi knew him.

9 But I don't think that Mississippi is a priority for any national Democratic  
10 candidate today. But I wouldn't say that was the case. You got to remember when  
11 Steve Patterson was elected auditor of Mississippi, if there was -- if there were any office  
12 holders -- statewide office holders in Mississippi that were Republicans at that time, there  
13 weren't many. Two maybe, three. But they were almost all Democrat.

14 So at some point when Steve became friends with him, the State of Mississippi  
15 was in play for a potential Democratic candidate. Today it's not.

16 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

17 Q And just so I have the timeline clear, you said you met Joe Biden and James  
18 Biden at roughly the same time. Is that accurate?

19 A I think so.

20 Q Okay. And what did you understand James Biden to be in Mississippi for?

21 A Traveling with his brother.

22 Q Okay.

23 A And his son. His son came. And, you know, I became friends with Beau.  
24 So I was friends with Beau. I was friends with Jim. I was friends with Joe. I was  
25 friends with Hunter. Although I hadn't -- I can't say I've seen Hunter in -- or spoken to

1 him in probably longer than it's been since I only have seen or spoken to Joe.

2 Q And at the same time, did you also meet Sara Biden?

3 A No. I met Sara later but not much later.

4 Mr. ██████: Okay. We can end right there.

5 Mr. ██████: Yeah, I'm good to break here for this first hour.

6 Mr. ██████: We'll go off the record.

7 [Recess.]

8 Mr. ██████: Back on.

9 Mr. Langston, we have some questions for you. We're going to touch on some  
10 of the same areas that the majority staff covered with you in the previous hour, and in  
11 doing that, we don't want to make you repeat yourself, but we do want that make sure  
12 that we leave here today with as clear a record as possible. And my colleague,  
13 Ms. Smith, will start us off.

14 EXAMINATION

15 BY MS. ██████:

16 Q So you and James Biden have had a friendship, correct?

17 A Yes.

18 Q And over the course of how many years?

19 A I want to say since the mid '90s, so it's going to be either right under or right  
20 over 30 years.

21 Q Okay. And you have socialized together, correct?

22 A We have.

23 Q Okay. Hunter Biden, have you ever been involved in any business with  
24 Hunter Biden?

25 A No.

1 Q No. Okay.

2 Have you ever discussed with James Biden, the idea of involving Joe Biden in any  
3 of your business ventures?

4 A I have not. And let me, for background purposes, let me say that I've read  
5 all of the media that I can once I got the invitation from Congressman Comer's office, and  
6 it's -- I started gathering things and trying to be a voracious reader of what was in the  
7 public domain.

8 And I read a lot, and I hear what people are suggesting, and I want to tell you that  
9 it surprised me, that that was being suggested. And here's why. And maybe this was a  
10 reflection of our friendship, I don't know, but what I've read in the public about Jimmy  
11 using his brother's Joe's position, whether it be Senator, Vice President, or President, as  
12 leverage in business matters, then it shocked me because I've been in some business  
13 meetings with Jimmy.

14 As friends, he and I, of course, would talk about what we expected a meeting to  
15 be -- what are they -- what's the ask that we're going to make or what's the ask that  
16 someone's going to make of us.

17 And inevitably -- and I'll never forget, he's got a line with me. He says, if anybody  
18 in this meeting brings up Joe's name or suggests that I would talk to my brother for them,  
19 Joey, you shut it down, you're the lawyer, you shut it down, because I'm not going to do  
20 it.

21 And in any meeting that I've ever been in -- and I want to make this clear because  
22 I've read so much about it. I haven't talked to y'all about it, but I've read about it, and  
23 what I've read is the opposite of what I know.

24 Jimmy Biden has never once, in my experience, offered his brother's participation,  
25 help, influence, in any business matter. I get it. He is -- his last name is Biden. His



1 last name -- his name is Jim Biden, and some people may infer things because he has that  
2 last name, and frankly he looks like Joe, but in my -- my experience, he would tell me that  
3 if anything like that ever came up to shut it down because it wasn't going to happen.

4 And if they ever directed or pressed Jimmy, he would be rather adamant with  
5 them that he wasn't going to do that.

6 Mr. [REDACTED]. So just to make sure we're clear, in your experience, the very  
7 notion of James using his brother's name to benefit one of your business ventures or  
8 benefit you in any other way was categorically unacceptable. Is that right?

9 Mr. Langston. Not only was it categorically unacceptable to Jimmy, it was  
10 equally so to Sara, and, you know, of course I never was around Hunter enough to -- for  
11 him to say such things, and absolutely Beau did not whenever I was around him.

12 None of the Bidens ever suggested to me that, hey, you can take this  
13 relationship -- or we'll participate with you in taking this relationship and using it as  
14 leverage in any matter of business, money, politic, nothing, that I knew of. So I was  
15 surprised by some of the things I read and because my experience was so different.

16 Mr. [REDACTED]. And in your experience, no member of the Biden family ever did, in  
17 fact, use Joe's name for the purpose of furthering a business venture or anything else. Is  
18 that correct?

19 Mr. Langston. Not with me.

20 BY MS. [REDACTED]:

21 Q And did Joe Biden at any point in time ever receive any money from any  
22 business venture that you were involved in?

23 A Absolutely not. It was -- to be honest with you, it would be the opposite of  
24 what I would expect. I was friends, and I'd like to think I'm still friends with him even  
25 though I haven't spoken with him in a long time.

1 I would like to think that they know that I would never suggest such an  
2 arrangement. And I would never suggest such an arrangement because I would be shot  
3 down immediately by either of them -- Joe or Jimmy.

4 Q Did you ever discuss with James Biden the notion of asking Joe Biden to do  
5 any favors for any of your ventures at any time?

6 A I can't think of one where his participation would've even been helpful.  
7 Can I give you an example?

8 Q Sure.

9 A Once there was a -- a judge here in Mississippi whose last name was  
10 Pickering. Chip Pickering was a congressman in Mississippi -- a Republican congressman  
11 and a very good one. His father was a Federal judge.

12 George W. Bush wanted to advance his father -- I think I've got this right -- to the  
13 Fifth Circuit. Anyway, he wanted to advance him to a Federal -- different Federal  
14 judgeship.

15 And I knew Chip somewhat but not great, but I had been in Judge Pickering's court  
16 many times, and I knew him to be a good and qualified candidate. And I knew the  
17 Republicans were making a good push for him, and I thought they would be successful.

18 But they weren't certain. And so I remember that myself -- I and other  
19 Mississippians, Charles Evers was one, the civil rights leader here in Mississippi, and there  
20 were other people, Mike Moore, the Attorney General in Mississippi -- went to  
21 Washington and met with President Bush in the White House on behalf of Judge Pickering  
22 nomination -- on behalf of his nomination.

23 And of course Joe Biden was in the Senate at that time, and I was curious about  
24 how the Democrats viewed the nomination, and so I asked. I can't remember if I asked  
25 Joe or if I asked Jimmy or who I asked. I didn't ask them to have him vote one way or

1 the other. I just asked how they were going to vote and that we were here in support of  
2 Judge Pickering.

3 Well, I learned how he voted. He voted against him. And he got an  
4 appointment, but it was a recessed appointment by judge -- by President Bush. And had  
5 I had the ability to influence Joe Biden to vote in favor of Judge Pickering, then I -- I  
6 would've encouraged him to do so.

7 But I didn't think I had the influence to do that, and I didn't think it would be  
8 appropriate for me to do it either, and so I did not.

9 I asked what's the position of the Democrats, and I was told the position of the  
10 Democrats was strong in opposition, and in fact he voted against him.

11 Ms. [REDACTED]: Okay.

12 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

13 Q Thank you for that example. That's helpful to know. Again, just to make  
14 sure we have a clear record, the answer to the question of whether Joe Biden ever took  
15 any actions to benefit you or anyone you were acting on behalf of is no. Is that correct?

16 A It's no.

17 Q Thank you.

18 BY MS. [REDACTED]:

19 Q Yeah, I mean, I think we're just going to try to get a few -- you know, get this  
20 on the record very clearly, so going to ask a similar question here.

21 Did James Biden ever suggest to you that his brother, Joe Biden, would take any  
22 actions to benefit you as a result of your relationship with James Biden, so.

23 A Absolutely not.

24 Q Okay.

25 A The opposite. He -- he didn't like for me to even talk about his brother, you

1 know.

2 And when you say to my benefit, I don't know what Joe may have voted for in the  
3 Senate that I liked or disliked. I didn't keep up with it that much. I'm sure he voted for  
4 things that I liked and the -- I'm sure he vote -- you know, give you one example. He  
5 voted for things that I did not like.

6 But I just didn't keep up with very much. I'm sure that there were votes made by  
7 Joe Biden that -- that Democrats liked and Republicans disliked and vice versa, but  
8 frankly, you know, I have been generally a Democrat, but I've supported a lot of  
9 Republicans. And I like to say that I commonly vote split tickets because I vote for the  
10 person rather than the party.

11 Mr. [REDACTED]. Understood.

12 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

13 Q We've talked about James Biden's view with respect to interactions with  
14 Joe Biden. Just a few follow-up questions about your contacts with Joe.

15 First of all, have you ever discussed business with Joe Biden?

16 A I can recall no occasion, unless I asked him where he was on the Pickering  
17 nomination. And I don't -- I can't remember doing that, but I don't want to exclude it  
18 that I asked him specifically. I didn't discuss it with him. I just wanted to know where  
19 the Democrats were on it, because I was asked to do that by the Republicans who were  
20 supporting the nomination.

21 But, no, I've never discussed business with him, and frankly, I would've been  
22 uncomfortable doing that because I knew it would've made him uncomfortable. So he  
23 was a friend, so I didn't want to make him uncomfortable.

24 Q Have you ever asked Joe Biden to take official action on your behalf?

25 A I can't think of anything, no.

1 Q Or on behalf of any of your business-related activities?

2 A No, I can't think of anything.

3 Q Has Joe Biden ever offered to take official action on your behalf?

4 A I can't think of one occasion and -- look, in 2008, whenever I got into some  
5 legal trouble -- I won't go into the merits of it, but -- unless anybody wants to. I know  
6 more than you do, but I'll tell you whatever you want to know.

7 But many people thought -- and it was written by some columnists here in  
8 Mississippi that, oh, Langston will get pardoned because he knows Joe Biden. Well, he  
9 doesn't know Joey Langston if he says that because I would never put a friend in that  
10 position.

11 So I never requested a pardon. I never spoke to anybody about a pardon -- I  
12 won't say I never spoke to anybody. I've spoken to Casey about it. But I have never  
13 spoken to anybody named Biden about it. So I -- I've never -- I've never sought a  
14 pardon, nor is it my intention to do so.

15 Q My majority colleagues asked you in the previous hour about contributions  
16 you've made to Biden campaigns. Did you ever have any discussion about receiving help  
17 from Joe Biden for your business ventures in exchange for any of those contributions?

18 A Absolutely not. He would've been offended if I had done so, and I wouldn't  
19 do so because I knew that.

20 Q My majority colleagues also asked you about a couple of social interactions  
21 at which Joe Biden was present -- the first being the dinner at Pickwick, if I understood  
22 correctly, and the second was the Georgia game -- and I'll ask you about both of those.

23 How many people were at the Pickwick dinner?

24 A I'd say there were 20 or 22 or three. Big tableful.

25 Q Did you speak with Joe Biden during that dinner?

1 A Sure.

2 Q Did you discuss with him any business activities that you were involved in?

3 A Oh, no.

4 Q Or that his brother James was involved in?

5 A Absolutely not.

6 Q And then same question for the Georgia game, how many people were in  
7 your party that day?

8 A I'd say 5 or 6, something like that, but it was all fun and games. It  
9 was -- there was no business. There was no -- there was likely no politics even  
10 discussed.

11 Q Did anyone at the Pickwick dinner, besides yourself, talk business with  
12 Joe Biden?

13 A Oh, no.

14 Q And same question with respect to the Georgia game, did anyone in the  
15 group talk business with Joe Biden?

16 A No. It -- it wasn't the type people who, if they had an inclination to do so,  
17 they would not have had any business to discuss with him. They were just happy to  
18 meet him and have -- break bread with him, go to a football game with him, walk through  
19 The Grove with him. That was all it was. It was strictly social and personal.

20 Q You were also asked earlier about Lion Hall's representation of Mr. Scruggs'  
21 law firm in connection with the proposed global tobacco settlement, and I understood  
22 you to say that you were not aware of those discussions at the time. You became aware  
23 of them subsequently. Do I have that right?

24 A Yes. I -- when -- when they got hired, I wasn't aware of it. I became  
25 aware of it later, but I'm not aware of any activity that was requested of them or that

1 they did.

2 Q Did either James or Sara ever suggest to you that they could influence their  
3 brother -- James' brother Joe -- to take official action in order to advance the proposed  
4 bill?

5 A Absolutely not.

6 Q And to your knowledge, was Joe Biden even aware of Lion Hall's work in that  
7 matter?

8 A I -- I would be shocked if he were. I would say no, based on my knowledge  
9 of both Joe and Jim. And despite what some people think and write about, they are far  
10 more stringent in their separation of what you can discuss.

11 You know, you can discuss a lot of things with your family members that you can't  
12 with a political friend, but even then I -- I've been in social situations with them, I've been  
13 in personal situations with them, and I never heard Jim, Sara, or anybody else push him to  
14 help them or somebody they represented on something. I've never heard that.

15 Q So I take it then that you also don't have any knowledge of James ever  
16 discussing the proposed legislation with his brother?

17 A No.

18 Q And the bill, in fact, did not pass the Senate, right?

19 A That's correct.

20 Q And then you were also asked in the previous hour about the proposed law  
21 and lobbying firm involving Messrs. Balducci and Patterson and the concept of involving  
22 James and Sara. I understood you to say that you were not involved in discussions  
23 about that potential firm. Is that correct?

24 A That's right.

25 Q And to your knowledge, was Joe Biden involved in any way in this proposed

1 venture?

2 A Oh, no. Sara was a lawyer. That's one of the reasons -- and they wanted  
3 to do work in D.C., legal work in D.C., and that was my understanding of why she was  
4 involved in it. But I -- I have absolutely no knowledge and would be surprised to hear of  
5 any knowledge or -- or expectations that they had for Joe.

6 Q Did you ever understand that Joe Biden would take any official action as a  
7 result of James' and Sara's involvement in this potential firm?

8 A No.

9 Q Or do anything else to benefit the proposed firm or its prospective clients?

10 A No.

11 Q And in fact, this firm never actually came into existence, right?

12 A That's correct.

13 Q So it never actually did any work on behalf of anyone?

14 A Not to my knowledge.

15 Mr. ██████: Okay. That's all we have for this round. Thank you.

16 [Recess.]

17 Mr. ██████: We can go on the record.

18 BY MR. ██████:

19 Q I just want to clear up something just from the last hour.

20 A Sure.

21 Q You were asked about that law firm. Do you actually know if the law firm  
22 was put in place or it actually became a law firm or not?

23 A I don't. I don't know anything about the -- the formation, the mission  
24 statement. I don't know exactly what they were -- I do know that they were wanting to  
25 do legal work and consulting work, and they wanted to do it in not just Mississippi but



1 other places in the country including D.C. That was their goal. But I don't know if it  
2 ever happened.

3 Q You don't know if it ever materialized or not?

4 A Yeah.

5 Q Okay. I want to turn to your criminal case and I am going to read from the  
6 statement of Information and ask you some questions on it.

7 A Okay.

8 Q So this is a criminal case, United States of America versus Joseph C.  
9 Langston. This was filed on January 7th of 2008. Under Count One, in paragraph 1, it  
10 reads, quote, From on or about January of 2006, and continuing until on or about March  
11 of 2007, end quote.

12 Does that sound like that is the relevant time period of this criminal case?

13 A I suppose. Yeah, I suppose so. I'm not certain exactly what the time  
14 period would be, but that sounds right.

15 Q Can you tell me a little bit about the underlying lawsuit that was going on  
16 with Mr. Scruggs? Was Mr. Scruggs suing one, or who was suing Mr. Scruggs?

17 A Yeah, I can tell you all about it. I represented Mr. Scruggs in a lot of  
18 litigation. As you might imagine, being a successful person like he was -- or is -- he still  
19 is -- people might litigate against him because he had a deep pocket.

20 And Dickie is a good person, and if he owed somebody something, he would not  
21 require them to litigate ordinarily. But if he didn't, then he would litigate.

22 He had some former -- former law partner from his firm on the coast in  
23 Pascagoula who alleged that he was entitled to -- that he was entitled to certain fees.  
24 And so I represented Mr. Scruggs -- I was one lawyer that represented him. There were  
25 many -- in litigation such as that. There was a lawsuit that was pending and involved

1 Mr. Scruggs as a defendant in the State court -- State Circuit Court in Jackson, Mississippi,  
2 which is Hinds County. And I was representing him down there, and that was involving a  
3 fee dispute with a former law partner of his.

4 Q And who were the other lawyers that were representing Mr. Scruggs?

5 A Well, let's see. Tim Balducci was working with my law firm at that time, so  
6 he was involved at some level. I don't know exactly what it -- I can't remember exactly  
7 what his involvement was, but -- and then we -- we had -- we associated a lawyer in  
8 Hinds County, Mississippi, whose name is Ed Peters, former district attorney in that  
9 county, Hinds County. And we litigated the case in Hinds County, so we associated local  
10 counsel, Ed Peters.

11 Q What was the amount, if you can ballpark the number, of the fee dispute?

12 A Well, it depends on who you're talking to. Scruggs believed that he owed a  
13 former law partner far less than the partner was claiming. I can't remember exactly  
14 what the number was, but it was seven figures.

15 Q And was Mr. -- was Mr. Patterson involved in any of the representation of  
16 Mr. Scruggs?

17 A Not other than the fact that he worked here in my office. He was not a  
18 lawyer. He was a consultant.

19 Q Okay. Understood.

20 And you said this was a State proceeding?

21 A Yes.

22 Q In front of a State judge?

23 A Yes.

24 Q And who was that State judge?

25 A Bobby DeLaughter.

1 Q Did you know Mr. -- the honorable DeLaughter?

2 A I had never met him until that case.

3 Q Did Mr. Scruggs know --

4 A If he did, it was only tangentially. He didn't know him well.

5 Q And for Mr. Peters, was that -- did you have a prior relationship with  
6 Mr. Peters?

7 A Somewhat. I knew who he was, he knew who I was, but I didn't -- I  
8 wouldn't call it a relationship prior to that, no.

9 Q And what was the nature of the charge against you?

10 A The nature of the charge against me was that I conspired to inappropriately  
11 influence the State court judge.

12 Q Okay. I'll read this into the record. This is from the statement of  
13 Information I read in earlier. Quote, to corruptly give, offer, or agree to give anything of  
14 value to any person with the intent to influence or reward an agent of a State or local  
15 government in connection with any business transaction or series of transaction of such  
16 government or agency involving anything of value of \$5,000 or more when such State or  
17 local government or agency received any 1-year period benefits in excess of \$10,000  
18 under a Federal program in violation of Section 666(a)(2)(b) and Section 2 of Title 18 of  
19 the United States Code, end quote.

20 The statement of information goes on and discuss the other co-conspirators in the  
21 case. Who were the other co-conspirators in the case?

22 A The other co-conspirators, I believe, that would be named there are Dick  
23 Scruggs, Steve Patterson, Tim Balducci, potentially Ed Peters -- I'm not sure if he's named  
24 there, I can't remember -- and Bobby DeLaughter, the judge himself.

25 Q And you pled guilty to this count, right?

1 A I did plead guilty, I accepted responsibility, that's right.

2 Q And when did you plead guilty?

3 A 2008.

4 Q Do you remember when in 2008?

5 A I don't.

6 Q Do you remember what your sentence was?

7 A Yes.

8 Q What was your sentence?

9 A 36 months.

10 Q And how much time did you serve?

11 A I served the entire sentence. However, I got good time, you know, which  
12 you get when you serve a Federal sentence. I was not released earlier than anybody  
13 with 36 months would've been released.

14 Q And did you -- were you sentenced to a fine?

15 A I did get a fine.

16 Q And how much did you pay?

17 A \$250,000, as I recall. I think that's the number. I should recall.

18 Q And as I understand the charge against you, I guess it might just be easier.

19 I'll read the overt acts into the record. Number 1, On or about January 2006, Joseph C.  
20 Langston and Timothy R. Balducci enter appearances as attorneys for Richard "Dickie"  
21 Scruggs in the case of Wilson v. Scruggs, a lawsuit involving a dispute concerning the  
22 division of attorneys fees in a case that was assigned to state Circuit Court Judge Robert  
23 "Bobby" DeLaughter, end quote.

24 It's my understanding in the statement of Information put forth in here, that there  
25 was \$50,000 that was paid. Is that right?

1           A    Paid to who?  In my instance, let me see if I can clear it up for you because  
2   it's confusing.

3           Q    Okay.

4           A    But let me see if I can clear it up for you.  When all this came up, there  
5   were two cases.  There was what was referred to commonly as Scruggs 1 and Scruggs 2.  
6   Okay?  Scruggs 1 was a case that I was never involved in, knew nothing about, had not  
7   one moment of involvement.

8           In that case, Scruggs 1, it was alleged -- and I think people pled guilty to it -- that  
9   \$50,000 was paid to a State court judge on behalf -- in an effort to try to get the State  
10  court judge to rule for Scruggs in a certain matter.

11          I did not represent Scruggs.  I was not in that.  I didn't even know about the  
12  case, that it existed.

13          I represented -- whenever Scruggs was arrested, I represented Scruggs initially in  
14  that matter, and I represented his law firm in that matter.

15          After I began my representation of Scruggs in that matter, the U.S. Attorney's  
16  Office for the Northern District of Mississippi began investigating the matter that you just  
17  read.

18          That matter did not involve the payment of money to a judge.  I would never do  
19  that.  In my entire career, I was never asked, nor did I ever suggest that I pay a judge  
20  money.

21          But in this particular instance, they suggested that the State court judge wanted to  
22  be a Federal judge and that Scruggs and I were going to help him accomplish that in some  
23  way and that by agreeing to do that, that we improperly influenced him.  Not that we  
24  gave him money.  It was never alleged that Joey Langston ever gave anybody any money  
25  for anything like that.

1           In fact, I never spoke to anybody about -- other than to Dickie Scruggs -- about the  
2 fact that DeLaughter wanted to become a nominee for an open Federal position in  
3 Mississippi.

4           It -- the record will show at some point, if you're looking at the right paperwork,  
5 that Dickie Scruggs had a -- his brother-in-law was Senate majority leader Trent Lott -- and  
6 that Trent Lott, someone -- and it's alleged that it's Dickie, but I don't know  
7 this -- someone had Trent Lott call Bobby DeLaughter about the judgeship and that that  
8 improperly influenced him.

9           And that -- that was the basis for the charges brought against me, and for 150  
10 reasons that I could discuss with you, I chose to accept responsibility.

11           Q    I'm going to read the third overt act --

12           A    Okay.

13           Q    -- from the statement of Information in the record.   Quote, On or about  
14 December 2005, Joseph C. Langston and Steve Patterson delivered \$50,000 in cash to the  
15 close personal friend of Judge Robert Bobby DeLaughter for the purpose of retaining the  
16 close personal friend to influence Judge Robert "Bobby" DeLaughter, end quote.

17           A    Okay.   You --

18           Q    Just 1 second.   And I'll skip down to paragraph 5.   Quote, Between on or  
19 about July 2006 and July 2007, Joseph C. Langston, Steve Patterson, and a close personal  
20 friend of Robert "Bobby" DeLaughter split \$3 million, representing the savings to Scruggs  
21 as a result of rulings in favor of Scruggs by Judge DeLaughter, resulting in a settlement of  
22 the case, end quote.

23           So my question is, after paragraph 3, which discusses delivering \$50,000 in cash to  
24 the close personal friend of Judge Robert "Bobby" DeLaughter, my question is this.   The  
25 statement of facts don't read that you paid a judge, but the statement of facts read that

1 you paid the close personal friend of the judge. Is that right?

2 A We retained him in the litigation, and he made appearance. So we did  
3 retain him for \$50,000.

4 Q So as the facts laid out by the United States, there was no requirement for  
5 conspiracy, the charge I discussed earlier, conspiracy to corruptly give, offer, or agree to  
6 give anything of value to a person with the intent to influence a reward and agent.  
7 There was no payment to the public official?

8 A That's right.

9 Q The facts alleged here was a payment to a close personal friend. Is that  
10 right?

11 A That's correct.

12 Q And this wasn't even a family member of the public official. This was a  
13 payment to a close personal friend, right?

14 A This was a payment to a friend of Bobby DeLaughter's, that's correct.

15 Q And Mr. DeLaughter was the public official, right?

16 A Correct.

17 Q The personal friend was not the public official?

18 A Correct.

19 Q And that was the theory that the United States used against you --

20 A That's right.

21 Q -- in your case?

22 A That's right.

23 I'm sorry. I thought that your initial question was something about delivering  
24 \$50,000 to a judge. That's just not the case, so -- but you've got it right.

25 Q No. I think the point I'm trying to make here is that the United States didn't

1 require that payment to be made -- or the law doesn't require a payment to be made to  
2 the public official.

3 A That's right.

4 Q The law allows, and still asserts, that it's corruptly giving, offering, or  
5 agreeing anything of value to a person, a, that could be given to a close friend?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Okay. Moving along, just going back real quick to the relevant conduct  
8 period between January of 2006 and March of 2007, this was the same relevant period in  
9 which you were making donations to the Biden campaign, right?

10 A If there's some -- I can't say yes or no. I made contributions to the Biden  
11 campaigns, but I don't know exactly when. I don't think I ever said I knew exactly when  
12 that was. But if there was a fundraiser during that time period here in Mississippi, and I  
13 was present, then I would've made the legally appropriate contribution.

14 Q What do you mean when you say the "legally appropriate" --

15 A Whatever the maximums were.

16 Q Okay. So public records, they'll reflect here that you made thousands of  
17 dollars in donations to, for example, Biden for President, Inc. -- so this is for Biden -- you  
18 wouldn't disagree with those assertions, would you?

19 A No. No, no. I wouldn't.

20 Q And just under the U.S. Constitution, who appoints Federal judges?

21 A Well, they're nominated by the executive branch, and they're -- once  
22 nominated, they have to be approved by the Senate.

23 Q But the President appoints Federal judges, right?

24 A The President does, yeah.

25 Q Okay. So now moving to --



1           A     But to my knowledge, Joe Biden never heard the name Bobby DeLaughter.  
2     Not from me.

3           Q     Moving on to the procedural posture after you pled guilty, when did you  
4     serve your time? From when to when?

5           A     I served it from, I think -- and I may get these dates wrong, but I think it was  
6     April of 2009 to April of 2011.

7           Q     And were you on probation for any period of time after that?

8           A     I was.

9           Q     Okay. Until when?

10          A     It was either 2012 -- or 2011 or '12, I think. I can't remember exactly when  
11     I was released from probation.

12          Q     And did you have any sort of appeals process? Did you appeal anything?

13          A     I did not appeal anything at that stage. I did subsequently hire counsel and  
14     file a motion to have my charges set aside based on new and what I thought was relevant  
15     law.

16          Q     And when did you make that filing?

17          A     There's a file date stamped on it somewhere, but I'd say it was 2000- -- I'd  
18     say 2015 or '16, but I'm not sure exactly when it was.

19          Q     Okay. And talking about your State bar license, what happened to that?

20          A     I was disbarred.

21          Q     Do you remember when you were disbarred?

22          A     Yeah, 2008.

23          Q     It's my understanding that in Mississippi, the State bar usually disbars  
24     attorneys when there is a Federal conviction. Is that right?

25          A     I think that's common.

1 Q Did you appeal any of the State bar proceedings against you?

2 A I did not.

3 Q And going back to the appeal you just discussed that was filed in 2015,  
4 what --

5 A It wasn't an appeal. It was a -- it was a motion.

6 Q And a motion about what?

7 A To set aside the conviction.

8 Q Okay. Do you remember what -- what the grounds you were asserting?

9 A Well, the grounds I was asserting that the factual basis used to support the  
10 charge against me was insufficient, and I don't remember the exact details, but there was  
11 some case law out of the United States Supreme Court that I thought was helpful. And  
12 so I hired a law firm out of Jackson, Mississippi, to file the motion before the judge that  
13 took my plea and sentenced me, and he denied it. I did not appeal it.

14 Q And that denial came on February 29th of 2016. Does that sound right?

15 A That sounds right. I can't say certainly, but that sounds right. I can't -- I  
16 don't remember.

17 Q But -- and you didn't -- you just said you didn't appeal this denial?

18 A Correct.

19 Q But did you have available appellate avenues?

20 A I could've appealed it to the Fifth Circuit.

21 Q Okay. I'd like to turn now to discuss payments that you made to the  
22 Lion Hall Group.

23 A Okay.

24 Q So I have a record here on April 18th of 2016, the Langston Law Firm  
25 Consulting, Inc., made payment -- a wire payment of \$100,000 to the Lion Hall Group. Is

1 your entity the Langston Law Firm Consulting, Inc.,

2 A Yes.

3 Q Is that -- do you own it with anyone else?

4 A No. I own it.

5 Q And who is the Lion Hall Group?

6 A That is a group that involves Jim Biden. I'm not sure his wife Sara's  
7 involved, but either one or both of them.

8 Q The payments --

9 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

10 Q And when you say "involved," are you --

11 A It's their company.

12 Q It's their company.

13 A Yes.

14 Q Thank you.

15 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

16 Q How did you know it was their company?

17 A Well, I've been friends with him since the '90s, so at some point, I learned  
18 that he had a company called Lion Hall Group.

19 Q Did you ever go to his office?

20 A You know, I don't think so. I don't think I did, but I -- in fact, I don't recall  
21 an office.

22 Q Oh, you don't think he ever had office space?

23 A I'm -- I'd be surprised if he didn't, but if he did, I didn't know it.

24 Q And what was your understanding of what the Lion Hall Group did?

25 A Consulting work.

1 Q What type of consulting work?

2 A I know that sounds awfully general, and I think it was, in practice, general  
3 consulting to help people who were seeking help on how to navigate, you know,  
4 Washington.

5 Sara was a part of it, and she's a lawyer, so legal matters and so forth, but -- you  
6 know, I never really knew everything they did, but that's some of the things I knew they  
7 did.

8 Q And what was the nature of the \$100,000 wire that you sent the  
9 Lion Hall Group?

10 A That was probably a loan. I don't remember specifically what it was, but  
11 from time to time, Jimmy asked me to loan money to him, and I would. And I don't  
12 remember that specifically on that one, but I do know that I -- I, at times, loaned money  
13 to him.

14 Q Okay. Let's talk about the times that you've loaned money. So when was  
15 the first time you ever loaned Jim Biden money?

16 A I don't know. I don't know. Whatever it says there. I -- I don't  
17 remember what the first -- I presume that you're talking about 04/18/2016. If I had  
18 loaned money to him prior to that, I just don't remember that I did, because here was  
19 the -- here was the thing.

20 Jimmy and I pursued some business interests together, and whenever we were  
21 pursuing business interests together, then at times I would, because I could, help him  
22 with the money it took to live, travel, pursue business interests. I would loan money in  
23 hopes of, and in anticipation of, whatever business interests we were pursuing would pay  
24 off, and he could pay me back. So that's how it worked. And I know it doesn't sound  
25 very -- like a very good businessman not to be more specific about it, but, you know, I was

1       loaning money to a friend. And he wasn't the only friend I ever loaned money to. I  
2       loaned money to a lot of friends.

3               Mr. ██████████. And when you say that you were doing business together, so he  
4       was -- he was providing consulting services then for you?

5               Mr. Langston. Well, he wasn't providing consulting services. We were involved  
6       in the same busi- -- he would consult with me, but he would provide -- let me give you an  
7       example. You're going to this, so I'll go ahead and help you with it.

8               There was a company out in California, and it was called Earth Care, and  
9       Earth Care was run -- its marketing arm was run by a guy named Dan Terzo, T-e-r-z-o.  
10       He's deceased. Dan Terzo had an agreement with a Mississippi company that this  
11       Earth Care product was -- it was not a fertilizer. It was a -- a -- an additive, a molecular  
12       additive to dirt that would make it more fertile.

13               Jimmy knew Dan Terzo before I did, and when Jimmy learned that Dan Terzo was  
14       participating in the marketing efforts for a company in Mississippi, he thought that might  
15       be something I was interested in. Okay?

16               And he was right, I was interested in it. It's in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. I got  
17       some of it, and I put it on my property, and in fact it did make a difference in the way the  
18       grass grew. Okay?

19               So I went down to the plant. I went through it. I talked to some of the  
20       scientists there. And while Jimmy had talked to the marketing arm of it, with Dan Terzo,  
21       I was going down to the plant itself. And I decided I did want to get involved in that  
22       and -- if I could.

23               But Jimmy and I worked for a while trying to put together a -- an effort to  
24       introduce farmers and other people to use this product instead of using as much fertilizer.  
25       They wouldn't be able to cut out fertilizer, but as much fertilizer as they were using

1 before and -- but quite frankly, going out and finding individual people that were  
2 interested in doing it, and they had sufficient acreage so that a sale would be significant  
3 enough to justify the time, effort, and money put into it, we ultimately didn't -- didn't -- it  
4 didn't succeed. But we tried for some time.

5 Mr. [REDACTED]: And when was this business that you did with Jim Biden?

6 Mr. Langston: I'm going to say that it was -- and I don't know for sure, but I'm  
7 going to say that it was probably either '15, '16, '17, '18, along in that area. I can't  
8 remember exactly when it was.

1

2 [12:15 P.M.]

3 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

4 Q And you were employed by Earth Care, correct? Or were you a contractor?

5 A No, I wasn't employed by Earth Care. I was involved with the marketing  
6 company.

7 Q Okay.

8 A And the marketing company's effort was to find people who were interested  
9 in buying the product. It's a heck of a good product. I think it's really a great product,  
10 and if people understood it, they would buy it.11 But we just didn't have the time, money that we were willing to put into it to  
12 market it like it I think should have been marketed.

13 Mr. [REDACTED]. Okay, I'd like --

14 Mr. [REDACTED]. So I just want to drill down on that first loan. Wasn't James  
15 Biden's wife, Sara Biden, a successful lawyer, like you said earlier? Why is he borrowing  
16 money from you?17 Mr. Langston. I don't know how much she was practicing. I don't have any  
18 idea. And, you know, he said he needed money. I would lend him money if I could.  
19 And that was typical of me with my friends.

20 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

21 Q And then there's another payment on 9-22 of 2016, another wire for  
22 \$34,000. Do you remember what the nature and purpose of that \$34,000 was for?

23 A I want to say loan. I can't think of anything else.

24 Q Do you remember what he was asking to be loaned money for?

25 A No, but I'll explain that to you. I imagine I could have drilled down and

1 found out specifically what he needed to pay with that money, but that's not my  
2 personality.

3 I wish maybe my personality would have been different at times with friends to  
4 whom I have loaned money, but I have loaned a lot of friends money, and sometimes I  
5 get paid back and sometimes I don't. And I don't litigate against them because they're  
6 friends.

7 Q Did you have a promissory note for the \$100,000 loan?

8 A At some point I had a promissory note, and I can't remember when it was,  
9 and I have turned this place upside down looking for it.

10 On my phone, I'm a serial deleter, is what I call myself. But if I have a call and I  
11 complete the call, I'll delete it, you know. Our text message, same way.

12 And, you know, I don't -- if I'm not pursuing something, like a note -- I'm certain I  
13 had a note with Jim and Sara for money I loaned them at some point, and I wish I could  
14 produce it to you. I really do, because it's going to be SOP. It's going to be standard  
15 operating procedure. I'm loaning you this money. You're paying me back and so forth  
16 and so on.

17 But I don't have it. I'll continue to look for it. If I come up with it, I'll send it to  
18 you.

19 Q Okay. But sitting here today, you don't have any documentary evidence for  
20 the \$100,000 note?

21 A I don't.

22 Q Okay.

23 What about for the \$34,000 loan?

24 A No.

25 Q Do you have any documentary evidence sitting here today?



1           A    Not today.

2           And I've got to tell you, I purge my records from law practice long ago. This  
3 didn't come from that. This didn't come from my law practice.

4           But I retain that effort whenever I do personal business with people. If it's  
5 something that I've been paid, then generally, I just -- I guess you could call me a serial  
6 deleter still because I would get rid of the documentation if I've been paid.

7           If I don't -- if I haven't been paid but I don't intend to pursue it, then I would  
8 probably get rid of it, too, rather than keep it hanging around. Because if I'm not going  
9 to pursue it, then why would I keep it?

10          So I want to tell you, because I want to be honest with you, I'm certain that we  
11 had a document. And I don't know if Jim and Sara have one or not, because I haven't  
12 talked to them. But at one point, I feel like I did. It wouldn't have been anything other  
13 than a standard promissory note agreement.

14          Q    Do you remember if there was an interest rate for the loan?

15          A    I'm sure there was.

16          Q    What was that interest rate?

17          A    Oh, I have no idea. I couldn't remember.

18          Q    Do you remember when the loan was to be repaid?

19          A    I'm sure there was a payment date on it, but the date could come and go.

20          And you'll have to remember back to what I said a moment ago. If we were  
21 pursuing Earth Care or some other business and we were putting either money in the  
22 business or we were using it to travel or whatever, for meetings, I would generally try to  
23 cover those expenses by loaning Jim money with the idea that if this is successful -- like,  
24 for example, if our Earth Care effort had been successful, and the only success we had  
25 was that I've got nice green grass where grass didn't grow before, but if it wasn't

1 successful, then I generally did not make any collection efforts.

2 Now, I won't say I never asked them for money, to pay me back money. If I felt  
3 like they could or if I didn't know one way or the other, I might say something to them or I  
4 might -- whatever, but I just -- I never made any formal collection efforts.

5 Q You say the idea of if these businesses that you have with Jim Biden were  
6 successful, then you would get paid back. But was that written in the promissory note  
7 that you had with Jim?

8 A No, but that was my intention.

9 Mr. [REDACTED] You've been -- you explained in our first hour that you've been  
10 successful as an attorney, and I'm just wondering if this is the way that you would do  
11 business usually in that you would loan \$100,000 in April of 2016 and 5 months later  
12 \$34,000.

13 Were you concerned at all that Jim Biden wasn't going to pay you back? Did you  
14 ask any questions about his ability to pay it back?

15 Mr. Langston. I'm sure we talked about it at times. I'm sure there were some  
16 discussions about can you pay and so forth and so on.

17 And I know it seems odd, fellas, and I'm a little embarrassed to say it because it  
18 makes me sound like a very bad business person. But Jim is not the only friend that I  
19 loaned money to that -- and I loaned money to at six figures and never paid me back.

20 And frankly, the way I look at it is I can litigate against them and I'll probably  
21 lose -- I probably won't recover the money, and I'll lose a friend. Or I can do nothing,  
22 retain the friendship.

23 And I've not done that just with him. I've done that with a number of people in  
24 my life.

25 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

1 Q Why don't you think you'll be able to recover?

2 A Well, if he was borrowing money from me, I didn't think he had any.  
3 Because I can't imagine that he would borrow money from me if he had money. If he's  
4 borrowing money from me, I presumed it was for, you know, what his life needs were.  
5 He has children and he has, of course, a wife, and he has grandchildren now.

6 But I'm 100 percent certain that Jim Biden would not ask me for a loan just to  
7 enrich himself.

8 Q So there's one, two, three, four, five. There's five payments. There's one  
9 on 4-18-2016 for \$100,000. There's one on 9-22 of 2016, a wire for \$34,000. There's a  
10 check on 9-30 of 2016, and that's a check to Jim Biden for \$16,000. Then on October 26,  
11 2016, there's another wire for \$37,000. And then on June 16th of 2017, there's a final  
12 wire for \$25,000.

13 So of the one, two, three, four, five, of the five payments, four of them, all of the  
14 wires are from the Langston Law Firm Consulting, Inc., to the Lion Hall Group. And it  
15 totals out to be the five payments for \$212,000. Does that sound right?

16 A Looks right.

17 Q And my question is: You're talking about these payments for Jim Biden for  
18 life, for his kids, you know, to just get by. My question is: Did Jim have you pay the  
19 Lion Hall Group? Or why were -- did Jim have you pay the Lion Hall Group? Or why  
20 were the payments going to the Lion Hall Group?

21 A You know, I wondered that myself when I saw it, when you sent it to me. I  
22 can't remember why it went to the Lion Hall Group, but, you know, I considered it going  
23 to the Lion Hall Group and going to Jim as practically the same thing.

24 Q Okay.

25 And for all of these payments, is it the same answer, that you don't have

1 documentary evidence today of the loan?

2 A The only documentary evidence I would have was on the check on 9-30-16.  
3 I considered the check, which indicates that it was a loan, to be documentary evidence.

4 Q And you're in possession of that record?

5 A No. I think you sent it to me.

6 Q Okay, so we provided the only documentary evidence. You don't have any  
7 independent documentary evidence of any of these loans on your own. Is that right?

8 A None that I could find, no. But I will continue to look because I know you  
9 want to.

10 Mr. [REDACTED], can I ask a few questions?

11 Mr. [REDACTED]. Sure.

12 BY MR. [REDACTED]

13 Q I know you said that your options were kind of do I lose a friend and litigate  
14 and probably not get the money, or you were concerned you might lose his friendship if  
15 you were litigating.

16 But there's kind of a middle ground there, too, and the middle ground would be,  
17 hey, Jim Biden. I've loaned you over \$200,000. Do you think you could start paying me  
18 back even maybe like a monthly payment since you owe me that money? I mean, did  
19 you ever have that conversation with him?

20 A I did not. But let me expand on what you just asked me. It wasn't just Jim  
21 Biden that -- he wasn't the only friend I didn't want to lose. I've had friends that I went  
22 to college with, and I'm still friends with today that I've loaned a lot of money to that have  
23 never paid me back.

24 Now, I loan people money when I think they need it. I don't loan them money to  
25 do something superfluous. I just think that it's -- if I'm convinced that they need it and

1 they can convince me -- sometimes I say no. Many times I've said no. It sounds like I  
2 loan money to everybody and never recollect it, but that's not the case.

3 I've loaned money to friends, and I've been paid back. But I've loaned money to  
4 friends, and not just Jim Biden, many others, that have never paid me back. And I've  
5 never litigated against any of them.

6 Q But taking aside what you've done with other friends, sticking specifically  
7 with Jim Biden, did you ever say to Jim Biden, hey, can you start paying me back on a  
8 monthly basis? Could you pay me back 100 bucks a month? Could you pay me back  
9 200 bucks a month?

10 I mean, there is a middle ground between, hey, can you pay me back the \$200,000  
11 versus can you start, out of respect to me, could you start paying me back a little bit of  
12 the money, please?

13 I'm not talking about your other friends. I'm saying Jim Biden.

14 A No, I never asked that of him. Maybe I should have. But I did have  
15 conversations with him about him paying me back. Hey, Jim, are you in a position to pay  
16 me back? Hey, what about this loan? When is it going to be paid back, so forth and so  
17 on?

18 We've had conversations. There was correspondence or conversations or  
19 discussions or whatever they may have been. We talked about the fact and he knew  
20 that he owed me money. And I did pursue it in that regard but that's it.

21 Q And even when you talked with him, I think you said as recently as '20 or '21,  
22 did you bring up the loans at all?

23 A I honestly can't say. The last time I talked to him, did I talk to him about  
24 the loans? I don't know.

25 Q I think you just said that you provide loans when you feel that people have

1 shown you that they are in need. What did Jim Biden say to you that indicated he was  
2 in need of money?

3 A Well, number one, he told me that he needed money for just maintaining his  
4 livelihood, you know, to pay the things that people pay every month. And if he told me  
5 he needed money, then I would generally try to help him, particularly when we were  
6 working on projects together that I had hopes would turn into a successful venture, and  
7 we could recover the money. And in that event, then I would have tried to recover the  
8 money that I had loaned to him.

9 Q Did you ever tell Jim Biden that you provided loans to other people?

10 A I'm sure he knew because most of my friends know that I am a bit of a soft  
11 touch when it comes to something like that. I think I'm -- I will say this. I was formerly  
12 a soft touch. My wife has cured me of that problem. But, yes.

13 Mr. ██████. And you brought up a discussion. I didn't hear it correctly. You  
14 said you did at least inquire about a pardon to someone. Do you remember when that  
15 was? Was it after your February 29, 2016, denial of request? Was it after that.

16 Mr. Casey. I believe that misstates the record but he can answer.

17 Mr. Langston. I don't know when that was.

18 You know, I'm a lawyer myself, and I can read what I want to read and generally  
19 have a good understanding of who is in line for a pardon. I didn't apply for a pardon  
20 when President Trump was in office. I didn't apply for a pardon when Obama was in  
21 office. I certainly haven't applied for a pardon since Biden has been in office.

22 You know, if you guys brought me a pardon from Washington today, then I would  
23 happily accept it, but I don't have any inclinations right now to do anything at all.

24 And I'll tell you what. It bothers me -- believe me, I wish that I didn't know -- I  
25 didn't have a history with the man in the White House because I think that makes it even

1 harder with Joe Biden.

2 And I know that I shouldn't have asked when he was Vice President, and I didn't  
3 know President Trump. And so I wasn't -- I didn't think that I could put forth an effort  
4 there that would be successful. So I didn't. I just didn't know anybody.

5 But when I talk about talking to people, sometimes I'm talking about talking to my  
6 nephew who's a lawyer here. I'll say, what do you think about -- do you think President  
7 Trump would look favorably on something like this or not? General stuff. I never went  
8 as far as to hire anybody formerly to put together a pardon for me.

9 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

10 Q Who else did you speak to about a pardon?

11 A Other than looking myself, speaking to my nephew, Casey Lott, I think that I  
12 spoke to a friend of mine whose name is Hiram Eastland during the Trump  
13 administration. He was filing a number of pardon requests. He approached me. I  
14 didn't approach him. He approached me, and he said that he was partnered with  
15 somebody I think in D.C., another lawyer, and that they were going to file a number of  
16 pardon applications. And he wanted to know if I wanted him to do so for me. And I  
17 told him no.

18 Q Did you ever talk to Steve Patterson about it?

19 A Steve is a friend of mine. I talk to him all the time. I honestly don't  
20 remember having any conversation with him about a pardon, but I don't know. Maybe  
21 we did. If we did, it was something incidental. I just -- but I talk to -- persons I've  
22 talked to are Casey Lott, Hiram Eastland who is a lawyer friend of mine in Mississippi.  
23 And he was doing a lot of pardon applications during the Trump administration, and he  
24 asked if I wanted him to file one on my behalf.

25 And he asked me late, I will say that, in the administration, but I said no.

1 Q Did you have any of these conversations in 2016 while you were making  
2 loans to James Biden?

3 A About a pardon?

4 Q Yes.

5 A Oh, no. No, no. Uh-uh. I don't remember anything like that.

6 I talk to Jimmy about -- you know, if you have a long-term friendship, you're going  
7 to have a lot of things you talk to your friend about. But I recall no conversation such as  
8 that.

9 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

10 Q Did you talk to him about your denial in February of 2016?

11 A To my knowledge, he doesn't even know that I filed that motion. So the  
12 answer to your question is no. I didn't talk to him about the denial because I doubt very  
13 seriously he had any idea that I filed such a motion.

14 Q But, I mean, you guys were close friends. You never talked about it?

15 A Not that. That was a legal matter being handled by my lawyers locally in  
16 Mississippi.

17 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

18 Q My Democratic colleagues during their last hour asked you about whether  
19 James Biden ever -- and I'm paraphrasing, but if James Biden had ever intimated that he  
20 would use his last name to access Joe Biden. And you said, No. Is that correct?

21 A I don't recall one instance that he would use -- that he ever told anybody,  
22 implied to anybody, suggested to anybody that he would go and get his brother to do  
23 something for them.

24 Q Because you would agree with me that a member of the Biden family using  
25 their connection to Joe Biden to garner business would be inappropriate, correct?



1           A    I don't know exactly what those circumstances might include, but I don't like  
2 the sound of it. It sounds either unethical or improper in some way if they do that.

3           But I tell you this. I don't, I don't know what anybody -- and I can't speak to how  
4 anybody would perceive it, but -- and how I perceive it, I can't imagine how that would be  
5 relevant to anybody. But, no, I can't say one way or the other there.

6           You know, here's the thing, guys. And I know you all are -- and you're doing a  
7 very good job, by the way, because you're asking good questions about relevant matters.  
8 And I knew the matter of my felony conviction would come up, and it's tough to live with.

9           You know, I was only really good in my life at one thing and that was practicing  
10 law, and it was tough to give it up. It was tough that I had to embarrass my family.

11           But I didn't lose many friends, true friends. Now, I lost some acquaintances.  
12 And frankly, you asked me why I would agree to lend Jim Biden money. He remained  
13 friends with me. And a lot of my friends did.

14           Did I lend them all money? No. If they came to me and they needed it, I  
15 probably would have because it's something that I had an abundance of. And not  
16 everybody wanted to be friends with me after all of that. Because while you guys can  
17 appreciate even better than me how the media can latch on to something, and whether  
18 it's right or it's wrong, they can convince people that don't know anything about it that  
19 it's what they say it is.

20           We had a lot of -- for Mississippi, a lot of media coverage about the things you  
21 read over there earlier. And I had some tough decisions to make, and they were tough.

22           And I've tried death penalty cases many times. Thankfully, successfully. But  
23 this was tough on me.

24           And my friendships have always been important, and he was one of my friends.  
25 And I'll tell you, he's the kind of friend most people would want because he didn't give

1 you up when you got in a bad situation, and I'm grateful for that.

2 And I'm the kind of friend that would not put them in a bad situation. I never  
3 asked Joe Biden for -- I haven't talked to him in 15 years. I haven't sent Jimmy to talk to  
4 him.

5 And I don't know if I'm still friends with Joe Biden, but I bet I am. I bet he thinks  
6 of me friendly because we were friends at one time.

7 So that may not mean anything to you, but it meant a lot to me. And Jimmy was  
8 willing to do business with me, and I was willing to do business with him. And yes, I  
9 loaned him some money, but it wasn't for anything in return.

10 He paid me back some money.

11 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

12 Q How much did he pay you back?

13 A He paid me back \$400,000.

14 Q So how much have you loaned to Jim Biden in total?

15 A I'd say that amount, and at one point he had a terrible, catastrophic weather  
16 event in Florida at his home down there. And before he could collect the property and  
17 casualty recovery on that, I loaned him money, and he paid me back.

18 Q So how much money have you loaned Jim Biden to date?

19 A I don't know.

20 Q A million dollars, two million?

21 A I'd say less than that.

22 Q \$800,000?

23 A Maybe.

24 Q And he's paid you back \$400,000 of \$800,000?

25 A 800,000 sounds like far too much, but I'm going to say -- well, he's paid me

1 back \$400,000, yes. The other loans weren't paid back. The businesses that we were  
2 pursuing did not make money. Had they made money, I would have been paid back the  
3 rest.

4 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

5 Q What account did you pay him back in? What account did you pay Jim  
6 Biden back in?

7 A I would say it was directly to him with the exception of one or two things  
8 that I wired to Lion Hall Group.

9 Q What company did you pay him back with?

10 A What company did I use?

11 Q Yes.

12 A It would have either been personal, or it would have been through my  
13 consulting company, Langston Law Firm Consulting.

14 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

15 Q And when Jim Biden paid you back, where did he pay you from? From Lion  
16 Hall Group or from his personal account?

17 A I think it was from his personal account.

18 Q And do you have those bank records today?

19 A No, I just remember it.

20 Q Okay. So you have no documentary evidence of him paying you back  
21 \$400,000 sitting here today?

22 A I don't sitting here today, but I can tell you that he did.

23 Q And did you have loan agreements for all of those loans as well?

24 A I don't think I did. I think I had one, but I'm not certain of it, but I think I  
25 had one.

1 Mr. ██████: And when did he pay you back?

2 Mr. Langston. He paid -- there was a hurricane or tropical storm or something  
3 down in -- he had a home on Keewaydin Island in Florida, and he had a catastrophic  
4 property loss there. So whenever he got his insurance coverage back, he paid me,  
5 whenever that was.

6 BY MR. ██████:

7 Q And just to be clear, so you haven't collected on the \$212,000. I get you're  
8 saying he's paid you \$400,000 today. But total, I mean, are you up or down with loans  
9 with him?

10 A Oh, I'm down.

11 Q Okay. Down hundreds of thousands? But how much are you down with  
12 loans with Jim Biden? 300,000? 400,000?

13 A Something in that range, yeah.

14 Q Okay.

15 Mr. ██████: We'll go off the record.

16 [Recess.]

17 Mr. ██████ Back on.

18 BY MR. ██████:

19 Q Mr. Langston, I would like to return, if I could, to the subject of the loans  
20 from yourself to James Biden and Lion Hall that my majority colleagues were asking you  
21 about earlier.

22 To begin with, during that line of questioning, my majority colleagues were  
23 reading to you a series of amounts and dates from a document, which they did not share  
24 with you, correct?

25 A They didn't share the document with me today, but I've seen it.

1 Q You didn't have it in front of you today when you were responding to their  
2 questions. Is that right?

3 A Correct. That's correct.

4 Q You mentioned earlier that you have had a practice of making loans to  
5 friends apart from James Biden. Is that right?

6 A I do.

7 Q I don't want to put you on the spot here. You did mention earlier that you  
8 have an abundance of money.

9 A I have -- I'm okay.

10 Q Okay.

11 Would it be fair to say then that the loans that you have advanced to your circle of  
12 friends have not posed a significant financial burden for you?

13 A It has not.

14 Q And the failure of some of those friends in some instances to fully repay  
15 those loans likewise has not posed a significant financial burden for you?

16 A That's correct.

17 Q So it follows that any money that James Biden has not repaid you is even less  
18 of a financial burden?

19 A That's correct.

20 Q Okay.

21 You were asked earlier about the fact that you made at least some payments to  
22 the Lion Hall entity rather than to James personally. And I'll just ask. In doing so, did  
23 you have any intent to conceal or obscure the fact that James and Sara were the  
24 beneficiaries of those loans?

25 A Absolutely not. Frankly, whether I sent money to one or the other, I can't

1 think of how that could be concealed because they are the owners of Lion Hall. So I  
2 would think that one would be as obvious as the other.

3 Q Did you ever discuss any of the loans either to Lion Hall or to James with Joe  
4 Biden?

5 A Absolutely not.

6 Q And did you ever understand that he was aware of any of those loans?

7 A I'd be surprised if he was.

8 Q Did you ever have any expectation that Joe Biden would perform any favors  
9 in exchange for any loan from you to James or to Lion Hall?

10 A Absolutely not. No favor was asked, no favor was offered.

11 Q And likewise, you never had any expectation that Joe Biden would take any  
12 official action in exchange for any of those loans. Is that right?

13 A Absolutely not. He would not do that. That's right.

14 Q Did James Biden ever suggest that his brother would do that?

15 A No. In fact, quite the opposite.

16 Q And did Joe Biden, in fact, ever provide you with any favors in exchange for  
17 any loan you made to James or to Lion Hall?

18 A No.

19 Q I understood your answer in the previous round to the question of why you  
20 wrote off some of your loans to James to be out of friendship. Is that a fair  
21 characterization?

22 A Yes.

23 Q So your intent in writing off those loans was not to influence or obtain favors  
24 from Joe Biden?

25 A Absolutely not. I'm not sure how someone would get a favor from Joe

1 Biden, but I know it's not like that.

2 Q You were also asked earlier about your criminal case. I certainly don't want  
3 to belabor that topic, but just a few follow-up questions to make sure that our record is  
4 clear.

5 Did you at any point ask James to enlist his brother's help in connection with your  
6 prosecution?

7 A Absolutely not. In fact, I cannot think of one occasion that Jimmy Biden has  
8 asked me about that matter, and I know that he hasn't talked to Joe Biden about it. I'm  
9 certain of it.

10 Q And did either Joe Biden or James Biden, in fact, do anything to intervene or  
11 assist in the prosecution?

12 A Nor did they -- not -- neither one did anything to intervene, nor did I ask  
13 them to do so.

14 Q You were asked at some length in the previous round about the facts  
15 underlying the criminal case against you. Did the government's factual allegations and  
16 charges have any connection whatsoever to James Biden?

17 A None.

18 Q Or to Joe Biden?

19 A No.

20 Q And I understand that the criminal charges against you have been fully  
21 resolved. Is that correct?

22 A They have.

23 Q You fully served your sentence, as you stated in the previous round?

24 A Correct.

25 Q And probation?

1 A Yes.

2 Q And paid in full the fine imposed by the court?

3 A I did.

4 Q So the criminal case against you at this point has been concluded in its  
5 entirety for several years?

6 A Yes.

7 Q And then you touched upon your attempt in the previous rounds to have  
8 your sentence vacated in 2016. That application was denied?

9 A Correct.

10 Q Did you or your attorneys at any point have any contact with Joe Biden  
11 concerning that application?

12 A Absolutely not.

13 Mr. [REDACTED]. Mr. Langston, thank you.

14 Ms. [REDACTED]. We can go off the record.

15 [Discussion off the record.]

16 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

17 Q I just want to go back to the loans that you provided to Mr. James Biden.  
18 We provided you with documents prior to today. Some of them were the four wires  
19 that were discussed and one check I believe for \$16,000. We see no money going back  
20 from James Biden back to you in any form for these particular payments.

21 It's our understanding that he did not repay any of the loans for these specific  
22 payments. Do we have that correct?

23 A That's correct. And I think it -- my thinking on that was that those loans  
24 were made while we were pursuing business ventures. The business ventures never  
25 were successful for us.



1           Now, I think at least Earth Care is still open, but when it became evident that we  
2 were not going to make any money on Earth Care matters, for example, then I really  
3 never intended to pursue collection of monies that I advanced by loan to Jimmy Biden  
4 during our pursuit of that business.

5           Q    The promissory note that you believe existed at some point but you don't  
6 currently have, couldn't find in your possession, would James Biden and/or Sara Biden  
7 also have the promissory note as far as you're aware?

8           A    I don't know that they did. I think -- my recollection is that there was a  
9 note. I don't know if there was a copy of a note, but at some point I believe I had the  
10 original or a copy. But I don't know that they ever had one or if they do have one.  
11 They may. I don't know. I haven't talked to them.

12          Q    You don't recall emailing it, for example, to them?

13          A    No.

14          Q    And then separately, based upon your prior testimony, it sounds as if there  
15 was a loan to James Biden for a property that was in Florida that may have undergone  
16 some damage. Do I have that correct?

17          A    Correct.

18          Q    But sitting here today, you couldn't tell us the exact amount for that  
19 particular loan, but the approximate amount I believe, correct me if I'm wrong, would  
20 have been in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Do I have that right?

21          A    Yes.

22          Q    And that Jim Biden paid you back, and this is approximately because you  
23 don't have the records in front of you, you believe approximately \$400,000?

24          A    Yes.

25          Q    But that you believe that you likely loaned him 3 to \$400,000 more that was

1 not paid back to you?

2 A Yeah, I don't know if that included the 212 that you mentioned earlier. So  
3 it could have and I just don't know it. But he paid me back \$400,000.

4 And I know I wasn't asked about that by you guys, but I wanted to mention it  
5 because I wanted you to know and have a full understanding that it wasn't all out go.  
6 He did, in fact, pay me back some money. And did he pay me back everything he owed  
7 me? No. But he paid me back, you know, half or more of what he owed me.

8 So I used that as an example of him paying me back so that the loans that I made  
9 to him were not just gratuitous.

10 Q But the loans for the home would have been after these \$200,000 loans,  
11 correct?

12 A They were after that, yes, but I'm not sure exactly when they were. You  
13 know, in regard to the damage to the house down there, the property and casualty claim  
14 he would have made, I don't know about the timing there. But I know that when he  
15 paid me back, it was after he received the proceeds from the damage to that property.

16 And so he has a record of paying me back, not just receiving money from me and  
17 paying back nothing.

18 Q Thank you.

19 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

20 Q Just a final point. You said in the last round with my Democratic  
21 colleagues, you said that you didn't know what favor Joe Biden could give you. Does  
22 that accurately represent what you said?

23 A I wouldn't know what favor he could give me that he would give me I guess  
24 is a better way to say it. I never -- honestly, I can't think of an occasion where I felt that  
25 or expected that Joe Biden would do something for me because of something that I've

1 done for he or his brother. He just didn't work that way with me.

2 Q So 2 months after your Federal case gets denied, you start making payments  
3 to Joe Biden's brother that totaled up to \$212,000, \$178,000 of which was paid to Jim  
4 Biden while Joe Biden was in the final months of his Vice Presidential term.

5 A pardon for your Federal case is not a favor that could have been given to you?

6 A Well, I never asked for that. I never asked for it. I never expected it.

7 You're making a good point. If I wanted to get a pardon, the last thing I would  
8 get it for would be loaning Jim money. Joe wouldn't do that. In my mind, he would  
9 never entertain the idea, nor would Jimmy.

10 And the fact that -- and to my knowledge, vice presidents don't offer pardons. I  
11 think presidents do, and Obama was the President. And I did not ask Jim Biden, Joe  
12 Biden through any person or directly for any help on any pardon for any reason. Period.

13 Q If we request documents from the Federal Government regarding your name  
14 and a pardon, are you totally confident that we'd find no records?

15 A No records. Please ask.

16 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

17 Q Did you ever lend any money to any other Biden family members?

18 A No, I don't think so. If I did, it was superfluous. I don't remember ever  
19 having been asked or ever loaning any money. I have no recollection of anything like  
20 that.

21 Now, I go back with them 25 years, or something to that effect, but I just don't -- I  
22 don't recall that.

23 Q You said you spoke to James Biden last in 2020 or 2021. Is that correct?

24 A Yes. I haven't spoken to him since his brother has been President, I know  
25 that, but I think it goes beyond that, further back than that. I'm not sure when his

1 brother took the office, but --

2 Q What did you talk about?

3 A I can't remember. You know, I doubt it was business, and let me tell you  
4 why. We had tried some business together. It never turned out to be successful or  
5 profitable. I was getting older, and I was drawing back on my openness to work in  
6 pursuit of businesses that I personally didn't understand and that I personally did not  
7 control. And so I doubt it was business, but I have no idea.

8 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

9 Q When did you quit working with James Biden?

10 A When?

11 Q Yeah.

12 A I'm going to think that it was '17 or '18.

13 Q Was it a mutual agreement that you agreed upon or?

14 A I'll tell you. I think I recall part of the conversation, not all of it. Jimmy  
15 told me that the Biden family had made a decision for Jimmy to not tap the brakes but  
16 put the brakes on, on conducting business with people that -- because Joe was going to  
17 be running for President. And I didn't think that meant doing business with me. I  
18 thought that meant doing business at all, you know.

19 So I don't know what Jimmy did after we didn't do anymore business, but it could  
20 have been because it was me and the felony history that I have. But I was awfully  
21 grateful to those guys for not holding it against me because I accepted responsibility. I  
22 did my time. I paid my fine, and I paid far more than my fine because I paid restitution  
23 to people that I didn't have to pay, but I did.

24 Q And how many ventures did the two of you do?

25 A I'll tell you, it's hard to say. Let me tell you why. It's because ventures,

1 we might meet and talk about something like Earth Care and then not pursue it other  
2 than going to a meeting.

3 But it's -- you know, we talked about a lot of different things, and, frankly, if I  
4 didn't have a lot of experience in it, I learned from my experiences with projects like Earth  
5 Care, that I didn't know anything about agriculture. But, you know, we tried to make  
6 that go and we couldn't, and that kind of dampened any enthusiasm I had for pursuing  
7 businesses that I wasn't personally familiar with.

8 Q And did you front any money for any of them?

9 A To Jimmy?

10 Q For any venture.

11 A I'm sure that I did. You know, practically all new businesses are looking for  
12 raising money, and, you know, we talked about trying to franchise Earth Care, but we  
13 never really got off the ground there. So I'm sure I advanced some money, but I don't  
14 remember specifically what or to whom.

15 Q Did he?

16 A I don't think so. He was borrowing money from me just to keep going  
17 while we were pursuing these things.

18 Q What did he bring to the table?

19 A Well, first of all, he brought the introduction for me. He knew Dan Turzo  
20 before I knew Dan Turzo. Dan Turzo was in the marketing arm at Earth Care, for  
21 example. And so, you know, he brought the introduction to me. He brought the  
22 business prospect to me. I didn't bring it to him and ask him as partner. He brought it  
23 to me.

24 Thank you.

25 Mr. [REDACTED]. I think we're done.

1 Mr. Casey. Before your cross, can I have 5 minutes?

2 Mr. [REDACTED]: Of course.

3 Mr. [REDACTED]: Off the record.

4 [Recess.]

5 Mr. [REDACTED]: Back on.

6 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

7 Q Mr. Langston, one very quick follow-up question. I just wanted to clarify  
8 what I had asked you earlier with respect to your criminal case. I think the way I  
9 phrased my question was did you ever have any conversations in which you asked James  
10 Biden to enlist Joe Biden's help with respect to your prosecution.

11 I just want to be a little clearer in my terminology. I'll refer to it as the criminal  
12 matter rather than the prosecution, and I'm construing that to include the investigative  
13 stage as well as the prosecutorial stage.

14 So the question again, with that, did you ever have a conversation in which you  
15 asked James to enlist Joe's help with respect to your criminal matter, including both the  
16 investigative and the prosecution stages?

17 A Absolutely not. And to my knowledge, I've never had a conversation with  
18 Jim or Joe about that, my criminal matter, at any stage. And certainly, I wasn't treated  
19 softly, I should say.

20 Q And again, for clarity, did Joe Biden, in fact, do anything to intervene or  
21 assist you in your criminal matter as I've defined it?

22 A Never.

23 Q Thank you.

24 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

25 Q There are two things I'd like to seek clarity on before we go off the record.

1           Number one, I think you were asked earlier about the loans made to Jimmy Biden  
2 following the disaster in Florida that damaged his home in Florida. Do you recall that?

3           A     I do.

4           Q     And I believe you indicated that those loans would have been subsequent to  
5 the loans that were -- you were asked about today in 2016, correct?

6           A     I think so, yes.

7           Q     All right.

8           Is it possible that there were loans issued to Jimmy Biden that preceded the 2016  
9 loans that you've been asked about today?

10          A     Not to my recollection but possibly, possibly. You know, I didn't -- it makes  
11 it sound so silly that somebody who has been in business for so long did not keep records,  
12 but these were more of a friendly matter than a business matter. So possibly, yes.

13          Q     Okay.

14          The other issue I wanted to seek clarification on involved your criminal case. You  
15 were asked about the details of that case for whatever reason, and as I recall, the  
16 majority members or one of them asked you if the \$50,000 paid to Ed Peters to serve as  
17 local counsel in the case was the carrot, so to speak, although that may not be the term  
18 that they used.

19          But that was the factual basis for your criminal conviction with regard to  
20 attempting to improperly influence a public official, namely Judge Bobby DeLaughter.  
21 Do you recall that line of questioning?

22          A     I do.

23          Q     Was it ever alleged by the government that the \$50,000 paid to Ed Peters to  
24 serve as local counsel ever made its way to Judge Bobby DeLaughter?

25          A     Absolutely not. In fact, DeLaughter denied it, and to my knowledge, the

1 government never alleged that any of that money was ever paid to Bobby DeLaughter.

2 Q But the government did allege that something of value was offered to Judge  
3 Bobby DeLaughter in exchange for favorable consideration in a civil case that Dickie  
4 Scruggs had pending before Judge DeLaughter, correct?

5 A Correct.

6 Q What was that thing of value that the United States Government and the  
7 prosecution alleged was offered to Judge Bobby DeLaughter in exchange for favorable  
8 consideration in that case?

9 A Their primary allegation was that Bobby DeLaughter wanted to become a  
10 Federal judge, there was an open seat available, and that efforts made by our side of the  
11 table, myself, Dick Scruggs, were improper in trying to help him achieve that goal.

12 And thankfully, I never asked anybody to nominate him for a Federal judgeship.  
13 Period. I didn't know anybody to ask that I thought could be helpful.

14 Dick was brother-in-laws with Trent Lott. This came up during everything, and  
15 Trent Lott called Bobby DeLaughter. But quite frankly, I don't think Trent Lott did  
16 anything improper to try to make that happen.

17 But that was at least one of the reasons that the government gave for the  
18 influence that we sought, that we were trying to help him become a Federal judge, and  
19 that was the improper influence that we sought over the judge.

20 DeLaughter denied it. And he was prosecuted but for something else, lying to  
21 the FBI. And I never had a conversation with Bobby DeLaughter. Period. And I never  
22 had a conversation with Trent Lott. Period.

23 But that was the -- I accepted responsibility. I pled guilty. And I accept that  
24 responsibility today as well.

25 Mr. [REDACTED]. That's all I have.



1           Mr. Langston. Isn't there a statute of limitations on when somebody can quit  
2 bringing that up to you? I'm just teasing. But that's it.

3           Mr. ██████. Off the record. Thank you.

4           [Whereupon, at 1:30 p.m., the interview was concluded.]

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Certificate of Deponent/Interviewee

I have read the foregoing \_\_\_\_ pages, which contain the correct transcript of the answers made by me to the questions therein recorded.

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Witness Name

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Date

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**ERRATA OF JOSEPH C. LANGSTON**

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On the evening of March 18, 2024, [REDACTED], Chief Counsel – Investigations, House Committee on Oversight and Accountability, submitted a transcript of Joseph Langston’s statement to his counsel and requested Mr. Langston either affirm the accuracy of said transcript or submit an errata sheet documenting inaccurate transcriptions on or before the close of business on March 19, 2024. In an effort to comply with this challenging deadline, the undersigned quickly reviewed said transcript and hereby submits the following errata sheet:

Page	Line	Correction
11	4	“Jones County” rather than “Jonestown”
18	23	“1990” rather than “1980”
28	18	“results” rather than “result”
30	10	“...was always the case” rather than “was the case”
47	2	“...he didn’t make an appearance” rather than “...he made an appearance.”
75	15	“No records filed with my knowledge or consent” rather than “No records.” This is for clarity only.

Respectfully submitted, this the 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024.

/s/ Joseph C. Langston \_\_\_\_\_  
DECLARANT