



Advocates for Government Accountability

A 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Corporation

September 2016 Newsletter

Welcome to the September Cause of Action Institute monthly newsletter. This edition highlights documents CoA Institute recently obtained through FOIA revealing a secret agreement between the IRS and the White House to exempt IRS rules from prepublication review. It also provides details of our investigations into taxpayer reimbursements for luxury travel of a political appointee and cash payments to Iran. It also links to an op-ed I wrote about the spread of partisan politics into the Cabinet and to several press stories about recent CoA Institute activities.

Thank you for subscribing and if you have information about government abuse you would like to share, please do not hesitate to contact us using our online anonymous [tip sheet](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alfred J. Lechner, Jr." The signature is fluid and cursive.

Alfred J. Lechner, Jr.
President and CEO
Cause of Action Institute

Highlights from this Month

CoA Institute Uncovers Secret IRS, White House Memos

Through a Freedom of Information Act request, CoA Institute has secured access to a series of previously undisclosed memoranda of agreement between the IRS and

the White House, which the IRS claims exempts it from prepublication review of its rules. [Read More](#)

Extravagant Taxpayer-Funded Foreign Travel, ‘Over the Top’ Office Renovations by Commerce Dept. Employee

CoA Institute has requested records from the Department of Commerce to investigate reports of misconduct by a high-ranking political appointee, including inappropriate travel reimbursements and excessive spending on office renovations. American taxpayers have the right to know whether such wasteful spending could be a more widespread problem at the agency. [Read More](#)

Why Did U.S. Choose to Send \$1.7 Billion in Untraceable Cash to Iran?

CoA Institute has requested records from the U.S. Department of Treasury that will shed light on the Obama administration’s decision to ship more than \$1.7 billion in untraceable cash to Iran. Regardless of the merits of the settlement agreement, and regardless of whether the cash payments created ‘leverage’ for the release of American hostages, shipping untraceable cash to the world’s leading state sponsor of terrorism appears to be unjustifiable – particularly when alternative, more transparent means were available. [Read More](#)

The Washington Times



Partisan Politics in the Cabinet (Judge Lechner Opinion)

The Obama administration repeatedly allows senior

Forbes



Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Director Richard Cordray discusses the agency's ban on arbitration clauses. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

Group Challenges CFPB Arbitration Rule as ‘Arbitrary’ and Unsupported by Data

CoA Institute says the CFPB violated the Administrative

officials to unlawfully meddle in politics without being held accountable. [Read More](#)

FOX NEWS POLITICS



Commerce official ripped after spending tax \$\$ on luxury hotels, cars, renovations

A watchdog group [CoA Institute] is demanding answers after a new inspector general report called out a “high ranking” Commerce Department official for spending taxpayer dollars on luxury hotels and cars. [Read More](#)

Procedure Act and the Information Quality Act. [Read More](#)

WASHINGTON Examiner



Group battles Obama on dismissal of FOIA obstruction lawsuit

A nonpartisan watchdog group [CoA Institute] is fighting the Obama administration's effort to dismiss an open records lawsuit brought against eleven federal agencies and the White House Office of Counsel. [Read More](#)



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