

Cherokee Public Relations Spokesman Caught In Lie Cherokee Nation Denies Working With Abramoff

NATIVE AMERICAN TIMES
Sam Lewin 1/3/2006

Even though his dealings only involved a handful of tribes, news that indicted lobbyist Jack Abramoff is pleading guilty to a series of federal charges and has admitted to defrauding Indian tribes is being watched by many in Indian Country.

Betty Cooper, a member of the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council, says the scandal feeds the public perception that all tribes are wealthy and engage in gaming.

"This whole thing really bugs me," Cooper told the Great Falls Tribune. "The impact is shattering across all the tribes."

The Cherokee Nation never hired disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff, a spokesperson told The Native American Times.

Spokesperson Mike Miller said Abramoff solicited the tribe as a client. "You get sales pitches all the time," he told The Times.

Documents filed with the Senate indicates someone in Tahlequah liked the pitch. In January 2003, Abramoff and his associates registered to lobby on behalf of Cherokee Nation Enterprises on appropriations and sovereignty issues.

Later that year, Abramoff filed a report indicating that he charged Cherokee Nation Enterprises \$60,000 for his services. The document stated he and two associates lobbied the House and Senate on tribal issues according to the Mid-Year Report.

The relationship ended later that year, with Abramoff charging Cherokee Nation Enterprises another \$60,000, according to the Year-End Termination document.

All amounts in the documents are rounded to the nearest \$20,000.

109th Congress S. 2078: Indian Gaming Regulatory Act Amendments of 2005

- This bill is related to other bills in these subject areas:
- Administrative procedure
 - Administrative remedies
 - Criminal justice
 - Executive departments
 - Federal officials
 - Finance
 - Fines (Penalties)
 - Gambling
 - Government employees
 - Indian lands
 - Indian law enforcement
 - Indians
 - Law
 - Minorities
 - National Indian Gaming Commission
 - Public contracts
 - Sports
 - Standards
 - Surety and fidelity
 - Senate Indian Affairs

Official Title: A bill to amend the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act to clarify the authority of the National Indian Gaming Commission to regulate class III gaming, to limit the lands eligible for gaming, and for other purposes.

Status:
Introduced (By Sen. John McCain [R-AZ])

This bill is in the first step in the legislative process. Introduced Senate bills go first to Senate committees that consider whether the bill should be presented to the Senate as a whole. The majority of bills never make it out of committee.

Introduced: Nov 18, 2005
Last Action: Nov 18, 2005: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Sponsor:
Sen. John McCain [R-AZ]

Some more of the STORIES & ARTICLES in our 2005 Issues

Traditional Keetoowahs Left Out of Cherokee Master

Craftsmen Awards after 14+ years of participation

Editors Note. Where are the Tribal Council on this issue. They should be ashamed of themselves. These our in most part our full blood Cherokees family members. It is open to ALL Cherokees. Who do we have to thank for this . . . Chief Chad Smith, that is who!

Tahlequah, Okla. — On Tuesday, July 5, the Cherokee Heritage Center released conflicting press releases on the opening of nominations for Cherokee Master Craftsmen and artisans for the National Living Treasures Awards. In the first e-mail, which was sent at 8:35 a.m. nominations were open to citizens of either the Cherokee Nation or the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma. Before the end of the day, however, a correction to the release was sent at 4:11 p.m. which said, Treasures award is open to Cherokee Nation Tribal Members only.

Calls made to the Cherokee Heritage Center that day from the UKB Public Information office were not returned, however UKB tribal employees did obtain a copy of the NOMINATIONS AND SELECTION GUIDELINES for the NATIONAL LIVING TREASURES-CHEROKEE MASTER CRAFTSPERSON AWARDS.

In years past, many Keetoowah members have been named as Nation Living Treasurers including

Maxine Stick, Lorene Drywater, Lucille Hair -1990; Dorothy Ice and Edith Catcher Knight - 1991; George Fourkiller -1992; Betty Garner – 1993; David Neugin and Luther (Toby) Hughes -1994; William Foster – 1997; Noel Timothy Grayson – 1998; Marie Proctor – 1999; Jim Buckhorn -2002; and Kathy Van Buskirk – 2004.

First Lady's vehicle shows CNO car tag despite residency questions

In this 2003 photo, first lady of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, Bobbie Gail Smith, attempts to hide her car in the garage of her Sapulpa home after being followed during an investigation surrounding the residency of her husband, Principal Chief Chad Smith. In what many have decried as a political decision, the Judicial Appeals Tribunal ruled that Chad Smith did live in Tahlequah, even though evidence presented showed he had a rented apartment in downtown Tahlequah, but paid utility bills for his Sapulpa home, drove back and forth to the home in Sapulpa nearly every evening, his wife Bobbie resided in the home and worked in Tulsa and his children attended school in Sapulpa. While this photograph was being taken, Bobbie Gail Smith was shouting at the investigator to "stop taking pictures of my house." It is clear from the photo that Smith's car has a CNO car tag, even though it is being garaged at the home she shares with the Principal Chief deep in the Creek Nation.

Courts Sets Hearing Date on Boundary Dispute

Update:

Tulsa – The Judicial Appeals Tribunal has set a status hearing for February 17, 2006, for a lawsuit filed in October against the Cherokee Nation Tax Commission.

Jon Aaron Carrico, a resident of Tulsa has sued the Commission in an attempt to purchase a Cherokee car tag. In his suit, Carrico claims that the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma constitution does not have a boundary and as such, the Commission cannot enforce one without violating his right to equal protection of the law.

The CNO Office of Justice has assigned the case to Sarah Hill, staff attorney, who filed a motion to dismiss. Hill, in her motion filed on October 25th, contends that the suit should be dismissed because the Tax Commission is a part of the office of the Principal Chief and therefore, enjoys sovereign immunity and cannot be sued without its permission.

However, the motion to dismiss was filed two days after a deadline for an answer set by the JAT. Carrico has filed a motion to strike the late filing and has also filed a motion for default judgment.

NOTE: All of these articles are just the beginning of the articles. They can be requested via Email

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Judges rule for citizen standing in 1999 Constitution case

The Judicial Appeals Tribunal, highest court in the Cherokee Nation, has ruled against a Cherokee citizen in his attempt to have the 1999 Constitution case dismissed.

Earlier this year, Ralph Keen Jr. and Jay Hannah filed a petition with the JAT in an attempt to get the 1999 Constitution finally approved and implemented. Both men are officers of the 1999 Constitution Commission created by the Council, as well as officers of the 1999 Constitution Convention.

Hannah and Keen asked the JAT to determine the status of the 1999 Constitution, which was voted on and approved by the Cherokee people. However, the new constitution has been in political limbo following a suit filed in Federal District Court in Washington, DC by Cherokee citizens claiming they were not permitted to vote for or against the document.

Marilyn Vann, a Cherokee Freedmen descendant and president of the Descendants of Freedmen of the Five Civilized Tribes organization, is the main plaintiff in the federal suit. Following negotiations with the BIA, the U.S. government has refused to acknowledge the new constitution and the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma continues to operate under its older governing document, the 1976 Constitution.

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