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The Coalition of Labor, Agriculture & Business

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We Are One Generation Away From Extinction

By Andy Caldwell

Before you laugh off the demands and priorities of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), do realize that over 30 of their members have won their primaries against Democrats.

CNN political commentator and establishment democrat **Van Jones** is worried, and rightly so. He basically refers to these full-fledged communists as turds in the Dem's punch bowl.

That was his language, not mine.

The newest platform of the Democratic Socialists of America calls for a new U.S. Constitution that would replace the president and Supreme Court with an executive and judiciary chosen by and subordinate to Congress. That would constitute a form of government called a unicameral legislature on steroids, thereby obliterating the pillars of "separate but equal powers" and the checks and balances among our three equal branches of government.

Beyond institutional overhauls, the platform also lays out a broad set of policy goals: imposing wealth taxes on the richest Americans and corporations, canceling student debt, establishing a 32-hour workweek, granting blanket amnesty for illegal immigrants, enacting "Medicare for All," providing universal childcare, and a pledge to position the organization at the forefront of the fight for transgender rights.

The platform also includes a "feminism for all" plank that calls for queer liberation, an end to gender-based violence, and bans on sex discrimination. It opposes restrictions on abortion, childbirth, gender expression, and gender transition.

Finally, these socialists want to abolish the police, prisons, and borders, as well as seize private property and nationalize major industries. Regarding the latter, here is what the DSA website has to say about capitalism: "Capitalism is a system designed by the owning class to exploit the rest of us for their own profit. We must replace it with democratic socialism, a system where ordinary people have a real voice in our workplaces, neighborhoods, and society. We want to *collectively own* the key economic drivers that dominate our lives, such as energy production and transportation."

Legally, DSA members should never be allowed to serve in Congress because they cannot honestly take the oath of office that includes requiring an elected to defend the Constitution without purpose of evasion. That is, the U.S. Constitution requires federal and

many state officials to be "bound by Oath or Affirmation" before performing duties.

Federal statutes (e.g., 5 U.S.C. 3331) prescribe the oath's text and require it before assuming office. The oath reads: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So, help me God."

So, if the Dems and Republicans in office grow a spine they can save our country from these lunatics by blocking their being seated because the published platform of the DSA – which is binding on its members – is antithetical to our Constitution. That is, it is impossible for the members of the DSA to take the oath without the purpose of evasion.

I understand that the Communist Control Act of 1954, signed by President **Dwight Eisenhower**, declared the Communist Party USA an unlawful organization and criminalized membership or support for it. The party was labeled an "instrumentality of a conspiracy to overthrow the Government," but since then the courts have struck down most of the provisions of the same. The Supreme Court subsequently clarified that you can't be punished for simply believing in or discussing communism. The government must prove a direct link between your words or associations and a plan to incite imminent violence or the likelihood to incite such actions.

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Gavin Newsom's Predatory Behavior Coming Home To Roost

By Katy Grimes

In 2005, while mayor of San Francisco, Gavin Newsom had a months-long extramarital sexual affair with Ruby Rippey-Tourk, his appointments secretary. She was married at the time to Alex Tourk, Newsom's close friend, former deputy chief of staff, and later reelection campaign manager.

Ruby Rippey's Vanity Fair op-ed, "How I Blew Up—Then Rebuilt—My Life," published Tuesday July 28, 2026, is a personal history in which Rippey recounts her months-long affair with then-San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, her struggles with alcoholism and cocaine use, rehab, the 2007 public scandal, and how she rebuilt her life afterward.

The affair and scandal prompted Tourk's resignation, raised questions about workplace power dynamics, and threatened Newsom's political future. Despite the controversy,

Newsom won reelection as mayor later that year and eventually rose to become governor of California, Newsweek reported.

Rippey also criticizes Gavin Newsom's own memoir, *Young Man in a Hurry: A Memoir of Discovery*, and his characterization of the affair as "the briefest of affairs" and especially the claim that he "came clean" to Alex Tourk.

Rippey says she confessed of the affair to her husband first in an email, yet Newsom takes credit for that.

Ruby Rippey is now 20 years sober.

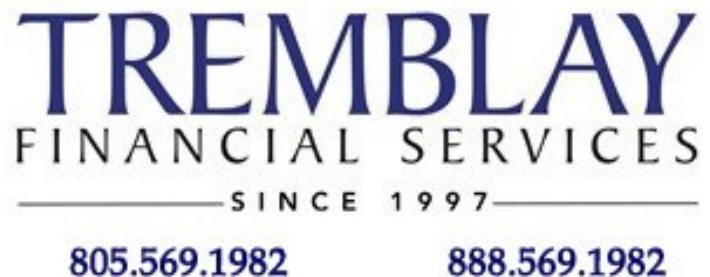
Gavin Newsom was her boss. He was a powerful man and San Francisco Mayor, and she was his appointments secretary – a classic power imbalance used by a predator.

It's a classic because a harasser in a position of power leverages their standing against lower-level employees.

Rippey takes full responsibility for her involvement and admits that she was a hot mess, abusing alcohol and eventually cocaine. She ended up in rehab.

Newsweek reports:

...she argues the relationship was fueled less by romance than by the allure of influence and status associated with one of California's rising political stars.



She writes that the experience was about feeling "chosen" and describes the attraction as connected to "proximity to power."

"We meet and we drink. There is sex, but it isn't the point. The point is proximity—to power, to being chosen, to feeling newly visible—no longer muted by pregnancy, by new motherhood, by the strain of white-knuckling long stretches of sobriety," she wrote.

"It isn't love. It isn't romance. It's intoxication. The text message is a hit. The glance across the hallway, a hit. The risk floods my bloodstream."

and

In her account, Rippey explicitly rejects the idea that she was powerless or lacked agency, writing, "I was not coerced. I knew what I was doing."

She knew what she was doing, and she was abusing alcohol and drugs. Newsom was her boss – and her husband's best friend. Shakespeare wrote of these dangerous entanglements, which rarely ended well for either party.

The bottom line starts at Gavin Newsom's door – he was the boss, the Mayor, the Big Kahuna. The Predator in Chief.

Flash forward to November 2021 – the Globe reported, Rumors of California Gov. Gavin Newsom's involvement with one of his cabinet staff members persisted since March 2021. We noted this because this same rumor played into Gov. Newsom's 2021 disappearance from the public, and his cancellation of the UN Climate Change conference.

Another Newsom employee was rumored to be the object of Gavin Newsom's affections.

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George Orwell Warned Us About Laura Capps et. al.

By Andy Caldwell

In his 1946 essay *Politics and the English Language*, Orwell critiques the “ugly and inaccurate” state of contemporary English, linking it directly to political and social decay. Orwell rightly observed that vague, pretentious, and euphemistic language is often used to obscure truth, justify morally questionable actions, and manipulate public perception. Political language, according to Orwell, is designed to make lies sound truthful and violence respectable, using euphemisms and cloudy vagueness to conceal reality.

To wit, the goal of item #8 on the Santa Barbara County Supervisor’s agenda on July 8, 2026: “Identify tools to prohibit or regulate immigration enforcement facilities and detention centers.”

To do this, the board must legally “find” that these facilities pose an immediate threat to public safety, health, and welfare. That means, the supes, under the leadership of **Laura Capps**, are representing the lie that the authority of our federal government to enforce our laws is a threat to public safety as the supes seek to make the violence of illegal alien felons somehow “respectable.” **George Orwell** would have loved to use this illustration in his writings, including his novel “1984,” as an example of “doublethink,” in which citizens are forced to accept opposing truths simultaneously. That is because most of the people ICE are arresting are themselves a threat to public safety, health, and welfare.

Of course, this is just the last of many salvos from the Laura Capps-led Board of Supervisors. Capps and her pal Assemblyman **Gregg Hart**, a former county supervisor himself, are conspiring, by way of state legislation (AB 2257), to take away the management and oversight of the county jail from Sheriff **Bill Brown**. Besides accounting for the fact that Laura Capps thinks she is the smartest person on the planet, the two excuses given for this action include the charge that too many ICE arrests are occurring outside of the county jail and the millions of dollars in costs for excessive overtime incurred by deputies.

With respect to the sheriff’s alleged cooperation with ICE, this too is a lie. Every year, the sheriff is required to present to the supes, via the Truth Act, how many times ICE has requested an illegal alien detainee be handed over to them at the jail versus how many handoffs occurred. The joker in the deck, that Capps doesn’t like, is that if a federal warrant has been issued by a court, the handoff must occur regardless of her preferences. Hence, Capps would just as soon

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blow off the authority of the judicial branch as she would the administrative branch represented by **Donald Trump**.

Any sane person, that is, not somebody suffering from a maniacal attachment to illegal alien felons, would prefer a handoff at the jail for all illegal aliens sought by ICE rather than forcing ICE to hunt for these people on the streets and in their homes. But Capps and company can’t see the logic in that.

With respect to the apparent abuse of overtime by deputies, well guess what, the loophole that allowed some of that excess overtime to be realized was signed by the board of supes via an MOU with the deputy’s association. The supes therefore only have themselves to blame. As for the rest of the overtime, the supes cut the sheriff’s budget years ago and they have never regained the staffing they need to avoid the bulk of the remaining overtime being charged.

I, for one, wish the supes would stay in their lane and

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The Scheme To Eliminate Private Property And Reorganize Human Society

By Tom DeWeese

“The moment the idea is admitted into society that property is not as sacred as the laws of God, and that there is not a force of law and public justice to protect it, anarchy and tyranny commence.” Founding Father John Adams.

Today, the very root of our nation's freedom, prosperity, and private property ownership by individual citizens, is under attack across the nation. Eminent Domain is the weapon of choice to allow private corporations to simply take property at will under the excuse of the “common good.” Wind and solar farms, carbon capture pipelines, and massive AI data centers now cover vital farmland and private neighborhoods. The property owners are given no choice in the matter. It's gone. How is that possible in a nation built on the very concept of private property ownership and protection?

For decades we have faced the globally organized juggernaut called “Sustainable” designed by powerful forces to completely change and control human society. However, from the very beginning of the plan our nation, which is based on the very concept of private property, has stood in the way.

Now, today, the tool every tyrant has ever dreamed of for complete control is in their hands – AI! So, the train for control is ready to leave the station, but the way is blocked by those infernal property rights! What to do to allow tyranny to commence?

Well, the real answer was found just over twenty years ago and is now in full swing. Here is the story. It started with five black robes named Stevens, Souter, Ginsburg, Kennedy, and Breyer. In 2005, the Supreme Court of the United States handed down an opinion that shocked the nation.

It was the case of *Susette Kelo, et al. v City of New London, Connecticut, et al.* The issue: “The government taking of property from one private owner to give to another private entity for economic development constitutes a permissible “public use” under the Fifth Amendment.”

In 2000, the city of New London saw a chance to rake in big bucks through tax revenues for a new downtown development project that was to be anchored by pharmaceutical giant Pfizer. The company announced a plan to build a \$270 million dollar global research



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facility in the city.

The local government jumped at the chance to transform 90 acres of an area right next to the proposed research facility. Their plans called for the creation of the Fort Trumbull development project to provide hotels, housing and shopping areas for the expected influx of Pfizer employees.

There were going to be jobs and revenues A-Go-Go in New London. Just one obstacle stood in the way of these grand plans. There were private homes in that space.

No muss – no fuss. The city fathers had a valuable tool in their favor. They would just issue an edict that they were taking the land by eminent domain. To get started, the city created a private development corporation to lead the project. It's first priority was to obtain the needed property.

Put yourself in the shoes of the homeowners in that targeted neighborhood. You bought a home for your family. It's a place you could afford in a neighborhood you liked. The children made friends. You intended to stay for the rest of your life.

However, as you planted your garden, landscaped the yard, put up a swing set for the kids, and molded your land into a home, unknown to you, certain city officials were meeting around a table with developers. In front of them were maps and photographs of your home.

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A Nation Of Men, Not Laws

By Andy Caldwell

I, for one, am still celebrating our nation's 250th birthday. I recently wrote about **Benjamin Franklin's** answer to the question of what kind of government were we going to have, to which he replied, "A republic, if you can keep it."

Of course, the basic principle of our Constitution posits that we are not solely governed by the majority as in a purely democratic system of government. The majority in a community, by popular vote, can neither decide to take your right to exercise your religion, or infringe upon your right to free speech or the right to assembly, nor can the majority vote to take your belongings away without just compensation. In fact, it is a fair characterization of our Constitution that the majority does not rule in instances such as these because our Constitution protects the rights of the individual *from* the majority.

Another way of saying all that is to quote **John Adams**, one of our country's founding fathers, who declared that our form of government was "A government of laws, and not of men."

The website socratic-method.com did a great job explaining that "by emphasizing the importance of laws over the influence and whims of individuals, Adams highlights the significance of an impartial system that governs societies. Simply put, it means that no one should be above the law, and everyone should be subjected to its power. This principle ensures equality, protection of rights, and the prevention of tyranny."

Malfeasance At The Highest Level

Of course, our problem today has to do with a government based upon the subjective judgments, biases, and personal values of individuals in power. It is a system that Adams wanted to avoid above all, a government whose rules are arbitrary, inconsistent, and easily influenced by personal interests. In other words, a government prone to corruption, injustice, and the oppression of its citizens.

Hence, we know of the commonplace phenomenon of judges and prosecutors refusing to prosecute criminals. We are also witness to state and local governments refusing to cooperate with the federal government in matters pertaining to illegal immigration and crimes committed by illegal immigrants.

And, did you know, some 700 government officials in



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California have been convicted of criminal behavior, including **Gavin Newsom's** former chief of staff? And now, an unindicted co-conspirator with the former chief of staff, who wore a wire, is helping to build a case against the governor and his wife for alleged financial malfeasance.

County Supervisor **Laura Capps** and Assemblyman **Gregg Hart** are another current example of politicians whose rules are arbitrary and capricious. In this case, if you can't beat them, change their job description!

Sheriff **Bill Brown** has been our sheriff since 2007. He is now in his fifth term. He is one of the most distinguished law enforcement officers in the nation. Sheriff Brown was elected by his peers as President

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California's Civil Rights Mafia

By Christopher F. Rufo and Kenneth Schrupp

Gavin Newsom is running a shakedown campaign against major companies.

In 2018, two women filed a class-action suit against Riot Games, the video-game colossus responsible for League of Legends, Valorant, and other popular titles. They claimed that the company had denied them and other female employees “equal pay,” favored men for promotions, and created a “hostile work environment.” The women wanted Riot Games to pay out and to “cause social change.”

One year later, the parties agreed to a \$10 million settlement. It was a massive sum, but not enough for California's Department of Fair Employment and Housing, which intervened to block the agreement and claim that Riot Games could be on the hook for a staggering \$400 million. Facing a court battle against a deep-pocketed state agency, Riot Games later agreed to a \$100 million settlement, about ten times the original amount.

California's Department of Fair Employment and Housing, now called the Civil Rights Department, has turned the Riot Games strategy into an entire playbook. For years, the state's civil rights apparatus has enabled nonprofits and lawyers to shake down major companies, spinning small-dollar claims into massive, multimillion-dollar settlements.

The system operates like a mafia. Its “don,” Governor Gavin Newsom, sits at the top. His capo, CRD director Kevin Kish, runs the shakedown campaigns. And the state advances the interests of the entire Democratic apparatus: the Civil Rights Department secures settlement cash for radical NGOs, labor leaders can use the cases to create pressure for unionization, and left-wing lawyers “cause social change” at scale. For the first time, we are revealing the inner workings of California's civil rights mafia—and exposing the corruption of state government.

California's Civil Rights Department was created in 1980 as the Department of Fair Employment and Housing. The department was initially tasked with enforcing nondiscrimination law, but in the wake of the #MeToo and George Floyd social movements, the state's power structure saw an opportunity to turn the agency into a powerhouse. They rebranded the organization as the Civil Rights Department in 2022, in keeping with the agency's focus on shaking down companies for “civil rights violations.”



The shakedown campaigns have been remarkably successful. In the last four years alone, the CRD has coerced corporations like Microsoft (\$14 million), Snap Inc. (\$15 million), and Riot Games (\$100 million) to shell out eight- and nine-figure payments. These settlements have variously included provisions for class members, interest groups, and the CRD itself, which is allowed by state law to recoup fees associated with its prosecutions.

The CRD's enforcement actions often include one or more predictable features. First, the CRD finds a handful of women or minorities who claim that a large corporation has mistreated them. Then the agency initiates or intervenes in an action against that corporation. Finally, to spin small-dollar claims into massive payouts, the CRD generates outrageous liability estimates, which goad the company to the negotiating table.

The point man on this scheme is Kevin Kish, a Yale Law School graduate and the CRD's director. On its website, the agency notes Kish's reputation for taking “a creative approach to advocacy,” which involves “collaborations” with nonprofits and “organizing campaigns”—in other words, using the department to advance the interests of unions, nonprofits, and other left-wing groups.

Kish mastered this approach during his time in the progressive legal movement. Before starting in state government, he worked as director of the Employment Rights Project for Bet Tzedek Legal Service, where, in one instance, he helped turn a small-time wage-and-

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Constitution Under Attack

By Frank Vernuccio

America's political contests are no longer merely a clash of ideas. They are about the very survival of the United States as a free Republic guaranteeing individual rights.

Think those Democrat Socialist of America (DSA) candidates that are sweeping to victory in blue cities are merely reformers or folks concerned with spending more on social welfare? Look again.

New York City's Mayor Mamdani is finding ways to confiscate private real estate. He has promised to "...replace the frigidity of rugged individualism with the warmth of collectivism."

The CATO Institute explains the significance of that phrase: "By collectivism, political theorists and its own champions have meant a social order in which the claims of the group—often defined and enforced by the state—override individual choice, property rights, and voluntary exchange. Production and distribution are guided not by prices and consent but by political priorities, and individual autonomy is tolerated only insofar as it serves collective ends. That is not a caricature; it is the **standard definition** of what's espoused in fascist, socialist, and communist literature."

Mamdani's anti-Americanism doesn't stop with ideas. He has deep ties to terrorist groups seeking to harm America. As noted in an AOL report, "A Muslim civil rights group that federal lawmakers described as having "deep ties to terrorist organizations," ...emerged as one of the biggest single backers to Zohran Mamdani's mayoral campaign..."

It's not just his politics; it's his whole life. According to a Fox News report, his wife, Rama Duwaji, has actively praised terrorists. "In September 2017, Rama Duwaji posted a photo on her Tumblr account of Leila Khaled, longtime active leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) who participated in two plane hijackings in 1969 and 1970."

The DSA platform exclaims, "We stand against the capitalist class...Our goal is to put workers in charge of the government through a new democratic constitution..."

By the way, the regular Democratic Party, whose line DSA candidates run on, is not far behind in threaten-

ing the Constitution. Senator Chuck Schumer has stated that "The First Amendment is not absolute..." His party has frequently threatened the United States Supreme Court. Senator Chuck Grassley warns that "what House Democrats are proposing to do to the Supreme Court isn't reform. It's a power grab...they want to pack the Court by adding new activist justices who will rule the way that they want, not the way the Constitution commands...That's a direct threat to judicial independence."

Darializa Avila Chevalier, who has posted about using the American flag as a napkin, is one of the DSA's victorious candidates in the 2026 primary contests for Congress. She has called for, among other things, destroying border controls.

A scathing Fox News report disclosed that "Aber Kawas is the Muslim daughter of illegal aliens who is now the Democratic nominee for the New York State Senate District 12. Like Mamdani, Kawas is a socialist..." She has suggested that America deserved the 9/11 attack.

America is not the sole target of the hard left. Western Civilization, with its concept of individual rights, is directly in the cross-hairs. One of these socialists started an anti-Israel organization that said it is fighting for "the total eradication of Western civilization" Chevalier has allied with an organization that, in August 2024, described itself as "...Westerners righting for the total eradication of Western civilization," according to the Daily Signal.

As the U.S. celebrates its 250th Birthday with its great successes, prosperity, and obvious triumph in making individual rights its centerpiece belief, it is hard to comprehend why anyone would want to bring drastic change and adopt a philosophy that has led to poverty and tyranny wherever it has been implemented. But the reality is that a dedicated, enthusiastic group is attempting to do just that. The illogic of it has lulled many into thinking that it can't happen here. Unfortunately, it can, and those seeking to do it are making key inroads.

Frank V. Vernuccio, Jr., J.D., editor-in-chief, New York Analysis of Policy & Government and, co-host of the popular WVOX weekly radio show, "The Vernuccio/Novak Report"

California's Civil Rights Mafia *Cont.*

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hour case into a multimillion settlement against Walmart and one of its contractors.

Apparently pleased with Kish's efforts, then-Governor Jerry Brown appointed him to lead the Department of Fair Employment and Housing in late 2014. Gay activists celebrated his appointment, with one LGBT group calling Kish a "strong and passionate legal champion."

In his first few years at the DFEH, Kish oversaw several small-time suits: in 2015, he got a Mexican restaurant chain to cough up \$130,000; in 2017, he induced a rural welfare nonprofit to shell out \$152,000. Then, in 2019, he intervened in the Riot Games case, which later delivered a nine-figure payout and apparently encouraged him to expand his ambitions. For Kish, who has argued that "there is almost no [adult] transgender person who has not experienced . . . some form of discrimination," the role represented an opportunity to enforce his broad understanding of "hate."

By 2021, Kish had perfected the shakedown model and picked a new target: Activision Blizzard, the video-game giant that owns titles like World of Warcraft and Call of Duty. The CRD sued the company, alleging, among other things, that it had discriminated against female employees and cultivated a "frat boy" culture. According to a criminal referral that we obtained, which was filed by a group tied to former Activision CEO Robert Kotick, the pretext for the department's action was an earlier federal complaint, which concluded that charging Activision would "send a message to the industry as a whole."

The original class-action suit included just ten of Activision's more than 9,000 employees. The complaint

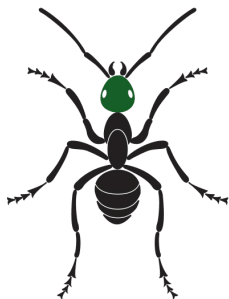
claimed, among other things, that "only about 20 percent" of the company's employees were female, that some of its employees rified "about their sexual encounters," and that a female employee had committed suicide, potentially in connection with an alleged relationship with a supervisor.

Activision initially tried to placate the CRD. Kotick reportedly "pledged to add resources to ensure that Activision Blizzard's hiring practices are more diverse." The company's then-president, J. Allen Brack, said that he "disdain[ed] 'bro culture'" and had spent his "career fighting against it." Activision apparently even offered paid time off to workers who wanted to participate in a staged "walk-out."

It didn't work. In fact, things got worse: later that year, sensing the company's vulnerability, a labor union called the Communication Workers of America (CWA) filed a suit with the National Labor Relations Board. The union accused the company of trying to prevent workers from demanding a "more equitable, sustainable, and diverse workplace."

The CRD and the CWA apparently had shared ambitions—to punish and to unionize Activision—and even hired the same law firm. Kish's CRD hired the same firm (Outten & Golden) that represented the CWA in another suit. The firm's lawyer said that he believed it was the "first time the State of California has retained a private firm to prosecute employment law claims in trial court." (In response to a question about Outten & Golden, CRD pointed us to a ruling in *California Attorneys, Administrative Law Judges and Hearing Officers in State Employment v. California State Personnel Board.*)

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California's Civil Rights Mafia *Cont.*

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In September, the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission brought its own misconduct suit against Activision. The agency claimed, among other things, that Activision had exposed “female employees to sexual harassment.” The two sides agreed to an \$18 million settlement, but the CRD wasn’t satisfied.

Kish saw an opportunity for a billion-dollar shake-down. Under his direction, the CRD moved to block the eight-figure settlement with the federal government, reportedly arguing that it “was monetarily inadequate and contrary to public policy.” Their bid proved unsuccessful: a federal court denied the CRD’s requested intervention, and the settlement took effect the following March.

By this point, Activision had already agreed to pay nearly \$20 million and declared its intention to change its policies and performance-review system. But Kish apparently wanted to inflict more damage on the company. The Wall Street Journal reported that sometime in 2021, the CRD estimated that Activision was responsible for nearly \$1 billion in damages—an outrageous sum.

Despite the federal settlement, the CRD continued its lawsuit, and other elements of the shakedown campaign came to life. In November, then-Journal reporter Kirsten Grind and others alleged that Kotick failed to disclose alleged sexual misconduct committed against female employees. The company’s stock price fell 8 percent within a month.

Some Activision executives and other allies suspected that the state colluded with the press. The same legal filing we obtained claimed that Grind is a “CWA-affiliated union member” and had contacted Janette Wipper, the CRD attorney overseeing the Activision case under Kish, in hopes of having an “important” conversation “off the record.” Grind and a coauthor gloated that, after her report, “some employees and investors called for Kotick’s ouster, and Microsoft saw an opening to make a deal” to buy Activision.

When we asked Grind, now with the New York Times, for comment on this story, she suggested that we reach out to the Wall Street Journal.

Activision executives wanted to fight back. Under pressure from the state, the unions, and the media,



the company hired three lobbyists: Greg Campbell, Dana Williamson, and, according to a source familiar with the case, Alexis Podesta.

In early 2022, the tide began to turn. In March, Newsom’s office fired Wipper. Notably, she was fired on the same day that a federal court approved the EEOC settlement, which our source interpreted as a sign that the governor’s office was feeling pressure and wanted the case to go away.

Less than a month later, Wipper’s subordinate, Melanie Proctor, resigned in protest, claiming that Newsom’s office had “repeatedly demanded advance notice of litigation strategy and of next steps in the litigation.”

Eventually, Kish scaled back his demands. In December 2023, Activision settled for \$55 million. In the settlement agreement, the state conceded that “no court or any independent investigation has substantiated” allegations of systemic harassment, but the company likely signed the deal to make the lawsuit go away. The government had not proved its case but still managed to shake down its mark for tens of millions of dollars.

The Civil Rights Department made sure to spread the winnings around. In the settlement, Activision agreed to deliver a handsome reward to the CRD’s NGO foot soldiers. The court required the company to send up to about \$9 million to the CRD and Outten & Golden, the CWA’s former counsel. The rest of the \$55 million was supposedly reserved for affected workers, but any leftover funds not claimed by those workers would support future shakedowns—specifically, CRD-selected organizations that “promote employment rights for workers in California and/or . . . advance the interests of women workers in technology industries.”

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California's Civil Rights Mafia *Cont.*

(Continued from page 10)

The unions had their victory, too. In October 2023, Microsoft acquired Activision for \$75.4 billion after agreeing to a host of labor provisions. The CWA considered the merger a massive success, boasting that it provided “a clear path to collective bargaining for almost 10,000 workers.”

With the final settlement agreement, the Activision story appeared to be over. But there another storyline was brewing beneath the surface, raising serious questions about the Newsom administration. That story involves Dana Williamson, the one-time Activision lobbyist, who, in January 2023, while the Activision litigation was ongoing, became Governor Newsom's chief of staff.

During her time in the governor's office, Williamson kept tabs on the Activision case. According to a source with detailed knowledge of the case, the governor sent a text message to Kotick, which we reviewed, one week after the December 2023 settlement, sharing gratitude that the saga was finally over. In January 2024, according to the source and government records obtained by the whistleblower Melanie Proctor, Kotick met with Williamson and former Activision lobbyist Alexis Podesta in the governor's office.

According to the source, Kotick, by then retired as Activision CEO, sat down with Williamson to discuss clearing Activision's name—after all, the state had admitted that it had found no evidence of systematic harassment. The source, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, claims that midway through the meeting, Newsom stepped into the room, engaged in conversation, and, unprovoked, said that he would fire Kish.

Newsom's office did not respond to our request for comment about these allegations.

Williamson apparently believed him. In November 2025, Williamson was indicted on a suite of federal corruption charges, including bank and wire fraud. According to court documents, Williamson conspired with Greg Campbell, another former Activision lobbyist, to siphon money from a dormant campaign account to pay a third party. She and Campbell were both later convicted, with Williamson pleading guilty to multiple fraud counts and lying to federal agents.

The alleged corruption was not related to Activision, but the indictment contained a transcript of a conversation between Williamson and Podesta, the former Activision lobbyist and un-indicted co-conspirator, that sheds light on Newsom's potential involvement in the civil rights mafia. In a conversation that occurred “[i]n or about June 2024,” prosecutors said Williamson discussed a public records request related to a corporation's “litigation with the state.” When Podesta asked Williamson if a state employee connected to that litigation would be fired, she said: “He sure [will]!”

According to multiple outlets and our own review of the evidence, the corporation in question was almost certainly Activision. And we can report, for the first time, that the official in question was likely the head of the Civil Rights Department. In other words, Williamson appears to have told her alleged co-conspirator that, as late as June 2024, Governor Newsom was planning to fire Kevin Kish.

The Kish firing, however, never materialized. Kish remains the director of the Civil Rights Department. And more shakedown campaigns are in the pipeline.

(Continued on page 12)



**Howard Jarvis
Taxpayers Association**
— established in 1978 —

California's Civil Rights Mafia *Cont.*

(Continued from page 11)

This all raises a question: Why is Newsom enabling this racket?

One theory is that Newsom sympathizes with Kish and wants to punish corporations like Activision, which, in his mind, are stand-ins for his political enemies. Another theory is that Newsom has always allowed bad behavior to fester around him at arm's length. Throughout Newsom's career, people in his orbit have been arrested for corruption, including, most recently, his chief of staff.

Perhaps Newsom tolerates Kish's bull-in-a-china-shop approach because he simply lacks the will to stop it.

The most likely explanation, however, is that Newsom will do whatever is politically expedient. Under this theory, Newsom might have promised to fire Kish to placate Williamson or corporate interests, then reneged on that promise to placate the unions and the activist groups. Throughout his career, Newsom has been willing to reverse his position if he believes that it is in his immediate interest.

Newsom's office did not respond to our request for comment on this story. The Civil Rights Department told us that they "take every complaint we receive seriously and evaluate them individually for further action based on the specific facts and circumstances."

If anything, Kish operated under even less restraint. The CRD has now set its sight on the largest target of all: Tesla CEO Elon Musk. In 2022, the depart-

ment sued Tesla, alleging racial discrimination and harassment. Kish apparently hopes to go much further than in his campaigns against Riot Games, Snap, and Activision. According to a source familiar with the matter who spoke on the condition of anonymity, Kish is hoping to shake down Tesla for up to \$6 billion.

Unlike those other firms, however, Tesla hasn't settled and is taking its chances in court. If Tesla succeeds in fighting these allegations, its resistance could provide a model for future targets of the state's racket. If it fails, it will show that no company—no matter how powerful—can outrun the coordinated campaigns of California's civil rights mafia.

Christopher F. Rufo is a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, a contributing editor of City Journal, and the author of America's Cultural Revolution. Kenneth Schrupp is an investigative reporter at City Journal.



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A Nation Of Men, Not Laws *Cont.*

(Continued from page 6)

of the Major County Sheriffs of America and began his two-year term on February 9, 2024. Sheriff Brown is also a past president of both the California State Sheriffs' Association and the California Police Chiefs' Association, the *only person* to have ever held both positions.

Nevertheless, Capps and Hart want to eviscerate the authority of the sheriff by passing legislation that would wrest authority of managing the jail and its 350-custody staff from the sheriff and transfer it to the Board of Supervisors.

Something similar has already happened at the state level pertaining to our state education system. In California, persons elected to statewide elected offices are called state constitutional officers. These offices are established by the California Constitution and are filled by individuals elected by the people of the state to oversee key functions of the executive branch. One of these offices is the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Because a Republican, **Sonja Shaw**, is slated to win this office in November, Gavin Newsom and company gutted the position ahead of the election. AB181 replaces the elected Superintendent of Public Instruction as the executive head of the California Department of Education (CDE) with a governor-appointed, senate-confirmed Education Commissioner who serves at the pleasure of the governor. The law provides that the CDE shall be administered through the State Board of Education and the Education Commissioner, rather than the State Superintendent. It vests all executive and administrative functions of the CDE in the Education Commissioner.

Don't like our laws? Ignore them.

Don't like election outcomes? Gut the office.

All this in the name of democracy?

So much for a government of laws, not men.

Andy Caldwell, Executive Director, COLAB

The Scheme To Eliminate Private Property And Reorganize Human Society *Cont.*

(Continued from page 5)

They talked about dollars. Big dollars. Tax revenues for the city, huge profits for the developer. Expensive condos, hotels, and a shopping center with all the trimmings began to take shape.

You weren't asked for input or permission. You weren't even notified that your home was targeted until the whole project was finalized and the only minor detail was to get rid of you.

Susette Kelo bought a nice little pink house in that quiet neighborhood now targeted in New London. Little did she imagine that warm, comfy place would soon become the center of a firestorm. She'd spent a considerable amount of money and time fixing up her little pink house, a home with a beautiful view of the bay. She planted flowers in the yard, braided her own rugs for the floors, filled the rooms with antiques, and created the home she wanted.

Less than a year later, the trouble started. A real estate broker suddenly showed up on her door representing an unknown client. Suzette said she wasn't interested in selling. The realtor's demeanor then changed with a warning that the property was going to be condemned by the city. Then, one year later, on the day before Thanksgiving, the sheriff taped a letter to her door, stating that her home had been condemned by the City of New London.

Then the pressure began. A notice came in the mail telling her that the city intended to take her land. An offer of compensation was made, but it was below the market price. The explanation given was that, since the government was going to take the land, it was no longer worth the old market price. Therefore, the lower price

(Continued on page 14)

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The Scheme To Eliminate Private Property And Reorganize Human Society *Cont.*

(Continued from page 13)

was “just compensation,” as called for in the Fifth Amendment. It was a “fair price,” the homeowners were told repeatedly.

Some neighbors quickly gave up, took the money and moved away. With the loss of each one, the pressure mounted. Visits from government agents became routine. They knocked on the door at all hours to demand that Susette sell. Newspaper articles depicted her as unreasonably holding up community progress. They called her greedy. Finally, the bulldozers moved in on the properties already sold. As they crushed down the houses, the neighborhood became unlivable. It looked like a war zone.

When a homeowner caved in and sold, the house was immediately crushed by the bulldozer. The next homeowner then came under great pressure to sell. More phone calls, threatening letters, visits by city officials at all hours, demanding they sign the contract to sell. Finally, the intimidation began to break down the most dedicated homeowner’s resolve. In tears, they gave in and sold. Amazingly, once they sold, the homeowners were then classified as “willing sellers!” As each house was bulldozed the monster machine was moved next door to the next house, sitting there like a huffing, puffing dragon, ready to strike.

Eventually Susette’s little pink house stood nearly alone in the middle of a destruction site. Over 80 homes were gone, seven remained. As if under attack by a conquering army, she was finally surrounded, with no place to run but to the courts. The United States was built on the very premise of the protection of private property rights. How could a government possibly be allowed to take anyone’s home for private gain? Surely justice would finally prevail.

Under any circumstances the actions of the New London government and its sham development corporation should have been considered criminal behavior. It used to be. If city officials were caught padding their own pockets, or those of their friends, it was considered graft. That’s why RICO laws were created.

Finally, her case was heard by the highest court in

(Continued on page 15)

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The Scheme To Eliminate Private Property And Reorganize Human Society *Cont.*

(Continued from page 14)

the land. It was such an obvious case of government overreach against private property owners that no one considered there was a chance of New London winning. The city was backed in its appeal by the National League of Cities, one of the largest proponents of eminent domain use, saying the policy was critical to spurring urban renewal with development projects.

Property Rights legal foundations, particularly the Institute for Justice, came to Susette's rescue to serve as her advocate before the high court. They were joined by a wide array of groups such as the American Association of Retired People (AARP) and the late Martin Luther Kings' Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Truly this was seen as a civil rights case.

The Supreme Court had always stood with the founders of the nation on the vital importance of private property. There was precedent after precedent to back up the optimism that they would do so again. However, to the shock of everyone involved, private property rights sustained a near death blow that day.

This time, five black robes named Stevens, Souter, Ginsburg, Kennedy, and Breyer shocked the nation by ruling that officials who had behaved like Tony Soprano were in the right and Susette Kelo had no ground to stand on, literally or figuratively.

These four men and one woman ruled that the United States Constitution is meaningless as a tool to protect individuals against the wants and desires of government. Their ruling in the Kelo case declared that

Americans own nothing. After deciding that any property is subject to the whim of a government official, it was just a short trip to declaring that government could now confiscate anything we own, anything we create, anything we've worked for – in the name of an undefined common good.

In defending the decision, Justice Stevens simply wrote, "Promoting economic development is a traditional and long accepted function of government." He mentioned not a word about the long tradition of government in the United States that had always stood for the rights of the individual. Not surprisingly, *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* supported the decision.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who opposed the Court's decision, vigorously rebutted Stevens' argument, as she wrote in dissent of the majority opinion, "The specter of condemnation hangs over all property. Nothing is to prevent the state from replacing a Motel 6 with a Ritz-Carlton, any home with a shopping mall, or any farm with a factory."

Justice Clarence Thomas issued his own rebuttal to the decision, specifically attacking the argument that this was a case about "public use." He accused the Majority of replacing the Fifth Amendment's "Public Use" clause with a very different "Public Purpose" test. Said Justice Thomas, "This deferential shift in phraseology enables the Court to hold against all common sense, that a costly urban-renewal project whose stated purpose is a vague promise of new

(Continued on page 17)

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The COLAB Foundation is a public charity formed to procure funding for the Santa Barbara County Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business (COLAB) and other select non-profit entities to advance education and science, combat community deterioration and lessen the burden of government.

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The Scheme To Eliminate Private Property And Reorganize Human Society *Cont.*

(Continued from page 15)

jobs and increased tax revenue, but which is also suspiciously agreeable to the Pfizer Corporation, is for a **public use.**"

Incredibly, after the Supreme Court decision that literally destroyed the nation's oldest and most revered right of private property ownership, it turned out that the entire action by the New London government had been for absolutely nothing. There was no great "revitalization" of downtown. No jobs. No development. Nope. The New London development was never completed. The proposed hotel-retail-condo "urban village" was never built. The developer failed to come up with the necessary funds. Pfizer, whose employees were supposed to be the clientele for the project, pulled out and abandoned their planned research facility. Instead, they decided to merge with a new partner, Wyeth. Rather than completing the New London project, the two pharmaceutical giants decided to create a combined facility in another city.

The land where Susette Kelo's little pink house once stood remains undeveloped to this day. In the aftermath of 2011's Hurricane Irene, the now-closed New London redevelopment area was turned into a dump for storm debris such as tree branches and other vegetation. No tax revenues are generated by the now-wasteland of government greed. But the precedent of the Kelo decision for government takings of land across the nation has grown to unimaginable levels.

So, in a five to four vote, the Supreme Court said that it was okay for a community to use eminent domain to take private land or destroy and reorganize an entire neighborhood, *if* it benefited the community in a positive way. Specifically, "positive" meant unquestioned government control and more tax dollars.

The Kelo decision changed the rules. The precedent was set. Land can now be taken anytime at the whim of a power elite. The tyrants now have the tool for control they've always dreamed of. The tyrants call it the common good! Mission accomplished.

Tom DeWeese, President is American Policy Center

George Orwell Warned Us About Laura Capps et. al. *Cont.*

(Continued from page 4)

completely forego their constant political grandstanding and their maniacal obsession stemming from a bad case of TDS (Trump Derangement Syndrome). After all, Obama and Clinton, and every other president in the modern era, deported criminal illegal aliens without a whimper from the Democrat Party. And, the fact remains, most of the criminals being sought by ICE have received final orders to deport meaning they have no opportunity for a further hearing or additional appeals. Either that, or they have already been convicted of serious crimes here or abroad which is just cause for their immediate eviction. No sane person would want to retain a murderer, rapist, or child molester, that doesn't belong here in the first place.

The supes should save us the pain of watching their kabuki theater and instead focus on three things. Catch up on their \$500 million maintenance deficit, i.e., go out and fix some potholes. Second, lessen the regulations hampering businesses from prospering and developers from building more housing. Third, recognize that the Constitution gives the feds supremacy over state and local governments, and likewise, defer to the fact that the voters have re-elected Sheriff Bill Brown multiple times because he is one of the most respected sheriffs in America, having served as President of the National Association of Sheriffs.

Andy Caldwell, Executive Director, COLAB



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Gavin Newsom's Predatory Behavior Coming Home To Roost *Cont.*

(Continued from page 3)

"The Globe was set to publish a story about Newsom's rumored involvement with a staff member in March 2021 when news and gossip began to percolate about the identity of the alleged mistress," we reported. "The Globe got a tip that she was Deputy Chief of Staff Lindsey Cobia. We immediately noticed something interesting. Ms. Cobia's name had begun to trend on Google, along with related queries such as 'gavin newsom, 'newsom affair' and 'gavin newsom affair.' While that is certainly not proof of an affair, from the point of view of describing the buzz among California's political reporters, it was evidence that the Globe was not alone in checking out Ms. Cobia, whom the governor promoted just five days prior, as the push to recall him reached fever pitch in March."

"Recently, Gov. Newsom appeared to have been missing in action for at least 10 days following his last public appearance on October 27th, when he received a coronavirus booster shot. Then, only two days later on October 29th, citing 'family obligations,' Gov. Gavin Newsom abruptly cancelled his much anticipated trip to Scotland to attend the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, the Globe reported."

"The Globe received a credible tip from an even more credible source that it was Mrs. Newsom, the First Partner, who cancelled the big international trip to Glasgow because she discovered that the governor's Deputy Chief of Staff Lindsey Cobia was on the list of the governor's staff traveling to the Scotland UN conference."

There is a lot of smoke swirling around Gavin Newsom – he and the First Partner are being investigated by the U.S. Department of Justice. *The Globe* reported on the long list of dubious financial dealings by California's first couple. "The Globe's reporting has consistently highlighted how vendors and donors connected to the Newsom orbit have profited handsomely while the First Partner's nonprofit extracted millions through salaries and licensing fees from an organization she controls."

The *Globe* has reported on many questionable personal financial issues with the Newsoms, including their two large mansions, secretly purchased by shady LLCs only days before closing. Where did the money come from?

There have even been more recent rumors of

(Continued on page 19)

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Gavin Newsom's Predatory Behavior Coming Home To Roost *Cont.*

(Continued from page 18)

dangerous liaisons.

Predatory behavior correlates to unbalanced traits, often associated with narcissistic personality disorder or antisocial personality disorder, including a tendency to see predatory sexual actions as healthy or usual. These characteristics include the following:

Lack of concern for the well-being of others Superficial social charm Self-absorption Limited empathy Impulsivity Manipulative tendencies

Think back to Gov. Newsom's behaviors during Covid – lack of concern for the well-being of others, limited empathy, self-absorption, and manipulative tendencies come to mind. I sat through his tedious daily press briefings for three years, done on Zoom instead of in person, where he ignored reasonable questions about the irrationality of his tyrannical decisions. He ended questions altogether, and instead delivered his latest dictates: masking, vaxxing, locked down businesses, schools, churches. He created bizarre color-coded levels for reopening, based on testing, and not actual deaths, during his unwarranted, cruel, evil covid statewide lockdowns.

Thanksgiving 2020, Gov. Newsom issued orders to residents to "Stay home, no singing, no shouting, no music, no parties, eat outside and keep a mask on."

Governor Newsom actually told the people of California they could not sing. Newsom told the people of California they could not laugh out loud or shout. He outlawed parties and music and dancing. Newsom

told families gathering around the Thanksgiving table to do it outside – in winter.

Just more of his lack of concern for the well-being of others, limited empathy, self-absorption, and manipulative tendencies on full display.

In 2007, then-San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom publicly acknowledged the affair, apologized, and blamed his own alcohol use, and announced he would stop drinking and seek professional treatment.

"My problems with alcohol are not an excuse for my personal lapses in judgment," he was reported stating at the time. "Upon reflection with friends and family this weekend, I have come to the conclusion that I will be a better person without alcohol in my life."

News outlets reported Newsom entered alcohol rehab.

However, when he was running for California Governor in 2018, he admitted to the Sacramento Bee Editorial Board he resumed drinking occasionally after a period of abstinence and never went to rehab.

"No, there's no rehab. I just stopped," he said, according to the Bee. "There was no treatment, no nothing related to any of that stuff. I stopped because I thought it was a good thing to stop."

Katy Grimes, the Editor in Chief of the California Globe, is a long-time Investigative Journalist covering the California State Capitol, the co-author of California's War Against Donald Trump: Who Wins? Who Loses? and a contributor to "Taxifornia 2016."

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We Are One Generation Away From Extinction *Cont.*

(Continued from page 2)

The court missed the boat on this because the immediate plan is not to incite imminent violence. Instead, the actual plan, which is well on its way, is "the long march" through our institutions, which describes a strategy of incremental ideological subversion advocating that radicals infiltrate and reshape core societal structures such as universities, media outlets, and administrative bodies, to erode established power from within.

The "long march plan" is working. A significant number of young people now believe that socialism is preferable to capitalism; recent polls indicate that voters aged 18-34 prefer socialism by a margin of 18 percentage points. Will that generation comprise the end of America as we know it? Of course, as the saying goes, they don't know that a government big enough to give you everything you want is big enough to take away everything you have. Nor do they know that socialism never works but it does create an eventual bloodbath and a subsequent tyrannical prison state while leaving the economy in shambles.

Both political parties, along with our courts, need to decide if a slow-moving revolution is no revolution at all? Or maybe they already have. The DSA is a cancer on our body politic. It should be treated as any other slow growing cancer because it will eventually kill the host. **Ronald Reagan** warned us that our freedom was always one generation away from extinction



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