

TOP OUTCOMES

If CREW is successful in causing Trump to behave ethically, it will help protect the country from scandal and disastrous policy choices. If Trump does not bow to this pressure, CREW will hold him accountable.

In the next four years, CREW is focused on achieving the following outcomes:

Trump will be afflicted by a steady flow of damaging information, new revelations, and an inability to avoid conflicts issues. For as long as Trump maintains the ethically untenable position of keeping his business empire in the family while serving as president, CREW will relentlessly probe his global conflicts of interest and administration ethics problems through aggressive use of research, open records requests, legal action, and FOIA litigation.

The Trump administration will be forced to defend illegal conduct in court. CREW will bring about legal accountability for executive branch ethical and legal violations through complaints and litigation. We will bring significant pressure on investigative agencies and Congress to investigate violations of law and the constitution, which appear likely to begin on day one of the Trump administration, and we will litigate wrongdoing aggressively, forcing the administration to defend civil lawsuits, FOIA litigation, and whistleblower suits.

Powerful industries and interest groups will see their influence wane. CREW will expose and curb the improper influence of powerful industries and interest groups on the administration and on both parties in Congress with successful legal complaints and litigation to rein in dark money, reckless campaign finance abuses, and the misuse of nonprofits by Trump and others.

Dark money will be a political liability in key states. CREW will make the use of dark money, campaign finance violations, and ethics abuses at the state level a major issue in key states that will be the focus of massive spending and attention in the lead up to 2018 and 2020 elections.

Responsible for more than 40% of the total fines given out by the FEC in 2016 and just about all of the fines levied in 2016 resulting from complaints by good government groups

Our Impact

EXPOSED TRUMP FOUNDATION'S ILLEGAL DONATION TO FLORIDA AG PAM BONDI, IGNITING A MAJOR SCANDAL.

CREW's initial IRS complaint against the Donald J. Trump Foundation for its \$25,000 gift in 2013 to a political organization associated with Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi was the first to connect the dots and expose a major Trump scandal. The money had been directed from Trump personally and illegally given from the foundation's funds. Our complaint generated investigations and stories by the *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, every major paper in Florida, and the *Wall Street Journal*, and still reverberates today.

BUDGET AND TEAM

CREW is a nonpartisan 501(c)(3) organization. CREW's 2017 budget is \$5.8 million which will double its size from 2016. The reason for this expansion is the enormous demands that will be placed on this organization this year. Judicial Watch which is CREW's analog in the Conservative movement has been spending an average of almost \$20 million a year since 2012 when President Obama was re-elected.

In 2017 CREW is planning to expand to a staff of at least 38. We will more than double the size of our legal team, and add to our research and communications shop (including web and social media). We will also expand our administrative and paralegal capabilities. The increased budget will also cover outside legal services, web and social media services, and research and investigative resources. Our expanded staff will allow for a comprehensive Freedom of Information Act team with litigators, researchers, a coordinator and a paralegal; an executive branch ethics team with dedicated lawyers, a business researcher, and an executive branch researcher; a state team with a dedicated counsel and specialized researchers; as well as expanded capacity in all aspects of the office, crucially including litigation.

SENIOR ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Noah Bookbinder, Executive Director. Following an extensive national search, CREW hired Noah as Executive Director in March of 2015. Noah formerly served as a federal prosecutor in the Justice Department's Public Integrity Section and as Chief Counsel for Criminal Justice of the US Senate Judiciary Committee. Before joining CREW in 2015, he served as Director of the US Sentencing Commission's Office of Legislative and Public Affairs, where he helped guide the commission on important policy decisions including its 2014 reduction of federal drug sentences. In his position as Chief Counsel for Criminal Justice of the Senate Judiciary Committee, he advised Chairman Patrick Leahy on a range of criminal justice issues including violent crime prevention, fraud, public corruption, and criminal justice reform, and helped manage communications during the confirmation hearings of US Supreme Court Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan. He has also served as a Special Assistant United States Attorney in Washington, DC, and as an adjunct professor at both Howard University and George Washington University Law Schools. Noah is a graduate of Yale University and Stanford Law School.

FORCED THE FEC TO IMPOSE LARGEST FINE OF THE POST-CITIZENS UNITED ERA ON THREE KOCH-BACKED DARK MONEY GROUPS.

In July 2016, the usually deadlocked Federal Election Commission acted on our complaint and imposed substantial fines on three organizations—the 60 Plus Association, the American Future Fund, and Americans for Job Security—for illegally failing to disclose the source of money earmarked for specific campaign advertisements. The money in fact came from an organization that was central to the Koch network at the time. The FEC's fine of \$233,000 was the largest of the post-Citizens United era, and represented 40% of the fines imposed by the FEC in 2016 (and almost all of the fines generated by complaints from outside organizations). Given that the FEC is an agency characterized by partisan gridlock and an inability to enforce campaign finance law, this was a breakthrough and a testament that CREW's groundbreaking research and legal work can push even the least functional government agencies to act.