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State pushed for Foley before bids

Insurance agency sought to hire law firm for pricey Ambac case

By Cary Spivak of the Journal Sentinel

Sept. 6, 2010 | (34) COMMENTS

A state agency asked for permission to hire Milwaukee-based law firm Foley & Lardner for what has turned out to be a multimillion-dollar contract before interviewing either Foley or a competing law firm, newly released records show. [»Read Full Article](#)

34 Comments

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iviewit - Sep 08, 2010 6:20 AM

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Check out Eliot's Testimony at the NY Senate Judiciary Committee Hearings

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Cw0gogF4Fs&feature=player_embedded

and

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Apc_Zc_YN1k&feature=related

and

Whistleblower Testimony

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6BIK73p4Ueo>

and Eliot Part 1 - The Iviewit Inventions @

www.wethepeople.tv

Eliot I. Bernstein
 Inventor
 Iviewit Holdings, Inc. – DL
 Iviewit Holdings, Inc. – DL (yes, two identically named)
 Iviewit Holdings, Inc. – FL
 Iviewit Technologies, Inc. – DL
 Uviewit Holdings, Inc. - DL
 Uview.com, Inc. – DL
 Iviewit.com, Inc. – FL
 Iviewit.com, Inc. – DL
 I.C., Inc. – FL
 Iviewit.com LLC – DL
 Iviewit LLC – DL
 Iviewit Corporation – FL
 Iviewit, Inc. – FL
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<http://www.VoteForGreg.us> Greg Fischer
<http://www.liberty-candidates.org/greg-fischer/>
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Vote-For-Greg/111952178833067>
<http://www.killallthelawyers.ws/law> (The Shakespearean Solution)

iviewit - Sep 08, 2010 6:15 AM

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MADOFF + STANFORD + DREIER + SATYAM + FISERV + ALBERT HU + The 1031 Tax Group LLC -
 Edward H. Okun = PROSKAUER ROSE & FOLEY & LARDNER
 Check out Inventor Eliot Bernstein Testimony @ The New York Judiciary Committee headed by John
 L. Sampson @
<http://www.fliqz.com/asp/permalink.aspx?vid=01cfeacdd71147dba54b363fcdb6defe>
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 GLOBAL CLASS ACTION RE STANFORD PONZI @
<http://www.free-press-release.com/news-iviewit-trillion-fed-suit-defendant-proskauer-rose-sued-in-global-class-action-re-stanford-ponzi-1252249099.html>

Investors burned in these scams should seek redress from the lawyers who were involved. I personally have been trying to notify regulators & authorities of a ONE TRILLION DOLLAR scam that is putting states like NY & FL at huge risk, as well as, shareholders of companies including Intel, Lockheed, SGI, Warner Bros., Time Warner, AOL & IBM. The states & companies involved in the fraud fail to acknowledge the risk exposing shareholders and citizens to impending MASSIVE liabilities. Investigators, courts, Judiciary Committees & fed agents investigating the crimes & evidence, including a car-bombing attempt on my life. I know how Harry Markopolos felt trying to expose Madoff in a world without regulation.

Did I hear Proskauer Rose is involved in Madoff (involved many clients too) and acted as Allen Stanford's attorney. Investors who lost money in these scams should start looking at the law firm Proskauer's assets for recovery. First, Proskauer partner Gregg Mashberg claims Madoff is a financial 9/11 for their clients, if they directed you to Madoff sue them. Then, Proskauer partner Thomas Sjoblom former enforcement dude for SEC and Allen Stanford attorney, declares PARTY IS OVER to Stanford employees and advises them to PRAY, this two days before SEC hearings. Then at hearings, he lies with Holt to SEC saying she only prepared with him but fails to mention Miami meet

GreedyPoliticians - Sep 07, 2010 10:30 PM

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Doyle did the same thing for the teachers union, lawyers and the indians (casinos). If we did this we would be in jail. Please remember we all pay for this legal bribery. Keep an eye on Doyle, he is trying to award a company from Spain the contract to build his trains. This is really fishy to me based on his previous actions.

waybackpack - Sep 07, 2010 10:00 PM

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Isn't this another one of Doyle's boys.....more Doyle pay for play

EastsideJoe - Sep 07, 2010 3:17 PM

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SC:

Yes, I also think it's near impossible to get money out of politics. I think it's up to the voters in the court of public opinion to hold these elected officials accountable for these types of shady kick-back deals(when discovered and reported on).

I think it would be much easier to pass legislation relating to the whole bidding process on gov't contracts. There are way too many restrictions and mandates in place right now that disqualify many quality firms and contractors from even having their bids considered. I'm not just limiting this to legal contracts, but any type of gov't contract, roads, trains, buildings, etc.

I want to see the bidding process really opened up. I don't care if the firm happens to be out of MN. Don't care what the color of the firm's employees skin is. Don't care if the firm's employees pay union dues or not. Don't care if they're a member of such-and-such association or good ol' boy club... If a firm can demonstrate they're qualified to do a job, and will do so at the lowest price to the taxpayer, then that's who should be awarded the contract. That's being a good steward of the taxpayer's money.

Because all these types of restrictions are in place, pols can get away with this type of little to no-bid contract stuff. They can hide behind the fact that maybe only one or two bids were received on a contract, but in reality countless bids we're never received/ considered based on the current policies in force.

alawyer - Sep 07, 2010 2:30 PM

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No way. Big government repays Big Law with big contracts? I'm shocked.

SimplyConcerned - Sep 07, 2010 1:44 PM

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@EastsideJoe - Many of us might agree that this is a problem, but I wonder how many have called or written their legislature(s) every time there is exposure to no-bid contracts or contracts that stack the deck.

As for getting the money out of politics - good luck. You need binding legislation that forces all candidates to play by the same rules. No option to bypass. The best way to reduce the money in elections would be to disallow any form of media advertising. If a candidate wants to get elected let them or their campaign staff pound the streets, hold rallies, send out mailers, etc... Force them to campaign like William Proxmire. Since you would need enforcement of this and that would incur expenses fund it with a 75% tax on any donations (or bundled donations) which exceed \$250. Now find me enough politicians to pass something like that...

csense - Sep 07, 2010 1:39 PM

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Foley and Quarles what's the difference? They are the same, I'm just sayin...

Go Jimmy Doyle go (Train Czar), please go now...Wisconsin has enough problems without adding more!

moony9472 - Sep 07, 2010 12:58 PM

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Did anyone else notice the quote from the man with "a Los Angeles financial public relations firm advising the commissioner's office?"

Why does Sean Dilweg's office need to hire a West Coast PR firm that probably bills \$300 per hour? Could this perhaps be a story unto itself, yet another example of how cavalierly state officials treat our tax dollars?

Uncommon sense - Sep 07, 2010 12:14 PM

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Corruption in government? Say it ain't so!!!

Until people realize that those on the other side of the political spectrum aren't the enemy, but the individuals in Madison and D.C. are, nothing will ever change.

EastsideJoe - Sep 07, 2010 11:28 AM

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SC:

Not all have decided it's ok. Regardless of party affiliation these types of no bid contracts are wrong and hurt taxpayers.

In this case, the insurer is footing the bill. But, these types of "specialized" legal contracts are entered into all the time, with the taxpayer footing the bills to the tune of \$millions.

It's a scam on the taxpayers. Gov't coffers are a big, fat feedbag for these large legal firms. State and local gov't are a one-stop employment agency for grads looking for the ultimate in job security and fat pensions.

Check for yourself how many attorneys are employed just by your local gov't and you'll be

surprised. Per their website, the Milwaukee city attorneys office alone has at least 30 attorneys on the roster along with a couple dozen support staff. Yet, with all these pro's on the payroll, additional \$contracts for outside "specialized" council are still issued. We're not talking chump change here.

Citizens need to demand that policies are implemented that limit taxpayers exposure to lawsuits and the legal fees/ awards/ settlements that go with them. Get gov't out of high risk ventures that the private sector can provide like county hospitals and mental health institutions, for starters.

Tax dollars spent on legal matters/ staff are rarely scrutinized by the public in general, and that needs to change. Because there's A LOT of scarce \$\$\$ being drawn away from the core, essential, services that need it.

Bill Marsh - Sep 07, 2010 10:51 AM

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FYI-The JS forgot to mention David Walsh is a member of the UW Board of Regents, appointed by Doyle. I'm sure nothing to do with his campaign contributions.

This is what you get with big government- corruption, lots of taxpayer money to toss around, sweet jobs based on connections, etc. Notice Quarles doesn't want to rock the boat? There are always more deals and money to go around.

PS- Can't we all chip in and buy Doyle an ambassadorship to North Korea?

pplr1 - Sep 07, 2010 10:35 AM

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I think you could be quite right SimplyConcerned.

This is why I told people that if they don't like this they should talk about getting the money out of politics.

What usually happens is that one side points at the other and says look how corrupt they are and then does the same thing themselves. A way to actually try to cut down on this is to get the money out of politics.

If you let the money stay in politics all one is doing is keeping the situation where it can happen again.

SimplyConcerned - Sep 07, 2010 9:38 AM

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Both parties engage in ths type of activity all the time. We have decided that it is ok because democrats defend democrats when they do it and republicans defend republicans.

I would wager that over half of government contracts that are bid on have already been steered towards a certain company. Often times you will have provisions added to these things such that only 1-3 firms can meet them.

WiFritz - Sep 07, 2010 9:33 AM

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As much as Doyle has rewarded his cronies over the years, this doesn't bother me much. Foley is one of the top firms in the country and was likely the best firm for the job. And their main competitor, Quarles, feels they got a fair shake.

Much ado about nothing.

motgew - Sep 07, 2010 9:24 AM

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lawyers feeding on a dead carcass is hardly new as is the wheelbarrows of campaign cash paid to politicians to direct the work their way. The funny thing is the foley flack trying to tell us they are uniquely qualified for the work. As if lawyers in all specialties are in short supply.

FRS - Sep 07, 2010 8:52 AM

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AntiPhonyPatriot - "Well, so much for the Journal/Sentinel pro Doyle, pro Dem, conservative accusers.

Here's an article that puts the current state administration is less than a favorable light.

Whoa! How can that be?

To all those that insist on using derogatory childish terms like Milwaukee Urinal, Democrap, etc., what say now? Jerks"

This "jerk" says did you bother to read the article. This happened TWO YEARS ago. Where has the paper been between then and now? Story comes out now when it doesn't matter to Doyle's political career anymore.

Milton - Sep 07, 2010 8:39 AM

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I agree with kingj.

I'm not a Doyle supporter - and not particularly fond of any of the large law firms, but this doesn't really seem like a story.

GivePeaceaChance - Sep 07, 2010 8:39 AM

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On the other hand, isn't it great that the State has at least 2 law firms capable of handling this big, complex matter with AMBAC? That those legal fees, which don't just go to lawyers, but go to secretaries, mail clerks, housekeepers, paralegals and others, are staying in the state of Wisconsin? That those legal fees are providing family supporting jobs in Wisconsin? That this work didn't go to a big law firm on the coasts?

Law firms employ a lot of people. Lawyers have a history of being politically active. Many lawyers have discretionary income. It shouldn't be surprisine that lawyers make political contributions. To suggest that this is a case of pay to play is an insult to Foley and Lardner, Quarles and Brady and the legal profession.

kingj - Sep 07, 2010 8:07 AM

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hmm, let's see.

Ambac will pay the bill. Taxpayers not involved in pating for the legal fight anyway.

Who cares? If Ambac thinks this is the best firm for the job then again, who cares.

Not sure how many of the commenters have been in a court but generally speaking you hire the best attorney your budget can handle. I personally would never place my legal reputation in the hands of a low bid winner.

Not that FL is the best or better but it appears to be a sub specialty of law only a few firms can handle adequately and FL is one.

I guess this is a story of some interest but seeing the gov is leaving office, unless he turns up on the FL payroll next year then it would be a story. Now, not so much.

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