

# Judicial Watch Says Time To Clean House And End Corruption At The IRS

In a March 10, 2017 column in the Capitol Hill publication *The Hill*, Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton called on President Trump to “clean house” at the IRS and begin the process by showing Obama holdover IRS commissioner John A. Koskinen the door — or, better yet, “eliminate the corrupt agency altogether.” A few days after his column ran in the Capitol Hill publication, Fitton elaborated in an interview with *World Net Daily*: “Putting lipstick on a pig is still a pig but in the meantime, there has got to be significant reform and accountability for what went on in the past.”

In *The Hill* column, Fitton said:

“The sordid story of IRS corruption and political dirty tricks during the Obama years is widely known thanks to numerous documents and emails forced out of the government under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) [by Judicial Watch]. As it turns out, however, there may be much more to come.



President Donald Trump

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“After stonewalling and slow walking FOIA requests and lawsuits for years, the IRS admitted to the court two days ago that it has suddenly found an additional 6,924 previously unreported documents it now needs to search. This admission came in response to a 2015 Judicial Watch FOIA lawsuit over IRS targeting of conservative groups. But, even as the recalcitrant agency finally agreed to begin producing documents by March 10, it refused to provide a timeta-

ble for completion of the review. So, the stonewalling continued.”

Despite massive evidence of wrongdoing at the IRS, Fitton reminded his readers, “not a single criminal or misdemeanor charge has been brought against any IRS official or employee.” When the Obama Justice Department finally acknowledged the IRS scandals, it provided nothing more than a broad-brushed whitewash. It conceded in 2015 there was “substantial evidence of mismanagement, poor judgment and institutional inertia.” But, the IRS hastened to add, there was “no evidence that any IRS official acted based on political, discriminatory, corrupt, or other inappropriate motives that would support a criminal prosecution.”

In squelching efforts to bring a serious prosecution in this manner, the Obama Justice Department conveniently had to ignore its own conflicts. Judicial Watch exposed the conflicts when it uncovered documents showing how the Obama IRS, Justice Department and FBI collaborated on ways to prosecute and jail the heads of the very groups that

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**“President Trump should ‘clean house’ at the IRS as quickly as possible, and he should begin the process by showing Obama holdover IRS commissioner John A. Koskinen the door — or, better yet, eliminate the corrupt agency altogether.”**

~Judicial Watch President  
Tom Fitton

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Internal Revenue Service Building, Washington, D.C.

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**IRS**

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the IRS was targeting. And, Judicial Watch pried loose documents from the government that detail how the Obama IRS gave the FBI 21 computer disks, containing 1.25 million pages of confidential IRS returns from 113,000 nonprofit, 501(c)(4) social welfare groups — or nearly every 501(c)(4) in the United States — as part of its prosecution effort, a clear violation of the Internal Revenue Code, which makes it a felony for an IRS official to disclose either “return information” or “taxpayer return information,” even to another government agency.

Fitton called on Attorney General Jeff Sessions to reopen the IRS criminal investigation, referring to the recent IRS disclosure, forced out by Judicial Watch, that the tax agency suddenly found 6,924 documents it had been sitting on for well over a year—an election year, no less. This revelation, the Judicial Watch president said, “Proves conclusively that the IRS is a fetid cesspool feeding the larger D.C. swamp.”

Fitton concluded: “The corruption at the IRS is astounding. Our attorneys knew that there were more records to be searched but the Obama IRS ignored this issue for years. President Trump needs to clean house at the IRS as quickly as possible.” **JW**



U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions

**Repeal**

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regulation is based on a fiction and ignores the obvious: Native Hawaiians have not been granted federal tribal status because Congress rejected the effort to do so.

Even worse is what the Department of Interior does with its regulation. It requires members of the Native Hawaiian community to adopt a “governing document” — meaning a constitution — and then to submit that document to a “ratification vote.” Under Interior’s regulation, that ratification vote would be restricted to voters who can prove that they were descendants of “the aboriginal people who, prior to 1778, occupied and exercised sovereignty in the area that now constitutes the State of Hawaii.” A single drop of blood is enough under the regulation to be allowed to vote. This is the same ugly standard applied during the Jim Crow era to define a person as black for the purposes of the segregation statutes.

Such a rule would define more than 500,000 Americans as “Native Hawaiian.” Only 1.4 million people live in Hawaii. If such a tribe ever were formed, it would instantly become the largest tribe in the United States, by a wide margin. Indeed, this looks more like a secession movement than the designation of a tribe. When Hawaii tried to take advantage of this regulation by holding an election restricted to “Native Hawaiians,” using the same definition as



the Interior Department’s, Judicial Watch sued on the grounds that this constituted racial discrimination in violation of the Constitution (*Akina v. State of Hawaii*, No. 15-322). The U.S. Supreme Court appeared to agree when it granted an injunction in December 2015 stopping the election. Hawaii later abandoned its efforts to hold such an election.

When the Supreme Court enjoined the Hawaiians-only election, it sent a strong signal that it also would enjoin any future attempt to hold a racially exclusive, “Native-Hawaiian” election.

“The Department of Interior rule is nothing but an invitation to violate the Constitution,” concluded Fitton. “Congress should step up to the plate and exercise its responsibility under the law to repeal yet another Obama administrative rule that violates the U.S. Constitution.” **JW**

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