

Verdict®

A News Publication from Judicial Watch



DECEMBER 2017
VOLUME 23 / ISSUE 12
WWW.JUDICIALWATCH.ORG

JW Sues Justice Dept. For Mueller Russian Special Counsel Budget Mueller's Budget Under Wraps

Judicial Watch filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Justice concerning the budget and administrative records of Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into alleged Russian interference in the 2016 election (*Judicial Watch v. U.S. Department of Justice* (No. 1:17-cv-02079)).

The lawsuit was filed after the Department of Justice failed to respond to a July 10, 2017 FOIA request seeking:

- A copy of the budget prepared and submitted by Robert S. Mueller III or his staff in his capacity as appointed "Special



Special counsel Robert Mueller departs after a closed-door meeting with members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, June 2017

See **MUELLER** on page 6

3
Message from
the President

7
Court Report



Rose Law Firm in
Little Rock, AR

11
Corruption
Chronicles

15
Government
Uncovered

18
In the Media

Mueller

From page 1

Counsel to oversee the previously-confirmed FBI investigation of Russian government efforts to influence the 2016 presidential election and related matters.”

- A copy of all guidance memoranda and communications by which the Justice Management Division will review the Special Counsel's Office's "Statement of Expenditures" prior to or for the purpose of making each public.
- A copy of each document scoping, regulating, or governing the Special Counsel's Office appointed under the leadership of Mueller III.

On July 7, 2017, *The Washington Post* reported that Special Counsel Mueller submitted a proposed budget to the Justice Department, "but officials declined to make the document public and committed only to releasing reports of the team's expenditures every six months." So far, Mueller has hired at least 15 Justice Department prosecutors, at least seven of which, according to the *Washington Post*, have donated to Democratic political candidates, five of them to Hillary Clinton.

In August, during deliberations on the appropriations act that would fund the Mueller investigation, Rep. Ron DeSantis (R-FL) expressed concern about the unlimited scope of Mueller's investigation and offered amendments to the bill appropriating funds for Mueller's budget to rein it in:

"The order appointing a special counsel promulgated by Deputy Attorney General (Rod) Rosenstein didn't identify a crime to be investigated and practically invites a fishing expedition. Congress should use its spending power to clarify the scope and limit the duration of this investigation. Rosenstein has said that the DOJ doesn't conduct fishing

Judicial Watch is pursuing numerous additional FOIA lawsuits related to the surveillance, unmasking and illegal leaking targeting President Trump and his associates during the FBI's investigation of potential Russian involvement in the 2016 presidential election.

expeditions; the corollary to this admonition should be that Congress will not fund a fishing expedition."

Confirming that a "fishing expedition" is, in fact, underway, a September 26 *New York* magazine article quotes an insider familiar with the investigation:

"One individual who is familiar with an aspect of the Mueller inquiry but asked to not be named told *New York* that, unlike other federal probes that he's seen in action, where prosecutors build their cases from clear allegations, this one feels different. 'This is a backward investigation,' the individual said.

'You don't have a crime. You're searching. And so you're not really sure exactly what you're searching for. So you start asking around and you see what comes up. And you start creating a paradigm and you see what else comes up and figure out at some point whether or not there's a crime.'"

"The Mueller special counsel investigation is growing with seemingly little concern about costs to the taxpayer," said Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. "Is the Justice Department hiding basic budget information about the Mueller special counsel operation because taxpayers and Congress would be outraged by the costs? Mr. Mueller is not above the law and he shouldn't be able to keep his budget secret. No one else in D.C. seems to be providing oversight of the Mueller juggernaut, so once again it is up to the citizens group Judicial Watch to go to court and demand accountability."

Judicial Watch is pursuing numerous additional FOIA lawsuits related to the surveillance, unmasking and illegal leaking targeting President Trump and his associates during the FBI's investigation of potential Russian involvement in the 2016 presidential election. **JW**

Was this issue of the **Verdict**® passed along to you? Want your own copy each month?

To receive your very own copy of the **Verdict** each month, make a tax-deductible contribution of \$35 or more payable to Judicial Watch and mail to:

The Judicial Watch **Verdict**
425 Third Street, SW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20024

Or you can go online at www.judicialwatch.org/donate.

