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Casino magnate Adelson facing 49 hours of pretrial questions

By KEN RITTER
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) - A judge said Thursday that billionaire casino magnate and Las Vegas newspaper owner Sheldon Adelson can be questioned for up to 49 hours beginning next week by lawyers for a former Macau casino executive who claims he was wrongly fired in 2010.

A lawyer for former Sands China chief executive Steven Jacobs said in court that he expects an attempt by Adelson and his lawyers to disrupt the sworn deposition in an effort to scuttle plans to begin the long-awaited civil trial June 27. The questioning won't be in open court.

"We will start with Mr. Adelson, and then there will be a blow-up in an attempt to obstruct this deposition so it cannot be done," Jacobs' attorney, Todd Bice, told Clark County District Court Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez.

Outside court, Bice said he believes it's clear that Adelson and lawyers for Las Vegas Sands and Sands China Ltd. want a delay.

Jacobs has also been undergoing days of pretrial questioning by attorneys for Adelson, Las Vegas Sands Corp. and Sands China Ltd.

Jacobs contends he was fired by Adelson and Las Vegas Sands in an attempt to cover up improper activities by the company in the Chinese gambling endeavor of Macau.

Adelson and Sands deny wrongdoing.

Attorneys for Adelson and the companies declined to comment outside court. A spokesman for Las Vegas Sands didn't immediately respond to Bice's claim about delaying tactics.

There was no talk in the courtroom about a ruling Wednesday by Chief Clark County District Court Judge David Barker keeping Gonzalez on the case. But a statement from Sands Las Vegas said the company will appeal Barker's ruling to the Nevada Supreme Court.

It would be the 12th pretrial issue taken to the state high court, and it also could delay trial if the justices order a halt to proceedings pending a decision.

The case has also spawned several related cases, including a defamation claim and a federal lawsuit filed last month by Jacobs.

Attorneys for Las Vegas Sands have argued in the state court case that Gonzalez should be disqualified for "personal dealings with the press" and for letting Jacobs' lawyers make inquiries about the Adelson family buying the Las Vegas Review-Journal newspaper in December.

Gonzalez has issued statements denying bias. She filed a document last week declaring she "will continue to be fair and impartial toward all parties in this case."

The purchase of the Review-Journal came weeks after several reporters were assigned by then-owners Gatehouse Media LLC to investigate Gonzalez and two other Las Vegas judges not involved in Adelson litigation.

No story appeared in the Review-Journal, but a small Connecticut newspaper headed by an executive affiliated with Gatehouse published a story about specialized business courts that criticized Gonzalez for "inconsistent" and "contradictory" rulings.

The judge has dashed numerous times with Adelson lawyers in the Jacobs case.

She sanctioned the legal team last year for "misrepresentations and lack of candor" and failing to turn over documents. They were ordered to pay \$250,000 to legal charities and cover court costs incurred by Jacobs in the document battle.

Gonzalez also admonished Adelson during his testimony in open court last year for not answering a routine question from Jacobs' lawyers.

The judge told Adelson he didn't get to argue with her.

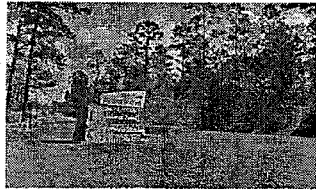
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January 5



Stephen Dunn/*The Hartford Courant*

Editorial writer Glenn Cook [20] is appointed interim editor. He issues guidelines requiring a standing disclosure on the Adelsons' interests and ownership of the *Review-Journal* in the print edition and on the paper's website, and additional taglines mentioning Adelson's ownership on "all relevant" stories. The guidelines preserve the publisher's right to review "significant stories about the newspaper's ownership."

2/20/2016

Why Did Sheldon Adelson Buy Nevada's Biggest Paper?

January 6

Guidelines for covering the Review-Journal's ownership and disclosing the Adelson family's interests in Nevada.

1. Publish on Page A3 a statement that discloses the Adelson family's ownership of the Review-Journal and its sister publications, and the family's business holdings, philanthropic efforts, private school, political involvement and Israeli interests. The statement will be posted in the right rail at reviewjournal.com. How to publish statement on mobile apps and social media will be determined.
2. Cover the gaming industry, including entertainment, restaurants, retail and hospitality, as well as all other news that could relate to the Adelsons, as we have in the past.
3. Run a tagline disclosing the Adelson family's ownership of the Review-Journal and other interests at the bottom of all relevant stories. When in doubt, reporters and editors should lean on the side of disclosure, as opposed to nondisclosure.
4. Disclose the Adelson family's ownership of the Review-Journal high in stories of significance, including major stories involving casino operator Las Vegas Sands Inc., political and election coverage that involves candidates and issues that have received direct and indirect financial contributions from the Adelson family.
5. The Adelson family will receive no special treatment in coverage.
6. For the time being, continue the review process under which the publisher reviews all significant stories about the newspaper's ownership. The publisher will make every effort to review significant stories in a timely fashion.
7. If the publisher makes any changes to stories, he will do so through the newsroom.
8. Columnists will continue to be given latitude in expressing their independent opinions.
9. The Review-Journal needs someone in charge of the newsroom as soon as possible.
10. The publisher must move as quickly as reasonably possible to hire a permanent editor.
11. The Adelson family will first tell the Review-Journal newsroom of any developments that relate to ownership or the newspaper.
12. The Adelson family understands that family members are fair game for coverage if they are involved in a significant public event.
13. These guidelines, subject to approval, will be revisited in a few months with the permanent editor after he or she begins work.



Neal Morton
@nealmorton

Follow

First order of business as interim editor, @Glenn_CookNV
emails new @reviewjournal guidelines which take effect now

2:00 PM - 6 Jan 2016

46 15

January

11

During a deposition, one of Steve Jacobs' lawyers asks [25] Adelson's son-in-law, Patrick Dumont, if he discussed Jacobs' lawsuit with Schroeder or participated in drafting any articles on the trial. Dumont declines to answer.

January

13

Las Vegas Sands lawyers file a new motion to remove Gonzalez from the Jacobs case, arguing that she showed bias against Sands by giving interviews to the press amid "recent intensified media coverage of the lawsuit." Gonzalez denies any "bias toward or prejudice against" Las Vegas Sands.

Press critic Jay Rosen outlines a series of unanswered questions [26] about the

January 27 *Review-Journal* transaction. "By failing to address the very serious questions left hanging by the sale," he writes, "the people who run GateHouse Media are, I believe, playing havoc with its reputation."

The *Review-Journal* announces that Craig Moon, former publisher and president of *USA Today* and executive vice president of Gannett, will replace [27] Taylor as publisher. Moon immediately removes the standing disclosure statement, calling it "overkill [28]."

January 28

ABOUT OUR OWNERS

The Las Vegas Review-Journal is owned by the family of Sheldon and Miriam Adelson through their controlling interest in News + Media Capital Group LLC. The Adelsons are majority owners of publicly traded Las Vegas Sands Corp., which operates The Venetian, Palazzo and the Sands Expo and Convention Center in Las Vegas as well as hotel-casinos in Pennsylvania, Singapore and Macau, China. The Adelsons are large contributors to political candidates and political action committees in Nevada and around the United States. The Adelsons own Israel Hayom, a daily newspaper in Israel. They are also philanthropists who, through their foundations, support a number of charitable initiatives, including medical research and Israeli causes. The Adelsons are the founders of the Adelson Educational Campus, a Las Vegas private school. Their various interests will be disclosed when relevant in stories throughout the *Review-Journal*, reviewjournal.com and the newspaper's mobile applications.



Jay Rosen
@jayrosen_nyu

Follow

This disclosure used to run on p. A3 of @reviewjournal's print edition. Today the new publisher ordered it removed.

3:30 PM - 28 Jan 2016

126 56

January
28

Las Vegas Sands proposes [31] building a \$1.2 billion domed stadium, to be shared by the University of Nevada-Las Vegas football team and a potential NFL franchise. Sands had previously opposed plans to redevelop the site as an improvement project for the Las Vegas Convention Center—a direct competitor with Adelson's Sands Expo and Convention Center.

January
30

The *Review-Journal* editorial board praises [32] the plan for a new stadium: "This stadium is the missing piece of tourism infrastructure in Las Vegas, more important than any other proposal, including the expansion of the Las Vegas Convention Center."

February
4

Gatehouse CEO Mike Reed tells *Politico* [33] that there was no "specific mandate" for *Review-Journal* reporters to investigate Las Vegas judges, and he accuses the newsroom of spinning "untruths" about the judicial investigation. Since Moon was hired, *Politico* reports, stories involving Adelson have been "reviewed, changed or killed almost daily."

February
5

J. Keith Moyer, a veteran of the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*, the *Fresno Bee*, and several Gannett papers, is named editor of the *Review-Journal*. On the same day, sources [34] close to Adelson tell *Politico* that the billionaire is nearing an endorsement of Marco Rubio, the *Review-Journal* endorses [35] Rubio. "The Adelsons have detached themselves from our endorsement process, and our endorsement of Sen. Rubio does not represent the support of the family," the editorial board writes.



stephanie grimes
@stephgrimes

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Moyer: "We have an owner with pockets as deep as the Grand Canyon, and we're going to take advantage of that"

11:05 AM - 5 Feb 2016

1 2

February 8 Moyer tells *USA Today* [37] that Adelson "told me directly he would be staying out of the newsroom," and shares that the new owners have aspirations to make the *Review-Journal* "a Western regional powerhouse."

"People will be watching, and they should be," Moyer says.

Source URL: <http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2016/02/sheldon-adelson-las-vegas-review-journal-newspaper-timeline>

Links:

- [1] <http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2016/02/sheldon-adelson-macau-casinos-lawsuit>
- [2] <http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/las-vegas/adelson-son-law-orchestrated-familys-purchase-las-vegas-review-journal>
- [3] <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/2706421-News-Media-Capital-Group-LLC.html>
- [4] http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/sheldon-adelson-las-vegas-review-journal-newspaper_us_568fe733e4b0cad15e647ea1?yffxht9=
- [5] <http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/las-vegas/judge-adelson-lawsuit-subject-unusual-scrutiny-amid-review-journal-sale>
- [6] http://nvcourts.gov/Supreme/Decisions/Unpublished_Orders/
- [7] <http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2016/02/sheldon-adelson-goes-all>
- [8] http://www.centralctcommunications.com/bristolpress/article_779758f2-989e-11e5-9da3-77ad5e40fe4f.html
- [9] <http://www.reviewjournal.com/business/las-vegas-review-journal-sold-news-media-capital-group-llc>
- [10] http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/las-vegas-review-journal-owner_us_566de9b6e4b0fccee16ef472
- [11] <http://money.cnn.com/2015/12/16/media/las-vegas-review-journal-sheldon-adelson/>
- [12] <http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/las-vegas/rj-editor-hengel-accepts-buyout>
- [13] <http://www.courant.com/community/new-britain/hc-new-britain-herald-edward-clarkin-1223-20151223-story.html>
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- [15] <https://twitter.com/ctnewsjunkie/status/679792822480953345>
- [16] <http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/las-vegas/controversial-manager-review-journal-parent-company-removed-job>
- [17] <http://www.capitalnewyork.com/article/media/2016/01/8586759/review-journal-brass-brings-dave->

butler-guide-newsroom

[18] <https://storify.com/petersterne/dave-butler-talks-to-r-j-editors>

[19] [https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?](https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10156377808245075&set=a.249933575074.308675.518545074&type=3&theater)

[fbid=10156377808245075&type=3&theater](https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10156377808245075&set=a.249933575074.308675.518545074&type=3&theater)

[20] <http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/las-vegas/glenn-cook-tapped-review-journal-interim-editor>

[21] https://twitter.com/Glenn_CookNV

[22] <https://twitter.com/reviewjournal>

[23] <https://t.co/hfPxWU0PS0>

[24] <https://twitter.com/nealnmorton/status/684857127219757057>

[25] <http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/las-vegas/figure-review-journal-sale-becomes-issue-las-vegas-sands-lawsuit>

[26] <http://pressthink.org/2016/01/journalists-as-hit-squad-connecting-the-dots-on-sheldon-adelson-the-review-journal-of-las-vegas-and-edward-clarkin-in-connecticut/>

[27] <http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/las-vegas/review-journal-names-former-usa-today-head-publisher>

[28] <http://lasvegassun.com/news/2016/jan/29/adelson-family-selects-former-usa-today-publisher/#livefyreComments>

[29] <https://t.co/VnASeKNKRm>

[30] https://twitter.com/jayrosen_nyu/status/692852274377326593

[31] <http://www.reviewjournal.com/business/stadium/las-vegas-sands-proposes-1b-domed-stadium-adelson-meet-raiders-owner>

[32] <http://www.reviewjournal.com/opinion/editorials/editorial-no-place-dome-stadium-proposal-must-do>

[33] <http://www.capitalnewyork.com/article/media/2016/02/8590189/sheldon-adelson-tightens-grip-review-journal>

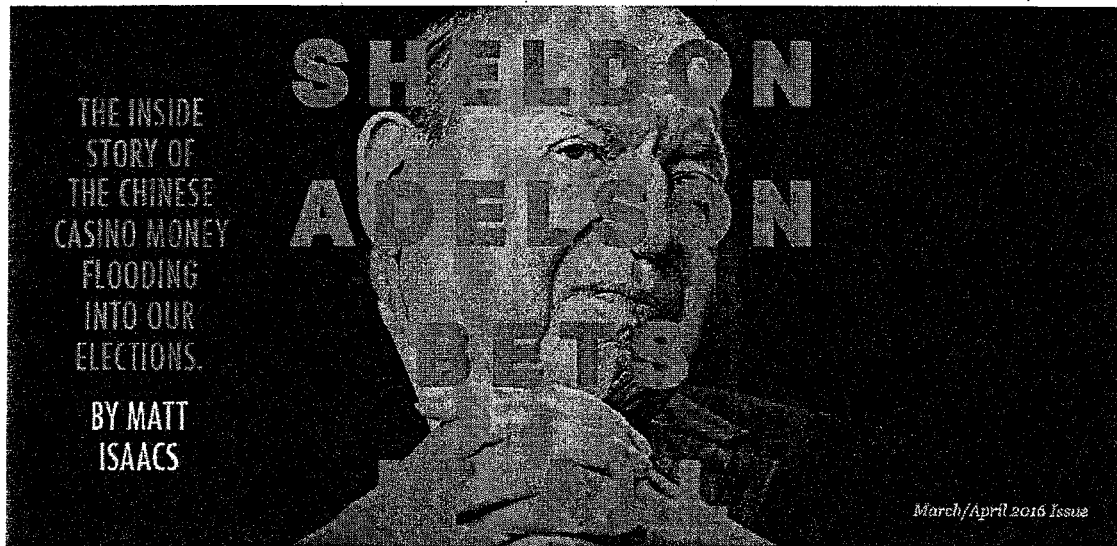
[34] <http://www.politico.com/story/2015/10/marco-rubio-sheldon-adelson-donors-2016-214680>

[35] <http://www.reviewjournal.com/opinion/editorials/editorial-rj-editorial-board-endorses-marco-rubio-nevada-republican-caucus>

[36] <https://twitter.com/stephgrimes/status/695684758815150080>

[37] <http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/columnist/rieder/2016/02/08/rieder-big-plans-adelsons-vegas-paper/80006838/#>

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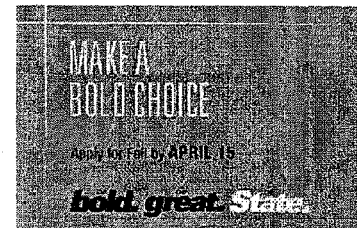
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IT WAS AROUND 10:30 p.m. when Steve Jacobs rolled down the gravel driveway. The air was warm for early January, even for Florida. Yellow boat lights bobbed on St. Augustine's harbor, and the scent of star jasmine hung on the breeze. Jacobs stepped onto his porch and found the door still locked. It had only been a few days since he had come home to find it mysteriously ajar.

When Jacobs sat down to work, however, he noticed his crate of files was missing. He headed to the kitchen, opened the top of his coffee maker, and looked inside. The hard drive he'd stashed there was gone too.

A police officer soon arrived (<http://www.motherjones.com/documents/2703015-Jacobs-Break-in-Police-Report>), checked the doors, dusted for fingerprints. He carefully wrapped the coffee maker in a plastic bag and said he would forward it to the FBI.

Jacobs had his suspicions as to why his house had been burgled. For more than a year, he'd been locked in a protracted legal battle with one of the wealthiest men on Earth. ^{*(#correction)} Jacobs had filed a wrongful-termination case (<http://www.motherjones.com/documents/2703022-19-Jacobs-Fourth-Amended-Complaint>), accusing his former boss of ordering him to perform "illegal activities." Could the burglary have been the desperate act of some yes-man or fixer, or even the gangsters he'd encountered while working in China? "I don't know who is behind it," Jacobs testified in a subsequent legal proceeding



(https://adclick.g.doubleclick.net/pcs/click?xal=AKAOistnIODaMEEeQ3qgIchw79vSJIdJtVNRJ3hi-TYXkllvRnUTcG05fuUp4YmQV3iUjBPJaoZ6sGMiFUqvTDLf8_naqTOOX4TVAKgEMd5Qo4augvenLiqvXXMnSw8sig=C9oArKJSzE11P7CX8fZT&urlfix=1&adurl=https://ds.reson8.com/click%3Fpbit%3Dresonate%26advkey%3D0013000000VageAAC%26opptykey%3DRPLVo615A%26evkey%3D128575%26evtype%3Dclick%26lp%3Dhttp://pixel.mathtag.com/click/img%3Fmt_aid%3D4354381100559869372%26mt_id%3D2202599%26mt_adid%3D144505%26mt_sid%3D816242%26mt_exid%3D21%26mt_inapp%3Do%26mt_uid%3D64c55267ff28-4400-bbe9-6dob42a09ffb%26mt_lp%3Dhttp://nsc.edu/%26redirect%3Dhttp://nsc.nevada.edu/%253Futm_source%253DResonate%2526utm_medium%253Ddisplay_300x250%2526utm)

<http://www.motherjones.com/documents/2703013-16-Jacobs-Deposition-1>, admitting he had no facts to suggest it was his old employer. "I know who might have a benefit or interest in understanding what information I may have had."

[content%253DJanuary_april_2016%2526utm_campaign%253D2015-2017%252520Recruitment\)](#)

It's a long way from a burglary in northeastern Florida to the battle for the White House, but there may be a connection: Jacobs' tale and the documents his lawsuit has brought to light—some of which were on the hard drive in the coffee maker—provide a rare window into the business dealings of Sheldon Adelson, the casino magnate and political megadonor who could have a bigger role in selecting the 2016 GOP nominee

<http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2015/10/rubio-donors-billionaires-adelson>) than millions of Republican voters.

Over the past five years, I've sought to gain a fuller view of this complicated figure in American politics. I've written several

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/his-man-in-macau-inside-the-investigation-into-sheldon-adelsons-empire/>) major <http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/may/09/sheldon-adelson-macau-testimony-las-vegas-sands>) investigative <http://www.propublica.org/article/inside-the-investigation-of-leading-republican-money-man-sheldon-adelson>) pieces about Adelson, interviewing scores of casino executives and law enforcement officials and amassing thousands of pages of documents, including troves of Adelson's legal transcripts and videotaped interviews. It has been a challenging process. Adelson has a track record of threatening to sue journalists. He sued one for describing him as "foul-mouthed." http://www.cjr.org/the_audit/covering_somebody_whos_suing_v.php) He sued a columnist from the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, driving him into bankruptcy <http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/columnist-pursues-bankruptcy-protection>) over a few ill-chosen words. He once went after my reporting with a retraction demand but dropped it after my editors refused to make any changes to the story.

Adelson has used his fortune to reshape right-wing politics in both America and Israel, establishing himself as a GOP kingmaker in the post-*Citizens United* era. In December, he backed a secretive \$140 million purchase <http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2015/12/veg-sheldon-adelson-did-buy-nevadas-biggest-newspaper>) of the *Review-Journal*, putting Nevada's largest paper in the hands of its richest resident <http://lasvegassun.com/news/2014/sep/30/5-nevadans-forbes-list-nations-richest/>) and a fixture of its

EXTRA! EXTRA!

<http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2016/02/sheldon-adelson-las-vegas-review-journal-newspaper-timeline>)

The bizarre story of the *Review-Journal* sale

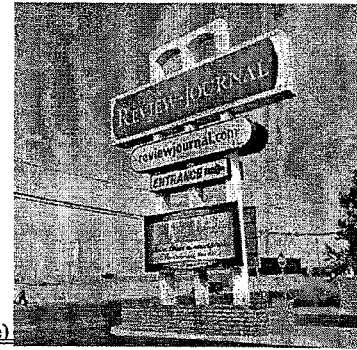
<http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2016/02/sheldon-adelson-las-vegas>

biggest industry, and increasing his influence on Nevada's early presidential caucuses. And now, as the 2016 campaign swings into high gear, Adelson faces a long-standing Justice Department probe

([http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-campaign-](http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-campaign-adelson-idUSTRE8172DS20120209)

[adelson-idUSTRE8172DS20120209](http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-campaign-adelson-idUSTRE8172DS20120209)) that could

generate embarrassing headlines for the mogul and the candidates he backs.



[review-journal-newspaper-timeline\)](http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2016/02/sheldon-adelson-las-vegas-review-journal-newspaper-timeline)

(<http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2016/02/sheldon-adelson-las-vegas-review-journal-newspaper-timeline>)



Former Sands executive Steve Jacobs' lawsuit has dogged Adelson for more than five years. *Jerome Favre/Bloomberg/Getty Images*

All this

is why Jacobs' case, due to go to trial in June

([http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/las-](http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/las-vegas/nevada-high-court-hears-sands-executives-termination-suit)

[vegas/nevada-high-court-hears-sands-](http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/las-vegas/nevada-high-court-hears-sands-executives-termination-suit)

[executives-termination-suit](http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/las-vegas/nevada-high-court-hears-sands-executives-termination-suit)), is so

significant: The protracted litigation

has illuminated just how Adelson

built one of the world's largest

fortunes through his casinos in Macau

—a Chinese territory rife with

corruption where, Jacobs' lawsuit

alleges

(<http://www.motherjones.com/documents/2703022-19-Jacobs-Fourth-Amended-Complaint>),

Adelson not only tolerated, but sometimes even encouraged, illegal and unethical acts. In turn, Adelson has denied these accusations

(<http://www.motherjones.com/documents/2703037-40-Adelson-Depo-Florida>), describing

Jacobs as a disgruntled ex-employee who was fired for insubordination and failure to properly address some of the issues raised in his own lawsuit.

During the last presidential election, Adelson spent nearly \$100 million directly (<http://www.propublica.org/article/how-much-did-sheldon-adelson-really-spend-on-campaign-2012>) (and reportedly another \$50 million in undisclosed dark money) trying to thwart Barack Obama's reelection. That included \$20 million that he and his wife spent backing Newt Gingrich's primary run and, after Gingrich dropped out of the race, another \$30 million on a super-PAC supporting Mitt Romney. He gave another \$23 million to American Crossroads, the super-PAC once led by Karl Rove. His dark-money contributions reportedly buoyed conservative organizations such as the Koch brothers' Americans for

Prosperity.

Obama Slams Republican Billionaire



And Adelson has an arguably greater political influence in Israel, where he founded the free daily *Israel Hayom* (<http://www.israelhavom.com/site/about.php>), reportedly spending tens of millions of dollars to bankroll it. Now the country's most widely read publication, *Hayom* serves as the house organ for Prime Minister Benjamin "Bibi" Netanyahu, who rode to reelection last year after stoking fears that "Arab voters are heading to the polls in droves." (<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/mar/17/binvamin-netanyahu-israel-arab-election>) This year's Republican candidates, many of whom have made the pilgrimage to Las Vegas in what has become known as the "Adelson primary," know that the mogul's patronage depends on their positions and tone toward Israel.

A diminutive 82-year-old with a lumpy face and a puff of thinning red hair, Adelson is the 13th-richest man in the United States (http://www.forbes.com/billionaires/list/#version:static_country:United%20States), worth more than \$20 billion, according to *Forbes*. Though he made his initial fortune in Vegas, he joined the ranks of the superrich following his 2001 investment in Macau, a once run-down seaport an hour's ferry ride from Hong Kong that in the last decade has overshadowed Vegas to become the world's gambling capital. Adelson's casinos in Macau, a special administrative region of China, provide the majority of the revenue for his company, Las Vegas Sands. But beneath Macau's glitz lurk organized crime, corruption, and a shadow banking system that has allegedly laundered billions of dollars for China's ruling elite. In 2013, the chair of Nevada's powerful Gaming Control Board told a federal commission that it was "common knowledge" (<http://www.motherjones.com/documents/2703174/US-China-Economic-and-Security-Review-Commission>) that the lucrative VIP rooms in Macau casinos have "long been dominated by Asian organized crime." That same year, a federal commission cited a study (<http://www.motherjones.com/documents/2703174/US-China-Economic-and-Security-Review-Commission>)

Security-Review-Commission) finding that more than \$200 billion in "ill-gotten funds are channeled through Macau each year."

Which raises the question: Is dirty money spent by corrupt Chinese officials at Macau casinos flowing into our elections, at least indirectly? "With *Citizens United*, there's an awful lot of money sloshing around in our political process," said Carolyn Bartholomew, vice chairman of the bipartisan US-China Economic and Security Review Commission, a congressional advisory body that produced a scathing report

(<http://www.cecc.gov/sites/chinacommission.house.gov/files/AR13DJ.PDF>) detailing Macau's vulnerability to money laundering by such officials. "People have a right to know whose money that is, and that the proceeds being spent in the political process are not from illegal and illicit activities."

The key to finding out may be Steve Jacobs' lawsuit. "This case will never be settled," Adelson has vowed (<http://www.motherjones.com/documents/2703037-40-Adelson-Depo-Florida>), and he's kept his word through more than five years of bruising and reputation-staining proceedings. As the billionaire promised reporters in Macau (<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-campaign-adelson-idUSTRE3172DS20120209>), "When we win the case, we will go after him in a way that he won't forget."



Dale Stephanos

ADELSON HAS ALWAYS been a fighter. The son of a Jewish Lithuanian cab driver and a British-born mother who ran a small knitting service, Adelson grew up in the Dorchester neighborhood of South Boston. As an infant, he slept in a dresser drawer, until he joined his sister and two brothers on the floor. "I didn't know we were poor, but we were very poor," he would later say in testimony (<http://www.motherjones.com/documents/2713167-Hananel-Hearing>). "Church mice were rather affluent compared to our family."

Dorchester was home to a thriving Jewish community, but also to Irish toughs who Adelson has said forced Jewish kids to travel in packs to avoid being attacked with brass knuckles, rubber hoses, and chains. "I just have a lot of memories of being beaten up for being Jewish," he said in a deposition. "And when you have been beaten many, many times over a period of years, you get to know what a feeling of hostility and hatred is."

Adelson clawed his way to a better life through thrift, opportunism, and hard work, emerging, by many accounts, as a prickly, combative scrapper. At age 12 he started selling newspapers on the street, and soon he moved on to buying control of street corners. His first corner faced the employee entrance to

Filene's Basement, a thriving department store in downtown Boston. Borrowing \$200 from his uncle, the treasurer of a credit union, he soon bought another corner. At age 16, he invested in 125 candy machines that he set up in shoe factories and later at all-night gas stations, where cab drivers like his father would fill up their cars, thereby earning Adelson profits around the clock. He thrived, despite the looming presence of the Patriarca gang of Boston, which was involved in the vending-machine business at the time.

Adelson graduated from high school, joined the Army, and upon discharge returned to serial entrepreneurship. "I thought I couldn't hold down a job because I went from thing to thing," he would later say. (<http://www.motherjones.com/documents/2713167-Hananel-Hearing>) "I've done over 50 different things in my life."

Adelson became a venture capitalist in the 1960s, investing in a bull market and losing a fortune when it went bust. He sold condominiums. He started a charter travel service. But he hit upon his first great success in 1979 when he created Comdex, a computer trade show that eventually drew more than 225,000 people to Las Vegas, an event so large it had to be held in multiple locations. Adelson decided to build his own convention center, and he found some land owned by the Sands Hotel, which he purchased in 1989.

(<http://www.sands.com/corporate-overview/history.html>)

As the hotel's new owner, Adelson had to seek a gambling license and endure a rigorous background check. The Nevada Gaming Control Board dug up scores of lawsuits in which he had failed to pay his debts. Massachusetts had suspended his real estate license. His longtime friend and business partner Irwin Chafetz (who still sits on the board (<http://investor.sands.com/ir-home/governance/board-of-directors/default.aspx>) of Las Vegas Sands Corp.) had ties to a man named Henry Vara who'd been accused of skimming from the gay bars he owned, one of which was notorious for prostitution. (<http://www.bostonmagazine.com/2006/05/the-bay-village-drag-bar-war/>).

The regulators asked tough questions

(<http://www.motherjones.com/documents/2703034-5-Gaming-Control-Board-Transcript>) about Chafetz's associations, but Adelson told them that he didn't want to drop his friend from the application. "That man and I are almost like Siamese twins," Adelson told the board. "We are almost joined physically. There is nothing in the world that can convince me he would do anything wrong."

Adelson would win his license, but not before one of the board's regulators warned him of the dangers of this kind of loyalty. "I may have some problems," the official said. (<http://www.motherjones.com/documents/2703034-5->

MEDIA SPENDING

Long before buying the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* for **\$140 MILLION**, up to three times its value, Sheldon Adelson spent nearly

\$200 MILLION to back *Israel Hayom*, which launched in 2007. The staunchly pro-Netanyahu paper now claims Israel's largest readership.

In 2014, he acquired *Makor Rishon*, another conservative paper, and the NRG news website for **\$4.9 MILLION**.

Adelson has pledged at least **\$1.2 MILLION** since 2013 to the Jewish News Service, a nonprofit that distributes content from *Hayom* to community newspapers.

Mother Jones

Gaming-Control-Board-Transcript) "with your ability to judge people and character."

Two years after the purchase of the Sands Hotel made him a casino magnate, Adelson married his second wife, Miriam Ochshorn (<http://www.buzzfeed.com/rosiegray/miriam-adelson#.pa6P1PpL6v>), an Israeli doctor who would nurture his passion for her home country. Over time she came to assume a substantial role in their family's business and political interests, and she has been spoken of as a potential successor to her husband.

In 1995, Adelson sold his trade show for \$862 million (<http://www.forbes.com/pictures/mmk45tiqe/12-sheldon-adelson/>) and hired a superteam of casino industry veterans to grow Sands Corp. One of them, William Weidner (<http://www.bloomberg.com/research/stocks/people/person.asp?personId=1101136&privcapId=36328951>) became the company's president the following year. Handsome and hard-nosed, Weidner would help run the company for 13 years as it expanded, first in Vegas and eventually across the Pacific.

The old Sands Hotel had once played host to Frank Sinatra and his legendary entourage. Adelson demolished it. ("It was the home of what they called the Rat Pack, a very glamorous history in Las Vegas," Adelson later said. "So I tore it down.") In its place, he built the Venetian, inspired by the city where he and Miriam had honeymooned (<http://www.sands.com/corporate-overview/history.html>). When it opened in 1999, the faux-Italian complex was the largest gambling resort Vegas had ever seen, and competitors derided him for building too many rooms. But it was soon packed.

A YEAR LATER, Adelson flew to Hong Kong at the urging of his younger brother Lenny to meet Richard Suen, a well-connected entrepreneur who told him that China was preparing to allow international investment in Macau. "We think one day...it'll be opened up and other people will be able to come," Suen said, according to a deposition Adelson later gave. "I'm typically not interested in investing where the American or Israeli flags don't fly over schools," Adelson replied. But Weidner, according to depositions, encouraged him to explore the relationship.

Suen introduced Adelson and Weidner to the vice premier of China in early July 2001. They met in the Purple Light Pavilion of Zhongnanhai, the Chinese equivalent of the White House, near Beijing's Forbidden City. After 45 minutes together, the vice premier invited Adelson to submit a bid for a gaming license in Macau.

That same weekend, Adelson also met with the mayor of Beijing, who asked

him for some help: Congress was considering a resolution

(<http://www.cnn.com/2001/WORLD/asiapcf/east/03/21/china.us.olympics.01/>) to protest China's bid to host the 2008 Olympics, based on the country's human rights violations. "We're standing in a parking lot of the Beijing convention center. Sheldon picks up his cellphone and calls Tom DeLay in Houston," Weidner later said in a deposition. Adelson reached the House majority whip at a Fourth of July cookout. "You can hear him—Tom DeLay talks very loudly over the phone. Tom says, 'I'm chewing on my fourth piece of rubber chicken.'"

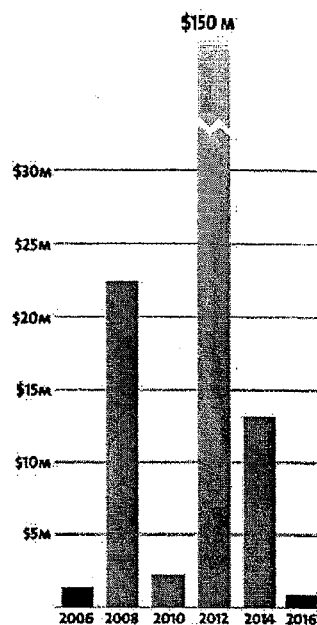
DeLay was a co-sponsor of the resolution, which had overwhelming bipartisan support and was particularly popular among evangelicals concerned about Chinese persecution of Christians. But Adelson had taken DeLay to Israel and lavishly supported Republican campaigns. DeLay said he would see what he could do. "Three hours later," Weidner said, "DeLay calls and tells Sheldon, 'You're in luck. I'd like to get that bill, but I can't do it—we're not going to be able to move the bill.' Sheldon goes to the mayor and says, 'The bill will never see the light of day, Mr. Mayor. Don't worry about it.'"

DeLay later said he couldn't recall the conversation

(<http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/delay-disputes-adelson-testimony/>), and Adelson denied trying to block the bill. But, according to Weidner, the call made an impression on the Chinese. Stanley Ho, the debonair tango enthusiast who was the godfather of Macau's gaming operations

The Adelsons' political giving

Total known donations by election cycle



Sources: Center for Responsive Politics, the New York Times, the Huffington Post. Includes giving to federal candidates, parties, 527s, super-PACs, and estimates of known 501(c)(3)s.

*To date

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**\$119
MILLION
Disclosed
donations**

**At least
\$71
MILLION
Dark
money**

DARK MONEY ACCOUNTS FOR more than one-third of the Adelsons' known political giving over the past decade—and since such spending doesn't have to be disclosed, the real total could be even bigger. Major dark-money donations reportedly include at least \$30 million to Karl Rove's Crossroads GPS, \$15 million to grassroots initiatives backed by the Koch brothers, and \$5 million to the US Chamber of Commerce.

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(http://www.state.nj.us/casinos/home/info/docs/MGM/dge_%20report_redacted.pdf), later pulled a Sands executive aside at a party in Hong Kong with good news about the company's license application, telling him, "By the way, that Olympic

thing: I think you guys won the bid," Weidner later recalled in a deposition.

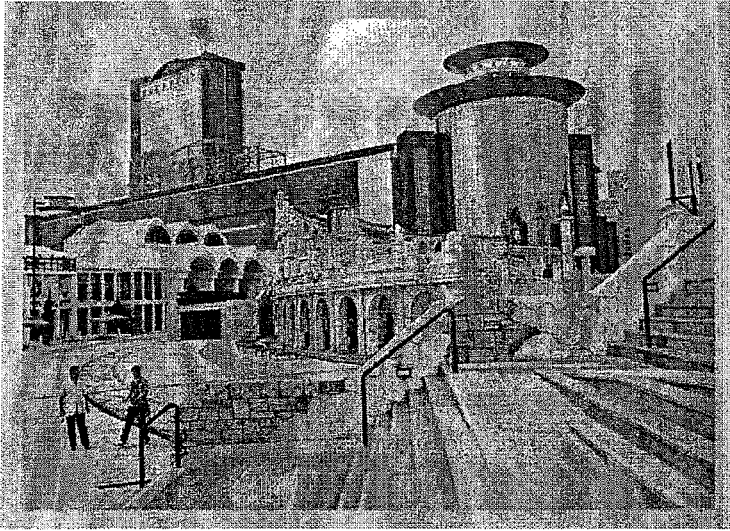
"That's what I hear back from my guys in Beijing. Congratulations."

At the time, Ho held a virtual monopoly (<http://www.businessinsider.com/the-fabulous-life-of-stanley-ho-2015-1>) on gaming in Macau, long a hotbed for piracy, gold smuggling, and espionage. According to US regulators, (<http://www.motherjones.com/documents/2706423-NJ-Report>) Chinese criminal organizations called triads had penetrated his casinos, even operating out of their private VIP rooms. In 1999, just before China assumed control of the territory from Portugal, a triad war erupted as gangs fought for dominance. Criminals shot each other in broad daylight; car bombs scattered limbs across the ancient stone sidewalks. Weidner wondered how American casino operators would "ever open in that kind of lawless environment." Violence wasn't the only obstacle: Nevada had spent decades purging itself of mobsters like Sam Giancana and Meyer Lansky, and the state had strict rules that could jeopardize Sands' gambling license if the company associated with organized crime anywhere in the world.

China prohibits its citizens from bringing more than \$3,000 (<http://www.reuters.com/article/usa-macau-nevada-idUSL2NoF31GN20130627>) across the border into Macau, a fraction of what a high roller can spend on a hand, let alone in an evening. This restriction led to the emergence of junket companies, (<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-macau-junkets-factbox-idUSTRE79K2DS20111021>) which ferried wealthy gamblers to Macau and extended them credit to get around the currency constraints. The junket business provided a legal construct to bring in vast sums from China. This made Macau a popular destination for corrupt Chinese officials: They could turn their ill-gotten gains into chips, collect the winnings, and deposit them in offshore accounts.

The junkets were critical to the success of the casinos, which relied on big-spending whales for a huge portion of their business. Gambling debts are not collectible in Chinese courts, so junket companies or their triad affiliates did the job—sometimes brutally, according to a report by the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission (<http://www.motherjones.com/documents/2706420-CECC/>). Chinese newspapers are filled with grisly tales of gamblers who failed to repay their loans and ended up kidnapped, imprisoned in cages, threatened with dismemberment, injected with drugs, or forced to take revealing photos. Triad members might give an indebted gambler "a list of options," according to Nelson Rose (<https://www.law.whittier.edu/index/meet-the-faculty/profile/i-nelson-rose>), an expert in Macau and gaming law at Whittier Law School: "We will rape your wife and put her in a brothel. We will hang you by your feet off one of the tallest buildings.' They do find bodies in mainland China linked to gambling

debts in Macau."



Adelson's first Asian casino, the Sands Macau, opened to crushing crowds in 2004. *Liu Guoxing/ImagineChina/Zuma Press*

IN MAY 2004, thousands of people spurred by rumors of free chips swarmed outside the Sands Macau for its grand opening. The crowd literally tore the main doors from their hinges and smashed in 16 other entrances (<http://www.asgam.com/cover-stories/item/2350-time-of-sands.html>). Escalators groaned under the weight of gamblers rushing to the tables.

A similar frenzy gripped the New York Stock Exchange later that year, when Las Vegas Sands Corp. (LVSC) went public and Macau-mad investors pushed the new stock up by 61 percent in a single day. Almost overnight, Adelson was propelled into the ranks of the world's superrich, his worth rising from \$1.8 billion in 2004 to more than \$11.5 billion in 2005. "He got rich faster than anyone else in history," Peter W. Bernstein and Annalyn Swan wrote in *All the Money in the World* (https://books.google.com/books?id=MO4KnsyVOh8C&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q=adelson&f=false), their book on the Forbes 400. For years after the company went public, Adelson's personal shares earned him about \$1 million every hour. (http://www.nytimes.com/2008/01/17/business/17adelson.html?_r=0)

The Sands Macau made back its \$256 million in construction costs in 10 months, and it initially avoided entanglement with the junkets. But, according to a deposition Weidner later gave, that soon changed. Over the next several years, as I reported in articles for Reuters (<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-casinos-macau-sands-idUSTRE62S34020100329>) and ProPublica (<http://www.propublica.org/article/inside-the-investigation-of-leading-republican-money-man-sheldon-adelson>) that were produced with the University of California-Berkeley's

Investigative Reporting Program (<http://investigativereportingprogram.com>), the casino partnered with two junkets connected to an organized-crime figure in Hong Kong who has been under the scrutiny of US law enforcement at least as far back as 1992, according to court records, financial filings, and the casino's own internal reports. By 2007, junkets were providing more than two-thirds of the revenues at Sands' Macau casinos, according to the company's Securities and Exchange Commission filings.

That year, Adelson opened his second outpost in the Chinese enclave: the Venetian Macau (<http://www.venetianmacao.com>), which remains the largest casino in the world. The stock price of LVSC hit an all-time high that October, lifting Adelson's worth to \$26.5 billion. And his newfound wealth turbocharged his political giving.

Adelson has admitted sitting for interviews with federal investigators and has complained of being targeted by the Obama administration for his political activity.

Adelson had been a political donor for decades (<http://www.wsi.com/articles/SB88118787177149500>) and was even named a Bush Pioneer (<http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2008/07/29/174099/newt-aswf-billionaires/>) for raising more than \$100,000 for George W. Bush's 2004 reelection campaign. But that was peanuts compared with what he would stake now. He bankrolled nearly the entire \$30 million budget (<http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2008/01/betting-red>) of Freedom's Watch, which he had launched as a right-wing counterpoint to MoveOn.org, and used it to drum up support for Bush's 2007 surge in Iraq. Weidner sat on the board of the group; Karl Rove was a key adviser. When the 2008 campaign drew near, Adelson crowed to the *Wall Street Journal* that the cavalry was "coming over the hill, bugles blaring. I'm looking for a horse...and trying on chaps and boots and stirrups." But Freedom's Watch soon dissolved after staffers bridled at Adelson's micromanagement (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/07/25/sheldon-adelson-gops-answ_n_114899.html).

Meanwhile, trouble was brewing in China. Richard Suen, the fixer who helped introduce Adelson to Chinese officials, had sued over a deal he had hammered out with Weidner: For helping the company get a gambling license, Suen said, he'd been promised \$5 million and 2 percent of LVSC's Macau profits (<http://www.scmp.com/business/companies/article/1206533/sands-luck-tested-huge-suit-goes->

us-court). But when the case went to trial in 2008, Adelson claimed he refused to pay Suen because Suen had fallen short of a promise to "deliver a license." (<http://www.scmp.com/business/companies/article/1207668/adelson-testifies-middleman-couldnt-deliver-macau>) since the company's entrée to Macau had still been subject to a competitive bidding process. When Adelson took the stand, he accused Weidner of agreeing to inappropriate terms with Suen—terms Adelson claimed to have not properly understood (<http://www.motherjones.com/documents/2703102-42-Suen-to-Adelson>) because he had been too sedated on painkillers. (Adelson suffers from peripheral neuropathy (<http://lasvegassun.com/news/2008/apr/19/even-court-iconoclast/>), a painful condition that has left him largely wheelchair bound since 2001.) A jury didn't buy it and awarded Suen \$43 million. Adelson appealed, but in 2013 a new jury awarded Suen \$70 million (<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/article/1238065/richard-suen-wins-us70m-las-vegas-sands-macau-dispute>). Adelson has appealed again, to the Nevada Supreme Court. The case is pending (<http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/las-vegas/las-vegas-sands-asks-nevada-supreme-court-overturn-100-million-judgment>).

But the real damage, according to Weidner, came after officials in Beijing learned their dirty laundry was being aired at trial. Adelson's conversation with DeLay came to light, as did connections between Suen's firm and China's top officials. The fatal blow was a photograph (<http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/sands-exec-testifies-he-tried-negotiate-deal-suen>), displayed in the Las Vegas courtroom, of Adelson, Suen, and Weidner smiling alongside the vice premier of China. "Sheldon really fucked the pooch on that one," Weidner later told me.

Within a month of the 2008 trial's close, Beijing moved to shut down a huge goodwill project Sands had undertaken—the Adelson Center for US-China Enterprise. Sands had already spent more than \$50 million on the center, which was intended to connect US companies with Chinese partners, but "the government didn't want anything to do with a building that had Adelson's name on it," Weidner told me.

China imposed severe restrictions on travel visas to Macau that year, causing visits from the mainland to drop by nearly 20 percent. A State Department cable, made public by WikiLeaks (<http://www.motherjones.com/documents/2703017-wikileaks-Cable>), said the squeeze was a result of China's growing concern over the junket trade. "The fact that mainland gamblers account for the majority of funds flowing into Macau appears increasingly undesirable to Beijing," the cable read. "The perception is widespread that, with the implicit assistance of

ISRAEL DONATIONS

According to the *Forward*, Adelson gives out of "support for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, sympathy for the settler movement, and hostility toward the Palestinian Authority." Key gifts include:

\$250 MILLION

to Taglit-Birthright Israel, which funds free trips to Israel for young Jewish adults

\$25 MILLION

to Ariel University, the only Israeli Institute of higher education in the occupied West Bank

\$22 MILLION

to the Israeli American Council

\$4.5 MILLION

to the Adelson Institute for Strategic Studies, formerly housed at Jerusalem's right-leaning Shalem Center

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the big 'junket' operators, some of these mainlanders are betting with embezzled state money or proceeds from official corruption, and substantial portions of these funds are flowing on to organized crime groups."

All this compounded the damage inflicted by the unfolding global economic crisis. Bank credit froze just as Sands was building massive new casino projects in Macau. LVSC had more than \$10 billion in debt and was on the verge of bankruptcy when Adelson injected \$1 billion of his own money (<https://www.sands.com/corporate-overview/history.html>) to keep it afloat. But that was not enough to hold onto Weidner, who resigned in March 2009, describing his management conflicts with Adelson as a "junkyard dog fight," (<http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/weidner-quits-after-conflicts-adelson>)

After Weidner left, Steve Jacobs was brought on to address the problems in Macau. Though Jacobs had no experience in the gambling sector, he was a turnaround artist who'd overseen the corporate restructuring of Holiday Inn and a luxury hotel chain in Europe. "I typically take on assignments that others can't or won't," Jacobs later boasted.

(<http://www.motherjones.com/documents/2703013-16-Jacobs-Deposition-1>)

Jacobs recalled being shocked by his first visit to the Venetian Macau. While Adelson has testified that Sands had "zero tolerance" for prostitution, Jacobs says he "walked on the floor and saw rampant prostitution. It was blatantly, blatantly obvious," (<http://www.motherjones.com/documents/2703013-16-Jacobs-Deposition-1>). Although it was legal in Macau, Jacobs felt that it was bad for business.

An average of 40 to 60 prostitutes walked the Venetian's floors on weekends, outnumbering security personnel, according to company documents (</documents/2703018-17-Prostitution-Report-1-Ex-97-1.html>) entered as exhibits in the Jacobs case. The internal security reports say (<http://www.motherjones.com/documents/2703019-18-Prostitution-Report-2-Ex-389-1>) the women were "frequently under 18 years" old and trafficked from China's inner provinces by "vice syndicates" to work out of rooms the prostitutes appeared to have received free of charge.

Jacobs proposed ridding the casino of prostitution. But he was soon informed, he later recalled (<http://www.motherjones.com/documents/2703013-16-Jacobs-Deposition-1>), that management had decided "to allow prostitution as it would help our overall gaming revenue."

According to Jacobs, Sands' new president, Michael Leven, told him not to "make it a big deal...The board knows prostitution is going on."

"Does Sheldon know prostitution is going on?" Jacobs remembers asking.

Leven, he testified, said, "Yes, but it's legal. It's what the gamblers want."

TO SHORE UP LVSC'S dismal finances, Jacobs began preparing to spin off the company's Macau holdings into Sands China, a new entity that could be independently listed on the Hong Kong stock exchange. It was a difficult task in the rocky economic climate, and Adelson's combative style made the job no easier. Jacobs would later claim in litigation that he spent much of his time repairing "strained relationships with local and national government officials in Macau who would no longer meet with Adelson due to his obstreperous behavior." Animosity over Suen's lawsuit also lingered "like a festering sore," according to an internal memo by an LVSC board member. "The central government attitude about [Las Vegas Sands] has changed."

Macau's Beijing-selected chief executive, Edmund Ho (no relation to Stanley), privately suggested to the board member that Adelson "should sit back a bit, enjoy his family and his time and let his executives handle the operations in Asia," according to the memo. As Jacobs was laying the groundwork for the Hong Kong public offering, he approached Ho about getting an exemption from local real estate laws for a condominium project. Ho refused to grant it.

According to Jacobs, Adelson "became enraged and stated that Ho had 'promised' him" the exception. Two years earlier, Adelson had paid a substantial settlement to a group of businessmen who, like Richard Suen, were seeking payment for helping to facilitate Sands' entrée into Macau. The litigants had been particularly close associates of Ho, and Adelson wanted Jacobs to remind the executive of how he'd dispensed with the case: According to Jacobs' lawsuit, Adelson instructed him to "inform the 'son of a bitch' that Adelson had settled a lawsuit for \$40 million dollars to keep Chief Executive Ho out of jail." Instead, Jacobs reported the conversation to the company's chief counsel, according to court filings.



Jacobs worried that paying Macau politician Leonel Alves

Undeterred, Adelson continued to push the Macau government on the condo permit. He hired Leonel Alves

raised concerns under US bribery laws.
 Whthalbert/Wikimedia

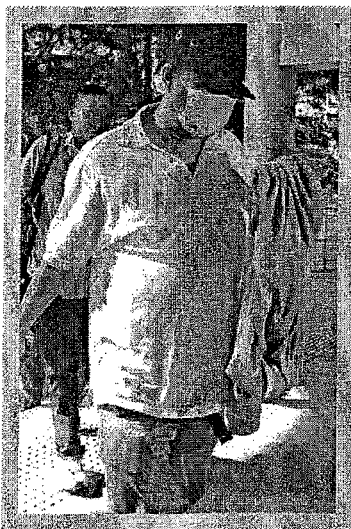
(<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/his-man-in-macau-inside-the-investigation-into-sheldon-adelsons-empire/>), a top Macau politician, as the company's local counsel.

In late 2009, Alves emailed Jacobs to report he had been approached by a "high-ranking official in Beijing" (<http://www.propublica.org/documents/item/399392-email-from-leonel-alves-to-steve-jacobs-re#document/p1/a64251>) who suggested a way to get approval—but it would be "expensive," more than "300m" (<https://www.motherjones.com/documents/2703023-22-Alves-Email-2>) US dollars, Alves later wrote, "to be deposited in a mutually accepted escrow account." Jacobs refused, believing Alves was suggesting a "payment for Chinese officials," according to court documents. When Alves submitted invoices for his work, they were significantly higher than what the company had expected, triggering concerns that such payments could present a risk under the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, which prohibits US companies from bribing public officials overseas.

When Sands China, the spinoff, went public in November, it raised more than \$2.5 billion, and Jacobs, now president of the new entity, was heralded as LVSC's savior. "There is no question of Steve's performance," Leven wrote in an email to a board member. "The Titanic hit the iceberg, he arrived and saved the ship." Rob Goldstein, the current president of LVSC, later said in court that he believed Jacobs was Adelson's heir apparent.

But Adelson was now challenging Jacobs on the smallest of details: The casino didn't have enough slot machines (<http://www.motherjones.com/documents/2703027-24-Slot-Machines>). There weren't enough seats at the noodle bar. (<http://www.motherjones.com/documents/2703028-25-Noodle-Bar>) Even Miriam chimed in, relaying a complaint via a secretary (<http://www.motherjones.com/documents/2703029-26-English/>): "The person speaking over the loudspeaker on the ferry...should speak with much better English—not with such a heavy accent."

Meanwhile, Alves continued to (<http://www.motherjones.com/documents/2703030-27-Alves-Presses-for-Fees-1>) PRESS (<http://www.motherjones.com/documents/2703031-28-Alves-Presses-for-Fees-2>) Adelson (<http://www.motherjones.com/documents/2703031-28-Alves-Presses-for-Fees-2>) for his fees. Though Jacobs had initially refused to release the money, Adelson assured the Macau politician that he would make sure Jacobs would "resolve any issues immediately." Despite Jacobs' legal concerns, (<http://www.motherjones.com/documents/2703030-27-Alves-Presses-for-Fees-1>) Adelson instructed him to pay Alves, according to internal emails, "regardless of cost." In subsequent legal proceedings, Adelson has defended the payments.



Internal documents show Sands worked with enterprises linked to alleged gang figure Cheung Chi Tai to attract gamblers. *Bobby Vip/Reuters*

Soon afterward, Reuters published my investigation showing that Sands had partnered with two junkets underwritten by the alleged triad boss Cheung Chi Tai

(<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/law-crime/article/1826665/macau-casino-junket-operator-accused-hk18b-dirty-cash-case>) to bring gamblers to its tables.

According to testimony in a Hong Kong trial, Cheung was the "person in charge" of a Sands VIP room and, company documents show, entitled to a share of its profits. Witnesses in the trial said he ordered the killing of a junket worker suspected of cheating.

The man was not killed, and Cheung was never charged in connection with the plot, but the trial and article linking Cheung to the junket was "enough to cause major headaches" (<http://www.motherjones.com/documents/2703108-J-Nelson-Rose-Testimony>) for Sands and put the company's invaluable Nevada license at risk, according to Whittier Law School's Nelson Rose.

"When the article came out, Mr. Adelson was quite animated," Jacobs later said in a deposition.

(<http://www.motherjones.com/documents/2703013-16-Jacobs-Deposition-1>)

The company demanded that Reuters retract the story, denying the casino had anything to do with the alleged gang leader. In fact, Cheung-affiliated junkets reaped as much as \$160 million in commissions from Sands casinos in 2009, an internal email shows. If the payments were made according to Macau's traditional arrangement, it would suggest that the two junkets brought Sands some \$400 million in business—nearly as much as the conglomerate's Las Vegas revenues that year.

Sands' chief counsel abruptly gave notice

(<http://www.motherjones.com/documents/2703035-36-Gonzalez-Resignation>) just days after the article appeared. In the weeks to follow, he complained that the company's protest of my story contained inaccuracies. Reuters published no correction or retraction.

But that article prompted Sands to embark upon its own internal investigation, which uncovered documents showing the casino had extended

Explore court records and other documents behind this story

(<http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2016/02/sheldon-adelson-documents>).

Mr. Cheung Chi Tai has promised to bring in more business

(<http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2016/02/sheldon-adelson-documents>)

more than \$32 million in credit to junkets backed by Cheung, according to the company's court filings. Jacobs wanted to tell LVSC's board about the relationship, but he says Adelson stopped him.

(<http://www.motherjones.com/documents/2703013-16-Jacobs-Deposition-1>) According to Jacobs' lawsuit, when he speculated about the risk the alleged Cheung connection presented to Sands' Nevada license, "Adelson scoffed at the suggestion, informing Jacobs that he...controlled the regulators, not the other way around."

On the morning of July 23, 2010, barely eight months after the company's successful Hong Kong public offering, Jacobs was called to a meeting with Leven in Macau, ostensibly to discuss the upcoming board meeting. Instead, he said in a later deposition. (<http://www.motherjones.com/documents/2703013-16-Jacobs-Deposition-1>) "two security guards walk in. They say, 'You've got to leave.' ... I get some clothes...They take me directly to the ferry."

Jacobs sued for wrongful termination in October 2010. "We're not saying the Steve Jacobs lawsuit is going to bring the [Sands] party to a halt," a Macau-based financial intelligence company wrote in a newsletter at the time. "But we do think...he has several characteristics that make us believe he is a far more formidable opponent than any former employees Adelson has tried to face down before. These include supreme self-confidence, the courage of a lion, and the cunning of a trained lawyer. And dirt. Lots and lots and lots of it."

LAS VEGAS SANDS CORP. disclosed in March 2011 that the Justice Department and the Securities and Exchange Commission had launched bribery investigations based on Jacobs' allegations. The wide-ranging inquiry delved into the Alves relationship and the aborted Adelson Center for US-China Enterprise in Beijing, according to sources familiar with the investigations. An internal Sands audit, according to the *Wall Street Journal*

(<http://www.wsj.com/articles/SB10000872396390443537404577578900341481654>), revealed more than \$50 million in payments made through Yang Saixin, a businessman who was the Chinese point man on the Adelson Center project. The ongoing federal investigation is said to be looking into whether any of the money paid to Yang was transferred to Chinese public officials in violation of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

While Yang has denied any wrongdoing, an internal Sands memo describes him as highly influential; his parents "knew [President] Xi Jinping's parents, implying a strong connection to Zhongnanhai (the White House of China)." Adelson, the memo added, twice met personally with Yang. Yet Adelson later denied any knowledge of the center that would have borne his name, placing

the blame squarely on Sands' former president. "Bill Weidner came to me and said that he wanted me to ask President Bush to come and cut the ribbon for the Adelson Center, and I said, 'What's the Adelson Center?'" Adelson recalled in a 2012 deposition. (<http://www.motherjones.com/documents/2703037-40-Adelson-Deno-Florida>) "That's the first I heard of it."

Even as Adelson was contending with a federal investigation, he was bankrolling the campaign of Mitt Romney, whom he called the "president-elect." In a September 2012 interview with Politico (<http://www.politico.com/story/2012/09/sheldon-adelson-inside-the-mind-of-the-mega-donor-081588?paginate=false>), Adelson complained that he had been targeted by the Obama administration for his political activity. He said he feared Obama's reelection would bring "vilification of people that were against" the president. Adelson claimed that the Obama administration's prosecutors had leaked information about the Justice Department inquiry to suggest to fellow Republicans that "this guy is toxic. Don't do business with him. Don't take his money."

Adelson railed against his former executive in court: "He squealed—like a pig squeals—to the SEC and to the DOJ!"

In 2013, LVSC acknowledged in its public filings that it had "likely" (<http://www.wsj.com/articles/SB10001424127887323293704578334891598421454>) violated the accounting provisions of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. Adelson has admitted sitting for interviews with investigators from the Justice Department and the Securities and Exchange Commission. According to a Justice Department source, the investigation may conclude this year—which could put the outcome squarely in the middle of the presidential campaign.

IN LATE APRIL 2015, I watched Adelson roll his royal purple motorized wheelchair out of the elevator and onto the 14th floor of the Clark County Regional Justice Center in Las Vegas for a hearing in the Jacobs lawsuit. A bright morning sun lit the hallway as the casino magnate, surrounded by his lawyers, a bodyguard, and his wife, Miriam, made their way to the courtroom. When Adelson's party crossed paths with Jacobs and his attorneys, the two combatants briefly locked eyes.

Adelson was in pinstripes, his leather shoes worn but polished. A gold handle capped his cane. His demeanor was calm and gentle as he chatted with his

entourage about the 1966 movie *Cast a Giant Shadow*, about the creation of Israel. "Sal Mineo was in that," Adelson offered cheerfully. His companions murmured but didn't reply, perhaps because Mineo wasn't in the film (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0060218/>).

On the stand, Adelson pushed away a jar of M&M's. "I can resist everything but temptation," he told Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez (http://www.clarkcountycourts.us/DC-Departments/Dept11/DC_Department-11-new.html).

He appeared unruffled as Jacobs' attorney repeatedly presented him with memos, emails, and contracts. "I don't get involved in the day-to-day activities," he said dismissively. "My age is advancing."

But when the questions turned to Jacobs, his tone darkened. He made clear that he had wanted to fire the "incompetent" executive within months of hiring him. Jacobs, he said, had tried to run the show without him: "He tried to go behind my back to different board members to get things done, so he wouldn't have to report to me." And, he said, his voice rising, "He squealed—like a pig squeals—to the SEC and to the DOJ!"

Even though Rob Goldstein, Sands' current president, admitted in testimony to having done business with Cheung Chi Tai, Adelson denied his company had any "direct connection" with the alleged gangster. At the same time, he insisted he had been right to fire Jacobs for trying to cut ties with the junkets. "He wanted to throw out 50 percent, 60 or 70 percent of the gross gaming income," Adelson told the courtroom. "This was insanity. He purposely tried to kill the company."

But while Adelson was defending the junkets' importance in court, China was shutting them down. As part of a wide-ranging anti-corruption campaign, authorities raided Cheung's Hong Kong apartment in March 2014 and later charged him with laundering \$232 million (<http://www.reuters.com/article/macau-junket-court-idUSL3NoZC19320150626>). Since then, the junket industry has withered and LVSC has lost more than 58 percent of its value. Adelson, in turn, has lost some \$16 billion, more than a third of his net worth.

ADELSON'S WEALTH MAY have shrunk, but he's still a high roller in politics, as was evident when he came to Washington last March to watch Netanyahu give a speech before Congress.



Sheldon Adelson, left, and his wife, Miriam, right, attend Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's March 2015 speech before a joint session of Congress. Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images.

In the days leading up to the event, Marco Rubio, said to be favored by Adelson in the 2016 election, dined with the casino magnate (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/wp/2015/06/25/the-daily-202-marco-rubio-is-playing-to-win-the-sheldon-adelson-primary/>) in a private room of the Charlie Palmer steak house, near the Capitol. The morning of the speech, Adelson, clad in a dark suit and an eye-catching fuchsia tie, claimed a prime seat. Nearby was Newt Gingrich, who, within weeks of receiving his first donation from Adelson in 2012, had declared Palestinians "an invented people." (https://www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/sheldon-adelson-and-newt-gingrich-one-gained-clout-from-friendship-the-other-funding/2012/01/11/gIOACySrBQ_story.html) James Hagee, the evangelist who created Christians United for Israel, came as a personal guest of Adelson. And there was Rabbi Shmuley Boteach of New Jersey, whom Adelson once supported (http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/politics/2012/08/rabbi_shmuley_boteach_is_banking_on_sheldon_adelson_s_super_pac_to_help_him_become_a_new_jersey_congress_man_.html) in an unsuccessful bid for Congress. Days earlier, Boteach's

organization had run a full-page advertisement in *the New York Times* showing National Security Adviser Susan Rice flanked by photoshopped skulls (<http://www.timesofisrael.com/jewish-groups-roundly-condemn-boteach-ad-on-susan-rice/>) attacking her criticism of Netanyahu's appearance as tantamount to supporting a "genocide" of the "Jewish people." The ad promoted a Capitol Hill panel on Iran featuring Ted Cruz, said to be Miriam Adelson's choice (<http://www.jta.org/2015/12/22/news-opinion/politics/7-things-miriam-adelson-does-besides-back-gop-candidates>) for president.

The other presidential hopefuls, too, have made sure to be on Sheldon

Sheldon Adelson calls on Obama to ...



Adelson's radar, most

notably in December, when

they all appeared onstage at

his Venetian resort for a

prime-time debate. Last spring, Adelson sent word that if one of Jeb Bush's campaign advisers went through with plans to address a dovish Israel policy organization, it would cost Bush "a lot of money."

(<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/417627/how-jeb-bush-lost-sheldon-adelson-primary-eliana-johnson>) Even Donald Trump, who swore off contributions

(<http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2015/12/uncampaign-2016-florina-trump-carson-pac>) from his fellow billionaires, sent Adelson a glossy booklet of photographs

(<http://www.nytimes.com/politics/first-draft/2015/11/05/donald-trump-sent-sheldon-adelson-a-glossy-booklet-of-photos/>) from a gala where he accepted an award for boosting US-Israel relations. "Sheldon," the candidate scrawled across the cover, "no one will be a bigger friend to Israel than me!" (Adelson has promised to support whoever wins the nomination.)

The billionaire's expanding power was underscored the morning after the debate, when the *Review-Journal* revealed (<http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/las-vegas/adelson-son-law-orchestrated-family-s-purchase-las-vegas-review-journal>) that Adelson and his family were behind a shadowy holding company that had purchased the newspaper weeks earlier and kicked off a media frenzy. Adelson has promised not to meddle with editorial decisions at the *Review-Journal*, which by virtue of its location frequently covers his company, his industry, and his favorite politicians. But even if he honors that pledge, staffers have speculated that it doesn't matter: There are any number of subordinates who will aim to please the boss.

As the sale was being finalized, publishing executives ordered a team of three

reporters, over newsroom objections, to undertake a detailed investigation into the courtroom habits of three Las Vegas judges. One of the targets was Elizabeth Gonzalez (<http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/las-vegas/judge-adelson-lawsuit-subject-unusual-scrutiny-amid-review-journal-sale>), whom Adelson, just days before, had failed to get removed from the Jacobs case. In the run-up to the trial, Gonzalez had clashed with Adelson on the stand, ruled against the company's attempts to move proceedings to Macau, and fined its lawyers for deception and withholding documents. "When the request was handed down, it seemed like little more than a waste of time and resources," Michael Hengel, then the paper's editor, recalled. "Now I wonder what really was behind it."

The *Review-Journal* never published anything related to the investigation, but a mysterious article, highly critical of Gonzalez, appeared under a pseudonym in a Connecticut newspaper—owned by Adelson's frontman in the Las Vegas acquisition.

That paper's owner later took responsibility for the story and issued a mea culpa (<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10156377808245075&set=pb.518545074.-2207520000.1452902358.&type=3&theater>), but the episode spoke to the growing influence of a man who didn't become one of the world's wealthiest people for nothing. "I live on Vince Lombardi's belief: 'Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing,'" Adelson once said (<http://www.politico.com/story/2012/09/sheldon-adelson-inside-the-mind-of-the-mega-donor-081588?paginate=false>). "So I do whatever it takes, as long as it's moral, ethical, principled, legal."

Correction: The article initially misstated when Jacobs launched his case.

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MATT ISAACS ([/authors/matt-isaacs](http://authors/matt-isaacs))

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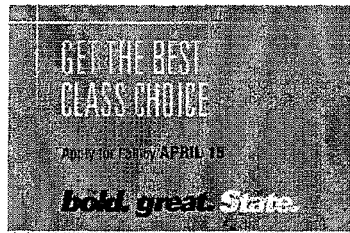
Matt Isaacs is an investigator and reporter who lives in California. From 2009 to 2015, he was an instructor and senior reporter at the University of California-Berkeley Investigative Reporting Program (<http://investigativereportingprogram.com/>), where he worked on stories about Macau's gambling and gangsters that were published by Reuters, the *Guardian*, ProPublica, and PBS's *Frontline*, among other outlets.



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Nick Bell • 4 days ago

Who will the GOP worship next when Adelson is neutered by all of his shady dealings?

21 ^ | v • Reply • Share



Niko Lotta → Nick Bell • 4 days ago

If only that were to really happen. This piece of slimy garbage isn't going to get his comeuppance.

19 ^ | v • Reply • Share



TheRaven → Niko Lotta • 4 days ago

He's 82 and in a wheelchair. Pure evil can't keep him alive forever.

28 ^ | v • Reply • Share



Citizen13 → TheRaven • 4 days ago

He'll just take the heart of an actual Human- like Darth Cheney.

14 ^ | v • Reply • Share



Niko Lotta → TheRaven • 4 days ago

Perhaps, but then Sheldon's billions made me think of this: [http://southpark.cc.com/clips/...](http://southpark.cc.com/clips/)

^ | v • Reply • Share



dagobarbz → TheRaven • 4 days ago

Modern medicine and transplants might...

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share



Maryscott O'Connor → TheRaven • 5 days ago

SO looking forward to hearing the announcement of his death.


3 ^ | v • Reply • Share




Bruce Mitchell → Maryscott O'Connor • 9 days ago

Speak of his evil. Adelson's misdeeds should be shouted from the rooftops, and his relationships with bought politicians publicized widely. A prime example of why forbidding monied interests from politics is necessary, to the extent possible.


^ | v • Reply • Share

 **clemans** → TheRaven • a day ago
however long, it is too long.....


^ | v • Reply • Share

 **Bruce_Mitchell** → TheRaven • a day ago
The remedy for all things, death. But his wife sounds just as bad or worse...


^ | v • Reply • Share

 **nancy navarro** → Niko Lita • 4 days ago
You are right Niko! Not until that time when MONEY loses its voice. Americans worship money, and they will worship him. How the heck was he able to get and continue to have his gaming license despite all those shady dealings he has done. The purchase of the Las Vegas Review Journal, which prompted the resignation of the city editor says it all. In addition, remember that entirely made-up article, about a judge who made him mad, published in a tiny little newspaper in the east coast? Nobody knew who wrote it, then all of a sudden the editor of that magazine became the boss at LVRJ. Yeah, money ain't everything, but it sure makes peoples lives like heaven or hell, depending on who you are. You don't become a billionaire by being nice, but republicans kiss his a\$\$.


6 ^ | v • Reply • Share

 **BuddySat** → Nick Bell • 4 days ago
Partisan politics aside, anyone kissing this guy's ring had better swallow a drugstore.


6 ^ | v • Reply • Share

 **clemans** → Nick Bell • 4 days ago
Nick, we can't know that, but it is unlikely that he will ever be neutered.....it would be nice if he would follow Scalia though.


10 ^ | v • Reply • Share

 **Seven Foot Rabbit** → clemans • 4 days ago
I'm somewhat surprised Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito didn't try a Weekend at Bernie's type thing with Scalia just to get his yea vote for the next six months.


14 ^ | v • Reply • Share

 **Land Shark** → Seven Foot Rabbit • 4 days ago
Wish I could upvote you 100XXX times. !! Thanks for the laugh SFR !


3 ^ | v • Reply • Share

 **studio** → Seven Foot Rabbit • 4 days ago
Has thomas said anything yet?


3 ^ | v • Reply • Share

 **Seven Foot Rabbit** → studio • 4 days ago
No, he's waiting for Scalia to write his statement so he can join the majority.


5 ^ | v • Reply • Share

 **Bruce_Mitchell** → studio • a day ago
I thought Thomas never spoke.


^ | v • Reply • Share

 **StardustGoldenBillionYearOld C** → clemans • 4 days ago
no need to neuter those tiny little dessicated things that haven't functioned in decades.


7 ^ | v • Reply • Share

 **clemans** → StardustGoldenBillionYearOld C • 4 days ago
well, I vote for neutering just the same.
smiles


2 ^ | v • Reply • Share

 **grannieannie2** → clemans • a day ago
Yes, and without the benefit of anethesia!


2 ^ | v • Reply • Share


 **clemans** → grannieannie2 • a day ago
smiles, works for me!

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share




 **StardustGoldenBillionYearOld C** → Nick Bell • 4 days ago


Sheldon Adelson Bets It All | Mother Jones


 **Land Shark** → Nick Bell • 4 days ago
The Kochs and Paul Singer.
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 **neroden** → philofutures - 4 days ago

Soros wants to prevent the US from becoming a corrupt authoritarian spy-state like the USSR, since he grew up in Eastern Europe. Good for him. He only started putting money in after George W Bush started spying on everyone and invaded Iraq.




 **darkmark** [philofhelure](#) • 4 days ago
that says a lot about you. come out of your fox box and visit the world.
2   • Reply • Share


 **disqus_RZmZNR5uTb** → Nick Bell • 4 days ago
The Koch brothers....
| ^ | v • Reply • Share :

 **Sash Carter** → STEVE BUNG • 3 days ago
Hey, they're not called the "Koch" brothers for nothing.

 **philofthefuture** → Nick Bell · 4 days ago

Only pathetic progressives worship their leaders, I doubt most conservatives know or care about Adelson. We think independently, we don't need our thoughts downloaded from our handlers like progressives do.

10 |  ·  ·  · [Reply](#) · [Share](#)

 **darkmark** [@patrickstature](#) • 4 days ago
tell us an original contemporary conservatives idea. i should limit that to an idea that makes sense.
4 ^ 1 v • Reply • Share

Lanny Stricherz philofthefuture · 2 days ago

@philofthefuture "I doubt most conservatives know or care about Adelson. We think independently" Is that what explains that cadre of neanderthals crawling the stage at the Republican debates?

that value of education is growing the days of the individual classes:

5 ^ | v • Reply • Share



unquename72 → phillothefuture • 2 days ago

"Only pathetic progressives worship their leaders"

You should watch the excellent documentary "Jesus Camp," in which a group of Christian children are "literally" taught to worship images of George W.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share



RichardBroderickJr • 4 days ago

Many years ago this country as a whole was not as well off as today, but we could still build bridges and roads, we could have good schools, we could take care of sick people and the old, and we could even look forward to doing better, bigger things, even going to the moon. It was an upward path.

Yet today, even though as a country we are much more wealthy, even though we have knowledge and technology far exceeding what we used to have and, even though our workers produce far more per person than ever before, we are told that we can no longer do the great things we used to do. We are told our government can only take from the middle class, that we can no longer afford the things we want and need as a country and that the American middle class has to work harder for less.

Now, as our top tax rate is historically quite low (and at 14% Mitt didn't even pay half that much), our country continues to sacrifice and become more indebted for the Reagan/Bush/Bush/Romney/Adelson Republican party's one goal: more and more and more tax breaks for the rich. It's a downward path.

We need to do what is right for this country not just what is good for the top one-tenth of 1%.

Tax the Adelson Class, pay down the debt, invest in our country and our people.

That is how to really make America greater.

Please Vote for Bernie and Vote to change your Congressman too.

54 ^ | v • Reply • Share



Brian → RichardBroderickJr • 4 days ago

Yes! Tax the rich to provide free education, health care and modest room and board for all who need it.

Do we want a nation of desperately poor, retarded, diseased, ignorant homeless serfs begging on the streets?

Wouldn't you rather have a nation of secure, healthy, intelligent, educated, citizens?

We have trillions of dollars of infrastructure that has been dangerously delayed.

10 ^ | v • Reply • Share



Land Shark → Brian • 4 days ago

Yep, if anybody challenges you on that, I always like to tell narrow minded selfish Repukesuh,next time you go to a restaurant, hope your food is prepared by someone with health insurance and they're not coughing in your food.

9 ^ | v • Reply • Share



phillothefuture → Land Shark • 4 days ago

Your pathetic name calling negates any credibility you hope to achieve, grow up.

^ | v • Reply • Share



Sash Carter → phillothefuture • 3 days ago

Why? Does it make you nervous? Was that piece of hair in your fries you pulled out your teeth really belong to you? Could you really tell the difference between mayonnaise & well you know :)

Or just like all republicans do you need us to wrap you up in your snugly victim-blanket so you can feel safe from all the "non-whites?" Do you want us to change the adult diaper you have to wear just in case you have to interact with the very scary black man? Aw, such poor babies. Scared, cowardly man-babies.

6 ^ | v • Reply • Share



TheSallor → phillothefuture • 3 days ago

"Your pathetic name calling negates any credibility you hope to achieve, grow up."

GFY, clutch those pearls up your ass, and fall on your fainting couch.

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share




thebe59 → Land Shark • 3 days ago


I usually remind them that it's the working class that are the main consumers of goods and services. If the working class makes less, they spend less.

6 ^ | v • Reply • Share




darkmark → Brian • 4 days ago

 agreed, taxing adelson would be just taking back what he's stolen. like the palestinians taxing the zionists.
2 ^ | v • Reply • Share •

 **Sash Carter** → Brian • 3 days ago
"Wouldn't you rather have a nation of secure, healthy, intelligent, educated, citizens?"
You will end up with none of that.

You may enjoy living like a rat prancing under tables looking for scraps the rich drops, but the majority of us don't. The majority of us want "free education, health care & modest room and board for all who need it." Because that's what an actual developed country does. Because everyone knows 3rd world countries are just overrun with security, healthy, intelligent, & educated citizens. Btw no one says "retarded" anymore, so good job dating yourself & your kids will believe the same as we do & you will live a life of loneliness & disappointment as they stop inviting you to dinner's, & their kids will be even more progressive & there will be nothing you can do about it because you'll end up as another old, white, cowardly conservative stuck home alone on Xmas because your kids didn't want you to use the "n-word" around the grand children.

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share •

 **TheSailor** → Sash Carter • 3 days ago
That was very well written. Thanks.
2 ^ | v • Reply • Share •

 **CowboyDroid** → RichardBroderick • 4 days ago
The government would have confiscate a little more than an entire year's worth of the GDP of the US to pay down the national debt.


It would have to confiscate the entire world's GDP for several years to pay for the unfinanced portion of its debt, which approaches \$300 Trillion by some estimates.

In addition, any American making more than \$32,400 a year is in the top 1% of the world. Do you think the rest of the world should be able to tax you to pay for its desired living standards?

Almost all federal politicians are in the top 1% of American wealthy. I don't see any of them voluntarily giving up their wealth to pay down the debt they helped build, or to finance the welfare spending they so eagerly promote.

Additionally, the top 1% are getting wealthier due to the Fed's financial lifting of stocks and asset prices. I don't see any candidate, including Sanders, calling for an end to this redistribution scheme.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share •

 **Gn8 the Questioner** → CowboyDroid • 3 days ago
The government would have confiscate a little more than an entire year's worth of the GDP of the US to pay down the national debt.

So why can't we use 10% of GDP per year over 11 years? or 5% over ~20 years? How is simply ignoring the debt -or trying to use middle class taxes to pay it off- a better option?

In addition, any American making more than \$32,400 a year is in the top 1% of the world.

And the top 99% of the world is wealthier than the bottom 1%, and the bottom 0.99% is better off than bottom 0.01%... The U.S government may not be able to help every human on earth but it can help every American citizen, meaningless relativism aside.

Almost all federal politicians are in the top 1% of American wealthy. I don't see any of them voluntarily giving up their wealth to pay down the debt they helped build, or to finance the welfare spending they so eagerly promote.

That is probably due to the fact that they are able to set the tax rates, are you surprised they would make them favorable? of course they aren't voluntarily giving up their wealth, very few people ever do, but that's one of the reasons for taxes, to compel people to contribute to socially beneficial expenses -defense, education, infrastructure, etc.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share •

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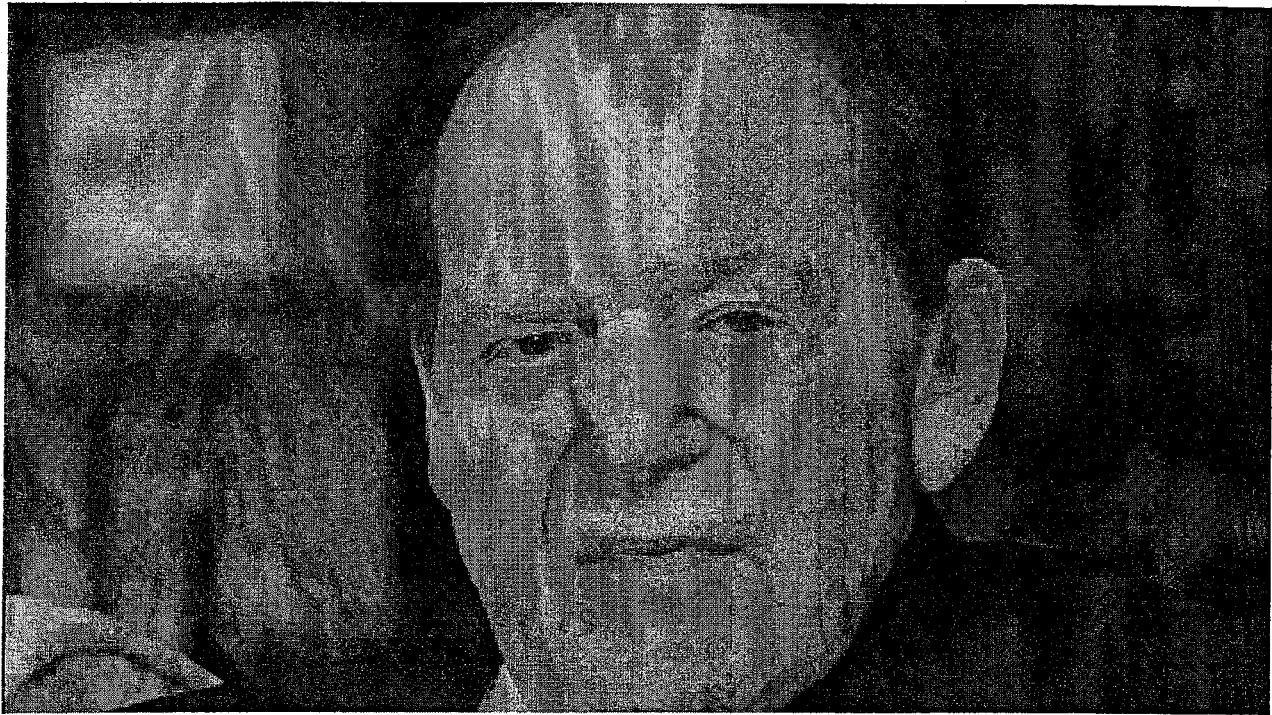
Nice to see.
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Casino magnate Sheldon Adelson facing 49 hours of pretrial questions

BY KEN RITTER
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH 2016



Sheldon Adelson [Photo provided]

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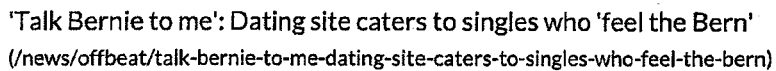
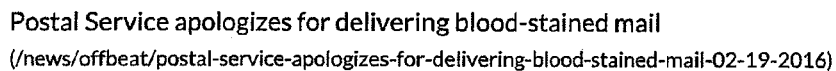
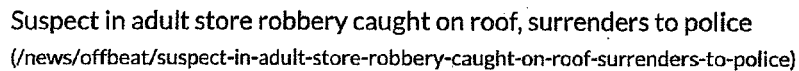
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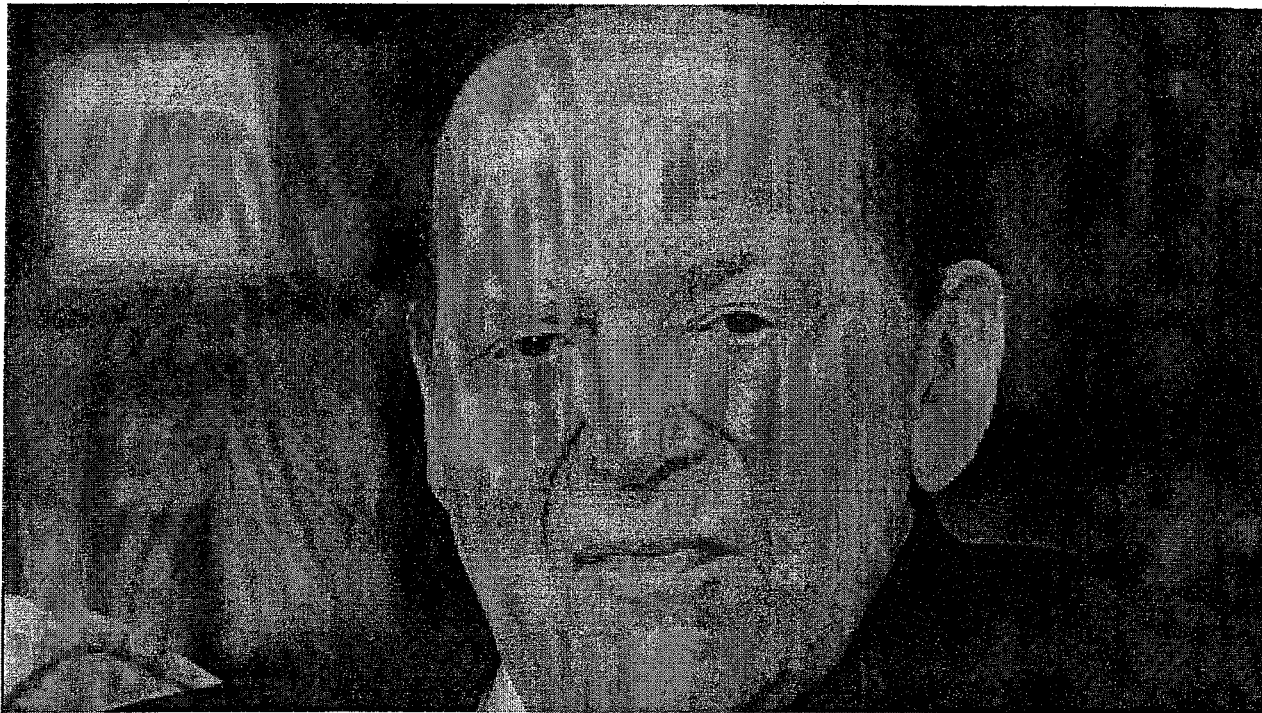
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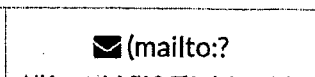
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BY KEN RITTER

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH 2016



Sheldon Adelson [Photo provided]



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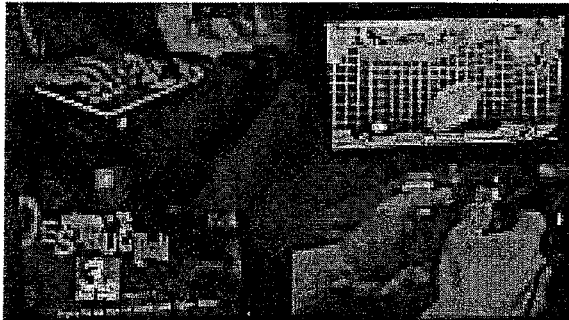
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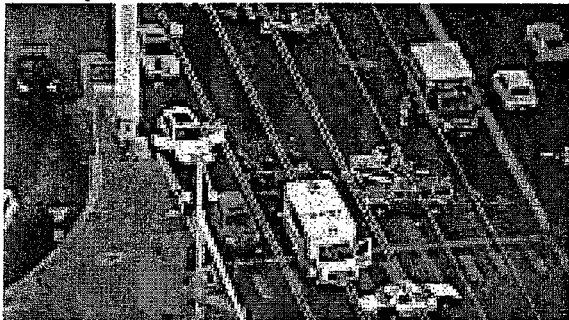
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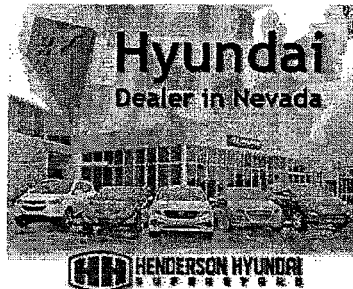


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1 motion for order permitting filing under seal and order
2 redacting portions of Exhibit 1 to his opposition to the
3 defendants' motion for protective order regarding the 30(b)(6)
4 motion, the Weidner deposition, and the motion to quash
5 related to Weidner. Does anybody have an objection to that?

6 MR. CASSITY: Your Honor, that was another one of
7 the temporary sealing issues.

8 THE COURT: This doesn't say temporary.

9 MR. CASSITY: It's in the body.

10 THE COURT: Okay. So it's granted, but it's not
11 temporary. And I said on my notes, "Okay to maintain
12 confidentiality." So it's not temporary.

13 MR. CASSITY: Thank you, Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Well, you didn't see my notes, but
15 that's what I wrote down.

16 Anything else? Thank you. Lovely seeing you all,
17 Have a lovely afternoon.

18 MR. BICE: Thank you, Your Honor.

19 MR. MORRIS: Thank you, Your Honor.

20 THE COURT: And I am not going to see you tomorrow,
21 because we took care of tomorrow's calendar.

22 MR. MORRIS: We're not on tomorrow?

23 THE COURT: You're not on -- I moved the protective
24 order up and ruled on it already.

25 MR. MORRIS: Good. All right.

1 THE COURT: Unless something you guys think is
2 happening in court.
3 MR. MORRIS: One of these days we'll announce some
4 good news.
5 MR. PEEK: Maybe in another case, Your Honor.
6 THE COURT: Well, let's see.
7 THE PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED AT 9:46 A.M.
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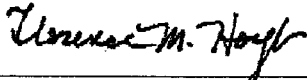
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Figure in Review-Journal sale becomes an issue in Las Vegas Sands lawsuit

By Carri Geer Thevenot Las Vegas Review-Journal

January 12, 2016 - 9:03pm

A disgraced Connecticut newspaper owner associated with casino mogul Sheldon Adelson's recent purchase of the Review-Journal has emerged as a figure in a long-running lawsuit that involves allegations that Adelson tolerated organized crime ties at his properties in Macau.

In a deposition Monday, Adelson's son-in-law, Patrick Dumont, refused to answer any questions about contact with Michael Schroeder, owner of Central Connecticut Communications. Dumont, vice president of finance and strategy for Las Vegas Sands Corp., was being questioned by a lawyer representing Steven Jacobs, a former Sands executive in Macau who alleges he was wrongfully terminated for trying to distance Sands from illegal activities in the Chinese gaming city.

Dumont's lawyer on Monday blocked questions regarding any discussion his client may have had about the case with Schroeder, who in December was briefly named "manager" of the Review-Journal.

Schroeder's role in the Adelson family's RJ purchase is significant because one of his Connecticut newspapers published a long article that was critical of Clark County District Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez, who is presiding over the Jacobs case. The article bore a false name associated with Schroeder.

At about the same time, three RJ reporters were ordered by GateHouse Media, the paper's former owner, to monitor Gonzalez and two other judges in Las Vegas. No explanation was ever given for the assignment, which came as the sale of the paper and a contract for continued GateHouse management was being finalized.

Legal and media ethicists have speculated that the article in Connecticut and the judicial monitoring in Las Vegas were related to efforts by Adelson's attorneys to have Gonzalez removed from the case.

JUDGE APPROVES QUESTIONS

At a court hearing Tuesday morning, Gonzalez said Dumont's lawyer, Hersh Kozlov of New Jersey, had acted "inappropriately" under Nevada law when he directed his client not to answer questions about discussing Jacobs or his wrongful termination case with Schroeder.

"I have overruled and stricken any direction not to answer," the judge said.

Attorney Todd Bice, who represents Jacobs, posed the deposition questions regarding Schroeder, who has acknowledged that he assigned, edited and published the Dec. 2 story that criticized Gonzalez's handling of the wrongful termination case.

The story, which appeared in his New Britain Herald, has raised eyebrows because Adelson's family purchased the Review-Journal on Dec. 10 through its Delaware-domiciled News + Media Capital Group and installed Schroeder as a "manager." The story contained plagiarized passages and made-up quotes, and was published under the pseudonym Edward Clarkin.

Dumont orchestrated the Adelson family's purchase of the newspaper.

The Review-Journal obtained a copy of 136-page rough transcript of the Monday deposition from the District Court clerk's office.

During the deposition, Dumont denied discussing Jacobs or his case with anyone in the media. He specifically denied discussing the case with Review-Journal Publisher Jason Taylor and GateHouse Media CEO Kirk Davis.

But a question about whether Dumont had discussed the litigation or Jacobs with Schroeder prompted the first objection from Kozlov.

"I don't want to interfere, but I'm trying to understand the implication of your question with regard to shield law privileges," Kozlov told Bice. "So I understand that there is Mr. Schroeder who is a journalist who has certain privileges in the state of Connecticut. Are you inquiring of any communication under that that might be encompassed by such a privilege?"

Shield laws generally help protect reporters from being forced to reveal confidential sources.

"I don't believe any shield privilege that I'm aware of would apply to Mr. Dumont," Bice replied. "... Might apply to a reporter who can invoke the privilege to avoid answering questions, but people that communicate with them cannot."

Kozlov later told Bice he considered the question irrelevant and "beyond the scope of the deposition."

In court on Tuesday, Gonzalez said Nevada law allows an attorney to instruct a witness not to answer a deposition question only in light of privilege or harassment.

For instance, attorney-client privilege protects communication between an attorney and client from being disclosed without the client's permission. Dumont cited that privilege in declining to answer several questions during his deposition.

Based on Kozlov's advice, Dumont also declined to answer a question about whether he had participated in drafting any news stories about Jacobs or his lawsuit, and another question about whether Las Vegas Sands Corp. had taken any disciplinary action against him concerning his activities with Schroeder.

JACOBS FIRING

Jacobs, former president and CEO of Sands China, filed his lawsuit in 2010 against Sands China Ltd., Las Vegas Sands Corp. and Adelson himself. Jacobs claims Dumont was involved in his termination.

The lawsuit also includes a defamation claim. Jacobs has accused the defendants of waging "a public relations campaign to smear and spread lies about" him.

At the Monday deposition Bice argued that communication with news media about Jacobs should be "fair game" because it "may very well demonstrate additional malice that relates to the defamation claim."

In March, Gonzalez ordered hefty sanctions against Sands China for improperly withholding documents in the case.

Sands China also has asked for the case to be reassigned to a different judge, arguing in a motion that Gonzalez's rulings "continue to evidence this jurist's bias and hostility toward defendants and further calls into

question her ability to preside over this case as an impartial judicial officer."

The Nevada Supreme Court denied the request in November. The case is scheduled for trial in June.

At Tuesday's hearing, Kozlov argued that Gonzalez should recuse herself from ruling on matters related to news articles about her. The judge told Kozlov to file a motion if he thinks she should refrain from ruling on an issue.

Gonzalez overruled Kozlov's instructions to Dumont regarding questions about Schroeder but stopped short of ordering Dumont to answer the questions. She said future disputes that involve asking Dumont whether he discussed the Jacobs litigation with news media would first go to the discovery commissioner and then, if appealed, to District Judge Jennifer Togliatti.

Bice told the Review-Journal that Dumont's deposition continued Tuesday, and "there weren't any calls to any judges." He would not say whether Dumont had answered any of the questions he had refused to answer Monday.

Attorney Stephen Peek, who represents Las Vegas Sands and Sands China, could not be reached for comment after Tuesday's hearing.

Contact reporter Carri Geer Thevenot at cgeer@reviewjournal.com or 702-384-8710. Find her on Twitter: @CarriGeer

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Expect Schroeder's name to keep coming up

By John L. Smith Las Vegas Review-Journal

January 12, 2016 - 8:14pm

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Good grief, Schroeder. You're back in the news.

And just when we thought we'd heard the last of the guy.

Fallout from the Adelson family's December purchase of the Las Vegas Review-Journal and its relationship with Connecticut newspaper publisher Michael Schroeder surfaced Tuesday morning in District Court in the bruising wrongful termination lawsuit filed by former Sands Macau casino executive Steve Jacobs.

The accusations are getting so ugly I'd suggest Schroeder consider changing his name, but look at all the trouble he got into the last time he tried that.

Under the pseudonym "Edward Clarkin," Schroeder published a story Dec. 2 in his New Britain Herald newspaper that focused generally on business court but specifically and inaccurately attacked District Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez in far-away Clark County. The article by our man in Connecticut was larded with arguably plagiarized material and questionable sourcing. It also failed to mention Schroeder was manager of the limited liability company that was purchasing the Review-Journal.

Gonzalez wasn't just any smeared judge. She's also the presiding judge in the Jacobs lawsuit, which accuses Las Vegas Sands and multibillionaire gaming titan Sheldon Adelson of wrongful termination and failing to heed the former executive's warnings about political influence-peddling and doing business with Triad-connected junket companies. Adelson has vehemently denied the allegations and has called Jacobs a "delusional" incompetent who was fired in 2010 for a long list of failings, but the accusations have fueled an investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice into whether Sands violated American bribery laws.

Adelson's son-in-law Patrick Dumont, Las Vegas Sands' senior vice president of finance and strategy, orchestrated the \$140 million purchase of the Review-Journal. On Tuesday, Judge Gonzalez ruled that Dumont is compelled to answer questions about his relationship with Schroeder and that journalistic hit piece, which by now has been denounced even by its author as an unprofessional piece of hack work.

Nevada law allows little wiggle room for reluctant witnesses in depositions.

"Everybody in the room, and there's a lot of people in the room right now, knows there are two bases in Nevada that you can instruct the witness not to answer: harassment and privilege," Gonzalez said. "That's it."

Dumont attorney Hersh Kozlov attempted to persuade Gonzalez to recuse herself from deciding the matter because she's a key subject of the critical article. At the very least, it was a clever way to accomplish something attorneys for Las Vegas Sands appear to have desired for several years — call into question the judge's objectivity.

"I suggest to the court with respect and with reluctance, the court could not and should not interject itself in news articles involving the court," Kozlov said, noting that Dumont isn't a party to the lawsuit. "The court should recuse on that matter. This court, with respect your honor, should not put itself in position of ordering a

witness to answer questions with regard to the court."

The Schroeder-Dumont connection to the Jacobs case had Jacobs attorney Todd Bice taking great umbrage with what he called the duplicitous behavior of the casino executive.

"Your honor, Mr. Dumont, with all due respect to Mr. Dumont, simply got caught," Bice said, reading from deposition testimony in which Dumont denied discussing Jacobs and the litigation with anyone in the media. That included, according to Bice, denials of conversations with Review-Journal Publisher Jason Taylor and GateHouse Media CEO Kirk Davis. Review-Journal reporters had been ordered to monitor Gonzalez and two other judges prior to the sale.

Bice continued, "'Have you discussed this litigation with anyone in the media? Answer, 'No.' He answered both of those questions no, your honor. Then when I started to go into individuals in the media, he originally claimed he didn't speak to Mr. Taylor. He said he didn't speak to an individual named Kirk Davis. Then when I got to Michael Schroeder, your honor, then of course the avalanche from counsel starts to obstruct the deposition."

Dumont has only been associated with the local newspaper a few weeks and he's already having his sources and motivations questioned. Hey, welcome to the newspaper racket, Mr. Dumont.

Judge Gonzalez carved out what she obviously thought was an ethical and professional plan to compel Dumont's deposition testimony while avoiding a possible conflict and more delays in the lengthy litigation. She instructed Dumont to answer questions related to Jacobs with any inquiries focused on the litigation going first to a discovery commissioner and then, presuming there's an appeal, to experienced District Judge Jennifer Togliatti.

This failed to soothe the expressed concerns of attorneys for Sands and Dumont. They promised to file their recusal motion.

Although Schroeder's no longer associated with the Review-Journal, it's now clear that we haven't heard the last of our man in Connecticut.

John L. Smith's column appears Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. He can be reached at 702-383-0295 or jsmith@reviewjournal.com. On Twitter: [@jlnevadasmith](https://twitter.com/jlnevadasmith)

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The Vegas Columnist And The Newspaper Owner Who Once Sued Him For Libel

▶ 00:00

00:00 ▶

The secretive sale late last year of the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, Nevada's largest news organization, to the family of one of the wealthiest men in the country set off shock waves in that newsroom.

The vast financial and political interests of the billionaire casino magnate and major Republican donor Sheldon Adelson raise nettlesome questions about how the paper can cover him.

Yet some journalists say there is a more pointed problem: his sensitivity to what reporters actually do. His lawyers have filed three libel suits against journalists on his behalf, one of which is still ongoing.

One of the people he sued went broke facing him in court. That reporter, John L. Smith, is among Adelson's newest and most prominent employees. Smith writes a column five days a week for the *Review-Journal*. And he has written frequently about Adelson, his industry competitors and his politics.

"Las Vegas looks one way to tourists and another way to locals," Smith says. "Locals, if they're here long enough, view Las Vegas as a glitzy factory town. Much in the same way that the auto industry has been so big to Detroit, gaming and tourism is essential, really, to Las Vegas development and growth."

No one in Vegas eclipses the importance of Adelson, chairman and CEO of Las Vegas Sands Corp.

"There are companies with more casinos," Smith says, "but I think Sheldon's personality — his dramatic, tremendous success in Macau, his obvious embrace of Republican Party politics and willingness to dump millions and millions of dollars into the presidential campaign — this makes him a pre-eminent player."

Reporting On Newspaper's New Owner

The Adelson family's involvement was kept secret in December when the former owners, known as GateHouse Media, announced the sale.

GateHouse Media continued to manage the paper. But after the change in ownership, the publisher, Jason Taylor, became involved in personally reviewing, delaying and at times changing the paper's reporting. An executive brought in to oversee the transition told staffers they did not need to know the details of their new owners. He advised them just to do their jobs.

The newsroom interpreted that literally, scrambling to confirm the Adelson family's acquisition of the *Review-Journal*. Mike Hengel (<http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2015/12/23/460808804/newspaper-editor-steps-down-after-publications-billionaire-buyer-unmasked>) was the *Review-Journal's* editor until late December and oversaw that reporting.

"It takes a lot of courage on their part — not just skill but courage," Hengel says. "It would be easy to say, 'I don't want to touch this. This is radioactive.' But they went after it."

Hengel says he was compelled by his bosses to take a buyout after clashing with Taylor, the



The family of billionaire casino mogul Sheldon Adelson bought the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* late last year.



Attorneys have filed three libel lawsuits against journalists on behalf of Sheldon Adelson (shown here in Las Vegas in 2014). He won an apology and legal fees from Britain's *Daily Mail* in 2008.

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The money from the U.S. Department of Agriculture is earmarked for farmers in the Lake Erie Western Basin.

([news/farmers-can-seek-federal-money-for-lake-erie-algae-fight](#))



publisher, over coverage of the newspaper's sale.

Court Clash With Las Vegas Reporter

When John Smith's writing vexed Adelson a decade ago, it had enduring consequences for him personally. This account is based on interviews with Smith and Smith's current and former colleagues as well as a review of voluminous court records in state and federal courts and contemporaneous news reports.

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Adelson alleged his reputation had been badly damaged. The billionaire sought \$15 million.

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"I was sued at a time when my daughter was in the hospital being treated for brain cancer," Smith says. "I thought it was particularly cruel, quite frankly."

Smith says his daughter, Amelia, survived surgery and repeated chemotherapy and radiation.

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"And he of course knew that," Smith says.

Adelson's representatives sweetened the deal: He would place \$200,000 in an account for the Smith family's medical bills, Smith says, as long as the reporter did not tell his bosses.

Instead, Smith filed for bankruptcy. In court documents, a judge cited more than \$200,000 in legal fees and medical bills that Smith could not pay.

"We just soldiered on," Smith says.

A spokesman for Adelson on newspaper issues referred questions to his corporate executives at Las Vegas Sands Corp.

"Las Vegas Sands operates in an extremely competitive and regulated industry, which requires complete transparency and the highest ethical standards," says Ron Reese, senior vice president for global communications at Las Vegas Sands. "In short, Mr. Adelson's reputation means everything — especially in this business."

Adelson's ownership of newspaper properties does not diminish the importance of that fact, Reese says.

"Whether it's careless reporting or malicious political attacks that impugn his reputation, he frankly has an obligation to the company's shareholders and the 50,000 employees of this company to set the record straight."

After several years, Adelson dropped the libel suit against Smith. It was dismissed with prejudice,

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At Scalia's Funeral Mass, Son Leads The Ceremony

Father Paul Scalia, son of the late Supreme Court justice, delivered a homily at Saturday's traditional Catholic funeral mass. NPR's Ron Elving tells Linda Werthimer about the ceremony.

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Taking On Other Journalists In Court

In 2013, Adelson sued a *Wall Street Journal* reporter in Hong Kong, Kate O'Keeffe, for describing him as "foul-mouthed" in an article about a lawsuit alleging corruption in his Macau casinos, one of the key drivers of his wealth. Though Adelson sued the reporter as an individual, and did not include her employer, the *Journal* defended her in court.

In court filings, the *Journal* suggested an "ulterior motive" of Adelson's lawsuit was to get O'Keeffe pulled off the beat. The newspaper's lawyers cited a telephone conversation in which Reese, the Sands executive, asked a *Journal* editor whether she would be reassigned.

Reese tells NPR that he believes many fair-minded people would ask whether O'Keeffe now has a conflict of interest in covering the company. (The *Columbia Journalism Review* [reached a different conclusion](http://www.cjr.org/the_audit/covering_somabody_whos_suing_v.php) (http://www.cjr.org/the_audit/covering_somabody_whos_suing_v.php).

O'Keeffe and her attorney declined to comment for this story. Colleen Schwartz, a spokeswoman for the *Journal's* parent company, Dow Jones, says O'Keeffe has been kept on the beat throughout the proceedings and received a promotion, though she will soon move to the newspaper's bureau in Washington, D.C.

As a judge wrote in court, Adelson also [won an apology and legal fees from Britain's](http://www.theguardian.com/media/2008/mar/19/dailymail.associatednewspapers) [Daily Mail](http://www.theguardian.com/media/2008/mar/19/dailymail.associatednewspapers) (<http://www.theguardian.com/media/2008/mar/19/dailymail.associatednewspapers>).

Reach Of Adelson's Interests

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Adelson also has been an advocate for Israel, especially the hawkish stance of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. [Adelson created a free newspaper](http://www.npr.org/2012/10/18/162816523/sheldon-adelson-shakes-up-israeli-newspaper-market) (<http://www.npr.org/2012/10/18/162816523/sheldon-adelson-shakes-up-israeli-newspaper-market>), *Israel Hayom*, which has become the largest circulating newspaper in Israel, sometimes called "*Bibi-ton*," a play on Netanyahu's nickname and the Hebrew word for newspaper.

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Reese, the Sands executive, says Adelson's ownership of newspaper properties does not color his drive to protect his reputation. Reese would not address what the future holds for the *Review-Journal*.

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The paper will still be managed by its previous owners at GateHouse.

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"Giving him the benefit of the doubt going forward, I think, is important," Smith says. "But the bottom line is I don't think he should own this or any newspaper."

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The Vegas Columnist And The Newspaper Owner Who Once Sued Him For Libel

Thursday, January 14, 2016

David Folkenflik / NPR



Photo by John Locher AP

The family of billionaire casino mogul Sheldon Adelson bought the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* late last year.



Photo by Ethan Miller Getty Images

Attorneys have filed three libel lawsuits against journalists on behalf of Sheldon Adelson (shown here in Las Vegas in 2014). He won an apology and legal fees from Britain's *Daily Mail* in 2008.

GateHouse Media continued to manage the paper. But after the change in ownership, the publisher, Jason Taylor, became involved in personally reviewing, delaying and at times changing the paper's reporting. An executive brought in to oversee the transition told staffers they did not need to know the details of their new owners. He advised them just to do their jobs.

The secretive sale late last year of the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, Nevada's largest news organization, to the family of one of the wealthiest men in the country set off shock waves in that newsroom.

The vast financial and political interests of the billionaire casino magnate and major Republican donor Sheldon Adelson raise nettlesome questions about how the paper can cover him.

Yet some journalists say there is a more pointed problem: his sensitivity to what reporters actually do. His lawyers have filed three libel suits against journalists on his behalf, one of which is still

One of the people he sued went broke facing him in court. That reporter, John L. Smith, is among Adelson's newest and most prominent employees. Smith writes a column five days a week for the *Review-Journal*. And he has written frequently about Adelson, his competitors and his politics.

"Las Vegas looks one way to tourists and another way to locals," Smith says. "Locals, if they're here long enough, view Las Vegas as a glitzy town. Much in the same way that the auto industry has been so important to Detroit, gaming and tourism is essential, really, to Las Vegas' development and growth."

In Vegas eclipses the importance of Adelson, chairman and CEO of Las Vegas Sands Corp.

"There are companies with more casinos," Smith says, "but I think it's his personality — his dramatic, tremendous success in Macau, his open embrace of Republican Party politics and willingness to throw billions and millions of dollars into the presidential campaign — that makes him a pre-eminent player."

Reporting On Newspaper's New Owner

The Adelson family's involvement was kept secret in December when the former owners, known as GateHouse Media, announced the sale.

The newsroom interpreted that literally, scrambling to confirm the Adelson family's acquisition of the *Review-Journal*. Mike Hengel was the *Review-Journal*'s editor until late December and oversaw that reporting.

"It takes a lot of courage on their part — not just skill but courage," Hengel says. "It would be easy to say, 'I don't want to touch this. This is radioactive.' But they went after it."

Hengel says he was compelled by his bosses to take a buyout after clashing with Taylor, the publisher, over coverage of the newspaper's sale.

Court Clash With Las Vegas Reporter

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Reese tells NPR that he believes many fair-minded people would ask whether O'Keeffe now has a conflict of interest in covering the company. (The *Columbia Journalism Review* reached a different conclusion.)

O'Keeffe and her attorney declined to comment for this story. Colleen Schwartz, a spokeswoman for the *Journal's* parent company, Dow Jones, says O'Keeffe has been kept on the beat throughout the proceedings and received a promotion, though she will soon move to the newspaper's bureau in Washington, D.C.

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The Vegas Columnist And The Newspaper Owner Who Once Sued Him For Libel | KPBS

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David Folkenflik / NPR

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Las Vegas Sands claims judge's comments suggest bias in Jacobs lawsuit

By Carri Geer Thevenot Las Vegas Review-Journal

January 19, 2016 - 9:50pm

Las Vegas Sands Corp. is making a new attempt to remove District Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez from a wrongful termination case that has received widespread publicity.

The company cited "recent intensified media coverage of the lawsuit" as one of the "new grounds" for requesting the judge's disqualification.

"After years of apparent silence, the court has responded to that media coverage by contributing to the coverage," according to the motion. "That participation raises doubts about the court's impartiality and objectivity."

Gonzalez responded with a declaration in which she denied having "a bias toward or prejudice against" Las Vegas Sands.

Sands lawyers filed their new motion last Wednesday, prompting Gonzalez to suspend all hearings in the case until Chief District Judge David Barker rules on the matter. A ruling is expected by Feb. 18.

A trial in the case is scheduled to begin June 27. If Gonzalez is removed, the long-running case could see a lengthy delay while a new judge gets up to speed. In November, the Nevada Supreme Court rejected a request to reassign the case to a different judge.

Steven Jacobs, former president and CEO of Sands China Ltd., filed the lawsuit shortly after he was fired in 2010. Defendants include Las Vegas Sands; Sheldon Adelson, the company's chairman and CEO; and Sands China. Jacobs claims he was terminated "for blowing the whistle on improprieties and placing the interests of shareholders above those of Adelson."

The latest attempt to remove Gonzalez from the case comes on the heels of a Jan. 12 court hearing related to the deposition of Adelson's son-in-law, Patrick Dumont. During his deposition the previous day, Dumont had refused to answer any questions about contact with Michael Schroeder, the disgraced Connecticut newspaper owner associated with the Adelson family's recent purchase of the Las Vegas Review-Journal. Dumont orchestrated the purchase.

Gonzalez ruled that Dumont's lawyer had acted "inappropriately" under Nevada law when he directed his client not to answer questions about whether he had discussed Jacobs or his wrongful termination case with Schroeder. Dumont's deposition continued after the Jan. 12 hearing.

Lawyers for Las Vegas Sands included more than a dozen news articles in their recent motion for disqualification. The articles appeared the previous month in local, national and international publications.

"From at least November 30, 2015, until the present day, this case has been the subject of saturated media coverage prompted by a change in ownership of the Las Vegas Review-Journal, which has no bearing on the resolution of Steven C. Jacobs's claim that he was wrongfully terminated from employment in Macau in July 2010," according to the motion.

Sands lawyers argued that Gonzalez's comments to the press "have become part of the saturated coverage."

The recent news coverage, combined with the judge's recent comments, would lead a "reasonable person" to believe that she "has a direct, certain, and immediate interest in media coverage of this lawsuit," according to the motion.

Sands lawyers also cited Gonzalez's rulings on the Dumont deposition.

"The court appears interested in learning the answers to the questions that are contested, thus suggesting the court's personal interest in the subject matter," they wrote.

One of Schroeder's Connecticut newspapers on Nov. 30 published an article that was critical of Gonzalez. The author of the plagiarized, partially fabricated article was Edward Clarkin, a pseudonym. The article was published about the same time three RJ reporters were ordered by GateHouse Media, the newspaper's former owner, to monitor Gonzalez and two other judges.

In her declaration, filed Friday, Gonzalez acknowledged responding to two media requests for comment about the RJ's courtroom monitoring — one from the Review-Journal itself, the other from Time magazine. She said both publications correctly reflect that she "did not discuss a particular litigant or case."

The Dec. 18 RJ report said, "When contacted for comment Thursday, Gonzalez said only that she didn't mind reporters or anyone else sitting in her courtroom, which is open to the public, but declined to comment further because the issue involves pending cases."

The judge specifically denied reading any articles "ostensibly authored by Mr. Clarkin in the Connecticut papers."

"I have and will continue to be fair and impartial toward all parties in this case," Gonzalez wrote.

Las Vegas Sands Corp. spokesman Ron Reese declined comment for this article. Jacobs' attorney Todd Bice could not be reached for comment.

The Las Vegas Review-Journal is owned by the family of Sheldon and Miriam Adelson through their controlling interest in News + Media Capital Group LLC. The Adelsons are majority owners of Las Vegas Sands Corp.

Contact reporter Carri Geer Thevenot at cgeer@reviewjournal.com or 702-384-8710. Find her on Twitter: @CarriGeer

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Plaintiff alleges 'improper and unlawful maneuvering' by Las Vegas Sands

By Carri Geer Thevenot Las Vegas Review-Journal

January 22, 2016 - 10:45pm

Former Sands China executive Steven Jacobs claims Las Vegas Sands Corp. is trying to "derail" his rights "through improper and unlawful maneuvering," which includes the company's most recent attempt to remove the judge assigned to his wrongful termination case.

Jacobs filed an emergency motion Wednesday that seeks to prevent Sands lawyers from further delaying the 5-year-old case.

"The defendants in this action have repeatedly sought to delay this case and have made clear they will do anything, no matter how lacking in legal support, to try and sabotage Jacobs' rights to trial," attorney Todd Bice wrote in a declaration supporting the motion.

Bice made the comments in response to last week's attempt by Las Vegas Sands to disqualify District Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez, who has presided over the case since shortly after its inception. Chief District Judge David Barker, who has not yet ruled on the motion for disqualification, has indicated he will rule on Jacobs' new motion by Feb. 4.

Meanwhile, Gonzalez has suspended all hearings in the case, which is set for trial June 27.

When asked for comment, Las Vegas Sands Corp. spokesman Ron Reese pointed to an opposition filing submitted Friday by the company's lawyers, who argue that Jacobs' motion lacks merit. The document also notes that the Nevada Supreme Court has "repeatedly condemned the practice" of filing a motion to strike another motion.

Jacobs, former president and CEO of Sands China Ltd., filed the lawsuit shortly after he was fired in 2010. He ran the Sands China operation for about nine months. Defendants include Las Vegas Sands; Sheldon Adelson, the company's chairman and CEO; and Sands China. Jacobs alleges he was terminated "for blowing the whistle on improprieties and placing the interests of shareholders above those of Adelson."

In his declaration, Bice noted that the state's high court "has denied on three occasions the defendants' request for reassignment of this case."

"The defendants are engaged in forum shopping because of their repeated misconduct in these proceedings," he wrote.

In its motion last week, Las Vegas Sands cited "recent intensified media coverage of the lawsuit" as one of the "new grounds" for requesting the judge's disqualification.

"After years of apparent silence, the court has responded to that media coverage by contributing to the coverage," according to the motion. "That participation raises doubts about the court's impartiality and objectivity."

Adelson's family purchased the Review-Journal on Dec. 10, shortly after three RJ reporters were ordered by

GateHouse Media, the newspaper's former owner, to monitor Gonzalez and two other judges. The order came as GateHouse was negotiating the sale of the newspaper and an ongoing management contract with the Adelson family's new corporation, News + Media Capital Group LLC. Shortly after the monitoring effort a newspaper in Connecticut operated by former News + Media manager Michael Schroeder published an article that was critical of Gonzalez.

Gonzalez has denied having "a bias toward or prejudice against" Las Vegas Sands. She acknowledged responding to two media requests for comment about the RJ's courtroom monitoring but said she "did not discuss a particular litigant or case."

— Contact reporter Carri Geer Thevenot at cgeer@reviewjournal.com or 702-384-8710. Find her on Twitter: @CarriGeer.

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A judge said Thursday that billionaire casino magnate and Las Vegas newspaper owner Sheldon Adelson can be questioned for up to 49 hours beginning next week by lawyers for a former Macau casino executive who claims he was wrongly fired in 2010

AP By KEN RITTER Associated Press
February 18, 2016 - 9:38 pm EST

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LAS VEGAS — A judge said Thursday that billionaire casino magnate and Las Vegas newspaper owner Sheldon Adelson can be questioned for up to 49 hours beginning next week by lawyers for a former Macau casino executive who claims he was wrongly fired in 2010.

A lawyer for former Sands China chief executive Steven Jacobs said in court that he expects an attempt by Adelson and his lawyers to disrupt the sworn deposition in an effort to scuttle plans to begin the long-awaited civil trial June 27. The questioning won't be in open court.

"We will start with Mr. Adelson, and then there will be a blow-up in an attempt to obstruct this deposition so it cannot be done," Jacobs' attorney, Todd Bice, told Clark County District Court Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez.

Outside court, Bice said he believes it's clear that Adelson and lawyers for Las Vegas Sands and Sands China Ltd. want a delay.

Jacobs has also been undergoing days of pretrial questioning by attorneys for Adelson, Las Vegas Sands Corp. and Sands China Ltd.

Jacobs contends he was fired by Adelson and Las Vegas Sands in an

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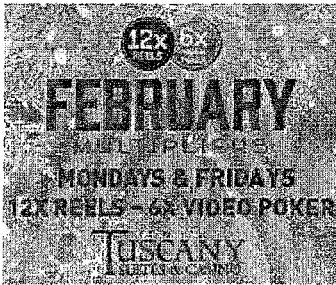
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Adelson family selects former USA Today publisher to lead R-J

By **Daniel Rothberg (contact)**

Friday, Jan. 29, 2016 | 2 a.m.

The former publisher of USA Today will lead the Las Vegas Review-Journal, the newspaper announced Thursday.



Craig A. Moon, the R-J's new publisher, said in an interview that he would work for the company backed by family members of casino magnate Sheldon Adelson and his wife, Miriam, who purchased the newspaper last month.

Moon, who led Gannett's flagship publication for six years before retiring in 2009, said he would oversee both the news and editorial staffs, but that there would be a separation between news and opinion operations to ensure unbiased reporting. He said he did not believe the Adelson family wanted to interfere with the news.

"I have met with the family multiple times," Moon said. "Their interest has been strictly along the lines of: 'We think this newspaper has been better than it is today. And we would like to make it better.'"

He added that the paper, which is hiring for several positions, would invest in investigative reporting and data-driven journalism. He said he planned to start the process of building a "world-class new media company." The paper expects to name an editor in less than two weeks, Moon added.

The sale of the R-J in December was shrouded in secrecy for several days before members of the Adelson family confirmed they had purchased the paper and related publications for \$140 million.

Almost immediately, newsroom staffers raised concerns about interference from Adelson. Those concerns were only heightened after the paper reported that a consultant for the ownership's limited-liability company had published an article in his Connecticut paper critical of a judge handling a case involving Adelson's business interests. The article was bylined by an author who appeared not to exist.

They also expressed concerns about GateHouse Media, the former owner. GateHouse Media employees had assigned three R-J reporters to monitor judges. One of the judges who the reporters monitored was presiding over the Adelson case.

The R-J's outgoing publisher, Jason Taylor, is a GateHouse Media employee.

Unlike Taylor, Moon will work directly for the new ownership, which is organized under a limited-liability company backed by family members of Adelson, the chairman and CEO of Las Vegas Sands Corp.

"It's up to me to manage the properties," Moon said.

Although the newspaper still has a management agreement with GateHouse Media, Moon expects it to morph over time into a services agreement, as he evaluates the different resources GateHouse provides.

He cited two examples of this shifting arrangement. One was the decision, before he took control, for the R-J to bring back its internal design and copy-editing teams rather than outsourcing them to GateHouse. A second example he cited was his appointment, saying the owners wanted to install their own publisher.

Some of the services GateHouse might provide could be accounting, payroll or a circulation system.

Moon already exercised his authority Thursday by removing a disclosure on the paper's third page, next to its masthead, that outlined the Adelsons' interests in everything from Sands to a local private school.

"I thought that was overkill," Moon said.

He argued that most newspaper owners have other financial interests and do not disclose them every day. He rattled off a list that included Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, who owns the Washington Post, and Glen Taylor, a former Republican legislator who owns the Minnesota Timberwolves and the Minneapolis Star-Tribune. On a case-by-case basis, the paper will keep posting disclosures on stories related to Adelson.

"What we're looking for is a news report that is accurate, that is fully vetted and is fair," said Moon, who worked at Gannett for nearly 30 years. "When we have stories that have a perceived interest for the Adelson family or for the Sands or for any of their other entities, we will put on a disclosure."

But he fully anticipates that the Adelson family will express its opinions on the editorial page. As owners, they can express their views on that page, he said, noting the family's strong opinions on many subjects.

"We're going to portray those opinions," Moon said.

In addition to USA Today, Moon was publisher of four other papers in the Gannett chain, including the Tennessean and the Arkansas Gazette.

In a news release Thursday, Moon called the R-J role "an exciting opportunity."

"I understand that ownership transitions can create questions among staff and readers alike," Moon said in the statement. "I intend to answer these questions with my actions — actions that will demonstrate my commitment to the R-J, to the people who work here, and to the community we all serve."

Under a joint-operating agreement, the Las Vegas Sun is distributed with the R-J and receives a portion of its advertising revenue. But the Sun and R-J are separately owned and operated.

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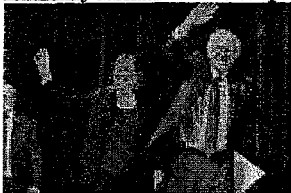
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Gonzalez to continue on Jacobs lawsuit against Las Vegas Sands

By Carri Geer Thevenot Las Vegas Review-Journal

January 29, 2016 - 3:03pm

Clark County District Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez will retain control over a civil case involving a Sands China executive who was fired in 2010, the court's chief judge ruled Friday.

The ruling by Chief District Judge David Barker follows a Jan. 13 motion by defendant Las Vegas Sands Corp to disqualify Gonzalez. It was the latest of several attempts to remove Gonzalez from the long-running case.

"Defendant presents no evidence Judge Gonzalez has actual bias or implied bias either in favor of or against any party to this action," Barker wrote in Friday's six-page order.

In its motion, Las Vegas Sands cited "recent intensified media coverage of the lawsuit" as one of the "new grounds" for requesting the judge's disqualification.

"After years of apparent silence, the court has responded to that media coverage by contributing to the coverage," according to the motion. "That participation raises doubts about the court's impartiality and objectivity."

Gonzalez responded with a declaration in which she denied "a bias toward or prejudice against" Las Vegas Sands.

Meanwhile, Gonzalez suspended all hearings in the case until Barker ruled on the matter. A trial is scheduled to begin June 27.

"We are surprised and very disappointed that Judge Barker denied our motion to disqualify Judge Gonzalez before we had even had an opportunity to address the statements made in her affidavit – which was the affidavit he ultimately used to deny our motion," Las Vegas Sands spokesman Ron Reese said in a statement.

Steven Jacobs, former president and CEO of Sands China Ltd., filed the wrongful termination lawsuit shortly after he was fired after nine months as the head of the company's operations in China. Defendants include Las Vegas Sands; Sheldon Adelson, the company's chairman and CEO; and Sands China. Jacobs claims he was terminated "for blowing the whistle on improprieties and placing the interests of shareholders above those of Adelson."

In November, the Nevada Supreme Court also rejected a request to assign the case to a different judge.

The latest attempt to remove Gonzalez came on the heels of a Jan. 12 court hearing related to the deposition of Adelson's son-in-law, Patrick Dumont. During his deposition the previous day, Dumont had refused to answer any questions about contact with Michael Schroeder, the disgraced Connecticut newspaper owner associated with the Adelson family's recent purchase of the Las Vegas Review-Journal. Dumont orchestrated the purchase.

Gonzalez ruled that Dumont's lawyer had acted "inappropriately" under Nevada law when he directed his

client not to answer questions about whether he had discussed Jacobs or his wrongful termination case with Schroeder. Dumont's deposition continued after the Jan. 12 hearing, but his answers to questions that day have not been made public.

Lawyers for Las Vegas Sands included more than a dozen news articles in their recent motion for disqualification. The articles appeared the previous month in local, national and international publications.

"From at least November 30, 2015, until the present day, this case has been the subject of saturated media coverage prompted by a change in ownership of the Las Vegas Review-Journal, which has no bearing on the resolution of Steven C. Jacobs's claim that he was wrongfully terminated from employment in Macau in July 2010," according to the motion.

Sands lawyers argued that Gonzalez's comments to the press "have become part of the saturated coverage."

Adelson's family purchased the Review-Journal on Dec. 10 through its Delaware-domiciled News + Media Capital Group.

The recent news coverage, combined with the judge's recent comments, would lead a "reasonable person" to believe that she "has a direct, certain, and immediate interest in media coverage of this lawsuit," according to the motion.

One of Schroeder's Connecticut newspapers on Nov. 30 published an article that was critical of Gonzalez. The author of the plagiarized, partially fabricated article was Edward Clarkin, a pseudonym. The article was published about the same time three RJ reporters were ordered by GateHouse Media, the newspaper's former owner, to monitor Gonzalez and two other judges.

Gonzalez has acknowledged responding to two media requests for comment about the RJ's courtroom monitoring but said she "did not discuss a particular litigant or case." In one instance, she said only that she's accustomed to having reporters in her courtroom.

According to Friday's order, Las Vegas Sands failed "to establish sufficient factual grounds warranting disqualification."

"This court finds that a reasonable person knowing all the facts would not harbor reasonable doubts about Judge Gonzalez's impartiality with respect to any issues raised in defendant's motion," Barker wrote.

On Jan. 20, Jacobs filed an emergency motion that sought to prevent Sands lawyers from further delaying his case. In it, he accused Las Vegas Sands of trying to "derail" his rights "through improper and unlawful maneuvering."

Attorney Todd Bice, who represents Jacobs, could not be reached Friday.

Contact reporter Carri Geer Thevenot at cgeer@reviewjournal.com or 702-384-8710. Find her on Twitter: @CarriGeer

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Courthouse News Service

Monday, February 01, 2016 Last Update: 7:28 AM PT



Las Vegas Sands Fight Taken to Federal Court

By MIKE HEUER

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LAS VEGAS (CN) - Las Vegas Sands subsidiary Venetian Macau fired its interim president for placing shareholders' interests ahead of Sheldon Adelson's and to retaliate for his whistleblowing, Steven Jacobs claims in Federal Court.

In his Friday lawsuit, Jacobs accuses Venetian Macau of firing him for "blowing the whistle on improprieties and placing the interest of shareholders above those of Adelson."

Jacobs has a pending wrongful termination lawsuit in state court against Adelson and Las Vegas Sands, but, "because Las Vegas Sands has sought to avoid its obligations and wrongdoings by pointing the finger at Venetian Macau," Jacobs said, he also sued Venetian Macau.

The new lawsuit largely repeats from the Clark County case. Jacobs claims Las Vegas Sands faced serious financial problems in 2008 that were exacerbated by infighting between principal shareholder Adelson and Sands' management.

He says Sands board members and senior executives "internally expressed concern over Adelson's oftentimes erratic behavior," and that "Adelson's behavior had become so corrosive that some government officials in Macau ... were no longer willing to even meet with Adelson."

A fact-finding tour indicated that Adelson had "burned many bridges in Macau," and a confrontation between Adelson and then-Macau CEO Edmund Ho was mentioned many times, Jacobs says.

Ho told Sands executives that "while Adelson had done much to improve Macau's economic fortunes, the time had come for him to spend more time with his family and leave the company's operations to others," Jacobs says in the complaint.

"Translated into blunt businessman's terms: Adelson needed to retire," Jacobs says.

He claims that Adelson "paralyzed management" at Las Vegas Sands, forced the removal of former President and COO William Weidner, and delayed the Sands' timely access to capital markets, triggering several emergency transactions to raise money in 2008 and 2009.

Jacobs says Adelson profited greatly from the delays by charging Las Vegas Sands a "hefty price, obtaining convertible senior notes, preferred shares, and warrants" that later enabled Adelson to "reap a staggering windfall as a result of these highly favorable, for him, financing terms."

"Conveniently, Adelson was the principal beneficiary, to the detriment of all other shareholders, of the very financial calamity he helped create," Jacobs says.

Jacobs says he entered a "poisonous environment" when he went to work for Venetian Macau in 2009, in charge of restructuring Las Vegas Sands' financial and other operations in Macau.

Jacobs started working for Las Vegas Sands in August 2009, and was fired in July 2010 to "cover up a host of improper activities," and the Sands is trying to shift responsibility for his wrongful termination from Las Vegas Sands to Venetian Macau, he says in the new lawsuit.


To cover their tracks, Jacobs says, Adelson and a Sands executive fabricated reasons for his firing, printed them on Venetian Macau letterhead and sent them to Jacobs weeks after he was fired.

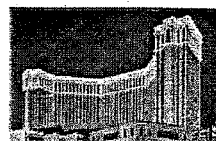
He says Las Vegas Sands shares performed very well while he was in charge of its Macau operations, with its share price rising from \$1.70 in March 2009 to more than \$28 per share in July 2010.

Jacobs says Las Vegas Sands officials credit him with rescuing the company, but Adelson fired him anyway.

"Adelson would make sure that Jacobs was cheated out of what he was owed, a practice that Adelson has honed in dealing with many executives and companies that refused to do as Adelson demanded," Jacobs says in the lawsuit.

Jacobs seeks damages for breach of contract, with interest.

His attorney Todd Bice was not available by telephone Sunday night, nor was Las Vegas Sands Vice President Ron Reese. 


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A former executive in casino magnate Sheldon Adelson's empire is taking the legal fight over his 2010 dismissal as head of operations in the Chinese enclave of Macau to federal court in Nevada

AP By KEN RITTER Associated Press
February 09, 2016 - 3:41 pm EST

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LAS VEGAS — A former executive in billionaire casino magnate Sheldon Adelson's empire is asking a federal court in Nevada to rule on a continuing legal fight over his 2010 dismissal as head of operations in the Chinese gambling enclave of Macau.

A lawsuit filed Jan. 29 in U.S. District Court in Las Vegas seeks a jury trial and unspecified damages on the question of whether former Sands China Ltd. CEO Steven Jacobs was hired in 2009 as an employee of Las Vegas Sands Corp. or was responsible to a corporate subsidiary, Venetian Macau Ltd.

Determining who Jacobs reported to is fundamental for Jacobs' contention that he was fired by Adelson and Las Vegas Sands "in an attempt to cover up a host of improper activities which Jacobs has outlined in other litigation and to government regulators," according to the federal court filing.

The question is also central to a fight over whether Jacobs' wrongful termination claim can be heard in Nevada.

Las Vegas Sands spokesman Ron Reese said Tuesday the same question was raised before, and dismissed, in a Nevada state court lawsuit the two sides have been fighting since 2010.

The case has also been appealed several times to the Nevada Supreme Court. It has spawned several related cases, including a defamation claim.

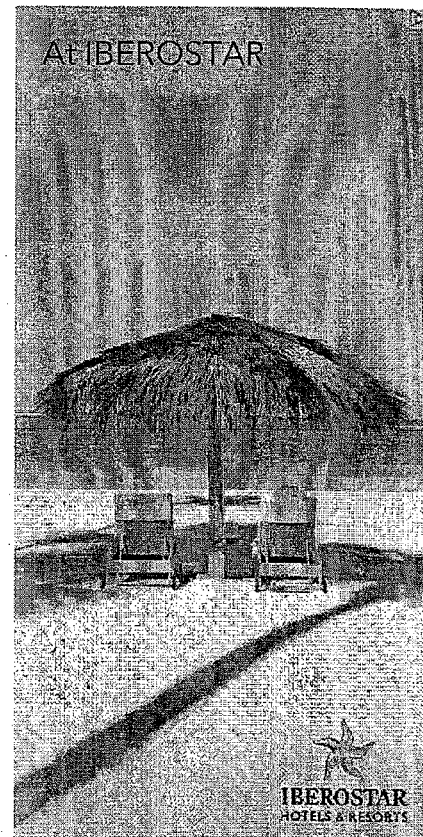
Reese characterized Jacobs' legal move as "procedural sleight of hand," and he said Venetian Macau Ltd. will address it in federal court.

The response echoed a complaint last year by Jacobs' attorneys, led by James Pisanelli and Todd Bice, that efforts by company lawyers in state court to show a clear divide between the Las Vegas Sands and Sands China were "sleight of hand."

Jacobs' lawyers accuse Las Vegas Sands of trying to shift responsibility in the case to Venetian Macau Ltd. to shield Adelson and Las Vegas Sands from liability.

Bice and Pisanelli didn't immediately respond Tuesday to messages.

Sands Las Vegas is appealing Clark County District Court Judge



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2/20/2016 A former executive in casino magnate Sheldon Adelson's empire is taking the legal fight over his 2010 dismissal as head of operations in the Chinese enc...

Elizabeth Gonzalez's ruling last year that because decisions about Jacobs' employment were made in Las Vegas, state courts have jurisdiction.

Adelson, 82, insisted during four sometimes contentious days of testimony last year that he had no day-to-day role overseeing the company's Macau operations.

Sands China is a subsidiary of Las Vegas Sands Corp. Adelson is CEO of both. All are being sued by Jacobs.

Adelson also is a prominent donor to Republican Party campaigns, and Adelson family members bought the Las Vegas Review-Journal newspaper in December.

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Casino Magnate Adelson Facing 49 Hours Of Pretrial Questions

Feb 19, 2016 by Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A judge says billionaire casino magnate and Las Vegas newspaper owner Sheldon Adelson can be questioned for up to 49 hours beginning next week by lawyers for a former Macau casino executive who claims he was wrongly fired in 2010.

There was no talk in a Las Vegas courtroom Thursday about a ruling by Chief Clark County District Court Judge David Barker leaving Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez on the case filed by former Sands China chief executive Steven Jacobs.

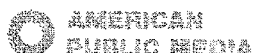
Las Vegas Sands Corp. says it'll appeal Barker's ruling to the Nevada Supreme Court, which has already decided 11 pretrial issues in the case.

Jacobs has been undergoing days of questioning by attorneys for Adelson, Las Vegas Sands and Sands China Ltd. ahead of trial, which is scheduled to begin June 27.

More from: News, Newscast headlines, Nevada & the Southwest, Las Vegas, Business, sheldon adelson, lawsuit, wrongful termination, las vegas sands, macau, steven jacobs, more news

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2/20/2016

Casino Magnate Adelson Facing 49 Hours Of Pretrial Questions | Nevada Public Radio

Sands Doubles Down to Kick Judge Off Ex-Macau Chief's Case

Edvard Pettersson

edpettersson

February 10, 2016 — 5:35 PM PST

Updated on February 11, 2016 — 1:48 PM PST

-
- ▶ Judge talked to media about unusual scrutiny by Adelson paper
 - ▶ Chief justice earlier denied Sands request as 'unpersuasive'

Las Vegas Sands Corp. renewed its effort to disqualify a Nevada judge from overseeing a case brought by the casino operator's former chief executive officer in Macau, saying she has shown "outright hostility" to the company.

Nevada District Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez was assigned to the case when it was filed in 2010 by the ex-Macau executive, Steven Jacobs. He claims he was wrongfully fired after clashing with Sheldon Adelson, the company's chairman and controlling shareholder, over what he said were "outrageous" demands to pursue illegal and illegitimate ends. That included using "improper" leverage on government officials in the gambling enclave.

The dispute is headed toward a trial set for June.

Gonzalez made the news in December when the Las Vegas Review-Journal, acquired that month by Adelson's family, revealed that its reporters had been sent to her courtroom to monitor her as she handled non-newsworthy cases.

Review-Journal reporters had been dispatched in November to monitor three judges, including Gonzalez for two weeks, the newspaper said Dec. 18. None of the reporters' observations ended up getting published, according to the newspaper. The \$140 million sale of the newspaper closed Dec. 10.

Request Rejected

The company was rebuffed last month when the court's chief justice, without conducting a hearing, denied

a request by Sands to disqualify Gonzalez. According to the casino operator, the judge had “interjected” herself into the media coverage of Adelson’s acquisition of the local newspaper by talking to a Review-Journal reporter and Time magazine about the unusual coverage of her courtroom.

Gonzalez defended herself in a Jan. 15 court filing.

She said in a written declaration that her rulings “have been the result of critical legal and factual analysis based upon extensive evidentiary proceedings, motion practice, and the written and oral comments of counsel, and not the result of personal bias in favor of any party.”

Chief District Court Judge David Barker said in his Jan. 29 decision that Sands was “unpersuasive” in arguing that Gonzalez’s conduct raised reasonable doubts about her impartiality.

‘Outright Hostility’

In its new request Tuesday to have Gonzalez taken off the case, Sands accused her of a “complete absence of neutrality,” a pattern of “disparate treatment of the parties” and “outright hostility.” Sands also said a key hearing last year amounted to a “show trial” because Gonzalez didn’t allow the company to present evidence or witnesses.

Jacobs’s 2010 suit had been tied up for five years during a fight over whether a Las Vegas court is the proper venue for his claims against Sands China Ltd.

Gonzalez finally ruled last year that the case could proceed in Nevada, following numerous conflicts over what evidence Sands had to provide to Jacobs, sanctions on the company for not providing the evidence, and repeat trips by Sands to the Nevada Supreme Court to challenge Gonzalez’s rulings.

Adelson has denied Jacobs’s allegations, including the claim that he ordered the former CEO to investigate the business and financial affairs of Macau officials. He has accused Jacobs of commissioning the investigations on his own. Sands has said Jacobs was fired for working on unauthorized deals and violating company policy.

The case is Jacobs v. Las Vegas Sands Corp., A-10-627691-B, Nevada District Court, Clark County (Las Vegas).

Before it’s here, it’s on the Bloomberg Terminal.

2/20/2016

Sands Doubles Down to Kick Judge Off Ex-Macau Chief's Case - Bloomberg Business

• Sheldon Gary Adelson • Nevada

Mother Jones

Why Did Sheldon Adelson Buy Nevada's Biggest Paper?

A fake reporter, an editor's departure, and the many unanswered questions dogging the Las Vegas-Review Journal.

By [Russ Choma](#) and [Madison Pauly](#) | Tue Feb. 16, 2016 6:00 AM EST

Social Title:

Why did Sheldon Adelson buy Nevada's biggest paper?

Social Dek:

A fake reporter, an editor's departure, and the many unanswered questions dogging the <I>Las Vegas-Review Journal</i>.

In December, journalists at the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* were told that their paper had been sold—and that they wouldn't be told who the new owners were.

The move touched off a nationwide guessing game, with speculation soon turning to local billionaire Sheldon Adelson [1]. At first, the casino magnate rebuffed questions, before finally confirming his involvement.

That put an end to that mystery, but plenty of others surrounding the sale remain: How did a group of *Review-Journal* reporters end up tasked with an unorthodox investigation into a local judge trying a case vital to Adelson? And how did an article critical of that judge end up running in a Connecticut newspaper under a fake name?

But the most important question of all is why, exactly, did the political megadonor made the purchase? His family maintains it was an investment, but hardly anyone would argue the American newspaper industry is a safe financial bet in 2016. Was it to push his agenda in the 2016 presidential race? Or was it to take control of a local watchdog that has often been an irritant?

Adelson and his company, Las Vegas Sands, are major players in the city's economy and politics, and since the mogul purchased the *Review-Journal*, the paper has wrestled with how to fairly cover its owner and disclose his many interests. Read all about it below, **and make sure read our accompanying cover**

story on Adelson [1], too:

An emissary quietly approaches [2] GateHouse Media, the owners of the 106-year-old daily *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, on behalf of Sheldon Adelson.

Spring
2015



David Becker/Zuma Press

News + Media Capital Group forms as a Delaware corporation. The paperwork [3]
September lists Michael Schroeder, the publisher of a small chain of Connecticut newspapers,
21 as the company's manager. It will be three months until Adelson admits his family controls the company.

Schroeder offers a freelance reporter \$5,000 to write an article on Nevada judges for one of his Connecticut papers. During the meeting, Schroeder mentions Adelson's
September name and provides a 40-page "dossier" of court documents and newspaper clips. The reporter turns down the assignment, later telling the *Huffington Post* [4] that it sounded too unorthodox.

A GateHouse executive calls a top editor at the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*, another

Early GateHouse paper, with a story tip involving Las Vegas judges. The editor refuses to
November have his reporters investigate. "We just didn't have the resources," he later said [5].
"There were too many questions that still needed to get resolved."

The Nevada Supreme Court denies [6] Adelson's push to have **Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez** removed from former Sands executive Steve Jacobs' wrongful-termination lawsuit [7] against Adelson. Gonzalez had clashed with Adelson when he refused to answer questions on the stand: "Sir, you don't get to argue with me," she said. "Do you understand that?"

November
4



Jeff Scheid/AP

November Over editors' protests, GateHouse orders a group of *Review-Journal* reporters to
6 drop everything and investigate several Las Vegas judges. [5] The reporters eventually file 15,000 words of notes on three judges, including Gonzalez.

December While none of the team's reporting ever appears in the *Review-Journal*, two small
1 Connecticut papers owned by Schroeder publish an article [8] under the byline of Edward Clarkin that excoriates Gonzalez's handling of the Adelson case.

December 10 GateHouse sells the *Review-Journal* to News + Media Capital Group for \$140 million [9]. The price is two to three times the paper's estimated value, driving speculation that Adelson is the purchaser. Schroeder tells the newsroom that the new owners "want you to focus on your jobs...Don't worry about who they are." That night, according to the *Huffington Post* [10], publisher Jason Taylor stops the presses as an article on the sale is revised to deemphasize questions about the mystery buyer.

December 15 Adelson sits in the front section as his Venetian resort hosts a Republican presidential debate. He denies [11] to CNN's Brian Stelter that he's bought the paper, saying he has "no personal interest."

December 16 Adelson and his family are finally revealed as the *Review-Journal's* new owners but insist in an open letter [2] that they always intended to come forward and had bought the paper as an investment with no plans to meddle in its management. Despite these assurances, Taylor requires reporters and editors to get approval before covering Adelson or the sale.

December 18 The *Review-Journal* publishes an article [5] detailing how its reporters were tasked with the judicial investigation. The article also explores ties between Schroeder, the newspaper group's manager, and the Edward Clarkin article slamming Gonzalez. It notes that Clarkin's byline previously only appeared as a restaurant reviewer.

December 22 After five years on the job, the *Review-Journal's* top editor accepts [12] a buyout offer, citing concerns about the new ownership.

The *Hartford Courant* reports [13] it can't find anyone named "Edward Clarkin"

in Connecticut, and that sources quoted in his article say they've never heard of him. The *Courant* also reports that major passages [14] in the Clarkin article are "nearly identical to work that previously appeared in other publications." Another Connecticut journalist tweets [15] that Schroeder's middle name is Edward and his mother's maiden name is Clarkin.

December
23



Gregor Cresnar/The Noun Project

Around Schroeder is removed [16] from his post overseeing the *Review-Journal*. "It just
December seemed like the right thing to do under the circumstances," an Adelson spokesman
28 later says. "I'll leave it at that."

 The *Review-Journal's* managers bring in an adviser [17] to work out guidelines for
January 4, covering Adelson's many interests. An editor live-tweets [18] the contentious
2016 meeting. "You've got to ease up here just a little," the adviser says, "so everyone
 doesn't blow their cork."

Michael Schroeder publishes a note to readers [19], taking "full responsibility" for the Clarkin article, which he says failed to meet his papers' standards, and conceding that the byline was a pseudonym.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

LAS VEGAS SANDS CORP., a Nevada corporation; SANDS CHINA LTD., a Cayman Islands corporation; SHELDON G. ADELSON, in his individual and representative capacity; VENETIAN MACAU, LTD., a Macau corporation, DOES I-X; and ROE CORPORATIONS I-X,

Petitioners,

vs.

CLARK COUNTY DISTRICT COURT,
THE HONORABLE DAVID BARKER,
DISTRICT JUDGE, DEPT. 18,

Respondents,

and

STEVEN C. JACOBS,

Real Party in Interest.

Electronically Filed
Feb 23 2016 09:30 a.m.

Case Number: Tracie K. Lindeman
Clerk of Supreme Court

District Court Case Number
A627691-B

**APPENDIX TO PETITION FOR
WRIT OF PROHIBITION OR
MANDAMUS RE ORDERS
DENYING MOTION TO
DISQUALIFY JUDGE
ELIZABETH GONZALEZ
WITHOUT A HEARING**

**VOLUME XII of XIII
(PA2694-2814)**

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Pursuant to Nev. R. App. P. 25, I certify that I am an employee of MORRIS LAW GROUP; that, in accordance therewith, I caused a copy of the **APPENDIX TO PETITION FOR WRIT OF PROHIBITION OR MANDAMUS RE ORDERS DENYING MOTION TO DISQUALIFY JUDGE ELIZABETH GONZALEZ WITHOUT A HEARING – VOLUME XII OF XIII (PA2694-2814)** to be served as indicated below, on the date and to the addressee(s) shown below:

VIA HAND DELIVERY (CD)

Chief Judge David Barker
Eighth Judicial District Court of
Clark County, Nevada
Regional Justice Center
200 Lewis Avenue
Las Vegas, Nevada 89155

Respondent

VIA ELECTRONIC SERVICE

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Attorneys for Steven C. Jacobs, Real Party in Interest

DATED this 22nd day of February, 2016.

By: /s/ Fiona Ingalls

**APPENDIX TO PETITION FOR WRIT OF PROHIBITION OR
MANDAMUS RE ORDERS DENYING MOTION TO DISQUALIFY
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1 The motion to transfer the issue is denied. The
2 procedure that has been established to deal with issues that
3 relate solely to the litigation, which is for any dispute
4 related to questions during a deposition to go to Commissioner
5 Bulla and/or Judge Togliatti, I think is a fair procedure and
6 protects everyone's interests given the concerns that have
7 previously been expressed. However, there is no reason for me
8 to transfer issues related to Jacobs to anyone else.

9 Anything else on that issue?

10 All right. If I could go to the motion to strike
11 Exhibit 887A. Mr. Jones.

12 MR. RANDALL JONES: Good morning, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: They have a total of 10 minutes for all
14 their motions.

15 (Off-record colloquy - Law Clerk and Court)

16 THE COURT: How are you and Mr. Peek going to split
17 this up today?

18 MR. RANDALL JONES: Quickly. With that in mind,
19 Your Honor, it's not relevant under NRS 48.015, not relevant
20 because the Supreme Court told us it's not relevant under --
21 because there's no basis for finding a general jurisdiction as
22 it relates to Sands China Limited, my client. And, of course,
23 there's -- we have a protective order, so our position is that
24 that document essentially would revert back to its status as a
25 document produced in the case subject to confidentiality

1 order. There's no reason -- I mean, I think, as I recall,
2 even the Court's statements that -- you indicated yourself
3 that it was limited -- "887A was used for the limited purpose
4 of assessing general jurisdiction." That's at page 43 of the
5 transcript on December 15th of last year. I think you also
6 said, it was only reviewed in connection with the specific
7 issue of agency and shared services, which the Supreme Court
8 said was part of the general jurisdiction. And so that's our
9 position, Your Honor.

10 THE COURT: It's part of our record. I've never
11 heard of anybody telling me after the fact to remove something
12 from the record after an appellate review is done.

13 MR. RANDALL JONES: Well, I guess I would say it
14 this way. Not only is there always a first time, just because
15 you haven't heard of it before, as we all know, that doesn't
16 mean that's not an appropriate --

17 THE COURT: I'm not saying it's not appropriate.
18 I'm just saying it's the first time I've ever heard of this.

19 MR. RANDALL JONES: Your Honor, I've been doing this
20 longer than you have, and it's the first time I've done it.
21 But it's the first time I've had a circumstance where I
22 thought it was appropriate. So it just -- especially when
23 we're talking about this bulk exhibit that had, you know,
24 hundreds of pages and is full of confidential and highly
25 confidential documents that should not have been in the record

1 in the first place from our perspective. And the Supreme
2 Court has now acknowledged that, and that's what they ruled.
3 So that's why we think that that's -- it's not appropriate.

4 If it came in at a hearing, as you ruled, it's part
5 of the record in a hearing, but it --

6 THE COURT: Evidentiary hearing.

7 MR. RANDALL JONES: An evidentiary hearing. But it
8 was our position that it should not have come in. And that
9 has been justified -- our position has been justified by the
10 Supreme Court. And I don't -- I guess I would ask the Court
11 why wouldn't it be taken out. What would be the purpose of
12 leaving it in there if the Court didn't rely upon it for its
13 decision that was upheld.

14 THE COURT: Well, I did rely upon it for my
15 decision.

16 MR. RANDALL JONES: Sure. No. That was upheld by
17 the Supreme Court. In other words, the Supreme Court said,
18 no, that's -- that is not a basis for jurisdiction. Specific
19 jurisdiction, sure. But that's not what you relied on these
20 documents for, your decision on specific jurisdiction. If you
21 had, I would be arguing to maintain the confidentiality of
22 those documents.

23 So at a minimum we've asked alternatively that
24 especially under these unique circumstances that you at least
25 maintain the confidentiality of these documents.

1 THE COURT: So can I do a fallback position for you?

2 MR. RANDALL JONES: Sure.

3 THE COURT: I asked eight or nine months ago for
4 your office to tell me which particular portions of 887A you
5 wanted sealed.

6 MR. RANDALL JONES: Right.

7 THE COURT: I haven't heard.

8 MR. RANDALL JONES: I thought -- you know what, Your
9 Honor, I thought we had submit that. I certainly will check
10 into that, because I know we spent a lot of time actually
11 trying to do that. So how that got lost in the mix --

12 THE COURT: Well, I think there was a change in
13 strategy.

14 MR. RANDALL JONES: And it may be because the
15 Supreme Court decision came down. I don't recall. But I do
16 know that we started that process and we were very far into
17 that process at one point. And that -- you know, candidly,
18 with all that's been going on lately, what exactly I did
19 several months ago related to a different issue, I wouldn't
20 want to say that we didn't submit it. Because if you're
21 telling me you don't have it --

22 THE COURT: I don't remember. But, remember, a lot
23 of stuff has happened to me, too, not just in this case. I
24 have lots of other cases that I deal with. So I don't recall
25 ever in motion practice seeing the designations for purposes

1 of sealing portions of Exhibit 887A, which is where I thought
2 we were going to go, as opposed to this motion, which is to
3 strike it after I've entered a decision in which I reviewed it
4 and relied upon at least parts of it.

5 MR. RANDALL JONES: Yeah. And again, Your Honor,
6 based on the transcript, we looked at the transcript -- that's
7 why we cited the transcripts. Because if you had relied on it
8 for specific jurisdiction, I wouldn't have filed this motion.
9 And so it's a unique circumstance. I've certainly never dealt
10 with this kind of situation before, and that's why we filed
11 the motion the way we did. We also did alternatively ask that
12 it be held -- maintain its confidentiality even if you don't
13 strike it because of the unique circumstances. And, as we all
14 know, if we go to trial, that's a whole different situation.
15 And if documents come in -- but at least in my experience,
16 Your Honor, I've never seen an exhibit come into evidence the
17 way that exhibit came into evidence, either. We've put both
18 documents into evidence, but not over an objection like that
19 where there were virtually -- or most documents were
20 designated confidential. So we would certainly ask the Court
21 for some consideration of this unique circumstance and ask you
22 to maintain confidentiality. We don't think that the public's
23 interest as it relates to these documents under the
24 circumstances outweigh our clients' right to privacy and
25 confidentiality of these documents under the particular

1 circumstances.

2 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Bice. Is this yours? Or Ms.
3 Spinelli?

4 MR. BICE: Your Honor, the request is -- I think, as
5 Mr. Jones agrees, it's extraordinary, and I think here's the
6 problem with it. Let's remember how we got to Exhibit 887A.
7 And it was essentially the product of the defendants, because
8 they insisted that -- remember when we had the jurisdictional
9 -- or the sanctions hearing, the first sanctions hearing, and
10 we offered a number of the redacted documents with the
11 witnesses. When they went up on a writ to the Supreme Court
12 they tried to play up the fact that we did not spend days and
13 days and days using redacted documents with the witnesses. So
14 when we had the jurisdictional hearing we were not going to
15 take that position or let them take that position again, which
16 is why we had to offer all of the redacted documents. And
17 that's when the Court then made us go through the exercise of
18 bringing in -- I don't remember -- it was 50 or so individual
19 documents that we just pulled out of that bulk.

20 THE COURT: I made you do a random sample.

21 MR. BICE: Right. And --

22 THE COURT: It wasn't random.

23 MR. BICE: Yeah, it wasn't random. But to pull them
24 in and just show that the documents were not essentially
25 usable in light of the redactions.

1 That brings us to this point, Your Honor. Contrary
2 to Mr. Jones's argument, the Court did rely upon that, and in
3 fact it was not, as they advertise, rejected by the Supreme
4 Court. The Supreme Court upheld this Court's sanctions order.
5 And remember the sanctions were in fact noted by the Supreme
6 Court as an additional basis for the Court's underlying
7 jurisdictional ruling on both general as well as specific
8 jurisdiction. And that fact was upheld by the Supreme Court.
9 I do not believe that there is any legal authority that would
10 allow a Court to -- documents that were admitted and relied
11 upon and form part of the record to then be withdrawn from the
12 record after the fact. If they -- the Court has given then
13 ample opportunity to demonstrate under the sealing procedures
14 set up by the Nevada Supreme Court to demonstrate why these
15 particular documents on a document-by-document basis can be
16 sealed. They have declined to do that, and I don't know how
17 many times we have been over here on this issue. But I would
18 submit that we've been here enough times now. I thank the
19 Court.

20 THE COURT: Mr. Jones, anything else on 887A?

21 MR. RANDALL JONES: Very briefly, Your Honor. First
22 of all, if this is not an extraordinary request, it's an
23 unusual request. And there's a difference. Secondly, we're
24 not asking about the 50 or so documents that were individually
25 marked and admitted. We're asking about the bulk document

1 887.

2 THE COURT: Well, no. You are, actually. You are
3 actually including those, because they're part of 887A.
4 You're asking me to strike 887A.

5 MR. RANDALL JONES: I thought they were separate
6 documents.

7 THE COURT: No, they weren't. They were all part of
8 887A.

9 MR. RANDALL JONES: In any event -- in any event,
10 Your Honor, the Court clearly has the authority to do this.
11 Court under -- under our rules of evidence Court should not
12 admit nonrelevant documents, period. The Supreme Court has
13 said those are not relevant to the Court's findings. There is
14 no general jurisdiction over my client. Those documents were
15 only admitted for the purpose of general jurisdiction. So
16 this Court has the authority and the discretion and the right
17 and the power, especially as indicated by the Nevada Supreme
18 Court, to do this. So it's inappropriate to leave them in as
19 a bulk exhibit. I believe they were improperly admitted in
20 the first instance. You disagreed with us. The Supreme Court
21 has now said those documents are not relevant to the
22 jurisdiction in this case. If they're not relevant --

23 THE COURT: They didn't say that.

24 MR. RANDALL JONES: It did -- well, I -- Your Honor,
25 I don't want to argue with the Court.

1 THE COURT: Okay.

2 MR. RANDALL JONES: I believe that it certainly did
3 not find general jurisdiction.

4 THE COURT: Okay. Anything else you want to tell
5 me?

6 MR. RANDALL JONES: No, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: The motion is denied with requests to
8 strike Exhibit 887A. You may have four weeks to provide me
9 with a detailed listing of any documents within 887A for which
10 you are seeking sealing. That doesn't mean blanket
11 objections.

12 Okay. We have a motion on the consent related to
13 Mr. Jacobs and the MDPA.

14 MR. RANDALL JONES: Yes, Your Honor.

15 Your Honor, I think this is pretty straightforward.
16 We asked Mr. Jacobs to sign a consent going back to October of
17 2014. We asked repeated since October of this year again, and
18 Mr. Bice at least initially started -- indicated that he was
19 going to give us his proposed consent because he didn't
20 apparently like the language in ours. And we followed up -- I
21 followed up myself and asked him several times if we were
22 going to get the consent and when we could see his proposed
23 language. I never saw it. And we think that it's relevant
24 and appropriate that he sign a consent under the circumstances
25 of the case.

1 THE COURT: Okay. So tell me why the form of
2 consent that you have submitted, which includes the following
3 language, "Notwithstanding my consent, the disclosure and
4 communication of the above-mentioned records and emails to Las
5 Vegas Sands Corp. [unintelligible] shall at all times be
6 subject to the laws of Macau" --

7 MR. RANDALL JONES: Well, Your Honor, it's because
8 it's our understanding that that is what is required for a
9 consent under Macanese law, that's why. We certainly didn't
10 do it because we were trying to harass or cause a problem
11 for --

12 THE COURT: I'm just -- I was asking. When I went
13 through that was the page that I circled and marked on and had
14 to ask about --

15 MR. RANDALL JONES: Sure.

16 THE COURT: -- because in reading it that was -- I
17 understood concerns being expressed.

18 MR. RANDALL JONES: That is the only reason, and
19 that is my understanding of what I've been told is required.
20 So I believe that is the same language -- I believe the same
21 language of the other consents.

22 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

23 Mr. Bice.

24 MR. BICE: Yes, Your Honor. There's more history
25 here about the consent issue, Your Honor, than we even knew

1 when we initially opposed this motion. And we learned it in
2 Mr. Chum's deposition, the 30(b)(6) deposition, or what we
3 were able to take of it last week, and that was, as the Court
4 will recall, this issue about the consents and the alleged
5 inability to obtain consents or the requirements to obtain
6 consents and what the law requires regarding these consents
7 has been bantered about quite a bit in this case. Mr. Chum
8 revealed for the first time at his deposition on behalf of the
9 company that back in 2011, despite all of the representations,
10 including testimony offered by Sands China Limited as to their
11 not getting consents from anyone regarding this case, Mr. Chum
12 admitted that the company had obtained over 200 -- or
13 approximately 200 consents back in 2011. That fact was never
14 revealed to us, it wasn't revealed to the Court, they haven't
15 been produced in this case. We do not know what they say,
16 et cetera, et cetera, et cetera.

17 THE COURT: So can I stop you for a second.

18 MR. BICE: Yep.

19 THE COURT: Assume for a minute that I'm not going
20 to order your client to sign a consent that requires him to be
21 subject to Macanese law for any purpose. Don't you believe
22 that your client has waived any objection he may have had if
23 any privilege did exist by bringing this litigation related to
24 those documents?

25 MR. BICE: Yes.

1 THE COURT: Okay.

2 MR. BICE: And we have never asserted that.

3 THE COURT: Thank you.

4 MR. BICE: Right. But he should not --

5 THE COURT: I understand what you're saying.

6 MR. BICE: Thank you.

7 THE COURT: Anything else, Mr. Jones?

8 MR. RANDALL JONES: Yes, Your Honor. I'll only say

9 that to the extent that the Court -- it's my understanding, as

10 I said before, it's the same consent, form of consent that all

11 the other people that have signed consents have had to sign.

12 So if the Court orders us to sign -- or orders Mr. Jacobs to

13 sign a consent that is not enforceable in Macau, where we have

14 to get the documents, then it's a meaningless gesture. And so

15 we would ask -- there's nothing untoward. All we want to do

16 is try to be able to get his documents unredacted. I don't

17 see -- and the Court can -- if --

18 THE COURT: These are documents that aren't the ones

19 that are in Advance Discovery, these are other documents?

20 MR. RANDALL JONES: These are documents that would

21 be in Macau that we can't unredact in Macau.

22 THE COURT: No. The ones at Advance Discovery. You

23 know, the ones that were brought to the U.S. so they're here?

24 You're talking about additional documents, not those?

25 MR. RANDALL JONES: We're talking about documents

1 produced by Sands China Limited from Macau that have been
2 redacted. That's what we're talking about. We can't see if
3 Mr. Jacobs's name is on those until we get a consent. And,
4 Your Honor, if there's any issue with Macanese law as it
5 relates to the consent for Mr. Jacobs, he certainly has the
6 ability to come to this Court and ask for some kind of relief.
7 But we can't get the redactions without a properly filed or
8 signed consent.

9 THE COURT: Isn't one of the ways that the Macau
10 Data Privacy Act allows your client to produce information is
11 when it is subject to an order from another jurisdiction?

12 MR. RANDALL JONES: No, actually, Your Honor. At
13 least my understanding. Because that's the whole problem
14 we've had. We've taken your orders and actually gave them
15 specifically to the OPDP, and we've got letters back that
16 said, this is not sufficient. If VML was sued --

17 THE COURT: Well, what the testimony was in that
18 hearing, and I think that was before your time and I think it
19 was Mr. Fleming, who was then retiring and going gardening,
20 said that he never followed up on the issues where they said
21 there were information that was still missing that needed to
22 be subject to that request to the ODPD to comply with my
23 order.

24 MR. RANDALL JONES: I believe what Mr. Fleming said
25 -- and I was a part of the case at that time --

1 THE COURT: Were you part of the case then?

2 MR. RANDALL JONES: Yes, Your Honor, I was.

3 THE COURT: Okay.

4 MR. RANDALL JONES: -- was that they never appealed
5 the decision because we got to the point of the hearing and
6 there was insufficient time to have an appeal and have a
7 resolution. Your Honor, I mean, I think you made the point.
8 We think Mr. Jacobs has waived his right to object to give us
9 this information. And I've never been a case where the
10 plaintiff has brought a suit and isn't ordered to provide a
11 consent.

12 THE COURT: Okay. The motion is denied. However,
13 you may submit an order asking me to find that Mr. Jacobs has
14 waived the ability to object to any release of that
15 information by the bringing of this lawsuit which puts in
16 issue those documents which are in Macau.

17 I have a motion to associate counsel, Mr. Morris.

18 MR. MORRIS: Your Honor, thank you.

19 I'm delighted to have the opportunity to address you
20 on something, rather than just respond to who I am when court
21 is convened.

22 THE COURT: Well, we didn't offer you coffee today.
23 I feel bad about that. It was a little late in the morning
24 for the offer of coffee, so --

25 MR. MORRIS: I'll be brief with this, though. Our

1 motion to associate counsel is in the plural. There are two,
2 Nicole Wade and L. Lin Wood. The only opposition is the
3 filing we received yesterday afternoon, which you did, too,
4 and we replied to last evening --

5 THE COURT: And I got a chance to read that.

6 MR. MORRIS: -- to L. Lin Wood. The opposition
7 essentially says this, we ordinarily don't oppose motions like
8 this and they should be granted, should result in approval by
9 the Court as the Supreme Court pointed out in Imperial Credit.
10 And it's just general proposition if the application for
11 admission pro hac vice complies with the requirements of
12 Rule 42, it does, it should -- and it does here, it should be
13 granted. We've done that.

14 The opposition says, acknowledging that, tortures a
15 little bit to what Imperial Credit has to say, and tries to
16 link the Supreme Court decision in Imperial Credit to a couple
17 of decisions that are not just not in point, they're
18 outrageously not in point. One is the Kohlmayer case. The
19 other is the Kampitch case. And each one of those cases
20 involved an attorney, a notorious attorney, not only in the
21 district in which he was seeking -- and both were hes in that
22 case -- seeking admission pro hac vice, but in other
23 jurisdictions. They involved the filing of false
24 applications, failure to disclose information that was require
25 on their pro hac vice application. One case, the Kohlmayer

1 case, involved -- and the judge went to lengths to point this
2 out -- the guy applying for admission in this case has not
3 only been sanctioned numerous times, he has failed to respond
4 to sanction orders, he has failed to respond to orders to show
5 cause, and he's been responsible over the years for mistrials
6 due to his misconduct within the case being tried, which
7 included one that interested the judge in particular and said,
8 as a result of that, I don't want this guy in my court. The
9 pro hac vice applicant in that case threatened to kill his
10 opposing counsel during the course of a proceeding in which he
11 had been admitted.

12 Your Honor, it's facile, and I know that it's
13 satisfying to the other side to tender cases like this that
14 are sensational, but they are not appropriately tendered in
15 this case for this motion.

16 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Morris. I appreciate
17 that.

18 Mr. Bice.

19 MR. BICE: Thank you, Your Honor.

20 Mr. Morris is right, that we would not ordinarily
21 oppose such a request and we would ordinarily have no issue
22 with it whatsoever.

23 THE COURT: Well, then Mr. Pisanelli did roll his
24 eyes when the one was advanced on Wynn-Okada, and that didn't
25 show up on the record.

1 MR. BICE: And when Mr. Kozlov from the firm Duane
2 Morris showed up, I instantly consented to his application in
3 front of the Court. But I do believe this is a bit different
4 here, and that is because, as the application says, we have a
5 new attorney coming into the case for a party who is already
6 represented and has been represented and has appeared in this
7 action for some five years, and he's coming in, at least
8 according to the application, solely for the purpose of
9 appearing for Mr. Adelson at his upcoming deposition, which is
10 scheduled for Monday.

11 I say that because this is exactly what happened in
12 the Florida case. This same attorney was not a participant in
13 that case. Mr. Adelson's -- the first phase of Mr. Adelson's
14 deposition went forward, and then, of course, then there was a
15 subsequent order that he had to reappear, and there was a
16 special master appointed over the strenuous objection, I might
17 add, of Mr. Adelson, and that special master being a former
18 Florida appellate court judge, to sit in on his renewed
19 deposition. It was only then that Mr. Wood was -- then sought
20 an emergency pro hac vice application to appear to defend Mr.
21 Adelson at the second phase of his deposition. And, as the
22 Court knows, Mr. Adelson, at least in the jurisdictional
23 discovery, his deposition has already been started. He was
24 represented by counsel, and he has very able counsel.

25 The issue has become -- it's as simple as this.

1 Either the conduct in the Florida deposition, which we have
2 outlined to the Court, is appropriate deposition conduct or
3 it's not. According to Mr. Wood's declaration -- he's not
4 here today, but according to his declaration, he deemed that
5 conduct to be appropriate. And it is no consolation -- he
6 says, well, you know, Jacobs never moved for a sanction
7 against me in that case. That's right, we didn't; because I
8 believe summary judgment was granted either a week or two
9 weeks after that phase of the deposition.

10 So our point here is, Your Honor, either that
11 conduct is appropriate that we have outlined, or it isn't.
12 Because Mr. Wood has made it clear, I think, he intends to
13 engage in it in this case. And he's not here denying it. He
14 simply claims that, well, you know, when you're representing
15 Sheldon Adelson under these circumstances that sort of
16 activity is deemed to be appropriate. That right there under
17 our Supreme Court rules says counsel does not qualify. Just
18 because you say, well, I've checked off all the boxes on this
19 and I've said that I'm going to follow the rules, does not
20 mean that you have satisfied the requirements. The appearance
21 in the court is a privilege especially for out-of-state
22 counsel. They have to demonstrate to the Court that they
23 qualify under the rule and that they are going to actually
24 comply with the Court's rules and the Court's rulings.

25 You see from Mr. Wood's declaration he doesn't say

1 any -- he doesn't say, you know, that conduct was unique, that
2 conduct was unprecedented and here's why and I won't do that
3 again in this case. I think he makes it crystal clear he
4 intends to repeat that performance in this case. And let me
5 tell you why that's a problem for us, Your Honor. I would
6 submit and I've submitted to this Court before the objective
7 here is to blow up this trial date. And that is the number
8 one objective, and that's why this attorney is being brought
9 in at the last possible moment just to appear for Mr.
10 Adelson's deposition, to pick a fight, we will then have all
11 sorts of -- the deposition will get delayed, then the Court
12 will have to address the conduct in the deposition, and that
13 is exactly mission accomplished. And that's why we're asking
14 that it not be allowed.

15 THE COURT: All right. Thank you, Mr. Bice.

16 MR. BICE: Thank you.

17 THE COURT: The motion is granted. However, Mr.
18 Morris needs to be communicated to Mr. Wood that in Nevada we
19 can't instruct the witness not to answer except on the basis
20 of privilege or harassment, and if there are issues relating
21 to speaking objections or coaching witnesses, that I will take
22 that unkindly and may issue sanctions. I've had other cases
23 where I've stricken pro hac vices for that kind of conduct.
24 So one would hope that he will act appropriately under the
25 Nevada rules here.

1 MR. MORRIS: And I'm hoping that he will, too. And
2 I have talked with him about that subject and the points you
3 just mentioned.

4 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Morris.

5 MR. MORRIS: Thank you, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: So they're both granted.

7 MR. MORRIS: Your Honor, can I note that this -- I
8 think this is the first motion I've won in four years.

9 THE COURT: That's not true, Mr. Morris. You won,
10 and then the Supreme Court reversed me on another one.

11 So can we go --

12 MR. MORRIS: But that -- I said four years.

13 THE COURT: Oh. That was -- thank you, Mr. Morris,
14 for making me feel old.

15 Then I'm on the motion related to the length of time
16 for Mr. Adelson's deposition. Is there anything that anybody
17 wants to add to that, understanding I'm fairly familiar with
18 the issues, and then we can deal with the protective order
19 issue?

20 MR. BICE: It's our motion, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: And technically everybody's out of time,
22 according to Laura. But you can have a couple of minutes.

23 MR. BICE: It's our motion, Your Honor. I think you
24 understand the history of the case, you understand the
25 complexity of it, the documentation, et cetera.

1 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Peek, did you want to say
2 anything?

3 MR. PEEK: No, Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Mr. Morris?

5 MR. PEEK: I think we've adequately covered it in
6 our opposition. I would only repeat --

7 THE COURT: Given my observations of Mr. Adelson's
8 testimony during I think it was the jurisdictional hearing and
9 the manner in which the estimates by counsel of the time
10 needed to accommodate that testimony and the time that was
11 actually needed for that testimony, I'm going to grant the
12 request for excess time for Mr. Adelson's deposition.

13 I am going to grant seven days of seven hours of
14 examination time. That doesn't include counsel arguing with
15 each other or breaks or other kinds of things.

16 Now I want to go to the motion for protective order
17 part of this, which is now implied. So what do you want to do
18 now?

19 MR. PEEK: Your Honor, I don't know. Because I've
20 been talking to Mr. Bice about that, as I pointed out in the
21 motion. Mr. Adelson's available to start on the 24th. Mr.
22 Bice wants to interrupt Jacobs and come back later, after Mr.
23 Adelson is finished.

24 THE COURT: When are you going to finish Mr. Jacobs?

25 MR. PEEK: I don't think we'll finish him within the

1 seven days and seven hours. But we will certainly go the
2 seven days and seven hours that the Court has allowed us.

3 THE COURT: So when do the seven days end?

4 MR. PEEK: Ends Tuesday, the 23rd.

5 THE COURT: Okay. So your --

6 MR. PEEK: So we'll start Mr. Adelson on the 24th.

7 THE COURT: Your proposal is to not double track Mr.
8 Adelson and Mr. Jacobs.

9 MR. PEEK: I told Mr. Bice I was going to double
10 track if he wanted to. Mr. Bice said that he did not want to
11 double track --

12 THE COURT: Okay.

13 MR. PEEK: -- that he wanted to start on the 22nd.

14 THE COURT: And you also think it would be a better
15 use of the time that has been allotted to the Jacobs
16 deposition to not have an interruption which might then
17 adversely affect the way you can use your limited number of
18 hours you've been awarded.

19 MR. PEEK: That is correct, Your Honor.

20 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

21 Mr. Bice.

22 MR. PEEK: Oh. Your Honor, there was one other
23 thing I talked to Mr. Bice about, and that was Mr. Adelson is
24 available the following week, is my understanding. So there
25 was one day, the 26th, Friday the 26th -- I don't know if Mr.

1 Bice still objects to that -- when Mr. Wood is being honored
2 at his alma mater for a contribution that he has made and he
3 would like to attend on the Friday the 26th. So we'd go the
4 24th, 25th, and reconvene on the 29th for those next five days
5 now that you've ordered five -- now that you ordered seven
6 days.

7 THE COURT: Thank you.

8 Mr. Bice.

9 MR. BICE: Yes, Your Honor. When you recall when
10 we were trying to hammer out the schedule because we have some
11 deadlines coming up, including experts and things like that,
12 one of the things that was proposed -- that they had proposed
13 is that they would -- they originally asked you for 10 days
14 for Mr. Jacobs. Mr. Peek says that they're going to seek
15 additional time on Mr. Jacobs. We will be opposing that, and
16 we --

17 THE COURT: Well, I'll either see that in a motion
18 or I won't.

19 MR. BICE: And we may be actually addressing other
20 issues. But with respect to -- here was what I had proposed,
21 which is what I really thought was on the Court's original
22 schedule, is regardless of whether Mr. Jacobs's went five days
23 or ten days, as they originally proposed, we had said that we
24 would start Mr. Jacobs on that week of -- and I believe it was
25 the 15th -- I've lost track of all days, Your Honor -- and

1 then Mr. Adelson would then start on the week of the 22nd.
2 They always knew under their own proposal that Mr. Adelson
3 would interrupt Mr. Jacobs's deposition if the Court said more
4 than five days, because they knew that. They had originally
5 proposed wanting ten days. And they can't seriously suggest
6 that they thought that we were going to allow Mr. Adelson to
7 then push off his deposition. All I have said is --
8 And part of my concern, Your Honor, is that I do not
9 want to run into the situation -- and I do think this is going
10 to happen, and I may be proven wrong, but I still am obviously
11 very cautious about it, is that we're going to get -- they
12 would like to continue for seven days straight with Mr. Jacobs
13 and then we will start with Mr. Adelson, and then there will
14 be a blowup in an attempt to obstruct his deposition so that
15 it cannot be done and that we cannot get our expert
16 disclosures done and the like. So therefore, Your Honor,
17 that's why I would like to proceed with Mr. Adelson the week
18 of the 22nd. You've given me seven days for Mr. Adelson.
19 We'll see whether that's going to be sufficient or not. But
20 that will at least allow me to get the information from him
21 that week. They can then resume for the last two days with
22 Mr. Jacobs, and I can then resume for the last two days with
23 Mr. Adelson. We will have obtained I think a lot of the
24 information that we would like to get to our experts from Mr.
25 Adelson. But pushing me off yet another week and then saying,

1 well, now we've got to accommodate Mr. Wood's travel, which
2 I'm willing to do -- but pushing all that off a week before I
3 get to talk to Mr. Adelson with the full expectation that then
4 there's going to be an interruption, an attempted interruption
5 and disruption of it is really putting us at risk on these
6 deadlines, and I just don't think that it's appropriate.

7 And that's why I've asked to proceed with the week
8 of the 22nd, they can then resume with Mr. Jacobs, we'll have
9 a week of Mr. Adelson, he had indicated he was available that
10 week, we'll have a full week of Mr. Adelson, and then they can
11 resume with Mr. Jacobs, and I will then resume with Mr.
12 Adelson after those two days of Mr. Jacobs are completed.

13 THE COURT: Thank you.

14 The motion for protective order is granted in part.
15 The deposition of Mr. Adelson may commence on the 24th of
16 February, go the 25th, because there's seems to be an
17 agreement, I will grant the request for the 26th to be dark,
18 and then go the entire following week, 29th through the 4th.
19 If for any reason you have problems during deposition, I would
20 rather hear from you sooner, rather than later to the extent
21 those are available.

22 I had two remained issues that I read about last
23 night, and I can't figure out which motion they go with. One
24 had to do with maintaining confidentially [sic] related to the
25 Advance Discovery, and others had to deal with some deposition

1 disclosures. And then Laura says there's also a motion to
2 temporarily seal that's been objected to.

3 MR. PEEK: I'm not even sure I -- Your Honor, I got
4 the minute order. I tried to look at --

5 MR. BICE: Mr. Peek, can we take those off and put
6 those on for I don't care what timing? Because I think Mr.
7 Peek and I and Mr. Jones were all together yesterday, and we
8 did briefly try to sort out what some of these things were.

9 THE COURT: You want me to continue those till when?

10 MR. PEEK: Your Honor, I don't think that they're of
11 urgent nature, unless somebody tells me otherwise on this
12 table.

13 MR. BICE: Two weeks?

14 MR. PEEK: Yeah.

15 MR. BICE: Mr. Cassity's whispering two weeks to me,
16 and I'll agree.

17 THE COURT: Okay. Two weeks it is. And I'm not
18 sure what motion that is. So if you guys could -- Mr.
19 Cassity, you are tasked with calling Laura or sending her an
20 email copying all other counsel as to what those issues
21 related to.

22 The other issue that I have for Dulce is on the
23 bottom of the page it says, "Status Check 887A." Can you put
24 that on the chambers calendar five weeks from tomorrow.

25 THE CLERK: Yes, Your Honor.

1 THE COURT: That will be to see if Mr. Jones
2 produced his more detailed log of items on 887A that should be
3 sealed.

4 THE CLERK: Yes, Your Honor. March --

5 MR. PEEK: I'm sorry. When?

6 THE CLERK: March 25.

7 MR. PEEK: That's for the status check on 887A?

8 THE COURT: Mr. Jones.

9 MR. PEEK: As to these other motions, Your Honor, I
10 think that a couple of those that are on the calendar were
11 actually addressed last December. I'll task Mr. Cassity to
12 work with Mr. Smith and perhaps between the two of them they
13 can work that out as to whether those are or are not mooted by
14 what you did in December. So that may address at least a
15 couple of those that are on the calendar that we think have
16 already been addressed by the Court.

17 THE COURT: Okay. And then there is an objection to
18 a request for temporary sealing of the information filed by
19 Mr. Jacobs related to his opposition and motion for a
20 transfer. I am going to grant the motion, but I'm going to
21 have the redaction and sealing not be temporary at this point.
22 If you wish to have those documents be sealed or unredacted, I
23 need it to occur in the normal course.

24 MR. PEEK: And I think we actually have a motion
25 with respect to the Dumont deposition that has been filed but

1 not been set -- or maybe it has been set in the ordinary
2 course.

3 THE COURT: I'm going to have Laura talk to --

4 MR. PEEK: Laura can work this out with Bob and
5 Jordan.

6 THE COURT: You guys are going to figure it out, and
7 then somebody's going to tell me.

8 MR. BICE: Could you do that? Because I've lost
9 track.

10 MR. PEEK: Yeah.

11 MR. BICE: And Mr. Jones and I think we have
12 resolved -- I'm pretty sure we have resolved the tax issue,
13 Your Honor. So I don't know if that was technically on, the
14 tax return issue. We're going to unredact that line entry
15 that --

16 THE COURT: Okay. And then I reviewed the medical
17 records. I have a question. The declaration that was
18 submitted with the records I reviewed in camera, that
19 declaration of the doctor had been provided to counsel;
20 correct?

21 MR. RANDALL JONES: I believe it had.

22 MR. PEEK: It had, Your Honor.

23 THE COURT: Okay. That was my -- in the middle of
24 the night last night that was the one thing I woke up worrying
25 about before I saw you.

1 MR. BICE: What we did not apparently do, and I
2 don't know if we even gave the Court this, is we didn't give
3 them a log of the notes. And I don't -- in hindsight I --

4 THE COURT: I didn't need a log to review the notes.
5 They weren't very long.

6 MR. BICE: -- I don't think we gave one to you,
7 either. So the Court was probably annoyed with us.

8 THE COURT: I didn't need a log. I can look at
9 medical records --

10 MR. PEEK: We have since received it.

11 MR. BICE: We have since --

12 MR. PEEK: We have since received a log. As to its
13 sufficiency, that may be addressed later. But we'll --

14 MR. BICE: Okay. That's fine.

15 THE COURT: I looked at it. It was lab reports and
16 kinds of examination reports and DAP notes, and it was stuff I
17 was familiar with from my life before I was a judge, and it
18 wasn't very hard for me to go through. But the declaration
19 was very helpful.

20 MR. BICE: We intended to give you that log, and we
21 apologize for having failed to do so.

22 THE COURT: For that purpose I didn't need it.
23 There are a lot of things I need a log for. That limited
24 amount of medical records wasn't it.

25 In addition, there is a plaintiff Steven Jacobs's