

U.S.

# The Mueller Probe: A Year-Old Hyperpartisan Circus

By DEROY MURDOCK | May 18, 2018 5:37 PM

Robert Mueller on Capitol Hill in 2013. (Larry Downing/Reuters)

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Democratic donors overwhelmingly dominate the special counsel's legal team.

**T**hursday, May 17, marked one year since Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein named Robert Swan Mueller III as special counsel. His mission: To search from sea to shining sea for collusion between Russia and Donald J. Trump's presidential campaign. If Mueller has found anything concrete behind this collective hallucination, he must have stashed it in Fort Knox. In this government, the details of a recent White House meeting to stop leaks got leaked. It's beyond belief that proof of Trump/Russia collusion exists but has not seeped out.

Mueller's inquest has failed its stated purpose. However, it has thrived as a genuine example of an investigation so biased that **53 percent** of adults in a May 8 CBS News poll call it "politically motivated."

Amid accusations from the right, and even fair-minded liberals, that his team is terminally hostile to Trump, or at least certifiably pro-Hillary, Mueller could have begun to reverse this perception by hiring a Republican or a scrupulously apolitical prosecutor.

But no!

The newest identifiable name on Mueller's roster is Uzodinma Enyinnaya Asonye. He is the 17th prosecutor and 12th Democratic donor on Mueller's probe. Asonye gave \$800 to Hillary Clinton in 2008 and another \$100 in 2007 to **ActBlue**, "the largest source of funds for Democrats," according to the Somerville, Mass., organization's website. ActBlue "is a nonprofit, building fundraising technology for the left."

A website called Legal Bisnow mentioned Asonye on July 7, 2008:

Potomac fever bit him while still in law school; after field organizing for **John Kerry's '04 campaign** in Broward County, Uzo made a beeline for DC to work for Jesse Jackson Jr. instead of returning to New Haven for his third year. Good thing Yale lets you take finals online.

As it happens, Mueller and former secretary of state John Kerry attended St. Paul's School together and were both on the lacrosse team at the Concord, N.H., boarding school. The minutes of the March 14, 2001, meeting of the Cornell University Faculty Senate find Asonye named to the Ivy League school's Curriculum Committee on Diversity. Asonye's résumé doesn't scream "Make America Great Again." Nor should it. But it should not holler "I'm with her!" either.

Team Mueller should be scrupulously nonpartisan (e.g. no donors to either party or 2016 nominee) or at least look like America (split dialectically between Democrats and Republicans). Instead, as the **Daily Caller confirms**, Mueller's 17 prosecutors resemble a local Democratic club.

- 14 are Democrats
- Three are party-unaffiliated
- None is a Republican

- Twelve are Democratic donors
- One also is a Republican donor
- Two maxed out as Hillary Clinton donors

**Political Donations by Special Counsel Robert Mueller's Prosecutors**

Name	Party affiliation	<u>Gifts to Democrats</u>		<u>Gifts to Republicans</u>	
		Federal	State	Federal	State
James Quarles III	Democrat	36,850	3,750	2,750	0
Jeannie Rhee	Democrat	11,950	1,700	0	0
Andrew Weissmar	Democrat	6,650	3,350	0	0
Greg Andres	Democrat	3,800	1,500	0	0
Andrew Goldstein	Democrat	3,649	200	0	0
Uzodinma Asonye	Democrat	900	0	0	0
Kyle Freeny	Democrat	800	50	0	0
Elizabeth Prelogar	Democrat	500	0	0	0
Brand Van Grack	Democrat	358	0	0	0
Rush Atkinson	Democrat	200	0	0	0
Zainab Ahmad	None	0	0	0	0
Ryan Dickey	Democrat	0	0	0	0
Michael Dreeben	Democrat	0	0	0	0
Adam Jed	Democrat	0	1,100	0	0
Scott Meisler	None	0	0	0	0
Aaron Zebley	None	0	0	0	0
Aaron Zelinsky	Democrat	0	200	0	0
TOTAL		65,657	11,850	2,750	0

Sources:

- David Sivak, "Not a Single Lawyer Known to Work for Mueller Is a Republican" *Daily Caller*, February 21, 2018
- Chuck Ross, "Newest Mueller Prosecutor Donated to Hillary Clinton" *Daily Caller*, May 3, 2018
- Federal Election Commission - Campaign-finance data

Chart by Deroy Murdock for National Review Online - May 18, 2018

Put another way, 82 percent of Mueller’s lawyers are Democrats, and 71 percent of them have contributed money to Democratic candidates and causes.

James Quarles did donate \$2,500 to former Utah Republican congressman Jason Chaffetz and \$250 to former GOP Virginia senator George Allen. But Quarles also maxed out to Hillary, as did Jeannie Rhee. Only two of Mueller’s Democrats, Ryan Dickey and Michael Dreeben, failed to contribute to their

party. Donald J. Trump apparently received \$0.00 from Team Mueller.

All told, Mueller's lawyers donated \$65,657 to federal-level Democrats, \$11,850 to state-level Democrats, and \$2,750 to federal Republicans. Within this \$80,257 grand total, Democrats scored \$77,507 (97 percent) while Republicans saw \$2,750 (3 percent).

Money aside, Andrew Weissman famously attended Hillary Clinton's Election Night bash. And bash is what Hillary aide Justin Cooper did **with a hammer**, as he demolished two of her subpoenaed mobile devices. Mueller attorney Aaron Zebley was Cooper's lawyer.

Also, Jeannie Rhee represented the Clinton Foundation and Obama's national-security aide Ben Rhodes. She also defended Hillary against litigation seeking her personal e-mails.

Mueller's supporters usually note that he is a Republican who was appointed FBI director by GOP president George W. Bush, although his term was extended for two years by Obama, a Democrat. As special counsel, Mueller reports to the aforementioned Rod Rosenstein. He, in turn, was appointed by President Trump and confirmed by the Republican Senate.

Nonetheless, if Mueller's effort is not a hyperpartisan, anti-Trump circus, it sure looks like one. And that mere *appearance* has shattered this entire enterprise's credibility.

After one year, Mueller has indicted former Trump-campaign chairman Paul Manafort and secured guilty pleas from Trump aides Michael Flynn, Rick Gates, and George Papadopoulos and Dutch attorney Alex van der Zwann. But **none of these** legal actions, nor anything else, proves that Trump and Russia colluded to win the White

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COMMENTS

House.

Robert Mueller should dismantle his big top, concede that there is nothing serious behind all the clowns and acrobats, and follow Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey into the sunset.



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