



Metamorphosis:

April 11, 2007

Eight More Lawmakers Morph Into Lobbyists

Since the Texas Legislature's 2005 regular session eight lawmakers have shed their public-servant shells to embrace their inner lobbyist. This newest crop of revolving-door lobbyists is billing 71 clients a total of up to \$2.2 million this year.

Leading the class of 2007 are former Reps. Ray Allen, Todd Baxter and Vilma Luna—the first 2005-session lawmakers to come out of the closet. All three of these lawmakers resigned from the House between November 2005 and July 2006. The other top-billing new revolvers—former Reps. Carter Casteel and Toby Goodman—entered the lobby after voters retired them in 2006.

As a group the new revolver class does a good job illustrating the public's concerns about how much independence lawmakers sacrifice when they consider future careers in the lobby.

Lawmakers considering future lobby careers must think twice before opposing Texas' two largest lobby clients: AT&T and TXU. AT&T already has former Reps. Ray Allen and Vilma Luna on its payroll, while former Reps. Toby Goodman and Peggy Hamric now lobby for TXU.

The revolving door also makes citizens wonder when a lawmaker stops serving the public and starts serving special interests. Toby Goodman, the 2005 vice chair of the House Juvenile Justice Committee, now lobbies for the Association of Independent Child Welfare Administrators and the Juvenile Justice Association.

Carter Casteel, a recent member of the House County Affairs Committee, now lobbies for the Texas Association of Counties. Suzanna Hupp, who chaired the Human Services Committee and sat on the Law Enforcement Committee, lobbies for Disability Services of the Southwest and Texans for Public Safety Solutions.

The Lege's Latest Crop of Revolving-Door Lobbyists

Revolver (Party)	House District	Min. Value of Contracts	Max. Value of Contracts	No. of Clients
Ray Allen (R)	106	\$395,000	\$835,000	16
Todd Baxter (R)	48	\$225,000	\$350,000	3
Vilma Luna (D)	33	\$20,000	\$320,000	31
Toby Goodman (R)	93	\$110,000	\$245,000	6
Carter Casteel (R)	73	\$95,000	\$200,000	4
Suzanna Hupp (R)	54	\$55,000	\$145,000	6
Peggy Hamric (R)	126	\$0	\$40,000	4
Joe Nixon (R)	133	\$10	\$25,000	1
TOTALS:		\$900,010	\$2,160,000	71

One-time House Corrections Committee Chair Ray Allen¹ now lobbies for the industry he once oversaw. Allen counts private jailer Geo Group (formerly Wackenhut Corrections) among his top clients. He also lobbies for corrections contractors Bottom Line Utility Solutions and Securus Technologies.

Former Rep. Todd Baxter² became the top lobbyist for the Texas Cable and Telecommunications Association in 2005—just months after he promoted legislation favorable to that industry.

Vilma Luna parlayed her position as vice chair of the powerful House Appropriations Committee into a job representing 31 clients at lobby powerhouse HillCo Partners. Fellow former Appropriations Committee member Peggy Harmric has agreed to lobby for two tobacco companies.

Joe Nixon, who championed limits on lawsuits as chair of the House Civil Practices Committee, now lobbies for a major beneficiary of such limits: the building branch of the Associated General Contractors.

Nixon's position on civil claims famously fluctuated depending on whether he was acting in an official or personal capacity. At a time in 2003 when his legislative website ostracized "frivolous" mold claims, Rep. Nixon obtained a \$300,000 award from Farmers Insurance to settle mold-remediation claims that the lawmaker filed on his own home. The record showed that when Farmers generously settled this claim it realized that Nixon had a second home—in the Texas House.

Nixon and his seven colleagues never really left the House. They're still living in—and off—its imposing lobby.

Ray Allen's 2007 Lobby Contracts

Client	Min. Value of Contracts	Max. Value of Contracts
AT&T	\$50,000	\$100,000
GEO Group, Inc.	\$50,000	\$100,000
JLL, LLC	\$50,000	\$100,000
Public Strategies, Inc.	\$50,000	\$100,000
TX Conf. of Urban Counties	\$50,000	\$100,000
Penske Truck Leasing Co.	\$25,000	\$50,000
Satellite Tracking of People, LLC	\$25,000	\$50,000
Vanguard Electronics, LLC	\$25,000	\$50,000
Bottom Line Utility Solutions	\$10,000	\$25,000
City of Sunset Valley	\$10,000	\$25,000
Game Warden Peace Ofcr Assn.	\$10,000	\$25,000
SEG Strategic Alliances	\$10,000	\$25,000
Texas Bicycle Coalition	\$10,000	\$25,000
TX Mining & Reclamation Assn.	\$10,000	\$25,000
Solutions Group, Inc.	\$10,000	\$25,000
Securus Technologies	\$0	\$10,000
TOTALS:	\$395,000	\$835,000

Todd Baxter's 2007 Lobby Contracts

Client	Min. Value of Contracts	Max. Value of Contracts
TX Cable & Telecom. Assn.	\$150,000	\$200,000
Alliance of Retail Markets	\$50,000	\$100,000
Lost Creek Mun'l Utility Dist.	\$25,000	\$50,000
TOTALS:	\$225,000	\$350,000

Vilma Luna's 2007 Lobby Contracts

Client	Min. Value of Contracts	Max. Value of Contracts
Alamo Community College Dist.	\$10,000	\$25,000
Driscoll Children's Hospital	\$10,000	\$25,000
A-ABC Services, Inc.	\$0	\$10,000
Airtron, LP	\$0	\$10,000
Amgen, Inc.	\$0	\$10,000
AT&T	\$0	\$10,000
City of South Padre Island	\$0	\$10,000
CPL Retail Energy, LP	\$0	\$10,000
Direct Energy, LP	\$0	\$10,000
Dutko Worldwide, LLC	\$0	\$10,000
El Paso Water Utilities	\$0	\$10,000
First Advantage	\$0	\$10,000
Freighliner, LLC	\$0	\$10,000
HEB Grocery Co.	\$0	\$10,000
Hallmark Air Conditioning, Inc.	\$0	\$10,000
K&N Plumbing Heating & AC	\$0	\$10,000
MedImmune, Inc.	\$0	\$10,000
Molina Healthcare, Inc.	\$0	\$10,000
Psychiatric Solutions, Inc.	\$0	\$10,000
SavaSenior Care Admin. Services	\$0	\$10,000
S. Padre Isle. Econ. Dev. Corp.	\$0	\$10,000
Sterling Air Conditioning	\$0	\$10,000
Tarrant County. Hospital District	\$0	\$10,000
Tenet Healthcare Corp.	\$0	\$10,000
TX Assoc. of Property Tax Prof.	\$0	\$10,000
Texas Motion Picture Alliance	\$0	\$10,000
Texas Stadium Corp.	\$0	\$10,000
WTU Retail Energy, LP	\$0	\$10,000
Wyeth	\$0	\$10,000
TX Assoc. of Broadcasters	\$0	\$0
TX Daily Newspaper Assoc.	\$0	\$0
TOTALS:	\$20,000	\$320,000

Toby Goodman's 2007 Lobby Contracts

Client	Min. Value of Contracts	Max. Value of Contracts
TX Assn. Ind't Child Welfare Admins	\$50,000	\$100,000
Juvenile Justice Assn of TX	\$25,000	\$50,000
TXU Corp.	\$25,000	\$50,000
TX Assn. Psychological Associates	\$10,000	\$25,000
Steven Sinkin	\$0	\$10,000
Harry Tindall	\$0	\$10,000
TOTALS:	\$110,000	\$245,000

Carter Casteel's 2007 Lobby Contracts

Client	Min. Value of Contracts	Max. Value of Contracts
TX Assoc. of School Boards	\$50,000	\$100,000
TX Assoc. of Counties	\$25,000	\$50,000
TX Civil Justice League	\$10,000	\$25,000
New Braunfels Utilities	\$10,000	\$25,000
TOTALS:	\$95,000	\$200,000

Suzanna Hupp's 2007 Lobby Contracts

Client	Min. Value of Contracts	Max. Value of Contracts
Barrett Burke Wilson Castle...	\$25,000	\$50,000
American Pharmacies	\$10,000	\$25,000
Bill Siebert	\$10,000	\$25,000
Texans for Public Safety Solutions	\$10,000	\$25,000
Disability Services of the SW	\$0	\$10,000
TX Massage School Owners Assn.	\$0	\$10,000
TOTALS:	\$55,000	\$145,000

Peggy Hamric's 2007 Lobby Contracts

Client	Min. Value of Contracts	Max. Value of Contracts
Chiropractic Strategies Group, Inc.	\$0	\$10,000
[RJ] Reynolds American, Inc.	\$0	\$10,000
Swisher International, Inc.	\$0	\$10,000
TXU Corp.	\$0	\$10,000
TOTALS:	\$0	\$40,000

Joe Nixon's 2007 Lobby Contract

Client	Min. Value of Contracts	Max. Value of Contracts
Assoc. Gen'l Contractors	\$10,000	\$25,000

¹ See "The 'Big House' Hits the Statehouse," *Lobby Watch*, May 15, 2003.

http://www.tpj.org/page_view.jsp?pageid=687&pubid=93

² See "Leftover Campaign Funds Grease the Revolving Door," *Lobby Watch*, March 7, 2007.

http://www.tpj.org/page_view.jsp?pageid=1152&pubid=909