



Session Artists:

May 20, 2009

Ten New Lawmaker Retreads Merge Into the 2009 Lobby

The longer the legislative session lasts the more revolving-door lobbyists venture into the sunlight. Perhaps of necessity, *Houston Chronicle* veteran Clay Robison was the first to scour this session's lobby for 2008 lawmakers. In late January, two months before he left that paper's shrinking news team, Robison fingered three new revolvers.¹ This head count doubled to half a dozen when Christy Hoppe followed up for the *Dallas Morning News* in mid-February.² Now *Lobby Watch* claims 10 scalps. These 10 new revolvers collectively are reporting 68 contracts worth up to \$3.9 million—or an average of \$389,000 apiece.

Ubiquitous AT&T put five of the new revolvers on call. This session AT&T's lobbyists fathered two failed House budget amendments, the *Morning News* reported.³ One would have killed a study of discriminatory redlining practices in television. The other would have forced the state to pay the cost of rerouting communication lines for road projects. The sponsor of the second amendment revealed why AT&T pays revolving-door lobbyists like former Rep. Pat Haggerty a premium. Explaining his sponsorship of the misguided amendment, Rep. Jim Pitts said, "I was just trying to help Pat out."

Recent Lawmakers Spotted in the Lobby

New Revolver	Max. Value of Contracts	Min. Value of Contracts	No. of Contracts	Party, Hometown
Michael Krusee	\$850,000	\$410,000	16	R- Round Rock
Fred Hill	\$800,000	\$440,000	13	R- Richardson
Kyle L. Janek	\$625,000	\$335,000	7	R- Houston
Patrick B. Haggerty	\$425,000	\$210,000	8	R- El Paso
Corbin Van Arsdale	\$300,000	\$225,000	2	R- Tomball
Dianne W. Delisi	\$275,000	\$135,000	5	R- Temple
Kevin E. Bailey	\$225,000	\$110,000	3	D- Houston
'Robby' L. Cook III	\$225,000	\$100,000	7	D- Eagle Lake
Tony Goolsby	\$100,000	\$50,000	2	R- Dallas
James R. Murphy	\$65,000	\$10,000	5	R- Houston
TOTALS:	\$3,890,000	\$2,025,000	68	

Mike Krusee's Contracts

Max. Value of Contracts	Client
\$100,000	AT&T Corp.
\$100,000	Disability Services of the Southwest
\$100,000	DISH Network
\$100,000	United Health Care
\$50,000	Deputy Sheriff's Assn. of Bexar Co.
\$50,000	HCC Insurance Holdings, Inc.
\$50,000	Reagan National Advertising
\$50,000	TX High School Coaches Assn.
\$50,000	TX Restaurant Assn.
\$50,000	Worldwide Interactive Network, Inc.
\$25,000	Corporate Travel Partners, Inc.
\$25,000	TX Assn. of Life & Health Insurers
\$25,000	TX Assn. of Massage School Owners
\$25,000	TX Assn. of Real Estate Inspectors
\$25,000	TX Pest Control Assn.
\$25,000	Winfree Academy
\$850,000 TOTAL	

Two other clients each hired two new revolvers. The Texas Charter School Association enrolled Kyle Janek and Dianne Delisi. Tobacco giant Reynolds American hooked Pat Haggerty and Robby Cook. Boasting 40 lobbyists, including seven former lawmakers, the tobacco industry stubbed out a couple tobacco-control measures, including a state ban on smoking in public.⁴

Fred Hill's Contracts

Max. Value of Contracts	Client
\$200,000	TX Assn. of Counties
\$100,000	City of Richardson
\$100,000	Conference of Urban Counties
\$50,000	City of Allen
\$50,000	City of Coppell
\$50,000	City of Dallas
\$50,000	City of Denton
\$50,000	City of Farmers Branch
\$50,000	Town of Addison
\$25,000	Arlington Chamber of Commerce
\$25,000	Dallas Area Rapid Transit
\$25,000	Dallas Citizens Council
\$25,000	Town of Flower Mound
\$800,000 TOTAL	

Round Rock Republican Mike Krusee leads the new class of revolvers. He reported that 15 clients are paying him up to \$850,000 this year. Krusee's top clients are AT&T, satellite TV provider DISH Network, Disability Services of the Southwest and insurance giant United Health Care. Krusee who

promoted toll roads as chair of the House Transportation Committee, has steered clear of highway clients thus far.

Former Richardson Republican Rep. Fred Hill is billing 13 clients up to \$800,000 this year. This former head of the House's Local Government Ways & Means Committee mostly represents local government clients.⁵ Hill also represents Arlington's Chamber of Commerce and the Dallas Citizens Council.

Kyle Janek's Contracts

Max. Value of Contracts	Client
\$150,000	Greater Houston Anesthesiology
\$100,000	Excelsior College
\$100,000	Sealy and Smith Foundation
\$100,000	TX Medical Liability Trust
\$100,000	TX Charter Schools Assn.
\$50,000	Eisai, Inc.
\$25,000	TX Society of Anesthesiologists
\$625,000 TOTAL	

The only new Senate revolver thus far is Houston anesthesiologist Kyle Janek, whose medical specialty should find a ready market in the lobby. Seven clients are paying Dr. Janek up to \$625,000 to try to selectively revive or anesthetize legislation. Janek represents two anesthesiology clients and two other medical interests. One is the physician-owned Texas Medical Liability Trust—the state's leading provider of medical-malpractice insurance. The other is a foundation that supports Galveston's John Sealy Hospital.

Pat Haggerty's Contracts

Max. Value of Contracts	Client
\$100,000	Bingo Interest Group
\$50,000	AT&T Corp.
\$50,000	CenterPoint Energy
\$50,000	HillCo Partners, LLC
\$50,000	Licensed Beverage Distributors
\$50,000	Pate Transportation Partners
\$50,000	Reynolds American, Inc.
\$25,000	Media Choice
\$425,000 TOTAL	

Eight clients are paying former El Paso Rep. Pat Haggerty up to \$425,000. After Haggerty openly opposed then-Speaker Tom Craddick in 2007, Craddick helped a challenger defeat Haggerty in last year's GOP primary. Haggerty's top client is Fort Worth-based

Bingo Interest Group. He also represents tobacco and liquor interests, power giant CenterPoint, the HillCo lobby firm and a highway contractor.

Corbin Van Arsdale's Contracts

Max. Value of Contracts	Client
\$250,000	Associated General Contractors
\$50,000	AT&T Corp.
\$300,000	TOTAL

After a challenger took out Tomball Rep. Corbin Van Arsdale in the Republican primary last year, the lame-duck lawmaker quit the House in October for a higher paying job.⁶ Van Arsdale reports that the building branch of the Associated General Contractors is paying him up to \$250,000 this year to be its vice president and general counsel. Van Arsdale moonlights for AT&T.

Republican Rep. Dianne Delisi resigned midterm in July 2008, several months before she registered to lobby for Texas Teachers of Tomorrow, a private teacher-certification provider. Delisi's top client is the charter school association. The former chair of the House Public Health Committee also represents Grace Holdings, which owns hospitals and clinics.

Delisi works for Delisi Communications, the consulting firm founded by her son, Ted Delisi. Ted Delisi's wife, Deirdre, was Governor Rick Perry's chief of staff before Perry tapped her to chair the embattled Texas Transportation Commission.

Dianne Delisi's Contracts

Max. Value of Contracts	Client
\$100,000	TX Charter Schools Assn.
\$50,000	AT&T Corp.
\$50,000	Grace Holdings LLP
\$50,000	TX Teachers of Tomorrow LLC
\$25,000	Intel Corp.
\$275,000	TOTAL

Then-Republican Speaker Tom Craddick rewarded Houston Democratic Rep. Kevin Bailey's loyalty with a chair overseeing the House Urban Affairs Committee. For this same loyalty, voters in the 2008 Democratic primary gave Bailey the boot. This history may limit Bailey's lobby marketability to Democratic members and to moderate Republicans. His top clients are the Service Employees International Union and Medical Multi-Media Advertising (MMA). The Bailey-run

MMA provides marketing and management support to healthcare companies. In 2004 and 2006 MMA contributed a total of \$2,500 in corporate funds to the Texas Democratic Party.

Kevin Bailey's Contracts

Max. Value of Contracts	Client
\$100,000	Medical Multi-Media Advertising
\$100,000	Service Employees International Union
\$25,000	East Aldine Management District
\$225,000	TOTAL

The top clients of Eagle Lake Democrat Robby Cook are Joe Camel and the heirs of Victoria's Dennis O'Connor, a 19th century banker and cattle baron. Cook also represents three water conservation districts, an electric co-op and the Texas Association of Builders.

Robby Cook's Contracts

Max. Value of Contracts	Client
\$50,000	Dennis M. O'Connor Heirs
\$50,000	Reynolds American, Inc.
\$25,000	Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative
\$25,000	Evergreen Underground Water Conser. Dist.
\$25,000	Mesa Underground Water Conservation Dist.
\$25,000	Rusk Co. Groundwater Conservation Dist.
\$25,000	TX Association of Builders
\$225,000	TOTAL

Dallas Republican Tony Goolsby chaired the House Administration Committee before a Democratic challenger ousted him last November. Goolsby lobbies for AT&T and an Arlington-based pension company.

Tony Goolsby's Contracts

Max. Value of Contracts	Client
\$50,000	1st American Pension Services
\$50,000	AT&T Corp.
\$100,000	TOTAL

In his first and last legislative term Houston Republican Jim Murphy vice chaired the House Urban Affairs Committee before a Democratic challenger defeated him in November. Murphy was president of Westchase District, a Houston business district when he ran for the legislature. He now is the general manager of the same municipal management district. His largest client, Hawes Hill Calderon, consults on special municipal tax zones.

Jim Murphy's Contracts

Max. Value of Contracts	Client
\$25,000	Hawes Hill Calderon, LLP
\$10,000	INCAP Financial Group, Ltd.
\$10,000	West Dallas Investments, LP
\$10,000	Billingsley Development Corp.
\$10,000	Westchase District
\$65,000	TOTAL

As these ten former lawmakers moved into the lobby, another revolving-door lobbyist moved back into the legislature. Corpus Christi Republican Todd Hunter defeated Democratic Rep. Juan Garcia in November and chairs the House Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence

Committee. Hunter previously served in the House as a Democrat from 1989 to 1997. Hunter last registered as a lobbyist in 2007.

Todd Hunter's 2007 Contracts

Max. Value of Contracts	Client
\$150,000	TX Windstorm Insurance Assn.
\$25,000	Koch Industries, Inc.
\$25,000	TX Assn. of Counties
\$25,000	TX Travel Industry Assn.
\$225,000	TOTAL

NOTES

¹ "Just a Few Lawmakers Make Switch To Lobbying," *Houston Chronicle*, January 25, 2009.

² "Easy Jump From Lawmaker To Lobbyist," *Dallas Morning News*, February 18, 2009.

³ "Time Is Ripe for the Lobbies," *Dallas Morning News*, April 28, 2009.

⁴ "Tobacco Firms' 40 Lobbyists Put Popular Legislature Proposals At Risk," *Dallas Morning News*, May 11, 2009.

⁵ "From Legislator To Lobbyist," *Dallas Morning News* editorial, March 17, 2009.

⁶ "New Job For Van Arsdale," *Houston Chronicle*, December 21, 2008.