



Written by [R. Cort Kirkwood](#) on June 6, 2023

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## Clinton, Deep State Won; American Justice Lost

Special Counsel John Durham's report on the FBI's ill-conceived Crossfire Hurricane probe presents a nearly ironclad case that the bureau collaborated, even if inadvertently, with the 2016 Hillary for America presidential campaign to destroy Donald Trump. Indeed, Trump and his campaign didn't collude with Russia to win the election. The FBI and the Clinton Mafia did (see "[Durham Report Reveals the Real Collusion](#)").

Yet the 306-page report's excruciatingly detailed account of the collusion allegations also shows that something went terribly wrong in the only two cases Durham prosecuted: those of Clinton gofer Michael Sussmann and espionage suspect Igor Danchenko, both of whom were acquitted of lying to the FBI about their roles in conceiving the hoax.

Sussmann's case is the more perplexing because Durham's evidence was bulletproof. The perpetrator's fingerprints, so to speak, were on the murder weapon. But the prosecutor ran into a jury with at least two biased members. The judge was indirectly linked to one of the hoax conspirators.

That observation doesn't prove anything, of course. But those biases could not have helped Durham's case in deep blue, Deep State Washington, D.C. Those insurmountable difficulties aside, when it was over, the Clinton Mafia won, and American justice lost.

### Sussmann's Role

Sussmann's story begins when the Clinton campaign hired his Perkins Coie law firm. Perkins Coie in turn hired an outfit called Fusion GPS, which paid Christopher Steele to manufacture the pack of lies called the Steele Dossier.

Sussmann was nothing more than a campaign cutout to peddle lies to the media and FBI. One fabulous yarn concerned Trump's supposed connection to the Russian Alfa Bank.

Beginning in July or August 2016, Sussmann, a person called Rodney Joffe, and "agents of the Clinton campaign together assembled and disseminated the Alfa Bank allegations and other derogatory information about Trump and his associates to the media and then to the FBI," the report says:

Generally speaking, the Alfa Bank allegations pertained to assertions that a "secret" email server located in Pennsylvania was configured to allow email communications between Alfa Bank and the Trump Organization through a "TOR exit node" (i.e., a node used for



AP Images

Sus man: Clinton campaign lawyer Michael Sussmann, a consummate D.C. insider, was one of the prime sources of false information peddled to the media from the infamous Steele Dossier manufactured by Fusion GPS. And as befits a D.C. insider, Sussmann was acquitted of his crimes by a D.C. jury.



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anonymized internet traffic) at Spectrum Health, a U.S.-based healthcare company located in Michigan.

A second absurd allegation was that “Trump or his associates were using, in the vicinity of the White House and other locations, one or more telephones from the Russian mobile telephone provider Yotaphone.”

Yet the details about those false allegations are less important than the crime Sussmann committed when he pushed them to the FBI through General Counsel James Baker.

“The night before he met with Baker, Sussmann sent the following text message to Baker’s personal cellphone,” the report says:

“Jim — it’s Michael Sussmann. I have something time-sensitive (and sensitive) I need to discuss. Do you have availability for a short meeting tomorrow? I’m coming on my own — not on behalf of a client or company — want to help the Bureau. Thanks.”

Baker responded: “Ok. I will find a time. What might work for you?”

To which Sussmann replied: “Any time but lunchtime — you name it.”

The next day, the two met at FBI headquarters for 30 minutes in Baker’s office, where Sussmann told Baker about a “surreptitious communications channel” between the bank and Trump’s organization.

There, too, Sussmann told Baker, “I’m not here on behalf of any particular client.”

Baker later said that he was “100 percent confident” that Sussmann so informed him, and that he believed Sussmann because they were friends.

Sussmann had already leaked the material to the media, so Baker jumped on it because published allegations would obviously cause Trump’s people to destroy the communications.

FBI officials whom Baker told about the Sussmann meeting wrote contemporaneous notes of their conversation. They, too, reported that he was not representing a client. “Said not doing this for any client,” one wrote. Wrote another, “no specific client but group of cyber academics talked w/ him about research.”

## **Acquitted of Lying**

That claim was false.

“Emails, billing records, and testimonial evidence offered at trial show that during approximately the same time period — and before approaching the FBI about these matters — Sussmann provided the Alfa Bank allegations to Eric Lichtblau, a reporter for the *New York Times*,” the report says. Sussmann billed that meeting under the description “confidential meetings regarding confidential project.”

As well, “emails and billing records further show that, during the same time period, Sussmann and Joffe worked together to draft a white paper, which summarized the Alfa Bank allegations and which Sussmann provided to the FBI during his September 19th meeting with James Baker,” the report continues.



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In other words, Sussmann lied to Baker. Durham's case was unimpeachable.

Nevertheless, the jury acquitted him.

One of those jurors was a Democrat donor, while another "strongly" disliked Trump, as Fox News reported about the possible bias. Yet both assured the court that they could impartially consider the charges against Sussmann.

The judge, Christopher Cooper, worked on Barack Obama's transition team and knew Sussmann from their days at the Department of Justice. At least Cooper disclosed that fact in court.



**Half-baked:** Former FBI General Counsel James Baker was the recipient of Sussmann's outrageous lies and allegations against Trump and his associates. His uncritical acceptance of uncorroborated smears gave credibility to Sussmann's and the Clinton campaign's dirty tricks. (AP Images)

"I don't believe that this creates a conflict, but my regular practice is to disclose these sorts of relationships with lawyers or with parties on the record," Cooper said. "And I would advise you that I would be happy to entertain a motion if either side believes there is a conflict on that basis or any other."

But that wasn't all.

Cooper's wife represented unindicted hoax conspirator Lisa Page in a lawsuit against the FBI and DOJ. Page alleged that the two bureaucracies violated her privacy rights when they released text messages to and from unindicted hoax conspirator Peter Strzok.

## A Bigger Lie

Yet telling Baker that he wasn't working for the Clinton Mafia wasn't the only falsehood Sussmann peddled to the bureau. The bank allegations and cellphone messages were false, too, agents found.

Yet in so doing, they weren't helped by *not knowing* the source of the allegations, the report avers.

The FBI "put a 'close hold' on Sussmann's identity as the source of the allegations and to prevent its disclosure to the Alfa Bank case team.... The investigation revealed that multiple members of the Alfa Bank case team were 'frustrated' and 'concerned' that they were prevented from interviewing the source of the allegations."



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Indeed, field agents asked for the identity of the sources more than once, only to be denied. That means they couldn't interview Sussmann to evaluate him personally.

"Ultimately, the case team never learned that Sussmann was the source of the allegations nor that he was connected in any way to the DNC and the Clinton Campaign," the report avers. "The FBI's investigation ultimately concluded that it was unable to substantiate any of the allegations in the white paper that Sussmann provided to Baker."

One reason the jury might have acquitted Sussmann is that Clinton campaign execs claimed they never authorized Sussmann to approach the FBI with the allegations. Indeed, the FBI knew the allegations were just that — allegations. Unproven allegations. And Clinton's hit team, of course, knew it had manufactured them. Clinton herself authorized the Big Lie.

Sussmann and other campaign torpedoes retailed those lies to the pro-Clinton media, which, emails in the report show, was little more than an adjunct to the campaign's press people. Stories about the supposed Trump-Alfa Bank link dropped just days before voters went to the polls:

On October 31, 2016 — a little over one week before the election — multiple media outlets reported that the FBI had received and was investigating allegations concerning a purported secret channel between the Trump Organization and Alfa Bank. On that day, the *New York Times* published an article titled *Investigating Donald Trump, F.B.I. Sees No Clear Link to Russia*. The article stated that the FBI possessed information concerning "what cyber experts said appeared to be a mysterious back channel between the Trump Organization and Alfa Bank." The article further reported that the FBI "had spent weeks examining computer data showing an odd stream of activity to a Trump Organization server," and that the *New York Times* had been provided computer logs that evidenced this activity. The article also noted that the FBI had not found "any conclusive or direct link" between Trump and the Russian government and that "Hillary Clinton's supporters ... pushed for these investigations." On the same date, *Slate* published an article titled *Was a Trump Server Communicating with Russia?* that likewise discussed at length the allegations that Sussmann provided to the FBI.

That material provided Clinton and her team "news" they could push on social media.

"Computer scientists have apparently uncovered a covert server linking the Trump Organization to a Russian-based bank," Clinton tweeted after stories about the lie appeared, the report observes:

The tweet included a statement from Clinton campaign advisor Jake Sullivan which made reference to the media coverage article and stated, in relevant part, that the allegations in the article "could be the most direct link yet between Donald Trump and Moscow[,] that "[t]his secret hotline may be the key to unlocking the mystery of Trump's ties to Russia[,] and that "[w]e can only assume that federal authorities will now explore this direct connection between Trump and Russia as part of their existing probe into Russia's meddling in our elections."

Despite the lies and falsehoods — despite a major FBI-Clinton campaign conspiracy to ruin Trump —



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not one individual connected to the nefarious scheme went to jail.

## **Danchenko Acquitted, Too**

Danchenko, the target of an FBI probe to determine whether he was a Russian spy, skated away from a conviction as well.

He lied, Durham alleged, when he told the FBI he had never spoken with Clinton footman Charles Dolan, whom the report suggests was the source for perhaps the most scurrilous allegation in the Steele Dossier: that Trump hired two prostitutes to urinate on the bed in the presidential suite of the Ritz Carlton in Moscow because the Obamas slept there.

The judge acquitted Danchenko of the charge before it went before the jury. Four other of Durham's charges went nowhere as well.

## **Nothing to See Here**

All of which means that they got away with it. Hate-Trump top FBI insiders got away with hiding the source of spurious allegations. And despite orchestrating a conspiracy with a foreign spy to ruin Trump, the Clinton Mafia, as it so often has, walked off scot-free.

The Durham probe itself ended without a conviction. The one conviction connected with the hoax resulted from a probe by the bureau's inspector general, although Durham prosecuted the case. FBI lawyer Kevin Clinesmith was sentenced to probation and community service for altering an email to justify a surveillance warrant on Trump campaign official Carter Page.

But, again, the colluders with Russians to fix a presidential election were not Trump and his associates. It was the FBI and Clinton all along.

## **From the Report**

"The government possessed no verified intelligence reflecting that Trump or the Trump campaign was involved in a conspiracy or collaborative relationship with officials of the Russian government. Indeed, based on the evidence gathered in the multiple exhaustive and costly federal investigations of these matters, including the instant investigation, neither U.S. law enforcement nor the Intelligence Community appears to have possessed any actual evidence of collusion in their holdings at the commencement of the Crossfire Hurricane investigation."

"The speed and manner in which the FBI opened and investigated Crossfire Hurricane during the presidential election season based on raw, unanalyzed, and uncorroborated intelligence also reflected a noticeable departure from how it approached prior matters involving possible attempted foreign election interference plans aimed at the Clinton campaign.... In each of those instances, the FBI moved with considerable caution."

"These examples [enthusiasm to investigate claims against Trump] are also markedly different from the FBI's actions with respect to other highly significant intelligence it received from a trusted foreign source pointing to a Clinton campaign plan to vilify Trump by tying him to Vladimir Putin so as to divert attention from her own concerns relating to



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her use of a private email server.... [I]n this separate matter involving a purported Clinton campaign plan, the FBI never opened any type of inquiry, issued any taskings, employed any analytical personnel, or produced any analytical products in connection with the information.”

“Our investigation determined that the Crossfire Hurricane investigators did not and could not corroborate any of the substantive allegations contained in the Steele reporting. Nor was Steele able to produce corroboration for any of the reported allegations, even after being offered \$1 million or more by the FBI for such corroboration.... Danchenko characterized the information he provided to Steele as ‘rumor and speculation’ and the product of casual conversation.”

“We conclude that ... the FBI failed to uphold their important mission of strict fidelity to the law in connection with certain events and activities described in this report.... FBI attorney Kevin Clinesmith committed a criminal offense in fabricating language in an email that was material to the FBI obtaining a FISA surveillance order.... FBI personnel working on that same FISA application displayed, at best, a cavalier attitude towards accuracy and completeness. FBI personnel also repeatedly disregarded important requirements when they continued to seek renewals of that FISA surveillance while acknowledging ... that they did not genuinely believe there was probable cause to believe that the target was knowingly engaged in clandestine intelligence activities on behalf of a foreign power.... And certain personnel disregarded significant exculpatory information that should have prompted investigative restraint and re-examination.”



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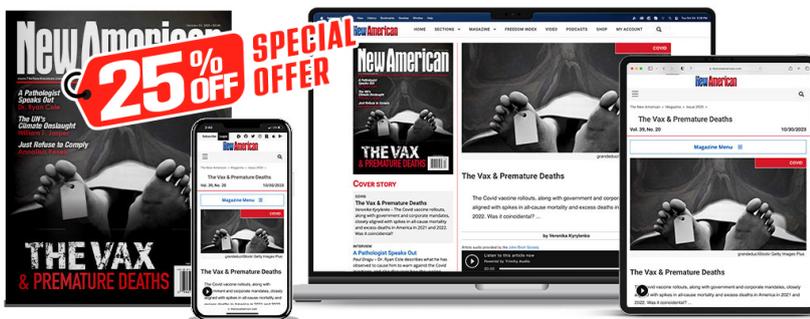
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