



Written by [R. Cort Kirkwood](#) on August 13, 2025

Declassified FBI Docs: Comey Hired Crony to “Shape” News, Ordered FBI to Give “Official Assistance” to NYT

Former FBI chief James Comey not only hired a law professor crony from his U.S. attorney days to dispense pro-Comey information to the hate-Trump media, notably *The New York Times*, but also instructed the FBI’s public affairs office to help the *Times*.

Newly declassified documents from an FBI probe into leaked classified information, first disclosed by Just the News, show that Comey hired Columbia University law professor Daniel Richman to peddle the pro-Comey material. As well, the documents show that Comey ordered the bureau’s “official assistance” to the newspaper.



AP Images
James Comey

The revelations follow a previous report about far-left Democratic U.S. Senator Adam Schiff. When he was ranking member of the House Intelligence Committee, he OK’d leaking classified information to wreck President Trump’s first term, a Democrat committee whistleblower told the FBI.

Breaking: Comey’s media mole told FBI he shaped Russia narrative, needed ‘discount’ to deny leaking intel <https://t.co/ynZuXSBRCT>

— Just the News (@JustTheNews) [August 13, 2025](#)

Conduit to the *Times*

The classified leaks probe in 2017 involved four articles in *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and the *Times*, [including one](#) from April 22, 2017, “Comey Tried to Shield the F.B.I. From Politics. Then He Shaped an Election.”

Comey’s purpose in hiring Richman, whom he knew when they were U.S attorneys in New York’s southern district, was to help spin the news coverage of Comey after published reports disclosed the FBI probe of former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton’s [illegal use of a private e-mail server](#) to send and receive classified information. That probe was called the MidYear Exam.

In 2015, Comey ordered the bureau “to hire Richman as a Special Government Employee (“SGE”) and to grant him a Top Secret clearance with access to Sensitive Compartmented Information (“SCI”),” the [documents reveal](#):

FBI records indicated Richman was hired to work on “Going Dark” matters. The investigation revealed Comey also hired Richman so Comey could discuss sensitive matters, including classified information, with someone outside of the FBI’s regular leadership. Comey also used Richman as a liaison to the media. On several occasions, Richman spoke



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with the media without consultation with FBI or [Justice Department's] Offices of Public Affairs. Richman contacted journalists to correct stories critical of Comey, the FBI and to shape future press coverage....

The investigation revealed Richman had been a source for Michael Schmidt, one of the reporters credited with writing the article at issue, and the New York Times since at least 2008. Richman

first spoke with Schmidt regarding an investigation into illegal activity in sports. Prior to Richman becoming an SGE, Schmidt visited Richman's house numerous times. The New York Times quoted Richman several times, both on the record and on background, in stories regarding Jim Comey.

After he was terminated by President Trump, Comey used Richman as a conduit to convey to the media memoranda of his meetings with President Trump.

An obvious question is whether Richman disclosed classified information to Schmidt for the article for the April 22, 2017 article. He answered cryptically, the documents show.



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(U// [REDACTED] On November 22, 2019, the Arctic Haze investigative team interviewed Richman. According to Richman, Comey and Richman talked about the "hammering" Comey was taking from the media concerning his handling of the Midyear Exam investigation. Richman opined Comey took comfort in the fact Richman had talked to the press about his feelings regarding Comey's handling and decision-making on the Midyear Exam investigation. Richman claimed Comey never asked him to talk to the media.

[REDACTED] According to Richman, he and Comey had a private conversation in Comey's office in January 2017. The conversation pertained to Comey's decision to make a public statement on the Midyear Exam investigation. Comey told Richman the tarmac meeting between Lynch and Clinton was not the only reason which played into Comey's statement on the Midyear Exam investigation. According to Richman, Comey told Richman of Lynch's characterization of the investigation as a "matter" and not that of an investigation. Richman recalled Comey told him there was some weird classified material related to Lynch which came to the FBI's attention. Comey did not fully explain the details of the information. Comey told Richman about the Classified Information, including the source of the information. Richman understood the information could be used to suggest Lynch might not be impartial with regards of the conclusion of the Midyear Exam investigation. Richman understood the information about Lynch was highly classified and it should be protected. Richman was an SGE at the time of the meeting.

([REDACTED]) According to Richman, he and Schmidt had a conversation shortly after the meeting with Comey in or around January 2017. Richman claimed Schmidt brought up the Classified Information and knew more about it than he did. Richman was pretty sure he did not confirm the Classified Information. However, Richman told the interviewing agents he was sure "with a discount" that he did not tell Schmidt about the Classified Information. Richman did not know who gave Schmidt the Classified Information. Richman acknowledged he had many discussions with Schmidt about the article as an SGE and even after he resigned as an SGE. Richman acknowledged he contributed more to the article than what was attributed to him by name. Richman also stated he knew Schmidt talked to numerous other government sources for information on the article.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

- Analyzed thousands of documents and other items of evidence [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- Reviewed administrative and classified materials [REDACTED];
- Reviewed three (3) reports issued by the U.S. DOJ OIG;
- Reviewed FD-302s of DOJ and FBI witnesses provided by the Office of Special Counsel Robert Mueller;
- Reviewed a 2017 investigation conducted by John Durham and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service (TROPIC VORTEX);
- Interviewed numerous current and former FBI, DOJ, and U.S. Intelligence Community ("USIC") employees who had access to the Classified Information;
- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

(U// [REDACTED] Based upon discussions with DOJ, these investigative steps did not generate sufficient proof to charge any individual with willfully transmitting the Classified Information, conspiring to transmit the Classified Information, or aiding and abetting another person's transmission. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

FBI ASSISTED WITH THE APRIL 2017 ARTICLE

[REDACTED] Investigators learned that FBI Office of Public Affairs ("OPA") was told to assist the New York Times with the April 2017 article. According to interviews with FBI employees, Comey either directed or otherwise authorized FBI's official assistance to the New York Times. FBI OPA did not coordinate or brief DOJ leadership or DOJ OPA about this

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

decision, even though AG Lynch had left the Department and DOJ regulations called for DOJ OPA coordination in cases of media contact with the New York Times. As part of the FBI's assistance, FBI officials Peter Strzok and Lisa Page were interviewed by the New York Times concerning this article in the presence of DOJ OPA officials.

[REDACTED] During an interview with the investigative team, Strzok stated he believed FBI Executive Management told them to meet with the New York Times. Strzok said he recalled being told to provide an investigator-level briefing on the Midyear Exam investigation. These briefings took place on March 10, 2017, March 30, 2017, and April 10, 2017. During the March 30, 2017 meeting, the New York Times told Strzok and Page they had the Classified Information. Strzok told investigators he did not recall the New York Times having the Classified Information, but Page told investigators she specifically recalled the Classified Information and took a break from the meeting to discuss with Strzok that the New York Times had the Classified Information. Page indicated she alerted her supervisors about the fact the New York Times had the Classified Information. According to FBI OPA, the New York Times advised them in their April 10, 2017 interview about the content of the article, including the Classified Information. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

COMEY, RICHMAN, and THEIR INTERACTIONS WITH THE MEDIA

(U// [REDACTED] By way of background, Richman is a Columbia University Law Professor and a close friend of Comey. They met while working as Assistant United States Attorneys ("AUSAs") in the Southern District of New York ("SDNY"). The New York Times article contained several quotes, attributed to Daniel Richman, which defended Comey's decisions to make unilateral public statements about the Midyear Exam investigation. In 2015, Comey instructed the FBI to hire Richman as a Special Government Employee ("SGE") and to grant him a Top Secret clearance with access to Sensitive Compartmented Information ("SCI"). FBI records indicated Richman was hired to work on "Going Dark" matters. The investigation revealed Comey also hired Richman so Comey could discuss sensitive matters, including classified information, with someone outside of the FBI's regular leadership. Comey also used Richman as a liaison to the media. On several occasions, Richman spoke with the media without consultation with FBI or DOJ's Offices of Public Affairs. Richman contacted journalists to correct stories critical of Comey, the FBI and to shape future press coverage. Richman did this both when he was an SGE and after he resigned from the FBI.

(U// [REDACTED] The investigation revealed Richman had been a source for Michael Schmidt, one of the reporters credited with writing the article at issue, and the New York Times since at least 2008. Richman first spoke with Schmidt regarding an investigation into illegal activity in sports. Prior to Richman becoming an SGE, Schmidt visited Richman's

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[REDACTED]

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Classified Info

In 2019, during an interview with the FBI, Richman revealed that he met with Comey in January 2017, and during "private conversation" in Comey's office, the FBI chief gave him classified information



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relative to the Clinton probe.

“He and Schmidt had a conversation shortly after the meeting with Comey in or around January 2017,” the [FBI documents report](#):

Richman claimed Schmidt brought up the Classified Information and knew more about it than he did. Richman was pretty sure he did not confirm the Classified Information. However, Richman told the interviewing agents he was sure “with a discount” that he did not tell Schmidt about the Classified Information. Richman did not know who gave Schmidt the Classified Information. Richman acknowledged he had many discussions with Schmidt about the article as an SGE and even after he resigned as an SGE. Richman acknowledged he contributed more to the article than what was attributed to him by name.

BREAKING NEWS

Newly released documents reveal an associate of former Obama FBI Director James Comey leaked classified information to The New York Times - WITH Comey's authorization!

pic.twitter.com/3XHDMclIjm

— Conservative Brief (@ConservBrief) [August 13, 2025](#)

Again, the *Times* published the article piece in question that April. How much classified information, if any, Richman might have revealed to the *Times* is unclear.

Perfectly clear is another of Comey’s moves to polish his image. He ordered FBI officials to cooperate with the *Times*. Two of them were disgraced, hate-Trump FBI man Peter Strzok and his paramour, FBI lawyer Lisa Page, major players in the Russia Collusion Hoax. They called Trump loathsome, awful, and an idiot, the [Durham Report showed](#), and Strzok vowed to stop Trump from becoming president in 2016.

“Investigators learned that FBI Office of Public Affairs (“OPA”) was told to assist the New York Times with the April 2017 article,” the documents say:

According to interviews with FBI employees, Comey either directed or otherwise authorized FBI’s official assistance to the New York Times. FBI OPA did not coordinate or brief DOJ leadership or DOJ OPA about this decision, even though ... DOJ regulations called for DOJ OPA coordination in cases of media contact with the New York Times. As part of the FBI’s assistance, FBI officials Peter Strzok and Lisa Page were interviewed by the New York Times concerning this article in the presence of DOJ OPA officials.

Strzok told investigators that he briefed the *Times* three times. The *Times* told the two it possessed classified information.

Schiff Scandal

As with the Schiff, federal prosecutors didn’t pursue the leaks.

As [The New American reported](#) yesterday, citing FBI documents revealed [by Just the News](#), a Democratic House Intelligence Committee staffer told the FBI that in 2017, then-ranking member Schiff



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approved leaking classified information. During a meeting with staff members, the whistleblower revealed, Schiff said the committee would leak classified information that “was derogatory” to President Trump and “would be used to indict” him.

Breaking: Exclusive: Democrat whistleblower told FBI that Schiff okayed leaking classified intel to hurt Trump <https://t.co/yuLge0bYRj>

— Just the News (@JustTheNews) [August 12, 2025](#)

The reason? Schiff thought he would be the next CIA director.

“Schiff was particularly upset, as he believed he would have been appointed as the director of the CIA had candidate Hillary Clinton won the election,” the whistleblower told the FBI:

The HPSCI minority viewed the election and its aftermath as a constitutional crisis, and, by February 2017, [the whistleblower] stated, all hell broke loose. During a meeting on 13 February 2017, [redacted] instructed the staff that he wanted to drive the “Russian involvement” issue in a joint inquiry, similar to the 9/11 commission.

The statute of limitations on most federal crimes, including leaking classified information, is five years.



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