

PAUL MANAFORT INDICTED FOR LAUNDERING 50 TIMES AS MUCH THROUGH RUGS AS THROUGH HOUSEHOLD LABOR

In response to yesterday's server hiccups and in anticipation that Mueller is nowhere near done, we expanded our server capacity overnight. If you think you'll rely on emptywheel reporting on the Mueller probe, please consider a donation to support the site.

One of the nifty things Robert Mueller did with his indictment of Paul Manafort was to lay out all the extravagances he used to launder his money into the US. The most amazing was his \$1M antique rug bill.

Vendor C (Antique Rug Store in Alexandria, Virginia)	10/7/2008	Yiakora Ventures Limited	Cyprus	\$15,750
	3/17/2009	Yiakora Ventures Limited	Cyprus	\$46,200
	4/16/2009	Yiakora Ventures Limited	Cyprus	\$7,400
	4/27/2009	Yiakora Ventures Limited	Cyprus	\$65,000
	5/7/2009	Yiakora Ventures Limited	Cyprus	\$210,000
	7/15/2009	Yiakora Ventures Limited	Cyprus	\$200,000
	3/31/2010	Yiakora Ventures Limited	Cyprus	\$140,000
	6/16/2010	Global Highway Limited	Cyprus	\$250,000
Vendor C Total				\$934,350
Vendor D (Related to Vendor C)	2/28/2012	Global Highway Limited	Cyprus	\$100,000
Vendor D Total				\$100,000

Mueller also listed \$1.4 million laundered through two different clothing stores.

Compare that with the mere \$20,000 Manafort spent on the people who clear his NY property.

Vendor S (Housekeeping in New York)	9/26/2011	Leviathan Advisors Limited	Cyprus	\$5,000
	9/19/2012	Lucicle Consultants Limited	Cyprus	\$5,000
	10/9/2013	Global Endeavour Inc.	Grenadines	\$10,000
Vendor S Total				\$20,000

Admittedly, Manafort appears to have redone his Hamptons and FL properties routinely to launder more money. But it basically means he shorted his staff while spending big on magic carpets.

Which will make Trump's efforts to give rich shits like Manafort more tax benefits this week even more difficult.

The money laundering through luxury goods isn't the key crime in Manafort's indictment. That has to do with serving as an unregistered foreign agent with regards to work from 2012.

Importantly, that means Mueller got to point to Tony Podesta's corruption prominently as one of these two unnamed firms.

23. To minimize public disclosure of their lobbying campaign, MANAFORT and GATES arranged for the Centre to be the nominal client of Company A and Company B, even though in fact the Centre was under the ultimate direction of the Government of Ukraine, Yanukovich, and the Party of Regions. For instance, MANAFORT and GATES selected Company A and Company

The allegation is that by having one Republican and one Democratic lobbyist firm to do the work of pro-Russian Ukrainians, Manafort hid what was really going on.

Just as interesting, Mueller slapped a false statements charge onto the failure to report being a foreign agent, tied to these claims (they carry onto a second page).

49. On or about November 23, 2016 and February 10, 2017, within the District of Columbia and elsewhere, the defendants PAUL J. MANAFORT, JR., and RICHARD W. GATES III knowingly and willfully caused to be made a false statement of a material fact, and omitted a material fact necessary to make the statements therein not misleading, in a document filed with and furnished to the Attorney General under the provisions of FARA, to wit the underlined statements:

- “[DMI]’s efforts on behalf of the Party of Regions and Opposition Bloc did not include meetings or outreach within the U.S.”
- “[N]either [DMI] nor Messrs. Manafort or Gates had any agreement with the [Centre] to provide services.”

That way, if the idea of actually enforcing foreign registry laws doesn't fly (which is admittedly a novel idea in DC), they still have some crimes to charge Manafort with.

Hopefully, that false statements charge and the idea of charging for failure to register will send a chill through all of DC's other corrupt influence peddlers.

COUNTS THREE THROUGH SIX
(Failure To File Reports Of Foreign Bank And Financial
Accounts For Calendar Years 2011-2014)

42. Paragraphs 1 through 30 and 32 through 36 are incorporated here.
43. On the filing due dates listed below, in the District of Columbia and elsewhere, the defendant PAUL J. MANAFORT, JR., unlawfully, willfully, and knowingly did fail to file with the Department of the Treasury an FBAR disclosing that he has a financial interest in, and signature and other authority over, a bank, securities, and other financial account in a foreign country, which had an aggregate value of more than \$10,000, while violating another law of the United States and as part of pattern of illegal activity involving more than \$100,000 in a 12-month period, during the years listed below:

COUNT	YEAR	DUE DATE TO FILE FBAR
3	2011	June 29, 2012
4	2012	June 30, 2013
5	2013	June 30, 2014
6	2014	June 30, 2015

Importantly, Mueller called for all these toys and much (but not all) of Manafort's real estate to be forfeited. Which will make it harder for him to pay his lawyers and harder for him to look like a million dollars as he turns himself in.

The money laundering charges here (though not necessarily the foreign registry ones) can be punted down to NY State if Trump pardons Manafort.

Here's what this does: it applies some pressure to Manafort (and serves as an object lesson to Mike Flynn, who can be charged tomorrow with the same registry related crimes). But it doesn't yet get into the heart of the Russian influence crimes, which preserves Manafort's ability to testify about them (that is, to flip).

It's unclear whether it will work. My biggest question of the day is who is paying for Manafort's legal bills and how long they'll be willing to continue doing so.