

New Data Shows Trump Exceeded Number Of Obama Political Appointees Who Were Approved To Burrow Into Permanent Civil Service In Administration's Last Year

New Data Shows That 9 Trump Political Appointees Were Approved To Burrow Into Permanent Civil Service Positions In The Last Months Of The Administration, Bringing Trump's Last-Year Total To At Least 35 After He And His Allies Heavily Criticized 29 Burrowers During Obama's Final Year.

The Trump Administration's "Quiet Push To Salt Federal Agencies With Trump Loyalists" Relies In Part On The Controversial Practice Of Burrowing Political Appointees Into Civil Service Positions—And Trump Was Hypocritically Set To Exceed Obama's 29 Burrowers, With 26 Just In The First 10 Months Of 2020.

The Trump Administration Engaged In "A Quiet Push To Salt Federal Agencies With Trump Loyalists" Ahead Of And During The Transition To The Biden Administration. "President Biden is trying to shake a Trump hangover in the federal government by acting to remove some holdovers and install his own appointees, but a quiet push to salt federal agencies with Trump loyalists is complicating the new president's effort to turn the page." [The Washington Post, [01/24/21](#)]

One Way In Which The Trump Administration Did This Was Through The "Controversial" Practice Of Burrowing Political Appointees Into Civil Service Positions—A Practice That Republicans Heavily Criticized At The Start Of Trump's Term As They Threatened To Oust Obama Officials. "The practice of shifting employees from appointee to career status, informally called burrowing, occurs at the end of every presidency — and it is controversial. Trump aides and their GOP allies in Congress, for example, threatened at the start of Trump's term to remove any Obama-era political appointees who had been replanted in the civil service, and dozens were, records show." [The Washington Post, [01/24/21](#)]

The Trump Administration Was Set To Exceed The Obama Administration's Number Of Burrowed Officials In The First Ten Months Of 2020, With 26 Appointees Compared The 29 During The Obama Administration's Final Year. "But the just-departed president is on track to exceed the number of Democrats the Obama administration rewarded with permanent roles. In his final year, President Barack Obama moved 29 political appointees into career jobs. As of November, Trump had installed almost that many, 26, in the first 10 months of 2020, according to data provided to Congress by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM)." [The Washington Post, [01/24/21](#)]

Before He Won The Presidency, Trump Threatened To "Purge" Burrowed Obama Administration Officials And Said He Would Urge Congress To Pass A Law To Make It Easier To Fire Public Servants. "If he wins the presidency, Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump would seek to purge the federal government of officials appointed by Democratic President Barack Obama and could ask Congress to pass legislation making it easier to fire public workers, Trump ally, Chris Christie, said on Tuesday. [...] Trump's transition advisers fear that Obama may convert these appointees to civil servants, who have more job security than officials who have been politically appointed. This would allow officials to keep their jobs in a new, possibly Republican, administration, Christie said. 'It's called burrowing,' Christie said. 'You take them from the political appointee side into the civil service side, in order to try to set up ... roadblocks for your successor, kind of like when all the Clinton people took all the Ws off the keyboard when George Bush was coming into the White House.'" [Reuters, [07/19/16](#)]

9 Trump Appointees Were Appointed To Civil Service Positions From October 25, 2020 To January 20, 2021—6 Of These Followed The November 3, 2020 Election.

The Office Of Personnel Management (OPM) Is Required To Submit Regular Reports On “Political Appointees Appointed To Nonpolitical Permanent Positions” And Agency Requests For These Appointments. “In accordance with the Edward ‘Ted’ Kaufman and Michael Leavitt Presidential Transitions Improvement Act of 2015, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is submitting a report on political appointees appointed to nonpolitical permanent positions. Specifically, the Presidential Transitions Act requires OPM to report annually on agency requests to appoint political appointees or former political appointees to covered civil service positions.” [Office of Personnel Management, [3/03/21](#)]

According To OPM’s Most Recent Report, 9 Trump Political Appointees Were Converted To Career Civil Service Positions From October 25, 2020 To January 20 2021, 6 Of Which Of Were Converted Following The November 3, 2020 Election:

Date Appointed to Civil Service Position	Name	Prior Political Position(s)	New Civil Service Position	Date Appointed To Prior Political Position
10/25/20	Pezzullo, John	Program Officer, Bureau of Legislative and Public Affairs Legislative Affairs Senate Affairs Division, U.S. Agency for International Development	Congressional Liaison Specialist, Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs, U.S. Agency for International Development	4/17/17
10/25/20	Baptist, Eric	Associate Administrator for Chemical Safety, Senior Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel and Deputy Assistant, and Pollution Prevention Environmental Protection Agency	Assistant Chief Counsel, Office of Vehicle Safety Standards and Harmonization Office of the General Counsel, Department of Transportation	8/19/18
1/17/21	Gray, Keith	Chief of Staff, Risk Management Agency Office of the Administrator, U.S. Department of Agriculture	Associate Administrator, Risk Management Agency Office of the Administrator, U.S. Department of Agriculture	7/16/18
11/22/20	Tucker, Rachel	Counselor to the Attorney General, Office of Attorney General, Department of Justice	Assistant United States Attorney, Criminal Division Virginia, Eastern, Department of Justice	2/18/18
1/3/21	Freeman, Lindsey	Counsel, Office of Legal Policy Office of the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice	Assistant United States Attorney, U.S. Attorney’s Office Middle District of North Carolina Criminal Division, Department of Justice	11/12/17
1/17/21	Porter, Jennifer	Special Advisor, Office of the General Counsel, Export Import Bank of the United States	Attorney Advisor, Office of the General Counsel/Litigation Fraud and Compliance Unit, Export Import Bank of the United States	6/30/19
12/20/20	Risch, Carl	Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs, Bureau of Consular Affairs, Department Of State	Deputy Director, Executive Office for Immigration Review, Department of Justice	8/11/17
12/20/20	Gardner, Maureen	Senior Advisor, Office of the Secretary Immediate Office Assistant Secretary for Administration, Department Of Agriculture	Management and Program Analyst, Department Administration Office of Human Resources Management	10/15/19

			Office of the Director, Department Of Agriculture	
1/17/21	Castro, Josue Emanuel Rivera	State Director, State Offices Office of the Puerto Rico State Director, Department Of Agriculture	District Director, Office of Field Operations (OFO), Region II, Puerto Rico/Virgin Islands District Office Hato Rey, Puerto Rico, Small Business Administration	4/19/18

[Office of Personnel Management, [3/03/21](#)]

From December 1, 2020 To January 20, 2021, OPM Received 10 Requests To Have Political Appointees Converted To Civil Service Positions, Approved 6 Previously-Submitted Requests, And Reported That 6 Were Still Pending.

From December 1, 2020 To January 20, 2021, OPM Received 10 Requests To Have Political Appointees Converted To Career Civil Service Positions, 4 Of Which Were Returned To Their Agencies And 6 Of Which Were Still Under Review. [Office of Personnel Management, [3/03/21](#)]

- **From December 1, 2020 To January 20, 2021, OPM Reported That Federal Agencies Sent 10 Requests To Have Political Appointees Appointed To Career Civil Service Positions And OPM Provided Updates On 18 Previously-Disclosed Requests.** “The enclosed report identifies 10 agency requests to OPM for reviews of current or former political appointees to covered civil service positions for the period of December 1, 2020 through January 20, 2021. It also provides updates on 18 cases previously reported.” [Office of Personnel Management, [3/03/21](#)]
- **As Of March 3, 2021 Four Of The Requests Were Returned To Their Agencies And Six Were Still Pending.** “Of the 10 cases received, we returned four to the agency and six are under review.” [Office of Personnel Management, [3/03/21](#)]

December 1, 2020 - January 20, 2021 OPM REVIEWED CASES REPORTED	
TOTAL CASES:	10
DECISION APPROVED:	0
DECISION DENIED:	0
DECISION PENDING:	6
RETURNED TO AGENCY WITHOUT ACTION:	4

[Office of Personnel Management, [3/03/21](#)]

From December 1, 2020 To January 20, 2021, OPM Provided Updates On 18 Previously Reported Requests, Noting That It Approved 6 Requests, Denied 3 And Returned 1 To Its Agency. “For eight of the 18 cases previously reported, we provide effective dates for selectees now appointed to covered civil service positions. For the remaining 10 cases, we approved six, denied three, and returned one to the agency.” [Office of Personnel Management, [3/03/21](#)]

- **The Three Denied Included The Note That They Could Not The Appointment Was “Free Of Political Influence.”** Alongside each of the three denied requests was the following note: “We could not conclude appointment was free of political influence and complied with merit system principles and applicable civil service laws and regulations.” [Office of Personnel Management, [3/03/21](#)]

From October 1, 2020 To November 30, 2020, OPM Received 10 Requests To Have Political Appointees Converted To Civil Service Positions And Approved 2 Previously-Submitted Requests.

From October 1, 2020 To November 30, 2020, OPM Received 10 Requests To Have Political Appointees Converted To Career Civil Service Positions, 2 Of Which Were Approved, 1 Of Which Was Returned To Its Agency, And 7 Of Which Were Still Under Review, As Of December 18, 2020. [Office of Personnel Management, [12/18/20](#)]

Prior To October 1, 2020, OPM Approved 2 Existing Requests To Have Political Appointees Converted To Civil Service Positions And Denied 2. [Office of Personnel Management, [12/18/20](#)]

Following Election Day On November 3, 2020, OPM Received 13 Requests To Have Political Appointees Converted To Civil Service Positions.

From November 5, 2020 To November 16, 2020, OPM Received 3 Requests To Have Political Appointees Converted To Career Civil Service Positions, One Of Which Was Approved, One Was Denied and One Was Returned As Of March 3, 2021. [Office of Personnel Management, [3/03/21](#)]

From December 1, 2020 To January 20, 2021, OPM Received 10 Requests To Have Political Appointees Converted To Career Civil Service Positions, 4 Of Which Were Returned To Their Agencies And 6 Of Which Were Still Under Review, As Of March 3, 2021. [Office of Personnel Management, [3/03/21](#)]

These 9 Appointees Include A Former API Counsel And Trump EPA Official Who Attacked Standards He Would Regulate In His New Position, A Jeff Sessions Loyalist, A Former High-Ranking Leader Of Multiple Young Republicans Groups, And An Agricultural Industry Lobbyist Who Now Administrates Crop Insurance

Erik Baptist, Former Senior Counsel For The Climate-Denying American Petroleum Institute And Trump EPA Official, Was Approved For A Career Position At The U.S. Department Of Transportation Where He Would Oversee Fuel Economy Standards

Trump EPA Appointee Erik Baptist Was Approved To Burrow From His Political Appointment Into A Career Position At The U.S. Department Of Transportation

OPM Disclosed That Former Trump Environmental Protection Agency Official “Eric” Baptist Was Appointed To Be Assistant Chief Counsel for Vehicle Safety Standards and Harmonization At The U.S. Department Of Transportation.

Date Appointed to Civil Service Position	Name	Prior Political Position(s)	New Civil Service Position	Date Appointed To Prior Political Position
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10/25/20	Baptist, Eric	Associate Administrator for Chemical Safety, Senior Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel and Deputy Assistant, and Pollution Prevention Environmental Protection Agency	Assistant Chief Counsel, Office of Vehicle Safety Standards and Harmonization Office of the General Counsel, Department of Transportation	8/19/18
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[Office of Personnel Management, [3/03/21](#)]

A U.S. Office Of Government Ethics Disclosure Shows That The Correct Spelling For This Official's First Name Is Erik. [U.S. Office of Government Ethics, [07/26/17](#)]

Erik Baptist's Linkedin Shows That He Was At The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) From June 2017 To June 2019, First As Senior Deputy General Counsel And Then As Deputy Assistant Administrator For The Office Of Chemical Safety And Pollution Prevention.

- **June 2017 To June 2018: Erik Baptist Was Senior Deputy General Counsel At The EPA.** [Linkedin Profile for Erik Baptist, accessed [03/25/21](#)]
- **June 2018 To June 2019: Erik Baptist Was Deputy Assistant Administrator For The Office Of Chemical Safety And Pollution Prevention.** [Linkedin Profile for Erik Baptist, accessed [03/25/21](#)]

The U.S. Government's Most Recent Personnel Listing, Published In December 2020, Showed Baptist's New Position Of Assistant Chief Counsel Of Vehicle Safety Standards And Harmonization As Vacant.

Assistant Chief Counsel (Vehicle Safety Standards & Harmonization).

Vacant

[U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Reform, [December 2020](#)]

The U.S. Department Of Transportation Was No Longer Accepting Applications For This Position, As Of March 25, 2021.



Assistant Chief Counsel for Vehicle Safety Standards and Harmonization

U.S. Department of Transportation • Washington, DC

No longer accepting applications

[U.S. Department of Transportation via Linkedin, accessed [03/25/21](#)]

Baptist's Approved Position Has "Total Control" Over The Regulations And Rulemaking Related To Fuel Economy Standards

The Assistant Chief Counsel For Vehicle Safety Standards And Harmonization "Has Total Responsibility For The Planning, Direction, And Control Of Legal Work In The Area Of Regulations And Rulemaking" Related To Title V Of The Motor Vehicle Information And Cost Savings Act (The Fuel Economy Act). "The Assistant Chief Counsel for Vehicle Safety Standards and Harmonization has total responsibility for the planning, direction, and control of legal work in the area of regulations and rulemaking related to the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966 and to Title V of the Motor Vehicle Information and Cost Savings Act (the Fuel Economy Act)." [U.S. Department of Transportation via Linkedin, accessed [03/25/21](#)]

The Role Also Has “Legal Responsibility For Promulgating Regulations Setting Fuel Economy Standards.” “The Assistant Chief Counsel oversees legal work to produce Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards and has legal responsibility for promulgating regulations setting fuel economy standards.” [U.S. Department of Transportation via LinkedIn, accessed [03/25/21](#)]

Baptist Is The Former Senior Counsel To The American Petroleum Institute, A Major Fossil Fuel Industry Group That Has Promoted Climate Change Denial

Erik Baptist Was At The American Petroleum Institute (API) From May 2011 To June 2017, First As Counsel And Then As Senior Counsel.

- **May 2011 To December 2013: Erik Baptist Was Counsel At API.** [LinkedIn Profile for Erk Baptist, accessed [03/25/21](#)]
- **January 2014 To June 2017: Erik Baptist Was Senior Counsel At The API.** [LinkedIn Profile for Erk Baptist, accessed [03/25/21](#)]

API Represents Nearly 600 Fossil Fuel Industry Companies. “API is a behemoth in the oil and gas world, currently representing nearly 600 producers, refiners, and others across the industry. Formed in 1919, the institute aims to influence public policy, conduct research, and set industry standards.” [Bloomberg Law, [09/14/20](#)]

API Has Pushed False And Misleading Information About Climate Change Since The 1980s.

“The American Petroleum Institute (API), the leading oil and gas industry trade group, publicly pushed misleading information on climate change as early as 1980 – much earlier than previously thought – according to newly discovered archival documents. API ‘was promulgating false and misleading information about climate change in 1980, nearly a decade earlier than previously known,’ wrote Benjamin Franta, a JD/PhD candidate at Stanford University’s Law School and Department of History, in a new peer-reviewed paper published this month in Environmental Politics.” [Desmog, [1/15/21](#)]

API Lobbies Against Climate Friendly Policy At Both The State And Federal Level. “A small disclosure on the mailers revealed that they had, in fact, not come from a group of self-organized Pennsylvanians. The mailers were funded and shipped by the American Petroleum Institute, the lobbying champion for oil and natural-gas companies in national politics. The return address on the mailers was one of the group’s offices in downtown Washington, D.C. [...] But climate activists have not been alone in switching focus to local politics: The oil industry has also pivoted. In the past few years, the American Petroleum Institute (API) and its allies have activated at the local level, fighting against—and occasionally beating back—climate-friendly policies in at least 16 different states. This surge of local activism has succeeded in slowing the growth of electric-vehicle sales and zero-carbon energy, experts say.” [The Atlantic, [2/20/20](#)]

Baptist Was In Trump’s EPA’s Senior Leadership While It Engaged In Unprecedented “Political Interference In Science” To Oppose Climate Friendly Policy

Baptist’s Biography Claims To Have “Senior Leadership Experience In Both Program And Legal Offices At EPA,” And Expert Knowledge Of The Agency’s Processes. “By having senior leadership experience in both program and legal offices at EPA, Erik possesses unparalleled insight into which arguments are persuasive to key decisionmakers, what offices within EPA have equities in certain rulemakings and adjudications, and how to leverage other federal agencies to achieve success.” [Wiley Rein LLP, accessed [03/25/21](#)]

Baptist’s Biography Claims To Have Expertise In The Clean Air Act And Several Other Major Environmental Laws. “Erik employs his expertise in environment and safety issues – including the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), the Clean Air Act (CAA), and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) –

to advise clients on regulatory compliance, policy, litigation, and enforcement matters.” [Wiley Rein LLP, accessed [03/25/21](#)]

Baptist’s Biography Claims He “Supervised EPA’s Litigation,” “Worked On Regulations For Greenhouse Gas Emissions,” And “Led EPA’s Responses” To A Congressional Oversight Investigation. “While serving in EPA leadership, Erik implemented groundbreaking TSCA rulemakings and policies, reformed EPA’s new chemical review process, directed the agency’s decisions under FIFRA, supervised EPA’s litigation, worked on regulations for greenhouse gas emissions from stationary and mobile sources, advised EPA leadership on biofuels policy, helped craft EPA’s Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Action Plan, served on the White House’s Endangered Species Act (ESA) Interagency Working Group, and led EPA’s responses to a House Oversight and Government Reform Committee investigation.” [Wiley Rein LLP, accessed [03/25/21](#)]

The Trump Administration’s “Political Interference In Science” At The EPA Prompted The Biden Administration To Take The “Unusual Step” Of Publicly Accounting How Regulations Were “Warped” To Benefit Industry Under Trump. “The Biden administration is taking the unusual step of making a public accounting of the Trump administration’s political interference in science, drawing up a list of dozens of regulatory decisions that may have been warped by political interference in objective research. The effort could buttress efforts to unwind pro-business regulations of the past four years, while uplifting science staff battered by four years of disregard.” [The New York Times, [03/24/21](#)]

- **HEADLINE: E.P.A. to Review Attacks on Science Under Trump** [The New York Times, [03/24/21](#)]

An EPA Official Issued A “Blunt Memo” Arguing The Trump Administration “Compromised The Integrity” Of Agency Science In About 90 Decisions. “In a blunt memo this month, one senior Biden appointee said political tampering under the Trump administration had “compromised the integrity” of some agency science. She cited specific examples, such as political leaders discounting studies that showed the harm of dicamba, a popular weedkiller that has been linked to cancer and subsequently ruling that its effectiveness outweighed its risks. The broader list of decisions where staff say scientific integrity was violated is expected to reach about 90 items, according to one person involved in the process.” [The New York Times, [03/24/21](#)]

Baptist Defended Trump’s “All-Out Assault On California Over Automotive Mileage Rules”

September 2019: The Trump Administration “Launched An All-Out Assault On California Over Automotive Mileage Rules,” Arguing That Only The Federal Government Could Regulate Emissions And Fuel Economy Standards. “The Trump administration on Friday launched an all-out assault on California over automotive mileage rules, telling state officials that only the federal government has the power to regulate greenhouse gas emissions and fuel economy.” [Associated Press, [09/06/19](#)]

Erik Baptist Defended The Trump Administration’s Stance, Arguing “‘It’s A National Economy’ [...] ‘You Can’t Have Fuel Economy Standards For Each Individual State.’” “Erik Baptist, a former senior deputy general counsel with the EPA in the Trump administration, said the administration’s strongest argument would be that another law, the Energy Policy and Conservation Act, gives the federal government sole authority to regulate automotive greenhouse gas emissions and fuel economy standards. California essentially is setting fuel economy standards by regulating greenhouse gas emissions, said Baptist, now a partner with Wiley Rein LLP in Washington. ‘It’s a national economy,’ Baptist said. ‘You can’t have fuel economy standards for each individual state.’” [Associated Press, [09/06/19](#)]

Former EPA Officials, However, Said The Trump Administration’s Stance Was On Shaky Ground. “But former EPA officials who worked on emissions standards say the Trump administration is on shaky ground in its challenge. Janet McCabe, former acting assistant EPA administrator for air and radiation, said California has the legal power through the Clean Air Act to regulate auto pollutants that include greenhouse gases. ‘Their job is to reduce emissions,’ she said. ‘They’re not regulating fuel economy, they’re regulating emissions,’ said McCabe, now a professor at Indiana University’s McKinney School of Law. John Hannon, a retired EPA lawyer

with decades of experience involving emissions, said it would be very hard to deny California waiver from national automobile emissions standards.” [Associated Press, [09/06/19](#)]

Department Of Justice Burrower Rachael Tucker Is A Jeff Sessions Loyalist Who Helped Implement His Anti-Civil Rights And Anti-Immigrant Policies Who Now Enforces Federal Criminal Law In A District Of Over 5.7 Million

Rachael Tucker Converted From The Political Position Of Counselor To The Attorney General To A Assistant United States Attorney Career Position, Which Enforces Federal Laws In A District Of Over 5.7 Million People

OPM Disclosed That Former Trump Justice Department Official Rachael Tucker Was Appointed As For Special Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Eastern District of Virginia In The Justice Department.

Date Appointed to Civil Service Position	Name	Prior Political Position(s)	New Civil Service Position	Date Appointed To Prior Political Position
11/22/20	Tucker, Rachel	Counselor to the Attorney General, Office of Attorney General, Department of Justice	Assistant United States Attorney, Criminal Division Virginia, Eastern, Department of Justice	2/18/18

[Office of Personnel Management, [3/03/21](#)] [The Federalist Society, [Accessed 3/25/21](#)]

A U.S. Office Of Government Ethics Disclosure Shows That The Correct Spelling For This Official’s First Name Is Rachael. [U.S. Office of Government Ethics, [3/14/17](#)]

Special Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Eastern District of Virginias Enforce Federal Criminal Laws For A District Of More Than 5.7 Million People. “The United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia has four offices which are located in Alexandria, Richmond, Norfolk, and Newport News. Assistant U.S. Attorneys are assigned to each of these offices to prosecute criminal and civil cases. The District consists of more than 19,000 square miles and has a population of 5,730,000. The District has numerous federal agencies (including the Defense Department and the CIA), military installations, and major airports. An appointment with the U.S. Attorneys Office offers unique and challenging experiences for the highly motivated attorney; an opportunity to work on their own caseload and handle their own trials. Working in the Criminal Division, the Special Assistant United States Attorney (SAUSA) will be part of a dedicated team helping to enforce Federal criminal laws and prepare appeals, more specifically, in the Cyber Crimes area. The SAUSA will receive substantial training.” [Department Of Justice, [4/07/16](#)]

Tucker Worked On Civil Rights Issues Under Former AG Jeff Sessions, Who Had An Abhorrent Record On Civil Rights Issues—including Repealing Consent Decrees Enforcing Police Reform

Tucker’s Work At The Justice Apartment Under Sessions Projects In The Civil Rights Division. “She has worked at the Department of Justice since January 2017, where for two years she was a Counselor in the Office of the Attorney General. Her portfolio included all issues arising from the National Security Division, the Civil Division, and the Civil Rights Division.” [The Federalist Society, [Accessed 3/25/21](#)]

Sessions Was A Notable Opponent Of Civil Rights, Opposing Transgender Student Bathroom Rights, Repealing Consent Decrees Enforcing Police Reform, Supported Voter Roll Purges, And Abandoned Decades Of Precedent Holding That A Texas Voter ID Law Was Racially Discriminatory. “Instead of

protecting the most vulnerable among us, the Justice Department under Sessions targeted them. One of his earliest actions was to rescind a guidance requiring schools to allow transgender students to use the bathroom associated with their gender identity. In then-ongoing litigation, he abandoned the department's long-standing position that Texas's voter-ID law was racially discriminatory. He sought to back out of a consent decree with the Baltimore Police Department requiring it to reform its civil rights violations, and issued a memo as he was leaving the office that radically curtails the federal government's ability to impose reform on abusive police departments nationwide. He directed federal prosecutors to pursue the most severe charges possible against criminal defendants, regardless of mitigating circumstances. He reversed 20 years of consistent Justice Department policy to support an Ohio practice of purging voters from the rolls for failing to vote." [Washington Post, [11/09/18](#)]

Tucker's Portfolio Under Sessions Included The National Security Division And Session's DOJ Defended Trump's Muslim Ban, Which The Administration Framed As A National Security Issue

Tucker's Work At The Justice Apartment Under Sessions Included Projects In The National Security Division. "She has worked at the Department of Justice since January 2017, where for two years she was a Counselor in the Office of the Attorney General. Her portfolio included all issues arising from the National Security Division, the Civil Division, and the Civil Rights Division." [The Federalist Society, [Accessed 3/25/21](#)]

Sessions Supported Trump's Muslim Ban, Imposed Quotas On Immigration Judges, Made It More Difficult For Victims Of Violent Crimes To Seek Asylum, Opposed DACA And Promoted And Defended Family Separation. "Sessions reserved his most egregious actions, however, for immigrants — a group that cannot defend itself through the political process because they cannot vote. He defended Trump's travel ban, which barred entrance to the United States to tens of thousands of people from predominantly Muslim countries. He imposed quotas on immigration judges, which the judges themselves have said make it impossible to provide fair hearings to those whose cases they are adjudicating. He made it harder for victims of rape and gang violence to obtain asylum in the United States. He sought to punish cities and towns that chose, as is their right under the Constitution, to leave immigration enforcement to the federal government. He was a vocal proponent of ending protection for "dreamers," the young undocumented people to whom Obama granted relief from deportation. (A federal court of appeals ruled Thursday that the decision to rescind protection was arbitrary and unlawful.) And perhaps most cruelly of all, he promoted and defended Trump's family separation policy, in which young children were forcibly taken from their parents for months at a time, often without even accounting for where the children were sent and held, as a way of deterring immigration to the United States." [Washington Post, [11/09/18](#)]

Sessions Was Seen As An Ally By Anti-Immigrant Ideologues Who Viewed Him As A Hardliner Who Supported Their Views. "The Justice Department is facing a likely senior staff exodus once President Donald Trump taps a permanent replacement for ousted Attorney General Jeff Sessions, creating a leadership vacuum that has troubled hard-line immigration activists. [...] Even Trump's critics concede that Sessions' staff has dutifully guided the president's hard-line immigration policies, propped up the president's most contested executive actions and added a record number of adjudicators to U.S. immigration courts." [Politico, [11/21/18](#)]

When Challenged Legally, The Trump Administration Defended The Muslim Ban On National Security Grounds. "January 27 marks three years since President Trump issued the original Muslim Ban, which disrupted the lives of thousands of people around the world and triggered mass protests around the United States. Since then, the ban has been through three iterations, all of which have been met with legal challenges on the grounds that the policy was motivated by animus toward Muslims. The policy now bars most people from five predominantly Muslim countries — Iran, Libya, Syria, Somalia, and Yemen. Despite the government's claims that the ban was based on 'national security' concerns, the true discriminatory and unconstitutional reasons behind it have been evidenced by, among other things, numerous anti-Muslim statements by Trump before and after he was elected." [Brennan Center For Justice, [1/23/20](#)]

Tucker, A Former Sessions Senate Staffer, Claimed She Would Leave Or Relocate In The DOJ After Sessions Was Fired Due To Her Loyalty To Him

Former Attorney General Jeff Sessions Was Fired By Trump In November 2018. “President Trump fired Attorney General Jeff Sessions on Wednesday, replacing him with a loyalist who has echoed the president’s complaints about the special counsel investigation into Russia’s election interference and will now take charge of the inquiry.” [New York Times, [11/07/18](#)]

At The Time Of Session’s Departure, Tucker Claimed She Too Would Leave The Agency Or Find Another Job Within It Due To Her Loyalty To Him. “Rachael Tucker, a senior counselor to the attorney general, could also exit ‘in the next couple of months,’ citing her fidelity to Sessions, or possibly take another job within the agency, said two sources close to the situation.” [Politico, [11/21/18](#)]

Tucker Was The Former Deputy Counsel To Sens. Jeff Sessions (R-AL) As Well As Rob Portman (R-OH). “Prior to joining the Department, she served as Deputy General Counsel to Senator Rob Portman on the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, where her work focused on combating online sex trafficking and labor trafficking, as well as pursuing regulatory reform. From 2012 to 2015, she served as Deputy Chief Counsel to former Senator Jeff Sessions on the Senate Judiciary Committee, where she handled internet and data security, national security, religious liberty, and Second Amendment issues. “[The Federalist Society, [Accessed 3/25/21](#)]

Tucker Is A Member Of The Conservative Federalist Society

Tucker Is A Member Of The Federalist Society. “Rachael Tucker currently serves as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Eastern District of Virginia. She has worked at the Department of Justice since January 2017, where for two years she was a Counselor in the Office of the Attorney General. Her portfolio included all issues arising from the National Security Division, the Civil Division, and the Civil Rights Division.” [The Federalist Society, [Accessed 3/25/21](#)]

The Federalist Society Is A Conservative Group With Ties To “Every Conservative Supreme Court Justice,” Except For Chief Justice John Roberts. “Weathering the most scrutiny were two groups: the Federalist Society on the right, and the consulting firm Arabella Advisors on the left. Besides Chief Justice John Roberts, every conservative Supreme Court justice has ties to the Federalist Society (Roberts, through a spokesperson, denied any association when he was nominated to the court in 2005).” [SCOTUSBlog, [03/11/21](#)]

Former Young Republicans Leader Josue Emmanuel Castro-Rivera Burrowed From A Political Appointment Into The Small Business Association

Political Appointee Josue Emmanuel Castro-Rivera Burrowed From His Political Position At The Agriculture Department To A Career Position As The District Director Of The Puerto Rico/Virgin Islands In The Small Business Association

OPM Disclosed That Former Trump Agriculture Department Official Josue Emmanuel Castro-Rivera Was Appointed To A Career Position As The District Director Of The Puerto Rico/Virgin Islands In The Small Business Association.

Date Appointed to Civil Service Position	Name	Prior Political Position(s)	New Civil Service Position	Date Appointed To Prior Political Position

1/17/21	Castro, Josue Emanuel Rivera	State Director, State Offices Office of the Puerto Rico State Director, Department Of Agriculture	District Director, Office of Field Operations (OFO), Region II, Puerto Rico/Virgin Islands District Office Hato Rey, Puerto Rico, Small Business Administration	4/19/18
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[Office of Personnel Management, [3/03/21](#)] [The Weekly Journal, [2/17/21](#)]

The SBA's Puerto Rico/Virgin Islands District Office Helps Small Businesses In Those Territories Strengthen Their Business And Recover From Disasters. “As the federal government's representative to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, the SBA's Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands District Office's mission is to maintain and strengthen the economies of both Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands by aiding, counseling, assisting and, protecting the interests of small businesses and by helping businesses and families recover from disasters. The District Office is committed to being the leading catalyst for economic development and disaster assistance.” [SBA, Accessed [3/25/21](#)]

Rivera-Castro Was The National Committeeman Of The Puerto Young Republicans Federation And The Northeast Regional Director Of The Young Republican National Federation

Rivera-Castro Was The National Committeeman Of The Puerto Rico Young Republicans Federation And The Northeast Regional Director Of The Young Republican National Federation Immediately Prior To Joining The Agriculture Department. [ProPublica, [Accessed 3/25/21](#)]

Former Agricultural Industry Lobbyist Keith Grey Burrowed Into A Career Position Within The United States Agriculture Department Where He Helps Administrate Crop Insurance

Pollical Appointee Keith Gray Burrowed From His Political Position Within The Agriculture Department's Risk Management Agency, Which Oversees Federal Crop Insurance Into A Career Position At The Same Agency

OPM Disclosed That Former Trump Agriculture Department Official Keith Gray Was Appointed To A Career Position As The Associate Administrator At The Agriculture Department's Risk Management Agency.

Date Appointed to Civil Service Position	Name	Prior Political Position(s)	New Civil Service Position	Date Appointed To Prior Political Position
1/17/21	Gray, Keith	Chief of Staff, Risk Management Agency Office of the Administrator, U.S. Department of Agriculture	Associate Administrator, Risk Management Agency Office of the Administrator, U.S. Department of Agriculture	7/16/18

[Office of Personnel Management, [3/03/21](#)]

The Risk Management Agency Provides Risk Management Tools And Oversees The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation. “The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Risk Management Agency (RMA), created in 1996, serves America's agricultural producers through effective, market-based risk

management tools to strengthen the economic stability of agricultural producers and rural communities. RMA is committed to increasing the availability and effectiveness of Federal crop insurance as a risk management tool. RMA manages the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) to provide innovative crop insurance products to America's farmers and ranchers. Approved Insurance Providers (AIP) sell and service Federal crop insurance policies in every state and in Puerto Rico through a public-private partnership with RMA. RMA backs the AIPs who share the risks associated with catastrophic losses due to major weather events." [RAMA, [Accessed 3/25/21](#)]

Gray Is A Longtime Agricultural Industry Lobbyist

Gray Was National Affairs Director For The Alabama Farmers Federation From 1995 To 2009. "Keith Gray, an Alabama native, is the new associate administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Risk Management Agency. The position is the highest career-ranking position within the agency. [...] Gray has extensive political experience and served as National Affairs director for the Alabama Farmers Federation and Alfa Insurance. He is a former legislative assistant for then-U.S. Rep. Terry Everett, R-Alabama, who served on the House Agriculture Committee." [ALFA, [1/19/21](#)] [LinkedIn, Accessed [3/25/21](#)]

Keith Lobbied On Behalf Of The Alabama Farmer's Federation. [ProPublica, Accessed [3/25/21](#)]

Immediately Prior To Joining USDA Gray Was The President Of His Own Consulting Company, Gray Matter LLC. [LinkedIn, Accessed [3/25/21](#)]

Gray Matter LLC Provided Consulting Services "To Individuals, Non-Profits And Associations, Corporations, And Municipalities" Which Helped Them Secure "Federal Funding Not Only Through Traditional Appropriations But Also Through Grants And Loans." "Gray Matter offers consulting and professional services to individuals, non-profits and associations, corporations, and municipalities in obtaining federal funding not only through traditional appropriations but also through grants and loans. Gray Matter has also specializes in assisting clients in rural areas to obtain infrastructure funding for such things as police stations, roads and bridges, community health centers, small business development centers, and rural telemedicine facilities." [LinkedIn, Accessed [3/25/21](#)]