



## Dems unveil convention fundraising packages - Fitzsimmons to IFA - Government watchdog group files lobbying complaint against Gingrich - Ex-congressman joins Nelson Mullins

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By [ANNA PALMER](#) & [DAVE LEVINTHAL](#) | 01/05/12 1:22 PM EDT

**PI SCOOP... DEMS UNVEIL CONVENTION \$\$ PKGS:** Paper has been circulated on K Street on the **Charlotte 2012 Convention Host Committee's** fundraising packages as downtowners have begun keying in on how active they'll be in North Carolina this fall.

The four-page document — which was distributed after an inside-the-Beltway meeting Democratic National Convention Committee CEO **Steve Kerrigan** held before the holidays — lays out four packages with special names like "Gold Rush" and "Dogwood" for big donors and fundraisers.

The top fundraising package is appropriately named "Presidential" for those who raise \$1 million. In return, the convention promises a premier uptown hotel room, platinum credential package, platinum events package, concierge services and priority access for rental facilities. It also earns the fundraiser two tickets for the "First in Flight Series," a number of pre-convention events based in North Carolina with elected officials, political vets and others and four VIP tickets to the "Dialogue Series." But, lest that not be enough: every fundraising level from those contributing \$50,000 or raising \$250,000 to \$1 million receive a lapel pin.

**PI EXCLUSIVE... FITZSIMMONS TO IFA: The International Franchise Association** is continuing hiring up — adding **Erica Fitzsimmons**, formerly of the **Herald Group**, as its director of grass roots and director of PAC. The position is new for IFA — which combines the grass-roots and PAC functions previously held by **Meredith Nethercutt**, who left to go to the **National Association of Manufacturers**, and **Victoria Adams**, who departed for the **Solar Energy Industries Association**. Fitzsimmons will be responsible for FranPAC, IFA's political action committee and the trade group's grass-roots efforts. IFA has launched a concentrated effort on increasing its PAC with a goal of becoming a \$1 million PAC by the 2013-2014 election cycle. The group is on track to meet that goal by the end of 2012.

IFA's **Judith Thorman** said of the hire: "Erica's wide range of political, grass-roots and public policy experience will be vital to IFA and the franchise small-business industry as we continue to highlight the economic impact and job-creating prowess of franchising to policymakers in an election year."

It won't be all new faces for Fitzsimmons at IFA. She and IFA spokesman **Matt Haller** worked together for **Bill Miller** and **Rob Engstrom** in the **U.S. Chamber of Commerce's** political shop for five years.

**BREAKING ... GOVERNMENT WATCHDOG FILES LOBBYING COMPLAINT AGAINST GINGRICH:** Government watchdog group **Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington** is asking the **U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia** and the **FBI** to "to investigate **Newt Gingrich** and his **Center for Health Transformation** for violations of the Lobbying Disclosure Act." The complaint, which also names the Gingrich Group consulting firm, accuses Gingrich and his organizations of "failing to register as lobbyists and failing to file lobbying disclosure reports." Read the full complaint here: <http://bit.ly/wyxGJW>

Gingrich, who is struggling to right his presidential campaign after losing momentum of late, has maintained that his government relations efforts did not fit the legal definition of lobbying, and therefore, there was no need for him to register as a lobbyist.

**GOOD THURSDAY AFTERNOON!** We've got a column filled with the latest breaking news, moves and all the rest for you. Please keep sending us scoops, gossip, tidbits and all the rest to [apalmer@politico.com](mailto:apalmer@politico.com) and [dlevinthal@politico.com](mailto:dlevinthal@politico.com). Follow us on Twitter at [@davelevinthal](https://twitter.com/davelevinthal) and [@apalmerdc](https://twitter.com/apalmerdc).

Now back to the show.

**EX-CONGRESSMAN JOINS NELSON MULLINS:** Former Rep. **J. Gresham Barrett** (R-S.C.), who lost in a 2010 South Carolina gubernatorial primary to current Gov. **Nikki Haley**, is joining **Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough's** government relations as a "senior policy adviser." Says Managing Partner **Jim Lehman**: "Gresham served on key committees and subcommittees in Washington and has the knowledge and experience that will certainly be a benefit to our clients." Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough's lobbying business has grown in recent years, as federal records indicate it brought in more than \$7.2 million in 2010 — a firm record. It's on pace to about equal that amount when books close on 2011 later this month.

**ALL IN THE FAMILY:** **Crowell & Moring International** is calling in some help by way of some folks it knows pretty well, **Crowell & Moring**. The job: lobby on behalf of **Pacific Coast Feather Company**.

**GINGRICH SUFFERING FROM SUPER PAC BUYER'S REMORSE:** Not long ago **Newt Gingrich** seemed to be a big fan of court decisions that ushered in the era of the super PACs. Then he got a sour taste of the new rules in Iowa. Read Dave's story with fellow POLITICO scribe **Kenneth P. Vogel** here: <http://politi.co/zCoff6>

**SUPER PAC ACTIVITY ROUNDUP:** As the New Hampshire primaries near, several super PACs are spending big to support (or oppose) candidates with the unlimited amounts of cash they may raise. Pro-**Newt Gingrich** super PAC **Winning Our Future** on Wednesday reported making an independent expenditure of nearly \$109,000 for "national email communication and production." The pro-**Ron Paul** super PAC **Endorse Liberty**, for one, spent more than \$61,600 in support of Paul on Tuesday, federal records show. The money primarily went toward Internet advertising, but also included a \$300 expenditure on "costumes." The pro-Huntsman **Our Destiny PAC** on Tuesday spent nearly \$10,000 on "media production."

Meanwhile in Nebraska, the **Senate Conservatives Fund** reported spending \$209,920 on a media campaign to support Republican U.S. Senate candidate **Don Stenberg**. In Oregon, **Women Vote!**, a super PAC sponsored by pro-Democrat, pro-abortion rights organization **EMILY's List**, made more than \$104,000 worth of independent expenditures to oppose the candidacy of Republican congressional candidate **Robert Cornilles**. The **Freedomworks for America** super PAC recorded more than \$30,000 in new expenditures opposing U.S. Sen. **Orrin Hatch** (R-Utah), who's seeking another term.

**HUNTSMAN SUPER PAC FILING FREQUENCY CHANGE OK'D:** A quick update to this story (<http://politi.co/w1KIQM>) in which we reported that pro-**Jon Huntsman** super PAC **Our Destiny PAC** asked to change its campaign finance disclosure filing frequency from quarterly to monthly. The **Federal Election Commission** has granted its wish, which has the practical effect of allowing Our Destiny PAC to occlude its contributors until the end of January — after the Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire, South Carolina and Florida primaries have already been contested. See here: <http://bit.ly/wYIETQ>

**TOP GWEN MOORE OFFICIAL BOLTS FOR LOBBY JOB:** **Andrew Stevens**, the deputy chief of staff for Rep. **Gwen Moore** (D-Wis.), is leaving Monday to become director of government and external affairs at **Allianz of America**, an insurance company. “It has truly been a privilege to work in the House of Representatives and with so many incredible people. I look forward to working with many of you in my new role,” Stevens wrote to colleagues.

**TRADE GROUP NAMES NEW PRESIDENT:** The **National Association of Foreign-Trade Zones** today named **Daniel Griswold** its president, effective Monday. Griswold has previously worked in a variety of jobs — as a Hill staffer, editor at the **Colorado Springs Gazette** and, more recently, as an author on economic issues and director of the Center for Trade Policy Studies at the **Cato Institute**. “I look forward to working to fulfill my lifelong commitment to expanding America’s engagement in the world economy while also helping American companies and organizations who are transforming that vision into reality every day,” Griswold said in a statement. The National Association of Foreign-Trade Zones typically spends between \$40,000 and \$60,000 annually on federal lobbying efforts, federal records show.

**AHIP LOBBYIST SHIFTS TO FIRM:** **America’s Health Insurance Plans** lobbyist **Scott Styles** is leaving the trade association to become a partner at the **C2 Group**, a bipartisan government affairs firm. “I will continue to represent AHIP at the C2 Group, and look forward to working with all of you in my new capacity,” he wrote in an email to associates.

**MOVING ON UP:** The **Organization for International Investment** has promoted **Abigail Martin** and **John Lettieri**. Martin will serve as the trade group's vice president of external affairs and will be responsible for membership services, business development, studies and special projects. Lettieri will be vice president of public policy and government affairs. He'll be responsible for OFII's state and federal policy agenda and government affairs.

**PI ON NPR:** Check out Wednesday’s “**To the Point**” program on **National Public Radio**, in which Dave discusses the role of super PACs in the 2012 presidential election cycle. His segment begins at the 19:50 mark: <http://bit.ly/xnxpI4>

**THURSDAY IN THE TWITTERVERSE:**

@HotlineReid Iowa will be the model super PACs will follow this year  
<http://bit.ly/yHHSco>

@TheFix Gingrich tiptoes into a Romney attack in a new ad. <http://ow.ly/8jg8G>

@rollcall A Super PAC for @RickSantorum is closing shop, saying its mission in Iowa is done. <http://roll.cl/y0eoJh> via @ElizaRules

@frates Former Portman Health Aide Heads to AMGA <http://njour.nl/Aawyll>

@gdumouchel Lobbying company caught removing damaging references to Stella Artois from #Wikipedia <http://ind.pn/xdDkRy>

@DanEggenWPost Iowa caucuses mark the start of the "super PAC" era  
<http://wapo.st/wImm7y>

#### **NEW POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE FILINGS:**

**Skateboarders for Car and Road Safety** of Alameda, Calif. — Treasurer: **Alec Foster**

**Liberty Action PAC** of Orlando, Fla. — Treasurer: **Deryl Edwards** (independent expenditure-only committee)

**New Independent Party** of McLean, Va. — Treasurer: **Michael J. Barron** (independent expenditure-only committee)

#### **NEW REGISTRATIONS:**

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld: Allegiant Travel Company

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld: Quanta Services

Becker & Poliakoff: Lorin & Sons

Cassidy & Associates: Military Support Coalition

Crowell & Moring International: Crowell & Moring

Guardian Life Insurance Company of America: Guardian Life Insurance Company of America

Holland & Knight: City of Richmond

Holland & Knight: Oakland Harbor Partners

McAllister & Quinn: Transylvania University

Quadripoint Strategies: Domestic Energy Producer's Alliance

Quadripoint Strategies: Open Invention Network

Tome Coleman Associates: Emissions Control Technology Association Inc.

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