

CASE NUMBER: 06 GJ 1160
ACTIVITY: Call No. 236
PHONE NUMBER: (773) 404-8667
DATE/TIME: November 13, 2008

SPEAKERS:

BURRIS: Roland Burris
BLAGOJEVICH: Rob Blagojevich

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1 BURRIS (Clears throat) Burris speaking.

2 BLAGOJEVICH Hello Roland, this is Rob Blagojevich
3 again. How are you?

4 BURRIS I'm doing fine, I'm doing fine.
5 What's...(chuckles) what's going on? I
6 was just discussing you yesterday.

7 BLAGOJEVICH (chuckles) Oh, were you. Now this is
8 the governor's brother, not...

9 BURRIS: Alright.

10 BLAGOJEVICH: not the governor.

11 BURRIS I, I know you're calling telling me that
12 you're gonna make me king of the world,
13 and uh...

14 BLAGOJEVICH (laughs)

15 BURRIS ...and therefore I can go off to, you
16 know, wherever and do all these great
17 things (UI).

18 BLAGOJEVICH Well, let me tell ya, one thing I am not
19 is a bullshitter.

20 BURRIS (chuckles)

21 BLAGOJEVICH So I will just shoot straight with you.

22 BURRIS (chuckles) Okay.



1 BLAGOJEVICH And manage expectations. Now I may be,
2 I may be a little bit different than
3 other family members, but I'm not a
4 bullshitter.

5 BURRIS Okay Rob. 'Cause I've been, I've been
6 trying to figure out what the heck, you
7 know, I can do. Go ahead.

8 BLAGOJEVICH Well, I'm just following up.

9 BURRIS: Yeah.

10 BLAGOJEVICH: We've had a number of conversations
11 about, you know, anything you might be
12 able to do; you and Fred might be able
13 to do here before the end of the year
14 for Rod. Again, we're trying to get as
15 much as we can in his war chest, ah, so
16 that when he has to, you know disclose
17 in January...

18 BURRIS Sure.

19 BLAGOJEVICH ...what he's done and if he, you know
20 looks formidable...whoever might be out
21 there.

22 BURRIS Yeah. Right, right and, and now how do,
23 answer me this question because I'm very
24 much interested in, in trying to replace
25 Obama, okay. Now I...

26 BLAGOJEVICH So you, let me just tell you Roland,...

27 BURRIS Yeah.

28 BLAGOJEVICH ...you and one million other people.

29 BURRIS That's right, that's right so...

30 BLAGOJEVICH Of every race, color, creed and faith,
31 it's amazing.

32 BURRIS So let, it is and so if I put on a
33 fundraiser now...

34 BLAGOJEVICH Mm hm.

1 BURRIS ...and, I, you know I, I think it would
2 have something...this is what I've been
3 talking to Fred about it, it has so many
4 negative connotations that Burris is
5 trying to buy an appointment...

6 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah.

7 BURRIS ...from the governor...

8 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah.

9 BURRIS ...for the senate seat. I mean and I'm
10 a high profile person.

11 BLAGOJEVICH Yep.

12 BURRIS You know and, and so, I'm now, 'cause
13 I've been just holding off calling you.

14 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah.

15 BURRIS I'm trying to figure out how in the hell
16 and since you called me I will be honest
17 with you.

18 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah.

19 BURRIS And I'm trying to figure out how to deal
20 with this and still be in the
21 consideration for the appointment.

22 BLAGOJEVICH I hear ya. No, I hear ya.

23 BURRIS And, and if I do that I guarantee you
24 that, that will get out and people said,
25 oh, Burris is doing a fundraiser and,
26 and then Rod and I both gonna catch
27 hell.

28 BLAGOJEVICH Mm hm.

29 BURRIS And if I do get appointed that means I
30 bought it.

31 BLAGOJEVICH Mmmm.

1 BURRIS If I don't get appointed then my people
2 who I'm trying to raise money from are
3 gonna look at me, yeah, what, what's
4 that all about Roland. I mean, so, Rob,
5 I'm in a, I'm in a, a dilemma right now
6 wanting to help the governor.

7 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah.

8 BURRIS I mean I, you know I, I have been with
9 him on all of the, all the issues and
10 I'm now trying to figure out what the
11 hell the best thing to do.

12 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah.

13 BURRIS I know I could give him a check.

14 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah.

15 BURRIS Myself.

16 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah.

17 BURRIS And, and my law partner we were gonna
18 try to do something at the law firm. I
19 might be able to do this in the name of
20 Tim Wright.

21 BLAGOJEVICH Mm hm.

22 BURRIS Okay, 'cause Tim is not looking for an
23 appointment, okay.

24 BLAGOJEVICH Okay.

25 BURRIS So if I can talk to my law partner who's
26 been, you know, in New York trying to
27 drum up business.

28 BLAGOJEVICH Oh, good for you,...

29 BURRIS: (chuckles)

30 BLAGOJEVICH: good for you.

1 BURRIS 'Cause you know he's trying to get a
2 part of that, ah, Federal bail out
3 stuff.

4 BLAGOJEVICH Oh, yeah, yeah.

5 BURRIS Okay, 'cause you know we're, you know
6 he's, we've got a financial law firm
7 here so they're trying to get involved
8 in that. So he'll be back in in a
9 couple days.

10 BLAGOJEVICH Mm hm.

11 BURRIS I think he'll be back in on Monday.

12 BLAGOJEVICH Okay.

13 BURRIS But, ah, but Fred and I, look I said I
14 gotta call you. I have, I have not.

15 BLAGOJEVICH Okay.

16 BURRIS 'Cause I didn't know how to deal with
17 this situation.

18 BLAGOJEVICH ell, ah, you know I'll stand by. I mean
19 if you wanna write a check and have Fred
20 write a check or have someone else write
21 checks, that'd be great. I mean...

22 BURRIS Mm hm.

23 BLAGOJEVICH ...we're, we're just trying to do some
24 clean up here. We've got a number of
25 events we've got like...

26 BURRIS Okay, how, yeah...

27 BLAGOJEVICH ...18 events set up between now and the
28 end of the year.

29 BURRIS Okay. Maybe I can join in on one of
30 those events too. What, what, do you
31 have any going with the people that I
32 know?

1 BLAGOJEVICH You know right now we have no-, you know
2 to be honest with ya I, ah, we have no
3 law firms.

4 BURRIS Okay.

5 BLAGOJEVICH We've got a lot of ethnic groups. A lot
6 of, ah, contract, not a lot of
7 contractors, but, ah,...

8 BURRIS Is, is, is there, ah, I mean I, if you
9 can figure somebody who I might be able
10 to work because no, ah, what's his name
11 Connolly, Wilhelm and Connolly, what's
12 this guy's name, ah, ah,...

13 BLAGOJEVICH Kevin Conlon (ph)?

14 BURRIS Kev., yeah, Kevin Conlon.

15 BLAGOJEVICH He did one already.

16 BURRIS Yeah, right 'cause, ah, and once Fred
17 found out he had done one, we thought
18 maybe we could hook on with him, but he
19 had done his.

20 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah, he did.

21 BURRIS (chuckles) And, and so, we couldn't hook
22 up with him.

23 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah.

24 BURRIS And, and that's what I am wrestling
25 with.

26 BLAGOJEVICH I understand your concerns, ah, Roland.

27 BURRIS And, and God knows number one, I, I
28 wanna help Rod. Number two, I also
29 wanna, you know hope I get a
30 consideration to get that appointment.

31 BLAGOJEVICH Mm hm.

1 BURRIS And, and however that goes, ah, it would
2 dictate, ah, you know how the press
3 treats it.

4 BLAGOJEVICH Understand.

5 BURRIS 'Cause man I, I will be, you know we
6 both would be profiled...

7 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah.

8 BURRIS ...and we don't need that.

9 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah.

10 BURRIS Yeah.

11 BLAGOJEVICH Well, hey, I appreciate your candor.

12 BURRIS Yes.

13 BLAGOJEVICH I, I can't help you with your dilemma
14 other than want to encourage you to,...

15 BURRIS Sure, sure.

16 BLAGOJEVICH ...to do what you think is fair from
17 your standpoint...

18 BURRIS Okay.

19 BLAGOJEVICH ...and Fred's standpoint and ya know,
20 I'll work with you. And if I can think
21 of a place where we can tie you guys in.

22 BURRIS Oh, yeah, ple-, please consider that and
23 give me a call back to, to,...

24 BLAGOJEVICH Okay.

25 BURRIS ...to let me know.

26 BLAGOJEVICH Okay.

27 BURRIS 'Cause I'm working on it. I mean I'm
28 just,...

29 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah.

1 BURRIS ...I'm just trying to figure out what
2 the best way to do where it won't create
3 any, any conflict for either one of us.

4 BLAGOJEVICH Okay Roland. How's your business by the
5 way?

6 BURRIS It's terrible.

7 BLAGOJEVICH Is it? Shit, I'm sorry to hear that.

8 BURRIS I mean, you know Fred and I we might
9 lose Burris and Lebed because we've been
10 trying to get contracts. We don't have
11 any clients renewing for 09.

12 BLAGOJEVICH No kidding.

13 BURRIS We have no clients renewing for 09.
14 Fred is dying on the vine because, I,
15 you know, a lot of our clients have run
16 out.

17 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah.

18 BURRIS And, and so we're thinking about, you
19 know going our separate ways.

20 BLAGOJEVICH Mmmm.

21 BURRIS And I'm going back into the law
22 practice...

23 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah.

24 BURRIS ...rather than the consulting
25 business...

26 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah.

27 BURRIS ...because we don't have any clients.
28 And anything I give would be out of my
29 personal funds...

30 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah.

31 BURRIS ...because there ain't nothing coming in
32 from the business. Ah,...

1 BLAGOJEVICH Mmm. Got that, it is a tough time for
2 everybody I mean...

3 BURRIS It, it, it's bad.

4 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah.

5 BURRIS I mean I, I didn't spring that on you.

6 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah.

7 BURRIS But you, but you asked.

8 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah.

9 BURRIS I mean that, that's, Rob, that's just
10 where it is.

11 BLAGOJEVICH Mm hm.

12 BURRIS Um, at the end of the year if we don't
13 get a major client in, Burriss and Lebed
14 will, you know, Fred will go his
15 separate way and I will try to go into
16 the law firm...

17 BLAGOJEVICH Mm hm.

18 BURRIS ...and continue to make some money.

19 BLAGOJEVICH Well, do you have prospects for that?

20 BURRIS Yeah, I'm, I'm of counsel to a law firm.
21 [not monitored]

22 BLAGOJEVICH [resume monitoring]...calling ya.

23 BURRIS Listen,...

24 BLAGOJEVICH Please keep me in mind and you know if
25 you guys can just write checks that'd be
26 fine, if we can't find a way for you to
27 tie in.

28 BURRIS Okay, okay, well we, we, I, I will
29 personally do something, okay.

30 BLAGOJEVICH Okay. Alright Roland.

1 BURRIS And it'll be done before the 15th of
2 December.

3 BLAGOJEVICH Okay.

4 BURRIS Alright. (chuckles)

5 BLAGOJEVICH Alright.

6 BURRIS Okay.

7 BLAGOJEVICH Hey, you're a good friend. I'll pass on
8 your message.

9 BURRIS Please do and...

10 BLAGOJEVICH Okay.

11 BURRIS ...tell Rod to keep me in mind for that
12 seat, would ya? (chuckles)

13 BLAGOJEVICH I'll let him know.

14 BURRIS Okay.

15 BLAGOJEVICH Bye Roland.

16 BURRIS Alright. Bye-bye.

17 BLAGOJEVICH Bye.

18 (CALL ENDED)