

NAMES IN THE NEWS: NORMAN HSU

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833 North Last Chance Gulch, Second Floor • Helena, MT • 59601 PHONE 406-449-2480 • Fax 406-457-2091 • E-Mail institute@statemoney.org www.followthemoney.org Despite fleeing justice in California for over 15 years, Norman Hsu has managed to contribute more than \$336,000 to state-level Democratic party committees and candidates, as well as to two ballot measure campaigns since 2004.

Hsu, a New York based apparel executive, pleaded no contest in 1991 to grand theft after raising more than \$1 million dollars from investors for a phony latex glove business. Hsu accepted a three-year sentence in 1991, but skipped his sentencing hearing and has been a fugitive ever since.¹

Considered a Democratic rainmaker, Hsu is a well-known donor to federal and state-level Democratic candidates.²

Since 2004, Hsu has given over \$250,000 on the federal level.³ The \$336,000 given to state Democratic candidates, party committees and ballot measures was spread across 18 states.

STATE	TOTAL
New York	\$114,600
Michigan	\$38,400
Tennessee	\$38,000
Pennsylvania	\$37,866
New Mexico	\$23,000
Ohio	\$23,000
California	\$18,300
Rhode Island	\$11,000
Florida	\$6000
New Hampshire	\$5,000
New Jersey	\$5,000
Nevada	\$5,000
Iowa	\$4,500
Connecticut	\$2,500
Wisconsin	\$2,000
Illinois	\$1,000
Kansas	\$500
Massachusetts	\$500
	\$336,166

NORMAN HSU CONTRIBUTIONS BY STATE, 2004-2006*

*2006 data collection is ongoing; totals may increase.

As a Hillraiser, Hsu has pledged to raise \$100,000 for the Presidential campaign of Hillary Clinton. Though a fugitive from California, Hsu has already co-hosted a fundraiser for Clinton and is scheduled to host another one next month there.⁴

¹ Chuck Neubauer and Robin Fields, "Democratic Fundraiser is a Fugitive in Plain Sight," *Los Angeles Times*, Aug. 29, 2007 [newspaper on-line]; available from http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-hsu29aug29,0,23132,"85.story; accessed Aug. 30, 2007.

² Ibid.

³ Open Secrets, available from:

http://www.opensecrets.org/indivs/search.asp?key=hp68r&txtName=hsu,%20norman&txtState=(all%20states)& txt2008=Y&txt2006=Y&txt2004=Y&Order=N; Internet; accessed Aug. 30, 2007.

On August 29, Clinton pledged she would contribute the \$23,000 she had received from Hsu to charity.⁵ This comes a day after Howard Wolfson, a spokesman for the Clinton campaign claimed: "During Mr. Hsu's many years of active participation in the political process, there has been no question about his integrity or his commitment to playing by the rules, and we have absolutely no reason to call his contributions into question or return them."⁶

WHERE THE MONEY WENT

A third of Hsu's own money was directed at state Democratic Party committees, contributing more than \$100,000 in nine states.

Hsu contributed \$38,000 to the Tennessee Democratic Party, \$35,000 to the Michigan Democratic Party, \$11,000 to the Rhode Island Democratic Party and \$10,000 to the New York Democratic Party. The California Democratic Party received \$26,600 in 2006 from Hsu, but returned the contribution in its entirety

Since 2004, Hsu gave more than \$200,000 to 17 state-level candidates in 13 states, much of it to gubernatorial candidates.

- Former New York attorney general and current Governor, Eliot Spitzer, received \$49,500
- Current New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo received \$50,1000.
- Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell received \$37,866.
- The gubernatorial re-election committee of New Mexico Gov. and current presidential candidate Bill Richardson received \$23,000 in contributions.

In 2006, Hsu also gave \$20,000 to ballot measure measures in two states. Ohioans For a Fair Minimum Wage received \$10,000 from Hsu in a winning effort to increase the minimum wage. Yes on 82 Preschool For All, a committee seeking to guarantee voluntary preschool for all children in California, received \$10,000 from Hsu.

⁴ Brody Mullins, "Big Source of Clinton's Cash Is an Unlikely Address," *Wall Street Journal*, Aug. 28, 2007; [newspaper on-line]; available from

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB118826947048110677.html?mod=hpp_us_whats_news; accessed Aug. 30, 2007.

⁵ Mike McIntire and Leslie Wayne, "Clinton Donor Under a Cloud in Fraud Case," *New York Times*, Aug. 30, 2007; [newspaper on-line]; available from

http://www.nytimes.com/2007/08/30/us/politics/30bundler.html?ei=5099&en=00ee337c9e083c5f&ex=11890512 00&partner=TOPIXNEWS&pagewanted=print; accessed Aug. 30, 2007.

⁶ Mike McIntire and Leslie Wayne, "Clinton Donor Under a Cloud in Fraud Case," *New York Times*, Aug. 30, 2007; [newspaper on-line]; available from

http://www.nytimes.com/2007/08/30/us/politics/30bundler.html?ei=5099&en=00ee337c9e083c5f&ex=11890512 00&partner=TOPIXNEWS&pagewanted=print; accessed Aug. 30, 2007.

RECIPIENT	OFFICE	YEAR	STATE	TOTAL
Cuomo, Andrew	Attorney General	2006	NY	\$50,100
Spitzer, Eliot L.	Governor	2006	NY	\$49,500
Tennessee Democratic Party	State Party	2006	TN	\$38,000
Rendell, Ed	Governor	2006	PA	\$37,866
Michigan Democratic Party	State Party	2006	MI	\$35,000
Richardson, Bill	Governor	2006	NM	\$23,000
Rhode Island Democratic Party	State Party	2006	RI	\$11,000
New York State Democratic Party	State Party	2006	NY	\$10,000
Ohioans For a Fair Minimum Wage	Ballot Measure	2006	OH	\$10,000
Strickland, Ted & Fisher, Lee	Governor /Lieutenant Governor	2006	OH	\$10,000
Yes on 82 Preschool For All	Ballot Measure	2006	CA	\$10,000
Florida Democratic Party	State Party	2004/ 2006	FL	\$6,000
Democratic Senate Campaign Committee of New York	State Party	2006	NY	\$5,000
New Hampshire Senate Democratic Caucus	State Party	2006	NH	\$5,000
Titus, Dina	Governor	2006	NY	\$5,000
Culver, Chet & Judge, Patty	Governor /Lieutenant Governor	2006	IA	\$4,500
New Jersey Democratic Party	State Party	2006	NJ	\$4,000
Westly, Steve	Governor	2006	CA	\$4,000
Granholm, Jennifer M.	Governor	2006	MI	\$3,400
Ma, Fiona	State Assembly	2006	CA	\$3,300
Brunner, Jennifer L.	Secretary of State	2006	OH	\$3,000
DeStefano, John	Governor	2006	СТ	\$2,500
Doyle, Jim	Governor	2006	WI	\$2,000
Corzine, Jon S.	Governor	2006	NJ	\$1,000
Illinois Democratic Party	State Party	2004	IL	\$1,000
Westly, Steve	State Controller	2004	CA	\$1,000
Cahill, Timothy P.	Treasurer	2006	MA	\$500
Sebelius, Kathleen & Parkinson, Mark	Governor /Lieutenant Governor	2006	KS	\$500

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM NORMAN HSU, 2004-2006*

TOTAL

\$336,166

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