



NAMES IN THE NEWS: HARRIET E. MIERS

By
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Harriet Ellan Miers, current White House counsel and former president of the Texas Bar Association, was nominated by President George W. Bush to the Supreme Court on Oct. 3, 2005. Although not a prolific contributor to state-level political campaigns, Miers did give \$30,357 to Republican candidates in Texas from 1994 to 2000, primarily to Bush.

Miers, then the Bush-appointed chairwoman to the Texas Lottery Commission,¹ gave \$22,960 to Bush for his 1998 re-election campaign. State Supreme Court Justice Nathan L. Hecht, a close friend to Miers,² received \$6,397 during two campaigns for re-election. Miers gave the incumbent Republican justice \$4,223 in 1994 and \$2,174 in 2000. Todd Staples, a Republican House incumbent running for the state Senate in 2000, received \$1,000 for his successful campaign.

Miers, a former Democrat, also gave to federal-level campaigns and political committees, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. Republican candidates, party committees and PACs have received \$12,000 since 1998, an amount that includes \$2,000 to each of Bush's presidential campaigns.

Locke, Liddell & Sapp, the Texas law firm where Miers was a co-managing partner before she moved to the White House in 2001,³ is a generous contributor to Texas state-level candidates, as was its predecessor, Locke, Purnell, Rain & Harrell, where Miers worked since 1972. Since 1998, when the Institute began collecting contribution data in all 50 states, the law firms and their employees gave more than \$1.2 million to candidates and party committees.

Although, the bulk of the money from the law firms went to Texas committees and candidates, candidates in 10 other states did receive contributions from the firms. In all, 307 candidates and committees received money, with Republicans receiving almost three times as much as their Democratic counterparts: \$924,800 to Republicans and \$323,200 to Democrats. Of the top 10 recipients of money from Locke, Liddell & Sapp, only one – John Sharp, candidate for lieutenant governor in 1998 and 2002 – was a Democrat.

The Institute's contribution data for all state-level candidates in Texas dates back to the 1998 election cycle, while information for Supreme Court candidates dates back to the 1994 cycle.

TOP RECIPIENTS OF LOCKE, LIDDELL & SAPP CONTRIBUTIONS, 1998-2005

RECIPIENT	PARTY	OFFICE	AMOUNT
Dewhurst, David	Republican	Lt. Governor/Public Lands Commissioner	\$99,728
Perry, Rick	Republican	Lt. Governor/Governor	\$73,225
Abbott, Greg	Republican	Supreme Court/ Attorney General	\$69,711
Sharp, John	Democrat	Lt. Governor	\$43,500
Williams, Michael L.	Republican	Railroad Commissioner	\$36,250
Bush, George W.	Republican	Governor	\$36,000
Texas Republican Party	Republican	Party Committee	\$36,000
Craddick, Tom	Republican	State House	\$23,159
Rylander, Carole Keeton	Republican	Auditor/Comptroller	\$33,000
Cornyn, John	Republican	Attorney General	\$24,050

¹ Michael A. Fletcher, "Quiet but Ambitious White House Counsel Makes Life of Law," *The Washington Post*, June 21, 2005, sec. A, p. 19.

² Jeanne Cummings, John D. McKinnon, Jess Bravin, "Bush's New Supreme Court Pick: A Loyal Aide With Scanty Record," *The Wall Street Journal*, Oct. 4, 2005, sec. A, p. 1.

³ The White House, "President Bush Names Harriet Miers as Top Counsel," Press Release, Nov. 17, 2004.