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## Brian ballard net worth

On the campaign trail, Donald Trump promised to bring the best business to Washington to renegotiate our trade agreements. But first, they're planning a party. On Tuesday, Trump revealed to the committee tasked with coordinating his activities on Inauguration Day. And who better to arrange a celebration for America's first billionaire president than a group of his billionaire pals? The group of 20 people -- who are likely to raise funds to cover the cost of inaugural proms and other festive events, which traditionally cost around \$50 million -- includes top Trump donors, potential predictions for government positions, and seven members of the Forbes 400 (or their spouses). Donald Trump with Phil Ruffin and Steve Wynn in 2005. Now, both Ruffin and Wynn are helping to lead... [+] Trump's inaugural team. (AP Photo/Joe Cavaretta) The committee is headed by former Forbes 400 member Tom Barrack, a Los Angeles tycoon who founded the private equity firm Colony Capital and was a featured speaker at the Republican National Convention in July, where he described Trump as one of his closest friends for 40 years. A major fundraiser, Barrack launched Rebuilding America Now Super Pac to support the Trump campaign. He served as Deputy Undersecretary of the Department of the Interior under Ronald Reagan, and is floated as a possible election for the Treasury Secretary. Of the remaining 19 members of the committee, four are on the Forbes 400 list of the richest Americans: Sheldon Adelson, Diane Hendricks, Phil Ruffin and Steve Wynn. Three are casino bowlers who are older than Trump; one of them is the richest woman in the U.S. Their combined net worth: \$40.7 billion -- largely thanks to Adelson, who has the 14th largest fortune in the country. (Forbes estimates that Trump is worth \$3.7 billion.) Three others are married to members of the list: Sheldon Adelson's wife Miriam; Gail Icahn, wife of the investor and potential Treasury secretary's choice (though he ruled out the possibility earlier this week) Carl Icahn, worth \$16.2 billion; and Laurie Perlmutter, wife of Marvel Entertainment CEO Isaac Perlmutter, is worth \$3.8 billion. Other Pdominent supporters chose to oversee Trump's inauguration - in which thousands of protesters have already pledged to attend - including Florida lobbyist Brian Ballard, RNC financial chairman Lew Eisenberg and Woody Johnson, heir to the Johnson & Johnson family fortune and owner of the New York Jets. Here is more information about billionaire party-givers: Sheldon Adelson: \$31.8 billion (JOE RAEDLE/AFP/Getty Images) A titan casino, Adelson's Las Vegas Sands Corp. owns Venetian and Palazzo hotels, plus a number of high-end resorts in Macau. He is a political heavyweight spent more than \$100 million trying to elect a Republican during the 2012 election, leading some to dub the competition for his approval (and the million dollars that come with it) Adelson's primary. He eventually swore allegiance to Trump, but that he only committed to give the Republican candidate \$5 million -- peanuts by his standards -- instead of focusing on congressional races (he pledged to give Republican candidates \$40 million), though he could have donated more in the final weeks of the election. In late 2015 he bought the Las Vegas Review-Journal. His wife, Dr. Miriam Adelson, also makes it on the committee. Diane Hendricks: \$4 billion (John McCormick/Bloomberg) America's richest self-made woman, Hendricks and her husband founded roofing giant ABC Supply. She is the president of the Wisconsin company, taking the lead after her husband, Ken, died in a roofing crash at their home in 2007. A long-time GOP donor and a ardent supporter of Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker, Hendricks gave \$5 million to a super PAC supporting Walker's candidacy for the presidency before throwing her support behind Trump. In August, the Trump campaign appointed Hendricks to his economic advisory board. Phil Ruffin: \$2.5 billion (Ethan Miller/Getty Images) Trump's Las Vegas hotel partner (he and Trump each own half of the golden-window building), Ruffin also owns Treasure Island Resort & Casino. He bought the property near the bottom of the financial crash for \$755 million; today is worth more than double. A strong supporter of Trump, Ruffin took to the stage at the Republican National Convention to express support for his partner and business friend. He will make this country great again, Ruffin told the crowd, adding: A tsunami is coming, his name is Donald Trump. Steve Wynn: \$2.4 billion Another casino magnate, Wynn developed Mirage, Treasure Island, Bellagio and Wynn Las Vegas as co-founder of Mirage Resorts and his current company, Wynn Resorts. Unlike the other billionaires appointed to the committee, Wynn -- who argued with his then rival, Trump, for most of the 1980s and 1990s, but is also an outspoken critic of Obamacare -- never expressed direct support for Trump, though he now considers the president-elect a friend. Wynn told Bloomberg in August that he had not yet chosen a candidate, although he had brokered a meeting at his Manhattan home between Trump and Republican strategist Karl Rove a few months earlier. It is unclear whether Wynn voted for Trump (all members of the billionaire group declined to comment on Forbes). See the Forbes real-time ranking of every billionaire in the world. Illustration mother jones: Getty, don't give me a do. Chip Somodevilla / Getty Coronavirus is a fast-growing news story, so some of the content in this article could be outdated. Check out our latest coverage of the coronavirus crisis, and subscribe to the Mother Jones Daily Newsletter. Steve Gareleck had a problem. His company, NanoPure, has developed an aerosol disinfectant that, she claims, could be an effective weapon against coronavirus. But he couldn't start selling it without the AEP's approval. I need political help to get this to the right people, Gareleck told me in So he asked

more than \$30,000 for a firm run by Brian Ballard, a high-powered lobbyist who is also a top fundraiser for President Donald Trump. Ballard's team must work quickly, reaching directly to the White House and the department of health and human services on the product, according to federal records. He plays the k Street lobbyist game, buying access to this administration and enjoys this access. As COVID-19 began to wreak havoc, K Street lobbyists were quick to scoop out business from companies wanting to market their health products or score federal money relief. Ballard isn't the only associate of the president to take action, but his ability to do business in Trump's swamp has stood out. In 2019, his firm, Ballard Partners, collected reported taxes of \$19.1 million - and this does not include his work on behalf of foreign governments. When it comes to selling influence on the most corrupt administration in living memory, the man named Politico the most powerful lobbyist in Trump's Washington has few colleagues. He plays the K Street lobbying game, buying access to this administration and enjoys that access, said Craig Holman, who works on ethics and lobbying issues for the Public Citizen watchdog group. Holman added that Ballard does not violate any law or ethics rule, but that does not leave the firm without reproach, especially given his ties to the president affected by the scandal. This White House rewards corruption and self-business, and Ballard appears to be playing the game, he said. Any such claims about Ballard Partners are completely unfounded, the firm said in a statement. But there's no doubt that Ballard has a line ready for president. A phone call to Brian Ballard and the next thing I knew I was on stage with the president, Rep. Matt Gaetz told Mother Jones in 2017 about his effort to be seen with Trump at a rally in Florida. Gaetz noted that he was struck by the speed at which [Ballard] is able to access the Trump device. Ballard - a 58-year-old man with a square, brown-haired face who tends to be photographed without a tie in well-tailored suits - said he first met Trump in 1980 after reading The Art of the Deal. He wrote the real estate mogul an admiring letter, and the two established a relationship. After working as Chief of Staff for Florida Gov. Bob Martinez (R), he launched a practice lobby ing in Tallahassee in 1990. His clients included Trump, who owns several properties in the state, including Mar-a-Lago. Ballard has helped the future president push unsuccessfully for Florida to allow the national to act as casinos. In 2016, Ballard former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and then Senator Marco Rubio in the GOP presidential race, before finally falling in line behind Trump. Once he was on board, led the campaign's fundraising efforts in Florida, and presided over Trump's victory. Trump. contributes to raising \$108 million for Trump and other Republicans. His firm's website notes that he had the honor of being a member of the Electoral College to vote for President Trump. A month after Trump was sworn in, Ballard opened an office in Washington, D.C., which focuses on the White House and executive agencies. He supplied the firm with Trump's associates, including Pam Bondi - the former Florida attorney general. In 2013, Bondi accepted a \$25,000 donation from Trump before deciding not to act on complaints against Trump University or join the state of New York in a lawsuit in which he claimed to have used fake advertising and high-pressure sales to push students to pay for expensive and often unnecessary real estate seminars. (Bondi and Trump have said there is no connection between the donation and trump University's legal issues.) Trump agreed shortly after the 2016 election to pay \$25 million to settle the lawsuit, but did not admit any wrongdoing. Earlier this year, Bondi briefly left Ballard's firm - where his controversial clients include Qatar's government - to join Trump's defense team. Other employees of the firm are Dan McFaul, a transitional official, and Trump and Justin Sayfie, who is lobbying for Ballard while he was also on the committee Trump appointed to fund The White House stock exchanges. Raj Shah, a former White House spokesman, worked for Ballard in 2019. Susie Wiles, who led Trump's campaign in Florida in 2016, worked for Ballard until her departure last fall for health reasons. Former representative Robert Wexler (D-Fla.) and Jamie Rubin, who served as State Department spokesman under President Bill Clinton, spurred the firm's influence with Democrats. Meanwhile, Brian Ballard raised more than \$1 million in donations to Trump's reelection candidacy and personally contributed about \$200,000 to Trump and the Republican National Committee in the current election. He also serves as a regional vice-president for the RNC, perhaps putting him in a position to solicit donations from some of the same-heeled Republicans he courts as clients. While Ballard chaired Trump's Victory Committee in 2016, he received a \$100,000 donation from Boston Bruins owner Jeremy Jacobs. Jacobs chairs North Delaware, a buffalo-based casino, resorts, and food service company. In April, Ballard registered to lobby on behalf of Delaware North while asking for money for coronavirus help from the Trump administration. Ballard's firm insists there's nothing wrong with him raising money for Trump while lobbying at the White House. And although its touts the efforts of its Republican founder to raise funds, the firm tells its employees to keep our efforts as campaign volunteers and supporters completely separate from our professional work as lawyers for our clients. Ballard has worked for a number of big-name companies, including Amazon, American Airlines and Uber. The firm is lobbying on behalf of the American Health Care Association, an industry group that Nursing homes. AHCA has been pressuring its states to grant its members immunity of lawsuits over coronavirus deaths in their facilities, although there is no indication that Ballard Partners has been working on this specific issue. Ballard is also the GEO Group, the largest private prison company in the country. He hired Ballard in early 2017, around the time the Justice Department reversed the Obama-era decision to end the use of private prisons for federal inmates. In April, GEO won a \$110 million contract to build an immigrant detention facility in Texas. A few months later, he held the annual conference at Trump's Doral Golf Club in Florida - one of several Ballard clients to make money for Trump-owned properties, according to Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington. Ballard has also built a thriving list of overseas clients. Among them was Russian billionaire David Yakobashvili, founder of a food conglomerate, who paid the firm \$450,000 to lobby for immigration and trade policy. The firm represents a lot of foreign governments, including Kosovo, which is currently under pressure from the White House to agree to a land swap with Serbia. In 2018, Politico reported that Ballard personally lobbied Trump while the president was in Mar-a-Lago, in a failed effort to secure a meeting between the Kosovo president and Trump. Hire Robert Stryk... or Brian Ballard. Some of the firm's foreign clients had serious legal problems. In 2018, Ballard lobbied the White House in an attempt to prevent the Justice Department from charging his client Halkbank, a state-run Turkish bank, for violating U.S. sanctions on Iran. After Trump asked Attorney General Bill Barr to review the matter, Barr pressured the U.S. attorney in Manhattan to reach a deal with the bank to avoid an indictment, CNN reports. The bank was finally blamed last year, but only after Turkey invaded Syria - an invasion that caused an uproar in Washington and embarrassed Trump. Ballard ended his halkbank representation after the indictment was announced. (In his upcoming book, former national security adviser John Bolton claims that in May 2018, Trump told Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan that he would intervene with the DOJ on behalf of a Turkish firm - apparently Halkbank. Trump told Erdogan he would take care of things, explaining that... prosecutors were not his people, but Obama people, a problem that was to be solved when they were replaced by his people, Bolton writes, according to the Washington Post. intersected with the scandal that led to Trump's impeachment. In November, federal prosecutors subpoenaed the firm for information related to Lev Parnas, associate Rudy Giuliani, who is accused of violating campaign finance. Ballard's lawyer said Parnas, a major gop donor, met Ballard through Republican politics in Florida and helped Turkey land as a customer. Ballard paid Parnas at least \$22,500 for the referral. In January, Parnas gave Congress handwritten notes describing what he says are the instructions he received from Giuliani in May 2019, while they were in Europe trying to overcome the mess about former Vice President Joe Biden. On a Ritz-Carlton Vienna pad, Parnas wrote: Have Zeleny announce that the Biden case will be investigated - a reference to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. A few pages later, Parnas added: Hire Robert Stryk - another lobbyist with ties to Trump - or Brian Ballard. Neither Stryk nor Ballard were hired. We have no idea what it means, said William Taylor, a lawyer representing Ballard, in an email at the time. No one's contacted Brian. Ballard has represented customers with authoritarian regimes ties and other questionable connections-information the firm has not always initially disclosed to the public. In 2018, she reported being paid \$100,000 to lobby for REC Americas, a solar energy firm she said was owned by a Norwegian company. It did not disclose that the Norwegian company was also a subsidiary of a Chinese state-owned company, ChemChina. A REC spokesman said the firm hired Ballard for counseling while seeking an exemption from Trump's June 2018 tariffs for solar panels. The application failed. Following inquiries by Mother Jones, Ballard Partners has tabled an amendment to his lobbying record for REC Americas. The amendment, which came about two years after the completion of the work, lists ChemChina, and the People's Republic of China itself, as foreign entities interested in lobbying. William Farah, a lawyer dealing with compliance issues for Ballard, said these parties were accidentally oised. The firm takes its reporting and compliance obligations very seriously. Surveillance was accidental and, once discovered, a corrective amendment was immediately filed to reveal the additional information, Farah said. In April 2018, Ballard registered in the lobby for a company called ASM International General Trading. But after the Daily Beast linked the firm to a wealthy Syrian, Samer Faz, with ties to dictator Bashar al-Assad, Ballard gave up on the clientele. Ballard said the ASM's past escaped his team's notification. We're not CIA, he told the Daily Beast. In June 2019, the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets imposed financial sanctions on ASM, Fz, two of its brothers and dozens of corporate entities connected to them because of their work. Fonz directly supports the Assad-murder regime and builds luxury developments on stolen from those fleeing his brutality, said the Undersecretary for Terrorism and Financial Information, Sigal Mandelker, at the time. In 2017, a subsidiary of Globovisión - a Venezuelan television station owned by Raúl Gorrín - hired Ballard to help the company expand into U.S. markets. But Miami Miami reported that Gorrín hoped to establish himself as a broker between Trump and Nicolás Maduro's regime, in order to negotiate a transition to a new government, while suggesting that he had the authority to speak on Maduro's behalf. The Justice Department indicted Gorin on corruption charges. Ballard stated that he had completed his work for the company after learning of the investigation; the firm stated that it was not known about Gorrin's alleged diplomatic machinations. We're doing the best we can on due diligence, a Ballard Partners employee said Mother Jones. When we represent someone and learn something we weren't aware of, our file shows that we'll let them down as soon as something comes out. In 2017, Ballard joined the lobby for Hawkers USA, a sunglasses company. Hawkers paid Ballard \$430,000 to work at the general government, tax, and trade issues, policies, and regulations, depending on the firm. Ballard did not notice in its disclosure forms that Hawkers is a subsidiary of a Spanish company, the Saldum Ventures Group. The president and majority shareholder of this company is Alejandro Betancourt Lopez, a wealthy Venezuelan who, according to the Herald and The Washington Post, was among the alleged anonymous conspirators in a federal criminal complaint detailing a embezzlement and bribery scheme linked to Venezuela's national oil company. Last year Betancourt hired Giuliani, who then met with Justice Department officials to argue that Betancourt should not be charged, the New York Times reports. In August, with Parnas in tow, Giuliani remained in a property owned by Betancourt in Spain, part of a trip in which Giuliani met secretly with Ukrainian officials in Madrid. So far Betancourt has not been charged. Jon Sale, a lawyer for Betancourt, said his client denies any wrongdoing but has not answered any other questions. Giuliani and a lawyer for Parnas did not respond to requests for comment. Bizarrely, Ballard's representation of Hawkers began just three days after the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear a lawsuit against Otto Reich, who was then a Ballard employee. Reich - who was once an ambassador to Venezuela and was a minor player in the Iran Contra scandal - sued Betancourt and two other Venezuelan men in 2013, claiming they defamed him by claiming he worked for them. Reich's trial, which was dismissed for procedural reasons, also alleged that Betancourt and two other men paid millions of dollars in bribes to win Venezuelan government contracts, awarded in 2010, to build power plants. They denied Reich's accusations. In a statement, Ballard Partners stated that none of its employees had ever communicated with Betancourt or Giuliani about personal, legal or business of Betancourt. The firm said its work had nothing to do with Reich's lawsuit against Betancourt. Ballard, meanwhile, continued to sign customers looking for coronavirus business. Laundrylux, supplier of commercial washing machines Long Island, Ballard employee to help get his industry designated essentially by the Department of Homeland Security. A Baltimore medical technology firm called Audacious Inquiry hired Ballard to help sell the White House in its pandemic data tracking system introduced by healthcare providers. After keeping Ballard, the company reportedly went directly to Vice President Mike Pence, Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar, and Jared Kushner, the president's son-in-law. On June 5, Ballard Partners revealed that, as of May 15, he had helped the city of Washington, D.C., to seek pandemic aid funds from the Trump administration. But on the same day that the papers were revealed, Brian Ballard announced that the firm was withdrawing from the contract amid a dispute between DC Mayor Muriel Bowser and Trump over the president's deployment of National Guard troops and unidentified federal law enforcement officers in response to protests in the District against police brutality. While we were making progress, we are no longer able to provide effective representation, so we have withdrawn our commitment with respect, the firm said in a message posted on Twitter. As for Garelek, the nanopure director, is still awaiting EPA approval for disinfectant fog. We're getting closer, he told me in March, and we're talking to the right people now. Noah Lanard contributed to the report. Reporting.

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