

ACORN: A Criminal Enterprise Run Amok

Executive Summary

ACORN: A Criminal Enterprise Run Amok, outlines the illegal activities of the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, and there is substantial evidence to support all of the allegations. The research into ACORN's revealed substantiation ranging from court testimony by the Chief Public Advocate Consumer Rights League, several news articles, Washington State court records and Wade Rathke's personal website.

Wade Rathke was the founding member of ACORN, which started in 1970. Since then, he has gone on to start a plethora of organizations (see below), all having the same stated goal of bettering the living standards of minorities and the poor by raising money and community activism. Rathke has been featured in many publications, including his own quarterly magazine *Social Policy*. He maintains an active blog as well¹. In his early career, Rathke was a protégé to George Wiley, the founding member of National Welfare Rights Organization (NWRO), who was little more than a terrorist during the 1960's. Wade Rathke also took part in SDS organizing draft resistance operations. Many people don't know who Wade Rathke is, though his massive radical leftist network has made him one of the most influential people on that end of the political spectrum. He has his hands in numerous leftwing organizations, founding many of them² -- SEIU, the AFL-CIO, ACORN, ACORN International, WARN, and the list goes on. He also has is influence on the grassroots level through Project Vote and ACORN³. Barack Obama has represented his ACORN and was once employed by Project Vote.

¹ <http://waderathke.com/index.php?id=76>

² <http://www.discoverthenetworks.org/individualProfile.asp?indid=1773>

³ http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/opinion/columnists/datelinedc/s_488184.html

For at least the past eight years, ACORN has been at the forefront of fraudulent get-out-the-vote organizations. As numerous newspaper articles and court testimony will prove, ACORN has been involved in voter fraud nationwide, including Ohio, Pennsylvania, Washington, Michigan, Wisconsin, and New Mexico, just to name a few. In 2008 a spokesman for ACORN said that it is typical for 30% of their cards to be duplicates or incomplete. In New Mexico ACORN is being forced to run background checks because nine of their employees were convicted felons, for identity theft, forgery, and even as extreme as child rape. Currently 1100 possible fraudulent cards are being investigated in Bernalillo County NM.⁴ In Connecticut, where error rate for ACORN registrations is 20% or more, a registrar said, “Some of my staff have been here for 15 years and when they see ACORN come in, they start to cry.”⁴ In Seminole County, Florida, ACORN admitted that their employees have committed voter fraud⁵. The pattern is unmistakable across the country.

Currently in Milwaukee the District Attorney has 35 ACORN Employees under investigation. Seventeen apparently filled out the cards themselves, usually two to four cards each. Another 12 are suspected of submitting cards that individuals had not filled out. That was one card per person. One registered a dead voter; another was making up driver license numbers, (which that employee’s fraudulent card total is still unknown); and another employee submitted six already registered voters⁴. In a similar case last year in Washington, seven ACORN employees were arrested for fraud, where they admitted to going to the public library and filling out registrations. “It was hard making up all those cards,” said one defendant. ACORN in a settlement paid a 25,000 dollar fine and signed a Consent Decree stating that it would monitor

⁴ <http://www.consumersrightsleague.org/uploadedfiles/jamesterryacorn9-24.pdf>

⁵ <http://www.abc-7.com/articles/readnews.asp?articleid=21814&z=2>

their grassroots staff and hire a supervisor who would be responsible for their actions. As well they now have to follow Washington State Laws.^{6 7}

ACORN is supposed to be a non-partisan organization. However, their close ties to Barack Obama and his campaign say the exact opposite. In 1992 Barack Obama worked for Project Vote, an offshoot of ACORN. In 1995 Obama was listed as an attorney in the case of ACORN v Illinois state board of elections⁸. In addition, the Obama campaign has funneled \$800,000 dollars to ACORN through ACORN's off-shoot Citizen Services Inc.⁹

⁶ http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2003808207_vote fraud27m.html

⁷ <http://www.secstate.wa.gov/office/pdf/settlement%20and%20compliance%20agreement.pdf>

⁸ http://blogs.suntimes.com/sweet/2008/10/acornproject_vote_voting_drive.html

⁹ http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/election/s_584284.html