

THE BONDI FILES

Favors, flip flopping & firearms



compiled by guns down america | july 2025

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Background

On November 21, 2024, former Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi was selected by President-elect and longtime connection Donald Trump to be the next Attorney General-nominee. She was confirmed on February 4, 2025.

Bondi is from Florida, where she worked as the state's Attorney General before moving into a lobbying and media career.

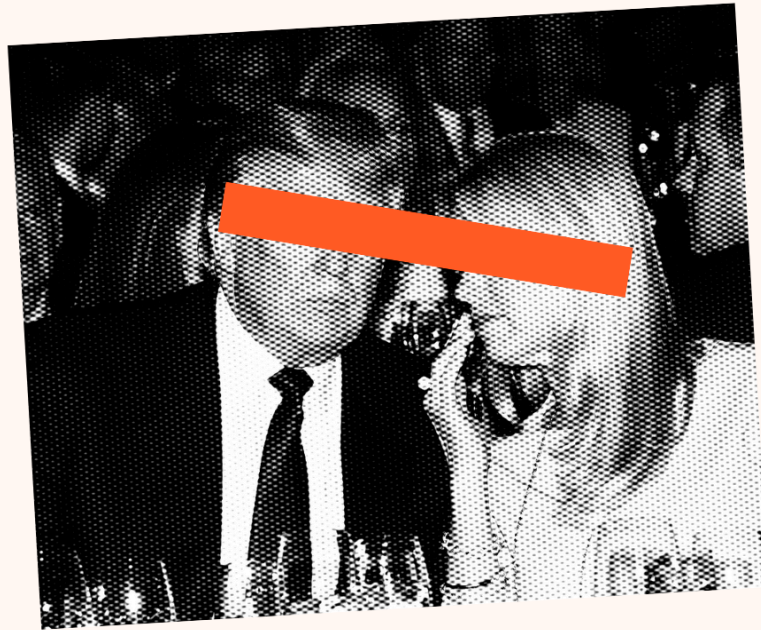
Bondi has thus far successfully leveraged her high-profile political roles for personal gain, including favors from and endorsements for Trump family members Donald Trump and Lara Trump.

This report follows a career lacking ethics, consistency, and judgement. As Bondi is now overseeing a task force reducing oversight of the gun industry, this report also recounts Bondi's incompetency in handling gun violence during her time as Florida's attorney general.

Highlights from this report include:

While Florida Attorney General, Bondi declined to join an investigation into Trump University after receiving a \$25,000 gift from the Trump Foundation. In 2013, Bondi's office reportedly considered joining an investigation into fraud allegations against Trump University. Bondi received a \$25,000 gift from the Trump Foundation four days after announcing that her office was considering the probe. According to the Associated Press, Bondi personally solicited a political contribution from Trump. In 2016, Trump paid a \$2,500 penalty to the IRS after the \$25,000 was ruled to be an improper political donation that violated tax law. Furthermore, the Trump Foundation incorrectly named a Kansas charity as the recipient of the gift, not Bondi's political group. A Trump Foundation official called the error an "honest mistake" that "wasn't done intentionally to hide a political donation." Six months after Bondi declined to investigate the university, Donald Trump held a \$3,000-a-plate fundraiser for Bondi at his Mar-a-Lago resort.

Bondi has been a strong supporter of Donald Trump since 2016, when she endorsed him in the primary over fellow Floridian Marco Rubio and stated "Donald and I have been friends for many years." Bondi endorsed Donald Trump during the Republican primary and later played a key role in Trump's Florida victory. Bondi stated, "Donald and I have been friends for many years" in endorsing Trump. During the Republican National Convention, Bondi joined the crowd's anti-Hillary Clinton "lock her up" chants. Bondi was called a "trusted surrogate" to Trump's campaign and joined his transition team in November 2016. After leaving the Florida AG's office in 2019, Bondi worked for the lobbying firm Ballard Partners, which is closely associated with Trump.



*no investigation ->
\$25,000 gift*

Bondi has a close relationship to Trump's daughter-in-law Lara Trump, whom she also endorsed to take Marco Rubio's vacated seat in 2016. Politico reported that they campaigned together against a ban on dog racing in the state. Bondi has publicly endorsed Lara Trump, saying she knows her "very well" and calling her a friend.

Bondi tries to hang on to dog by a toenail



By **DEMORRIS A. LEE**

Published Oct. 22, 2006 | Updated Oct. 31, 2006

The St. Bernard that Pam Bondi adopted last year is not the same dog that a Louisiana couple lost after Hurricane Katrina, Pam Bondi's attorney said Friday.

And she said the dog has the toenail to prove it.

Bondi was sued for stealing the dog of Hurricane Katrina survivors, ultimately settling with the owners and returning the dog. Bondi adopted a dog that was in temporary shelter due to Hurricane Katrina. When the owners learned their dogs were adopted, they tracked them to Bondi and another owner. They reached out to Bondi to get the dog back, but she refused. The owners ultimately got their pet back from Bondi after 16 months of litigation.

During Bondi's time as AG, Florida experienced five significant mass shootings that killed a total of 83 people and injured 76 more. According to Mother Jones Magazine, which maintains a database of mass shootings, there were five incidents in Florida where at least three victims were killed between 2011 and 2018. The deadliest was the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando, which killed 49 people and left 53 injured in June 2016. The next deadliest was at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, where 17 people were killed and another 17 injured in February 2018. The list also includes a 2017 shooting in Orlando that resulted in five deaths; a 2017 Fort Lauderdale shooting that killed five and left six injured; and a 2013 Hialeah shooting that left seven dead.

As Florida Attorney General, Bondi attempted to block numerous gun violence reduction policies implemented by other states or the federal government and defended Florida's own lax gun laws. In 2013 and 2014, Bondi joined the National Rifle Association in legal challenges to various state and federal gun laws, including federal age limits on firearms purchases, a federal ban on "straw" purchases and a Connecticut ban on certain semiautomatic weapons. At a 2016 campaign rally for Trump, Bondi said Hillary Clinton would appoint Supreme Court justices with "contempt" for the Second Amendment. Between 2011 and 2017, Bondi unsuccessfully defended Florida's controversial "Docs vs. Glocks" law that sought to ban doctors from asking patients about firearms in their homes.

Bondi supported gun control measures Florida adopted following the Parkland shooting – including age limitations she had opposed previously, calling it "the right thing to do." In March 2018, Florida's legislature passed a major new gun law spurred on by the Parkland shooting that restricted firearms purchases by people younger than 21, banned bump stocks, and gave police more power to seize guns from mentally unfit individuals. Bondi said the law was "the right thing to do," and she defended it in court from a lawsuit brought by the NRA. Bondi also sought to unmask the plaintiff in that case, a move that was opposed at the time by all of the Republicans running to succeed her as AG. Since becoming Attorney General for the Trump administration, she has walked back her support for common sense safety policies, even heading a task force aimed at overturning constitutionally sound and publicly supported gun legislation.



"I've never said I don't like gay people. That's ridiculous."

PAM BONDI

Bondi opposes lesbian divorce and repeatedly advocates for traditional marriage values despite being a two-time divorcee. Bondi personally filed papers urging a court not to grant a Florida same-sex couple a divorce despite her history of divorce.

Bondi called protest shooter Kyle Rittenhouse "a little boy out there trying to protect his community." Bondi described Kyle Rittenhouse, the 17-year-old who shot two people to death during a 2020 protest in Wisconsin, as "a little boy out there trying to protect his community." Rittenhouse had traveled to the Wisconsin protest against police brutality from his home in Illinois armed with an assault-style rifle.

Bondi postponed a death row execution to attend a campaign fundraiser. This is despite Bondi's support of the Timely Justice Act during the same time period which speeds up executions by restricting 'frivolous' appeals by inmates.

Biography

Timeline

November 17, 1965: Pamela Jo Bondi was born in Tampa, Fla., to Patsy and Joseph Bondi.

1987: Bondi graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice.

1990: Bondi graduated from Stetson University College of Law.

1991: Bondi was admitted to the Florida Bar.

1991–2011: Bondi worked as a prosecutor for the Hillsborough County State Attorney's Office.

2011–2019: Bondi served as Florida Attorney General, the first woman elected to the position.

2014–15: Bondi served as chairman of the Republican Attorneys General Association.

2019–2024: Bondi worked for the powerful GOP lobbying firm Ballard Partners, where she chaired its Corporate Regulatory Compliance practice.

2019–2020: Bondi spent several months working for the White House to assist in Donald Trump's impeachment defense.

2021–2024: Bondi was Chair of the Center for Litigation and Co-Chair of Center for Law and Justice at the America First Policy Institute, a pro-Trump think tank.

[America First Policy Institute, accessed [11/21/24](#); Ballard Partners, accessed [11/21/24](#); Tallahassee Democrat, 7/31/11; Business Observer, [11/5/10](#); Palm Beach Post, [10/8/11](#); New York Times, [11/22/24](#)]

Family

Bondi is a fourth-generation Floridian. [Concordia, [9/14/17](#)]

Bondi grew up in Temple Terrace, Fla., and was the oldest of three children. “Bondi, 45, grew up in Temple Terrace, Hillsborough County's smallest municipality, as the oldest of Patsy and Joseph Bondi's three children. She interned with the Hillsborough State Attorney while going to Stetson University's law school, and that office was her home for the past 20 years.” [Tallahassee Democrat, 7/31/11]

Bondi's father was on the faculty at the University of South Florida for 38 years and a former councilman in their hometown. “Her father, retired after 38 years on the school of education faculty at the University of South Florida, and also a former city councilman and mayor in Temple Terrace, acknowledges he didn't see it coming. He and his wife had developed a post-retirement career of attending Bondi's court cases, never hesitating to try and give her advice during breaks.” [Tallahassee Democrat, 7/31/11]

Bondi's mother also was a teacher, her sister is a retired school principal, and her brother worked for a law firm in Washington, DC. “The Bondis are a close-knit family of educators and attorneys. Patsy, the matriarch, also was a teacher. Her other daughter was one of the youngest principals in Hillsborough before retiring to care for her three children. A son is with a law firm in Washington, D.C.” [Tallahassee Democrat, 7/31/11]

Bondi registered as a Democrat in college and joined the Republican Party in 2000. “She registered to vote as a Democrat as a freshman at the University of Florida in 1984, switching her affiliation to Republican in 2000, but Bondi's core values are conservative. She was not troubled over sending several men to death row during her days as a senior prosecutor.” [Tallahassee Democrat, 7/31/11]

Bondi has been divorced twice. “Bondi ... has been divorced twice and had an unofficial commitment ceremony in the Cayman Islands in 2012....” Her personal history with divorce is inconsistent with her espoused values of traditional marriage and opposition to lesbian divorces. [The Advocate, [10/24/14](#)]

Career

Early in her career, Bondi was best known for appearing on Fox News as a legal analyst and prosecuting high-profile murder cases. “Bondi is best known for a couple high profile murder cases and her appearances on Fox News as a part-time legal expert. She put Adam Davis on death row for the murder of Vicky Robinson and successfully prosecuted Melvin Givens for first-degree murder in the stabbing death of local NBC-News Producer Danielle Cipriani.” [Business Observer, [11/5/10](#)]

November 2014: Bondi was elected chairman of the Republican Attorneys General Association after facing criticism over her fundraising ties to the group. “Nevermind all the bad publicity her ties to the Republican Attorneys General Association have brought her. Over the weekend, Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi doubled down by getting elected the group’s new chairwoman. ‘It is an honor to be selected by my fellow Republican Attorneys General to lead RAGA at such a critical time in our country’s history,’ Bondi said in a statement. ‘We will continue to stand up for the rule of law and protect the citizens of our states.’ Bondi, 48, accepted the position as the group held its fall national meeting at the ritzy Fontainebleau in Miami Beach. Since taking office, she has accepted \$25,000 in gifts to attend RAGA events.” [Tampa Bay Times, [11/18/14](#)]

Record

Guns

Opposition to gun laws

September 2013: Bondi supported an NRA lawsuit seeking to overturn age restrictions on firearms purchases. “Florida is supporting a National Rifle Association challenge of a federal law restricting young adults from purchasing guns. Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi joined 22 other attorneys general in signing onto a brief intended to bolster the NRA’s case. The gun rights organization wants the U.S. Supreme Court to strike down a federal law restricting people ages 18, 19 and 20 from buying handguns. Last year, a federal appeals court upheld that the law, passed in 1968, is constitutional. The NRA filed its petition in April asking for the Supreme Court to overturn that ruling; the states, led by Alabama, sent their brief last week. Florida and the other states are arguing that their own laws allow people to purchase guns starting at age 18. They say the federal law passed by Congress undermines states’ rights and infringes on citizens’ Second Amendment protections. In addition to Florida and Alabama, the other states supporting the NRA lawsuit are: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, West Virginia and Wisconsin. Click here to download the brief filed by the states.” [Tampa Bay Times Blogs (The Buzz), 9/5/13]

October 2014: Bondi opposed state laws banning semiautomatic weapons and a federal ban on “straw” purchases. “Earlier this year, Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi opposed a ban on certain kinds of semiautomatic weapons. In Connecticut. The ban was that state’s response to the 2012 massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary, the deadliest school shooting in U.S. history. Bondi and 21 other attorneys general, most of them Republican, filed a brief that argued the ban was unconstitutional. Bondi’s office didn’t explain the brief. No news conferences. No press release. Nor did she draw attention to

signing briefs challenging other gun measures, including a similar ban on semiautomatic weapons in New York, a federal ban on 'straw' purchases of guns and a federal law restricting handgun purchases for those between the ages of 18 and 21." [The Miami Herald, 10/25/24]

- **Bondi was part of an effort organized by the Republican Attorneys General Association, which donated \$750k to her re-election campaign that year.** "She signed all of these briefs with colleagues from southern and western states that dominate the Republican Attorneys General Association, a political fundraising organization known as RAGA that has contributed \$750,000 to Bondi's \$5.5million reelection campaign. Since taking office in 2011, Bondi has adopted RAGA's priorities, recited talking points and joined members' legal battles far beyond Florida." [The Miami Herald, 10/25/24]
- **Bondi: "I'm proud to ... consistently advocate against government infringement of Americans' Second Amendment rights."** "Her only comments came in a short email sent by her spokeswoman: 'I'm proud to be among a bipartisan group of state attorneys general who consistently advocate against government infringement of Americans' Second Amendment rights.'" [The Miami Herald, 10/25/24]

July 2016: At a Trump campaign rally in Florida, Bondi said Hillary Clinton would appoint Supreme Court justices "with utter contempt for our Second Amendment." "Bondi also rallied the crowd, trashing Clinton as someone who believes 'laws don't apply to her' and who would erode gun rights by appointing activist judges. 'Hillary will stack the Supreme Court with liberal justices who will allow government to continue its rampage against our individual rights with utter contempt for our Second Amendment,' Bondi said. 'I know Donald, and he will appoint conservative justices who will defend, rather than rewrite, our Constitution.'" [South Florida Sun-Sentinel, 7/21/16]

Mixed reviews from Florida gun advocates

April 2016: Politico: Bondi advised to profess ignorance on pending gun legislation. "On New Year's Eve, 2015, as the capital was buzzing over two gun-related bills ahead of the 2016 session, Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi was given a press briefing, entitled 'Hot Topics,' in which she was told to tell reporters who asked her about the bills that 'I have not seen the upcoming Florida gun legislation.' The same page of that briefing contained background on those gun bills, and some analysis of the politics surrounding them. In the Dec. 31 briefing obtained by POLITICO Florida, immediately under the talking point is background information pulled from an uncited Sunshine State News article on the two high-profile, NRA-backed gun bills that were making their way through the Legislature at the time. One would have allowed concealed carry permit owners to bring guns on public university campuses and another would have allowed the open carry of guns by Floridians with concealed carry permits." [Politico, [4/8/16](#)]

August 2019: Tampa Bay Times: Gun supporters saw Bondi's record as "mixed."

"Although Bondi's eight years as attorney general were characterized by embroiling her office in the most divisive political and cultural issues of the day — opposing Obamacare, supporting a gay marriage ban — her record on guns, at least to some groups, was mixed." [Tampa Bay Times, [8/2/19](#)]

- **Gun advocate: "I've got no love for Pam Bondi."** "'I've got no love for Pam Bondi,' said Eric Friday, the general counsel for Florida Carry, a gun rights group that makes the National Rifle Association look mild at times.... Bondi, who could not be reached for comment, had a mixed record on the topic. 'Ms. Bondi made numerous anti-gun decisions,' Friday said." [Tampa Bay Times, [8/2/19](#)]
- **Bondi opposed a semiautomatic weapon ban after Sandy Hook and defended "Stand Your Ground" laws.** "Bondi opposed a semiautomatic weapon ban in Connecticut after the Sandy Hook shooting and defended Florida's controversial 'stand your ground' law. But she also argued that stand your ground shouldn't be used by police officers to defend their shootings." [Tampa Bay Times, [8/2/19](#)]
- **Bondi defended Florida's open-carry ban in 2013 and defended gun control laws passed after the Parkland shooting.** "In 2013, Bondi also defended the state's law that prohibits people from openly carrying weapons, pitting her against Friday's organization. Her handling of it prompted [National Rifle Association lobbyist Marion] Hammer to reassure NRA members that Bondi was 'a friend of our organizations.' Bondi also defended the Legislature's gun-control measures passed in the wake of the Parkland shooting, including a provision that outlawed anyone younger than 21 from buying a rifle or shotgun. The NRA challenged the law and asked that a 19-year-old plaintiff be allowed to remain anonymous in the case so she could avoid potential harassment. After Bondi fought it, Hammer accused her of 'bullying.'" [Tampa Bay Times, [8/2/19](#)]

'Docs vs. Glocks'

Bondi's office spent six years unsuccessfully defending a Florida law that sought to ban doctors from asking patients about guns in their homes. "Six years after Florida lawmakers tried to stop doctors from asking patients about guns, health-care providers have emerged victorious in a legal battle as the state did not appeal a federal-court ruling striking down major parts of the 2011 law. The controversial measure, dubbed the 'docs vs. glocks' law and supported by the National Rifle Association, included a series of restrictions on doctors and other health providers. For example, it sought to prevent physicians from entering information about gun ownership into medical records if the physicians knew the information was not 'relevant' to patients' medical care or safety or to the safety of other people....A February ruling by the full appellate court – in a 90-page

decision comprised of two majority opinions authored by different judges, as well as a dissent – struck down the law. Florida officials did not appeal that ruling before a deadline last month, Attorney General Pam Bondi's office confirmed.... Bondi's office referred questions about the case to state health officials, who, along with Gov. Rick Scott, were the defendants in the case." [Tallahassee Democrat, [6/12/17](#)]

Pulse Nightclub Shooting

June 2016: After the Pulse nightclub shooting, Bondi was part of a viral exchange with CNN anchor Anderson Cooper, who chastised her record on LGBT issues. "Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi's recent pledge in support of 'our LGBT community' resulted in a live grilling from CNN anchor Anderson Cooper on Tuesday. 'Do you really believe you're a champion of the gay community?' Cooper asked in an interview in Orlando. Bondi said Sunday after the Pulse nightclub shooting that 'anyone who attacks our LGBT community, anyone who attacks anyone in our state, will be gone after to the fullest extent of the law.' Cooper told Bondi, 'You've basically gone after gay people, [you've said] in court that gay people, simply by fighting for marriage equality, were trying to do harm to the people of Florida.' Bondi responded, 'That's not a law, it was voted into our constitution by the voters of Florida. That's what I was defending. I've never said I don't like gay people.' In 2014, seven other state attorneys general decided to drop appeals after federal courts struck down same-sex marriage bans, but Bondi carried on with the fight." [Orlando Sentinel, [6/15/16](#)]

October 2017: Bondi traveled to Las Vegas to assist with the response to its mass shooting, which mirrored elements of the Pulse incident. "Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi and a team of victim advocates are headed to Nevada to help deal with the aftermath of the nation's worst mass shooting.... Bondi said she was coming at the request of Nevada Attorney General Adam Paul Laxalt. 'We've been in constant contact with Nevada since this happened,' Bondi said. 'We're going to be assisting the victims and their families with the services they need. Sadly, in Florida we know what we're doing after the Pulse nightclub.'" [Florida Bar News, 10/15/17]

Stand Your Ground

March 2012: Following the shooting of Trayvon Martin, Gov. Rick Scott and Bondi assigned a special prosecutor to the case and established a task force to examine the state's Stand Your Ground law. "Gov. Rick Scott appointed a special counsel today to investigate the fatal shooting of Trayvon Martin, along with a task force headed by Lt. Gov. Jennifer Carroll that will advise him and the Legislature on possible tightening of the 'Stand Your Ground' law that prevented police from arresting the Neighborhood Watch volunteer who killed the teen-ager last month in Sanford. The Rev. R.B. Holmes, pastor of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Tallahassee, will serve as vice-chairman of the task force. Scott issued a statement this evening saying that, after the investigation of Martin's

slaying is completed, the task force will work with the Legislature and civic leaders in developing any changes needed in state law. Scott said Attorney General Pam Bondi and the Legislature's presiding officers agreed to recommend members to serve on the Carroll task force." [Tallahassee Democrat, 3/22/12]

April 2012: Bondi recommended Scott appoint Republican state attorney Angela Corey to the role and said she considers Corey to be a role model and mentor. "Ms. Corey was named special prosecutor in the Martin case after Norman Wolfinger, the state attorney for Seminole County, stepped aside March 22, after coming under intense criticism for moving too slowly. The state's attorney general, Pam Bondi, who advised Gov. Rick Scott to choose Ms. Corey, said she considers her to be a role model and mentor." [New York Times, 4/10/12]

April 2012: Corey sought second-degree murder charges against George Zimmerman. "Florida state attorney Angela Corey said in Jacksonville that George Zimmerman, 28, had been taken into custody and was awaiting arraignment within 24 hours on a charge of second-degree murder in the death of the 17-year-old. He could face life in prison if convicted. The murder charge is likely to face intense scrutiny in the weeks ahead as it is weighed against Florida's 'stand your ground' law, which police cited the night of the shooting as the reason Zimmerman, a neighborhood watch volunteer, was never charged in the first place. The law gives Florida citizens the right to use deadly force if they feel threatened; Zimmerman contends that he was attacked by Trayvon and brutally beaten."

- **Bondi said the decision showed a "commitment to bringing justice to Trayvon's family and allowing due process for Zimmerman."** "Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi said the prosecutor's decision to charge Zimmerman was the result of 'a swift and thorough investigation' and a 'commitment to bringing justice to Trayvon's family and allowing due process for Zimmerman.'" [USA Today, 4/11/12]

July 2013: Zimmerman was found not guilty after the trial. "The jury in the George Zimmerman murder trial has found Zimmerman not guilty in the death of Trayvon Martin." [ABC News, [7/13/13](#)]

March 2018: Bondi's office urged the Florida Supreme Court to overturn a ruling that allowed a police officer to use a Stand Your Ground defense in an on-duty shooting. "Attorney General Pam Bondi's office this week urged the Florida Supreme Court to overturn a ruling that allowed a police officer to use the state's 'stand your ground' self-defense law after being charged with manslaughter in an on-duty shooting. Bondi's office, in a 22-page brief filed Monday, argued that Broward County sheriff's deputy Peter Peraza was not legally entitled to claim immunity under 'stand your ground' in the 2013 shooting death of Jermaine McBean. Instead, the brief argued, officers can seek a more-limited type of immunity under another part of state law." [Florida Politics, 3/29/18]

November 2018: Bondi sought to block a Miami-Dade prosecutor from participating in a Florida Supreme Court case over Stand Your Ground's constitutionality. "Attorney General Pam Bondi is seeking to block Miami-Dade County's top prosecutor from getting involved in a Florida Supreme Court case and supporting arguments that a 2017 change to the 'stand your ground' self-defense law is unconstitutional. Bondi's office late Tuesday filed a document opposing a request by Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle to take a friend-of-the-court position in the case. Fernandez Rundle has asked the court for permission to 'adopt' the position of the League of Prosecutors-Florida, which argues the controversial 2017 change is unconstitutional. The newly filed document said Bondi is Florida's chief legal officer and that she and not the state attorney represents the state in such cases. It said granting Fernandez Rundle's request would 'serve no purpose other than to circumvent Florida law, which grants the attorney general, not the state attorney, the authority to speak for the state in its appellate courts.'" [Florida Politics, 11/15/18]

December 2018: Florida Supreme Court upheld police officer's use of Stand Your Ground law, rejecting Bondi's argument that qualified immunity should apply. "Siding with a Broward County sheriff's deputy who fatally shot a man, the Florida Supreme Court on Thursday unanimously ruled that law-enforcement officers can use the state's 'stand your ground' self-defense law to be shielded from prosecution.... Attorney General Pam Bondi's office urged the Supreme Court to go along with the 2nd District Court of Appeal and rule against allowing officers to use the 'stand your ground' defense. Bondi's office contended that police are subject to an older law that can provide what is known as 'qualified' immunity." [Florida Times-Union, 12/14/18]

Post-Parkland Gun Control Law

February 2018: During a meeting at the White House a week after the Parkland shooting, Bondi said she was working to reform Florida's law to allow police to confiscate guns for 72 hours to determine whether people are mentally fit to possess them. "MS. BONDI: Well, one it addresses some of the things you said in Florida. It's called the Baker Act, but it's our civil commitment act. And it's weak, and it's about 1,000 pages long. And I've had my solicitor general on it for four days, three days now, working on it. We're rewriting it -- along with Governor Scott, who's -- you're going to meet with him and he's going to give you a ton of good information. THE PRESIDENT: Good. MS. BONDI: We've been rewriting it, and we are going to bring in something called the Gun Violence Restraining Order. So if someone is civilly committed -- and typically, you can hold them for up to 72 hours, but people are getting out within 24 hours, the majority of them. So what we want to do is let law enforcement come in and take the guns. ... MS. BONDI: But we also have to give the mentally ill the due process in which they deserve, President. So what we're doing is they're going to be able to take the guns when they're taken into custody -- or into the hospital. And then, when they're released, within 24 hours or 72 hours later -- typically, it's 24 hours -- but law enforcement will have 72 hours to determine whether

they should give those guns back, or they can go to a judge and say, 'Your Honor, please keep these guns. We feel this person is still a danger to himself or others,' whether they're in or out of custody. THE PRESIDENT: So this would not have worked the way it's currently constituted. This would not have worked with Cruz as it's currently constituted. MS. BONDI: As it's currently written." [White House Press Release, 2/22/18]

- **Video.** [C-SPAN, [2/22/18](#)]

March 2018: Florida enacted new age restrictions following the Parkland school shooting, drawing an immediate lawsuit from the NRA. "The National Rifle Association is suing the state of Florida after Gov. Rick Scott signed Senate Bill 7026 into law Friday, the first gun control legislation enacted in the state after the Parkland school massacre on February 14. The NRA suit focuses on the part of the law that raises the minimum age to purchase a firearm to 21 from 18." [CNN.com, 3/9/18]

- **Bondi called Florida's new gun law "the right thing to do."** "Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi, who is named as a defendant, said she was proud of the law. 'This bill is not perfect, and sadly it will not bring back the 17 lives lost in the horrific school shooting, but the safety of our children is not a political issue, it's simply the right thing to do,' she said. Bondi also lauded the students of Stoneman Douglas, many of whom have called for tougher gun laws." [CNN.com, 3/9/18]
- **The new law also banned bump stocks, gave law enforcement more authority to seize guns from those deemed mentally unfit, and armed some teachers.** "The new law also bans the sale or possession of bump fire stocks, gives law enforcement greater power to seize weapons and ammunition from those deemed mentally unfit, and provides additional funding for armed school resource officers. A controversial part of the new law is known as the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program, which arms some teachers if both the local school district and local sheriff's department agree. The \$67 million provision is named after the coach who shielded students with his own body and died in last month's shooting." [CNN.com, 3/9/18]

March 2018: Bondi opposed adding similar gun restrictions to Florida's constitution, saying the deadline for new proposals expired before the Parkland shooting. "Talk about gun regulations may be all the rage elsewhere, but the Florida Constitution Revision Commission wouldn't allow debate on firearm-related measures this week. A majority of the panel, sticking to its rules about deadlines, rejected attempts to introduce three measures to impose stricter gun regulations. Commissioner Roberto Martinez, a former federal prosecutor who said he owns three guns, tried to introduce a proposal that would put into the Constitution the same gun-related restrictions included in Florida's new law.... But Attorney General Pam Bondi, a commission member, said the panel was obligated to obey its rules, which set an October deadline for new proposals." [Florida Times-Union, 3/24/18]

- **Bondi: “To say that the shooting came up recently, well, we had Pulse nightclub a year ago. You’ve all known that from day one. No one did anything on that.”**

“She rejected Martinez’s request that the rules be waived because the Valentine’s Day shooting in Parkland occurred months after the filing deadline. ‘To say that the shooting came up recently, well, we had Pulse nightclub a year ago. You’ve all known that from day one. No one did anything on that,’ Bondi said. A majority of the 37-member commission agreed with Bondi and voted down Martinez’s motion.” [Florida Times-Union, 3/24/18]

June 2018: Bondi sought to unmask the anonymous plaintiff in the NRA’s lawsuit, a move that was opposed by candidates to succeed her as attorney general.

“Republicans running to replace Attorney General Pam Bondi disagree with her legal stand against a 19-year-old Alachua County woman who wants to remain anonymous in a National Rifle Association challenge to a new state gun restriction.... The law, in part, raises the minimum age to 21 to purchase rifles and other long guns, imposes a three-day waiting period on the sale of long guns and allows specially trained teachers and other school personnel to bring guns to school. The NRA, which is challenging the age restriction, is appealing a decision by U.S. District Judge Mark Walker that would prevent the Alachua County teen from being a plaintiff in the lawsuit under the pseudonym ‘Jane Doe.’ Bondi’s office argued that the request for anonymity ‘does not provide a sufficient basis for overcoming the strong presumption in favor of open judicial proceedings.’” [Daily Commercial, [6/5/18](#)]

December 2018: Bondi accompanied Parkland parents to a meeting on school safety at the White House.

“President Donald Trump will hold a White House round table this afternoon to discuss a new school safety report following the Parkland school shooting. Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi will attend, as will Andy Pollack and Max Schacter, two fathers of victims of the February shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, according to the White House.” [Tampa Bay Times, [12/18/18](#)]

March 2023: Federal appeals court upholds Florida’s age limits for gun purchases.

“On March 9, the Eleventh Circuit issued a published decision in NRA v. Bondi holding that Florida’s law prohibiting those under the age of 21 from purchasing (but not possessing) firearms is consistent with the Second Amendment post-Bruen. The case deals with a Florida statute enacted in 2018, after the February 14, 2018 mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland. The law prohibits anyone under age 21 from purchasing a firearm and creates criminal penalties for both underage purchasers and those who sell to under-21-year-olds.” [Duke Center for Firearms Law, [3/24/23](#)]

March 2025: Florida House votes to reverse the age restriction on gun purchases. The Florida Senate has yet to vote on the reversal. [Florida Politics, [3/26/25](#)]

Blaming Video Games

August 2018: After two people were shot and killed at a video game tournament in Jacksonville, Bondi warned parents about the dangers of video games – but ignored guns. “After a mass shooting on Sunday at a video game tournament in Jacksonville, Florida, left two dead and 11 wounded, Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi (R) — a favorite of the National Rifle Association — does not seem to think that guns were much of a concern. During a three-minute long interview on Fox & Friends on Monday, Bondi declined to discuss the ongoing investigation. Instead she delivered a warning to parents — not about guns, but about video game settings. ‘Parents need to be really careful, in general, on all of these games because predators can find you, based on location services,’ she said. ‘So please, parents, any of these games these kids are playing, check locations services. I know Minecraft, we talked about that in the past. I don’t know about Fortnite. But they’re playing all over the country. The scary thing is they can find out where your 13-year-old is sitting at home playing, playing that game.’ She made no mention of the need to keep guns, like the one used in the Jacksonville shooting, out of the hands of kids. While geo-location safety is important, it is worth noting that the shooting happened at an in-person video game competition. The competitors were playing Madden NFL 19 in a pizzeria, making location tagging irrelevant in this case. Still, Bondi focused her warning on this, rather than even mentioning concrete policy solutions to reduce gun violence.” [Think Progress, [8/27/18](#)]

Mass Shootings in Florida Under Bondi

During Bondi’s time as Florida Attorney General, the state experienced five significant mass shootings in which a total of 83 people were killed and 76 were injured, according to a database maintained by Mother Jones magazine. The database includes shootings in which at least three people were killed, not including the shooter. [Mother Jones Mass Shooting Database, [9/4/24](#)]

Mass Shootings in Florida 2011–2018					
Case	City	Date	Summary	Fatalities	Injured

Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting	Parkland	2/14/2018	Nikolas J. Cruz, 19, heavily armed with an AR-15, tactical gear, and "countless magazines" of ammo, according to the Broward County Sheriff, attacked the high school as classes were ending for the day, killing at least 17 people and injuring many others. He was apprehended by authorities shortly after fleeing the campus.	17	17
Florida awning manufacturer shooting	Orlando	6/5/2017	John Robert Neumann, Jr., 45, a former employee of manufacturer Fiamma Inc. fatally shot five workers at the company, and then killed himself on the scene. He'd been fired from the company in April. The attack took place a week before the one-year anniversary of the Orlando nightclub massacre.	5	0
Fort Lauderdale airport shooting	Fort Lauderdale	1/6/2017	Esteban Santiago, 26, flew from Alaska to Fort Lauderdale, where he opened fire in the baggage claim area of the airport, killing five and wounding six before police apprehended	5	6

			him. (Numerous other people were reportedly injured while fleeing during the panic.)		
Orlando nightclub massacre	Orlando	6/12/2016	Omar Mateen, 29, attacked the Pulse nightclub in Orlando in the early morning hours of June 12. He was killed by law enforcement who raided the club after a prolonged standoff.	49	53
Hialeah apartment shooting	Hialeah	7/26/2013	Pedro Vargas, 42, set fire to his apartment, killed six people in the complex, and held another two hostages at gunpoint before a SWAT team stormed the building and fatally shot him.	7	0

[Adapted from Mother Jones' database, accessed 7/24/25]

Sympathy for Kyle Rittenhouse

Bondi described Kyle Rittenhouse, a 17-year-old who shot two protesters to death, as "a little boy out there trying to protect his community." "Pam Bondi, the former Florida attorney general and a prominent surrogate for President Donald Trump's campaign, on Tuesday defended Kyle Rittenhouse – the 17-year-old charged in the shooting deaths of two people in Kenosha, Wisconsin – as 'a little boy out there trying to protect his community.' Rittenhouse of Antioch, Illinois, is facing six charges, including one count of first-degree intentional homicide in connection with the shootings of three people, two of whom were killed. The shooting happened after 11 p.m. Aug. 25 during the third night of protests after a Kenosha police officer shot Jacob Blake seven times in the back. Bondi told FOX News' Hannity how prosecutors have been too hasty to charge Rittenhouse, who had come to Kenosha armed with an assault-style rifle during demonstrations against police brutality. 'There were bullets flying everywhere. Other people were firing, This kid was trying to help people. Were there people killed? Absolutely,' said Bondi, who has been active within the Trump campaign and spoke at the Republican National Convention last month. 'You've got a little boy out there trying to protect his community,' she said. 'Should

he have been out there with a gun? No. But should he have been charged with murder? We just don't know yet.'" [USA Today, [9/23/24](#)]

Democracy

Voting Rights

2012: Bondi said Florida would "keep fighting" to purge noncitizens from voter rolls even though legitimate voters were also removed; the Justice Department called the effort illegal. According to Talking Points Memo, "Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi told Fox News' Megyn Kelly on Tuesday that the state would 'keep fighting' for its right to purge noncitizens from the state's voter rolls, even though the efforts have removed legitimate voters from the rolls. 'I think every American should find it very frustrating and troubling that [the feds] don't want to work with our state to ensure that the proper people vote,' Bondi said. The Justice Department told Florida last week that their voter list purge is illegal. Florida is supposed to respond by Wednesday." [Talking Points Memo, [6/05/12](#)]

- **The Justice Department found that Florida's voter roll purge violated the National Voter Registration Act.** "The Justice Department sent a letter to Florida Secretary of State Ken Detzner Thursday evening demanding the state cease purging its voting rolls because the process it is using has not been cleared under the Voting Rights Act, TPM has learned. DOJ also said that Florida's voter roll purge violated the National Voter Registration Act, which stipulates that voter roll maintenance should have ceased 90 days before an election, which given Florida's August 14 primary, meant May 16. Five of Florida's counties are subject to the Voting Rights Act, but the state never sought permission from either the Justice Department or a federal court to implement its voter roll maintenance program. Florida officials said they were trying to remove non-citizens from the voting rolls, but a flawed process led to several U.S. citizens being asked to prove their citizenship status or be kicked off the rolls." [Talking Points Memo, [6/01/12](#)]

2020 Election Denial

November 2020: Bondi "became the public face of Trump's fight to stop the counting of ballots in Pennsylvania." "Former Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi became the public face of Trump's fight to stop the counting of ballots in Pennsylvania. But she, too, has since faded away. The day after the election, Bondi stood alongside Trump lawyer and former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani outside a Philadelphia vote-counting center to decry what they said was fraud. But Bondi was nowhere to be seen Thursday on Capitol Hill when Giuliani once again stood before cameras to lay out a bewildering array of vast conspiracies related to the 2020 election. Bondi did not respond to messages requesting comment." [Tampa Bay Times, 11/20/20]

The day after Election Day, Bondi appeared at a press conference in Philadelphia and misleadingly accused city officials of intimidation. “That afternoon, Rudy Giuliani, Pam Bondi and Eric Trump, the president’s son, held a news conference in Philadelphia. By the time they arrived, Trump had tweeted: ‘We have claimed, for Electoral Vote purposes, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (which won’t allow legal observers).’ He accused Gov. Tom Wolf of Pennsylvania of ‘flagrantly violating’ the Constitution, before declaring, ‘ANY VOTE THAT CAME IN AFTER ELECTION DAY WILL NOT BE COUNTED!’ ‘It is very, very sad that we’re here in the city that’s really the birthplace of our democracy, and this is among one of the most antidemocratic things I’ve ever seen or encountered,’ Giuliani said, and ‘not a single Republican has been able to look at any one of these mail ballots.’ Bondi warned: ‘There is a gentleman here by the name of Seth Bluestein, who is an assistant to a city commissioner. And he is wearing a badge the size of a baseball, and as far as I know, he’s not a sworn law-enforcement officer. So it looks like intimidation to me, with a police barricade and a man wearing a huge badge around his neck.’ Trump’s, Giuliani’s and Bondi’s claims were misleading when not false. The ‘police barricade’ that Bondi — who had not been in the canvassing room — described was in reality a line of bike racks, installed to create a socially distanced area from which the observers could watch, and the commissioners and their deputies had been issued badges by the city’s Office of Emergency Management to allow them free passage around the center. After Bondi called out Bluestein — who, like Schmidt, is a registered Republican — his Twitter and Facebook pages began lighting up with messages and threats. His cellphone number was leaked, and he received anonymous texts and voice mail messages.” [New York Times, 12/16/20]

Bondi was chair of the Center for Litigation and Co-Chair of the Center for Law and Justice at the America First Policy Institute, a pro-Trump think tank. [America First Policy Institute, accessed [11/21/24](#)]

June 2024: America First Policy Institute funded a Georgia election-denier’s lawsuit against a county election board. “When a member of Georgia’s Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections refused to join her colleagues as they certified two primaries this year, she claimed she had been denied her right to examine a long list of election records for signs of fraud or other issues. Now the board member, Julie Adams, an avowed believer in the false theory that the 2020 election was stolen from former president Donald Trump, is suing the board, hoping a judge will affirm that right and potentially empower others in similar positions elsewhere to hold up the outcome of elections. To voting rights activists, election law specialists and Democrats, such actions represent an ominous sign that could presage a chaotic aftermath to the 2024 election.” [Washington Post, [6/26/24](#)]

- **Bondi: “It is unfortunate that this action was necessary.”** “‘The bedrock of the American legal system is that we are governed by laws,’ said Pam Bondi, AFPI Chair of the Center for Litigation. ‘It is unfortunate that this action was necessary, but despite repeated requests and efforts to gain access to essential election

information, the Board continues to deny Ms. Adams the information she needs to ensure the integrity of elections in Fulton County. The goal of this case is simple: we are asking the Court to tell the Board to follow the law.” [AFPI Press Release, [5/24/24](#)]

Civil Rights

Bondi: disrupting Florida’s existing, traditional marriage laws will cause “significant public harm” “In her response to a lawsuit that alleges Florida discriminates against gay couples by not recognizing same-sex marriages performed in states where they are legal, Attorney General Pam Bondi wrote something that has suddenly gotten lots of attention. The document — which was filed May 12 but was largely overlooked until Friday — included this sentence: ‘The Court should also deny the preliminary injunction motions because there is no likelihood of success on the merits, there is no immediacy requiring a preliminary injunction and disrupting Florida’s existing marriage laws would impose significant public harm.’ That last part — about imposing harm — went viral Friday.” [Tampa Bay Times, [3/30/14](#)]

Bondi: “I will vigorously defend Florida’s law banning gay adoption in our state.”

According to Politifact, “Going straight to the source, we asked Bondi her position on the issue and she responded with an e-mail stating: ‘As Florida’s next attorney general, I will vigorously defend Florida’s law banning gay adoption in our state. As a veteran prosecutor who has spent her entire career upholding the laws of this state, I have the training and experience necessary to successfully defend our laws in a courtroom. ‘Checking back on newspaper reports of earlier candidate forums and events featuring Bondi, it’s worth noting that earlier in her campaign, she was vague in outright declaring a position.” [Politifact, [8/17/10](#)]

Miami Herald: “Bondi’s stand against same-sex marriage has been the most memorable episode of her six years in office.” “Along with Trump, Bondi’s stand against same-sex marriage has been the most memorable episode of her six years in office. Her defense of the statewide ban passed by voters in 2008 made her the public face of the opposition to same-sex marriage. Her office caused a furor with the wording of a brief that argued disrupting the state’s existing law on marriage would ‘impose significant public harm.’ In the end, she drew as much ire for her continued defense of the ban. Days before she won a second term in 2014, as the legal basis for a gay marriage ban was collapsing, Bondi asked U.S. District Judge Robert Hinkle to extend a stay and prevent same-sex marriages in Florida. She later balked at paying nearly \$500,000 in legal fees to the winning side.” [Miami Herald, 12/2/16]

Death Penalty

Bondi supported the Timely Justice Act, Florida's law that speeds up executions by restricting "frivolous" appeals by inmates. According to the Huffington Post, "Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi was a staunch supporter of Gov. Rick Scott's Timely Justice Act, a controversial law that speeds up executions in the state by restricting 'frivolous' appeals by inmates. Yet one such execution was just postponed for another month so that Bondi can attend a Tampa fundraiser for her re-election campaign Tuesday night, reports News Service of Florida." [Huffington Post, [9/09/13](#)]

- **2011–2013: Bondi Participated In Eight Executions Since Taking Office.** According to the Tampa Bay Times, "'As a prosecutor, there was nothing more important than seeing justice done, especially when it came to the unconscionable act of murder. I personally put two people on death row and, as Attorney General, have already participated in eight executions since I took office, a role I take very seriously,' Bondi said." [Tampa Bay Times, [9/09/13](#)]

Bondi delayed the execution of a convicted murderer so that she could attend a campaign kickoff fundraiser. "In Florida this week, a campaign fundraiser takes precedence. Attorney General Pam Bondi persuaded Gov. Rick Scott to postpone an execution scheduled for tonight because it conflicted with her re-election kick-off reception. [...] After Scott last month rescheduled the execution for Sept. 10, the date of Bondi's 'hometown campaign kickoff' at her South Tampa home, Bondi's office asked that it be postponed. The new date is Oct. 1. Scott said Monday that he did not know the reason for the request, and he declined to answer when asked whether he considers a campaign fundraiser an appropriate reason to reschedule an execution. 'When another Cabinet officer asks for something, we try to work with them,' Scott said." [Orlando News 6, [9/24/13](#)]

- **Marshall Lee Gore was sentenced to die for murdering two women.** "'What's going on down there? It's ridiculous,' said Phyllis Novick, the Ohio mother of one of Marshall Lee Gore's victims, when told Monday about the reason for the delay. Gore, 50, raped, strangled and stabbed 30-year-old Robyn Novick in 1988 before dumping her body into a Miami-Dade County trash heap. Gore was also sentenced to die for the slaying of 19-year-old Susan Roark, whose body was found a few months later in Columbia County. Gore was initially scheduled for execution in June, but the date was twice delayed because of legal skirmishes over Gore's sanity." [Orlando News 6, [9/24/13](#)]
- **Bondi later called her decision to delay the execution wrong and apologized.** "Bondi on Tuesday made her first substantive public comments about the incident since it was revealed Gov. Rick Scott delayed the execution of Marshall Lee Gore because it conflicted with a Bondi campaign fundraiser. Scott has said he delayed the execution at Bondi's request but did not know the reason. She repeatedly called her decision wrong and apologized. Bondi also vowed that it would never happen

again. The attorney general did not say who requested the execution delay. But Bondi said her staff was aware of the reason for the delay. Gore is now scheduled to die by lethal injection on Oct. 1." [Orlando News 6, [9/24/13](#)]

Trump

Trump University Investigation

Trump paid a \$2,500 penalty to the IRS after his foundation gave \$25,000 improper "gift" to Pam Bondi in 2013. "Donald Trump paid the IRS a \$2,500 penalty this year, an official at Trump's company said, after it was revealed that Trump's charitable foundation had violated tax laws by giving a political contribution to a campaign group connected to Florida's attorney general. The improper donation, a \$25,000 gift from the Donald J. Trump Foundation, was made in 2013. At the time, Attorney General Pam Bondi was considering whether to investigate fraud allegations against Trump University. She decided not to pursue the case." [Washington Post, [9/01/16](#)]

- **Associated Press: Bondi personally solicited a political contribution from Trump while her office considered joining the investigation into alleged fraud at Trump University.** "Florida's attorney general personally solicited a political contribution from Donald Trump around the same time her office deliberated joining an investigation of alleged fraud at Trump University and its affiliates. The new disclosure from Attorney General Pam Bondi's spokesman to The Associated Press on Monday provides additional details around the unusual circumstances of Trump's \$25,000 donation to Bondi." [Associated Press, [6/06/16](#)]
- **Associated Press: Bondi received a check from Trump four days after her office announced it was considering joining the Trump University probe; after the check came in, Bondi's office decided against suing Trump University.** "The money came from a Trump family foundation in apparent violation of rules surrounding political activities by charities. A political group backing Bondi's re-election, called And Justice for All, reported receiving the check Sept. 17, 2013 — four days after Bondi's office publicly announced she was considering joining a New York state probe of Trump University's activities, according to a 2013 report in the Orlando Sentinel. After the check came in, Bondi's office nixed suing Trump, citing insufficient grounds to proceed." [Associated Press, [6/06/16](#)]
- **Orlando Sentinel: Dozens of complaints filed in Florida against Trump Institute.** "[Kenneth] Lafrate complained to the state when he couldn't get a refund five years ago. But it's a recent New York state lawsuit against Trump that has gotten Florida authorities' interested in his real estate seminars. Lafrate's complaint to the Florida Attorney General's Office was among dozens filed in 2008 against the now-defunct Trump Institute of Boca Raton, according to records obtained by the Orlando

Sentinel. [...] The complaints filed in Florida were among those cited by New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman last month when he sued Trump and real-estate seminar operations such as Trump University and the Trump Entrepreneur Initiative, alleging civil fraud.” [Orlando Sentinel, [9/13/13](#)]

The Trump Foundation did not notify the IRS about the donation, which was listed as a contribution to a Kansas charity with a name similar to Bondi’s political group. “The Post reported another error, which had the effect of obscuring the political gift from the IRS. In that year’s tax filings, The Post reported, the Trump Foundation did not notify the IRS of this political donation. Instead, Trump’s foundation listed a donation — also for \$25,000 — to a Kansas charity with a name similar to that of Bondi’s political group. In fact, Trump’s foundation had not given the Kansas group any money. The prohibited gift was, in effect, replaced with an innocent-sounding but nonexistent donation.” [Washington Post, [9/01/16](#)]

Washington Post: Incorrectly listed gift “has the effect of camouflaging the prohibited gift” made to Bondi. “Then, when the Trump Foundation sent in its tax filings that year, it compounded the original error by leaving out any mention of a political gift. When the IRS form asked if the Trump Foundation had spent money for political purposes that year, the foundation wrote ‘No.’ Then, the Trump Foundation told the IRS about a gift that did not exist. The foundation told the IRS that it had given \$25,000 to a third group, a charity in Kansas with a similar name, ‘Justice for All.’ In fact, the Trump Foundation had not actually sent the Kansas group any money. This new, incorrect listing had the effect of camouflaging the prohibited gift. Trump’s CFO said that the listing of the Kansas group was another mistake, made by the foundation’s accountants.” [Washington Post, [9/01/16](#)]

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics filed a complaint with the IRS questioning the Trump Foundation donation. “Earlier this year, The Washington Post and a liberal watchdog group raised new questions about the three-year-old gift. The watchdog group, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, filed a complaint with the IRS — noting that, as a registered nonprofit, the Trump Foundation was not allowed to make political donations.” [Washington Post, [9/01/16](#)]

Trump Foundation official: “It was just an honest mistake...wasn’t done intentionally to hide a political donation.” “Trump’s business said it was unaware of any of these mistakes until March, when it heard from the watchdog group and The Post. On Thursday, Jeffrey McConney — senior vice president and controller at the Trump Organization — said that after being notified, Trump filed paperwork informing the IRS of the political gift and paid an excise tax equal to 10 percent of its value. McConney said that Trump had also personally reimbursed the Trump Foundation for \$25,000, covering the full value of the improper gift. McConney blamed a series of mistakes, all of them unintentional. McConney said there had been no attempt to deceive. ‘It was just an honest mistake,’ McConney said. He added: ‘It wasn’t done intentionally to hide a political donation, it was just an error.’” [Washington Post, [9/01/16](#)]

Trump held a \$3,000-a-plate fundraiser for Bondi six months after her office declined investigation of Trump University. "It's the big check written to her successful, 2014 re-election campaign the previous year that's brought charges of corruption. It's also worth noting that Trump held a \$3,000-a-plate fundraiser for Bondi in March of 2014 at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, just six months after her office decided not to investigate Trump U." [Fortune Magazine, [9/12/16](#)]

2016 Campaign

March 2016: Bondi endorsed Donald Trump for president during the primary, touting "Donald and I have been friends for many years." "Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi on Monday became the first big-name Republican official in the state to endorse Donald Trump for president. At a rally in her hometown of Tampa, the state's top legal officer — the woman Trump called 'the most popular person in Florida, by far' — praised the Republican frontrunner as an outsider who will keep Americans safe. 'Donald and I have been friends for many years,' Bondi said, 'and I can tell you some things about Donald that I have seen first-hand,' alluding to how nicely he treats his family. The endorsement, however, dredged up a nearly three-year-old question from the last time Bondi and Trump made headlines together: Why didn't the Florida attorney general's office investigate fraud complaints against Trump University?" [Miami Herald, [3/14/16](#)]

July 2016: Huffington Post: Bondi joined in an anti-Hillary crowd's chants of "lock her up" at the 2016 Republican National Convention. "Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi joined the anti-Hillary Clinton crowd at the 2016 Republican National Convention, calling to 'lock her up.' Chants of 'lock her up' broke out as New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie spoke at the convention on Tuesday, a night filled with anti-Clinton sentiment. Bondi resurrected the chant Wednesday when she used the phrase during her speech. Bondi endorsed Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump in March." [Huffington Post, [7/20/16](#)]

November 2016: Bondi announced that she joined Donald Trump's transition team. "Florida state Attorney General Pam Bondi, who had endorsed Donald Trump presidential bid, said on Friday that she has joined the President-elect's transition team. 'I'm honored to serve President-elect Donald J. Trump in making this historic transition and assisting in finding the best individuals to bring change to Washington on day one, grow our economy, protect our children and families, and be unafraid to stand up for Americans,' Bondi told Politico. Bondi's connections to Trump stirred controversy during the campaign when it was revealed that a political group backing Bondi solicited a donation from Trump's charity as Bondi was considering a lawsuit against Trump University. After the group received the donation from the Trump Foundation, Bondi decided against taking up the lawsuit. Trump's campaign has insisted that the donation to Bondi was a mistake." [Talking Points Memo, [11/12/16](#)]

- **Tampa Bay Times: Bondi was a trusted campaign surrogate and played a key strategic role in Trump's Florida victory.** "As Donald Trump celebrated his improbable victory in a New York hotel ballroom before dawn Wednesday, two prominent Florida allies were there to cheer him on: Attorney General Pam Bondi and Tallahassee lobbyist Brian Ballard. Bondi and Ballard are at the top of a short list of people who played key strategic roles in Trump's Florida victory and both stand to be rewarded with more than good seats at January's inauguration. Ballard was Trump's chief Florida fundraiser and shaped his campaign operation in his biggest must-win state. Bondi, a trusted surrogate, is a logical choice for a big job in a Trump administration, if she wants one, though former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani has been mentioned as a possible attorney general." [Tampa Bay Times, [11/09/16](#)]

Impeachment Defense

November 2019: Bondi was hired "to coordinate and be the public face of the House's impeachment inquiry into Trump." "Pam Bondi was once a fixture on Tampa Bay television stations, appearing regularly on the 6 o'clock news from crime scenes and courtrooms. Expect to see much more of her -- only this time on national television, and at all hours. Over the next year, Bondi will use one of her greatest political skills -- an ability to connect with TV audiences -- on behalf of President Donald Trump. The White House announced last week that Bondi, 53, had been hired temporarily to coordinate and be the public face of the House's impeachment inquiry into Trump, someone Bondi has been close to for years. For one of the greatest dramas in American political history, Bondi is straight out of 'central casting,' said Adam Goodman, who engineered her run for Florida attorney general in 2010." [Miami Herald, 11/12/19]

December 2019: Bondi said impeachment was a "stain" on Trump. "Former Attorney General Pam Bondi pleaded President Donald Trump's case on NPR Morning Edition Thursday in the wake of the House impeachment vote. It was an exceedingly rare NPR interview for Bondi, a 'special advisor[1]' to the President. Bondi, when asked if impeachment in the House was a 'stain' on the President, was blunt. 'Of course it's a stain on President Trump,' Bondi said. 'Now, will it be attached forever? Ultimately people are going to remember what the President's done.' However, Bondi urged NPR listeners to focus on the positive aspects of the Trump legacy, such as the United States Canada Mexico Trade Agreement and job creation.... Bondi and Inskeep squabbled for some minutes about the hearings in the House, with Bondi bemoaning 'secret bunker hearings' of Democratic caucus members, and having her mike muted once. 'This will be a fair trial in the Senate because it's presided over by the Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court,' Bondi said." [Florida Politics, 12/19/19]

January 2020: At Trump's impeachment trial, Bondi focused on attacking Hunter Biden. "Trump defense lawyer Pam Bondi spoke at the impeachment trial this afternoon tearing into Hunter Biden over his role at Burisma, arguing Democrats are 'saying the

president must be impeached and removed from office for raising a concern.' Bondi cited concerns about Hunter Biden serving on the board of Burisma from State Department official impeachment inquiry witness George Kent and brought up scrutiny from 'an ABC White House reporter, Good Morning America, ABC, the Washington Post, the New York Times, Ukrainian law enforcement, and the Obama State Department itself.'" [Mediaite, [1/27/20](#)]

February 2020: Axios: Impeachment "guru" Bondi leaves White House after Trump's acquittal. "President Trump's impeachment gurus, Tony Sayegh and Pam Bondi, are leaving the White House after his acquittal in the Senate.... Bondi, the former Florida attorney general who served as a member of Trump's defense team during the trial, is due to depart by the end of next week. Between the lines: Sayegh and Bondi worked behind the scenes to curry favor among Republicans to acquit Trump. But their roles were always temporary, and now that they have succeeded in pressuring Republicans to acquit the president they will return to their day jobs." [Axios, 2/7/20]

Friendship with Lara Trump

Politico: Bondi has "a close relationship with Lara Trump.... The two campaigned together against a ban on dog racing in the state." "Bondi has a close relationship with Lara Trump, the president-elect's daughter-in-law and chair of the Republican National Committee. The two campaigned together against a ban on dog racing in the state." [Politico, [11/21/24](#)]

Bondi endorsed Lara Trump to take Marco Rubio's Senate seat. "Pam Bondi is advocating for Republican National Committee (RNC) Co-Chair Lara Trump to be the replacement for U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, who will be President-elect Donald Trump's Secretary of State if he is confirmed by the Senate. 'I don't know who the front-runner is, but I know who's extremely qualified, and that's Lara Trump,' Bondi said. 'I know her very well. She is a proven leader. I worked with her and Mike Whatley on the RNC. They helped stop this voter fraud throughout the country. They got the vote out, they protected the vote. No one works as hard as Lara Trump.' Bondi has been central to the Trump political operation since leaving office at the end of 2018. Regarding Lara Trump, Bondi added that she 'can't be objective because she's also my friend.' 'She's a mom, she's a great wife and she would be a tremendous leader for the state of Florida and we're blessed to have Lara in our state with us.'" [Florida Politics, [11/19/24](#)]

Lobbying Work

Bondi chairs the Corporate Regulatory Compliance practice at the lobbying firm Ballard Partners. "Pam Bondi, elected twice to serve as Florida's Attorney General from 2011 – 2019, chairs the firm's Corporate Regulatory Compliance practice. This national practice area focuses on serving Fortune 500 companies to implement best practices

that proactively address public policy challenges such as human trafficking, opioid abuse and personal data privacy. As chair of the Corporate Regulatory Compliance practice, Pam works with clients to design and implement publicly conscious initiatives that will elevate their corporate responsibility reputation as well as address their critical regulatory challenges.” [Ballard Partners, accessed [11/22/24](#)]

At the “powerhouse Republican firm,” Bondi “represented major corporations and foreign governments with interests before the U.S. government.” “Ms. Bondi joined the lobbying firm of the Republican fund-raiser Brian Ballard after finishing her second term as Florida attorney general in January 2019. Among the clients for which she was registered to lobby were major companies, including Amazon, General Motors and Uber, as well as the Qatari government and various financial firms. Those registrations are no longer active, but Ms. Bondi is currently registered as a lobbyist for law enforcement-related clients, including an association representing some of the country’s largest sheriff’s offices and another group representing sheriffs in Florida, as well as the Florida sheriffs’ self-insurance program.” [New York Times, [11/22/24](#)]

Ballard was a key Trump fundraiser and “go-to” lobbyist during the first term. “In an ironic twist for a politician who first ran on a pledge to ‘drain the swamp’ of Washington special interests, Mr. Trump’s election is expected to be very lucrative for lobbyists who have struck that balance. Near the top of that list is Brian Ballard, who was a leading fund-raiser for Mr. Trump, helping to bring in more than \$50 million for committees supporting the campaign, according to a person familiar with Republican fund-raising who was not authorized to speak on the matter. He also donated more than \$250,000 of his own money. Mr. Ballard had a thriving lobbying practice in Florida, where he represented Mr. Trump’s company, but had never lobbied in Washington before opening an office after Mr. Trump’s election in 2016. He quickly became a go-to for major corporations facing scrutiny from the Trump administration and Congress, like Amazon for its competitive practices and Boeing for its safety record, and foreign governments like Qatar and Turkey. His firm raked in tens of millions of dollars in federal lobbying fees during Mr. Trump’s first term, while hiring an army of lobbyists from both parties and opening offices in California and Saudi Arabia.” [New York Times, [11/7/24](#)]

In the final month of his presidency, Trump pardoned Ballard’s sister who had been convicted of fraud. “MARY MCCARTY, FORMER PALM BEACH COUNTY COMMISSIONER Trump granted McCarty a full pardon for her charge of honest services fraud, to which she pleaded guilty in 2009. McCarty accepted free or discounted hotel rooms from a company that she backed to build the planned hotel at the Palm Beach County Convention Center in West Palm Beach. She also steered county business to her husband Kevin. McCarty served 21 months of a 3½-year prison sentence in a federal prison in Texas. McCarty’s brother is Brian Ballard, one of the most powerful lobbyists in Washington and a top Trump fundraiser. Ballard’s firm also employs Pam Bondi, a former Florida attorney general and White House advisor who supported McCarty’s pardon. Christopher Ruddy,

West Palm Beach resident and CEO of the right-wing media company Newsmax is also 'among those supportive of Ms. McCarty,' according to the White House." [Tampa Bay Times, 12/24/20]

Ethical Controversies

August 2018: While still AG, Bondi spent three days guest hosting a Fox News show.

"Pam Bondi is still the attorney general of Florida, at least for another four months. But last week Bondi had a different job: co-host of Fox News' The Five. She subbed on the news talk show not once, not twice, but three times, appearing as a panelist Wednesday through Friday. The situation was so unprecedented for a sitting elected official that Bondi first sought guidance from the Florida Commission on Ethics, the government body that oversees conduct of public officials. Tallahassee lawyer Richard Coates 'spoke to the Commission on behalf of the Attorney General' prior to her appearing on the show, her spokeswoman Kylie Mason said. Mason didn't say what Coates told the commission or how it responded, but in a statement to the Tampa Bay Times, Fox News said that the ethics commission 'cleared Pam Bondi to appear as a co-host of The Five and travel to New York.' Bondi was not paid and state dollars were not spent on the trip, Mason said. Florida taxpayers pay Bondi's \$128,971 salary. Asked why Bondi thinks it is appropriate for one of Florida's top elected officials to moonlight as a cable television host, Mason said: 'She is often on national news. The attorney general is always working, she is available 24/7 and works even when out of the state.'" [Tampa Bay Times, 8/27/18]

- **Tampa Bay Times: "Call it an audition of sorts.... She has made dozens of appearances on Fox News programs over the years."** "Call it an audition of sorts for Bondi, who wraps up her two terms as attorney general in January. Cable television is often considered one of several potential landing spots for Bondi, according to her friends and political allies. Bondi is no stranger to the news network and its conservative programs. She has made dozens of appearances on Fox News programs over the years, sometimes to talk about Florida or as a legal expert, other times just as a political commentator." [Tampa Bay Times, 8/27/18]

January 2016: Bondi backed a drug testing lab while it was under investigation for fraud.

"Florida's top law enforcement officials knew by 2012 that Millennium Laboratories, the nation's largest drug testing company, was defrauding Florida Medicaid of millions. But that did not stop Attorney General Pam Bondi from urging Medicare to pay for high-priced and unnecessary drug screening tests at the heart of Millennium's massive scam, even as her own office and federal prosecutors pursued civil charges against the company. Hours after The Post reported Friday on a letter written by Bondi to Medicare backing the tests, Bondi, who previously declined to be interviewed for this story, wrote in an email that staffers had written the letter, and that, 'Knowing what I know now, The Palm Beach Post is correct that the letter should not have been sent.' The Department of Justice charged in October that Millennium reaped \$15 million just by persuading doctors to test Medicare

patients for the exotic street drug Angel Dust. It billed Medicare for 59 dead people. It bribed doctors and rigged research results. And it made a mint from getting doctors to order expensive drug tests that were not needed, DOJ said. In a March 2014 letter to the head of the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, though, Bondi argued the tests were indeed needed. The letter directly benefited Millennium, a firm that once salvaged a key anti-drug initiative championed by Bondi and, through its high-powered lobbying firm, had deep ties to Bondi and Gov. Rick Scott's legal team." [Palm Beach Post, 1/10/16]

October 2014: As Florida AG, Bondi accepted gifts and travel paid for by corporate donors. "Attorneys general are now the object of aggressive pursuit by lobbyists and lawyers who use campaign contributions, personal appeals at lavish corporate-sponsored conferences and other means to push them to drop investigations, change policies, negotiate favorable settlements or pressure federal regulators, an investigation by The New York Times has found.... Ms. Bondi, the Florida attorney general, for example, received nearly \$25,000 worth of airfare, hotels and meals in the past two years just from events sponsored by the Republican Attorneys General Association, state disclosure reports show. That money came indirectly from corporate donors. She has charged Florida taxpayers nearly \$14,000 since 2011 to take additional trips to meetings of the National Association of Attorneys General and the Conference of Western Attorneys General, including travel to Hawaii. Those events were also attended by dozens of lobbyists. Ms. Bondi, in a statement, said the support she had received — directly or through the Republican Attorneys General Association — had not had an impact on any of her actions as attorney general." [New York Times, [10/29/14](#)]

- **Records show "detailed interaction" between Bondi aides and lobbyists for "companies under investigation" by the AG's office.** "The email records show a similarly detailed interaction with the office of Ms. Bondi, the Florida attorney general and a fast-rising star in the Republican Party.... [Bernard Nash, the head of the attorney general practice at law firm Dickstein Shapiro] and his partners worked to help Ms. Bondi further her political ambitions at the same time they were lobbying her office on behalf of companies under investigation by it." [New York Times, [10/29/14](#)]
- **Bondi dropped investigation into travel sites dodging state taxes after being lobbied, confounding local officials.** "Perhaps the greatest victory in Florida for Dickstein relates to a lawsuit filed by Ms. Bondi's predecessor against online reservation companies, including Travelocity and Priceline, which Dickstein then represented, based on allegations that they were conspiring to improperly withhold taxes on hotel rooms booked in the state. Local officials in Florida were confounded by the fact that the case, which was filed before Ms. Bondi was sworn in, suddenly seemed to come to a halt." [New York Times, [10/29/14](#)]

Orlando Sentinel: Bondi took a free charter flight to a luxury Michigan resort. While there, she invited lobbyist Lori Kalani to her Tampa home. “The New York Times and the Tampa Bay Times, in a number of recent articles, detailed how Washington lobbyists have sought to influence state attorneys general to the benefit of private corporations. Bondi was given prominent coverage in the articles. The reports noted she took a free charter flight to a luxury resort on Mackinac Island, Mich., and while there invited Lori Kalani, a lobbyist and lawyer at D.C.-based Dickstein Shapiro, to stay at her Tampa home to recuperate from a foot injury. The Michigan trip was paid for by the Republican Attorneys General Association. [...] Bondi deferred comments regarding the trips to the association. Jessica Medeiros Garrison, executive director for the Republican Attorneys General Association, called it ‘absurd’ when asked about The New York Times reporting, which made it appear there is a quid pro quo involving corporations and attorneys general.” [Orlando Sentinel, [11/12/14](#)]

- **A complaint was filed with the Florida Ethics Commission over the trip.** “A complaint has been filed with the state Commission on Ethics asking if any state law was broken as Dickstein Shapiro isn’t registered to lobby in Florida, the Tampa Bay Times reported Oct. 31. According to The New York Times on Sunday, Dickstein Shapiro ‘specializes in building personal relationships with state attorneys general to help corporate clients avoid becoming targets of investigation.’ The Republican Attorneys General Association receives money from corporations. Dickstein Shapiro donated \$35,000 last year to the association, as it is one of about 280 members of the association.” [Orlando Sentinel, [11/12/14](#)]

Bondi claimed she shut down pill mills as Hillsborough prosecutor but could not point to specific cases beyond the failed attempt to shut down a doctor who resumed business following arrest. “Bondi said that as a Hillsborough prosecutor she’s shut down pill mills and offered the case of Dr. John Mubang as an example. But Mubang’s story highlights how difficult it is to stop pill mills, and in fact, is an excellent example of the problem the next attorney general will face. Mubang was shut down briefly following his arrest, but he’s back in business pending trial. To be sure, PolitiFact Florida searched Hillsborough County court records to find other specific cases Bondi may have been involved with. So did Bondi, who maintains that she has prosecuted other cases involving doctors who prescribed medicine illegally. But she couldn’t find another specific case for us to analyze. We couldn’t either. That leaves us to judge her claim based on the evidence she’s provided.” [PolitiFact, [8/11/10](#)]

Under Pam Bondi, the Attorney General’s Office allegedly forced two foreclosure mill investigators to resign without explanation. “Theresa Edwards and June Clarkson had headed up investigations on behalf of the Florida attorney general’s office for more than a year into the fraudulent foreclosure practices that had become rampant in the Sunshine State. They issued subpoenas and conducted scores of interviews, building a litany of cases that documented the most egregious abuses. That is, until the Friday afternoon in

May when they were called into a supervisor's office and forced to resign abruptly and without explanation. [...] Less than a month before they were forced out, a supervisor cited their work as 'instrumental in triggering a nationwide review of such practices.' Now, Edwards is convinced their sudden dismissals will have 'a chilling effect' on those probes into the shoddy foreclosure practices that caused national outrage when they made headlines last fall. [...] As for their hasty departure, she wrote, 'We do not comment on personnel matters. However, the Florida Attorney General's Office is always striving to make sure that we have the best staff working to serve and protect the people of Florida.'" [Washington Post, [7/14/11](#)]

- **Supervisor wrote that the two investigators had achieved the first settlement in the U.S. relating to foreclosure mills – a multimillion dollar settlement with a Fort Lauderdale Firm.** According to the Washington Post, "Their inquiry led them to focus on 'foreclosure mill' law firms that were filing foreclosures for their clients at lightning speed, as well as to the practices of other companies in the mortgage industry. It also led to calls from other attorneys general offices across the country that were beginning to scrutinize similar problems. 'We were farther along in our investigation because we had dug a little deeper than anybody else,' Edwards said. 'We kept opening up more and more investigations, more and more cases.' Their work won them accolades. In the evaluation provided by Edwards, a supervisor wrote that the pair had 'achieved what is believed to be the first settlement in the United States relating to law firm foreclosure mills' — a multimillion-dollar settlement a month earlier with a Fort Lauderdale firm." [Washington Post, [7/14/11](#)]
- **Investigators said that after Bondi took office, supervisors began to question their findings.** According to the Washington Post, "Despite that praise, Edwards and Clarkson said in separate interviews that they sensed a change when Bondi took office in January. Almost immediately, they said, supervisors began to question their findings and demand details about how they were gathering information. Both women say they were summoned into a meeting on the afternoon of May 20 and told they could either resign or be fired. Either way, they would no longer be employed come 5 p.m. They had to come back over the weekend to pick up their things, they said. 'No two weeks' notice, no severance, no nothing,' Clarkson said. 'I have no idea why it happened.' Added Edwards, 'We didn't even have a chance to go over our cases with anybody. We were just locked out.'" [Washington Post, [7/14/11](#)]

Bondi became involved in a dispute after adopting a dog lost during Hurricane Katrina; owners, who lost almost everything in Katrina, had to file a lawsuit against Bondi to get their dog back. "A custody dispute over two dogs lost in Hurricane Katrina ended Tuesday when the Florida women who adopted them after the storm agreed to give them back. 'This is what we wanted from the beginning, our dogs being back home,' Doreen Couture said at an emotional news conference. She, her husband, Steve, and their two children lived in St. Bernard Parish, La., when they lost almost everything they had in

the storm in 2005. They had dropped their dogs off at a temporary shelter before fleeing. They didn't immediately reclaim them, and in the chaos that followed, the animals _ a St. Bernard and a shepherd mix _ ended up at a shelter in Pinellas County, Fla. They were adopted into two different homes. The Coutures eventually learned where the dogs were and sued last year to have them returned. The new owners claimed they adopted the dogs in good faith and vowed to fight. A trial date had been set for this July. On Tuesday, Pam Bondi, a local prosecutor who adopted the St. Bernard, said she decided to give him back after getting to know the Coutures and visiting them in Louisiana. [...] She had said she spent thousands of dollars for the dog's health problems that predated the storm, while the Coutures denied that his health had been neglected." [Washington Post, [5/22/07](#)]

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