

## **E&E Legal Re-Argues in NY Court Over Previously Obscured Schneiderman GMail Account in 'Climate-RICO' Scheme Related GMails**

New York, NY - Attorneys for the Energy & Environment Legal Institute (E&E Legal), a nonprofit public watchdog group, today appeared in front of the New York Supreme Court in the latest chapter of an ongoing struggle to obtain public records relating to New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman's "climate-RICO" scheme to pursue political opponents from the State's top law enforcement office. Today's argument was in fact a re-argument involving a longstanding Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request relating to this now-disgraced scheme after subsequent revelation of Schneiderman's use of a GMail account for work, about which his office had misled the Court previously.

E&E Legal has been forced into an 18-month effort litigating under FOIL and other state laws to educate the public on how this campaign came about, with whom, at whose behest -- major players in which drama, we now know, include major donors, activists and contingency fee lawyers.

Specifically at issue is GMail correspondence between Schneiderman and his co-ringleader in his policy crusade circumventing the democratic process, former Attorney General William Sorrell of Vermont - also revealed by public records requests to have used a GMail account for work-related correspondence. Sorrell is currently the subject of E&E Legal litigation in Vermont, and refused to answer questions in a deposition yesterday, after skipping the first scheduled questioning.

As E&E Legal's recently released [video](#) details, the records sought involve a scheme, spearheaded by Schneiderman and Sorrell, to go after "Exxon[,] specifically, and the fossil fuel industry generally," in the words of one email we obtained.

This shakedown campaign, using the full power of law enforcement offices, recruited several other state attorneys general and was launched at a press conference in New York on March 29, 2016 featuring Al Gore. Nearly all of the other state attorneys general recruited by Schneiderman and Sorrell have since fled the scheme after open records requests threatened to expose the use of law enforcement offices to silence political opponents.

Today's action is one of nearly a dozen legal actions E&E has been forced to file in New York and Vermont in response to what records reveal to be coordinated stonewalling in the wake of Vermont's initial compliance and release of records. That release led to the spectacular embarrassment of these 'Climate-RICO' attorneys general, and even drew the ire of a federal judge wondering in not one but two orders what these officials have to hide.

We now know that neither Schneiderman nor Sorrell, based on his recent [deposition no-show in Vermont](#) and subsequent refusal to answer questions, have any interest in transparency. In addition to using off-books GMail accounts to conduct official business, and their staff telling outside activists to mislead the press about their involvement, Sorrell, Schneiderman and the other AGs sought further protection from open records requests by entering into what was described as a "Common Interest Agreement," but which was in fact an attempted secrecy pact designed to insulate its participants from legally required disclosures

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