

# THE PARNAS FAMILY WIRE TRANSFERS RELEASED IN THE PUES LAWSUIT REVEAL MORE THAN YOU THINK

Much of what we know about the details of the transactions at the heart of the indictment of Lev Parnas and Igor Fruman was revealed in the lawsuit Michael Pues brought against Parnas for a scam in which Parnas got Pues to invest in a movie project that never came about. Because Parnas owed Pues \$500,000, Pues was able to obtain Parnas business and family financial records including wire transfer information. Back in June of this year, the Campaign Legal Center obtained those records and included them in its supplemental filing on their complaint about the \$325,000 contribution Parnas and Fruman made to America First Action.

The wire transfer records, which include a full page of incoming transactions and a full page of outgoing transactions, can be found as exhibits at the end of this filing by CLC. An accompanying explainer by CLC gives us this background on how the transaction broke the law (GEP is Global Environmental Partners):

And those documents reveal that GEP never contributed to America First Action.

Wire transfer records show that another LLC managed by Parnas, Aaron Investments I, LLC, transferred \$325,000 to America First Action on May 17, 2018. The super PAC never disclosed receiving money from Aaron Investments I, LLC—it instead attributed the contribution to GEP.

It is not clear why Parnas or Fruman asked America First Action to

misattribute the contribution, nor is it clear why the super PAC went along with this scheme. But in doing so, America First Action violated the straw donor ban: it accepted a contribution from one entity, and reported it as having come from another entity.

The explainer also gives us this on how the funds came into Aaron Investments I, LLC:

Other wire transfer records show that just two days before making the super PAC contribution, Aaron Investments I, LLC received a \$1.26 million transfer from the client trust account of a Miami real estate attorney named Russell S. Jacobs (the funds in a client trust account **don't belong** to the attorney: they belong to the attorney's client.) Absent that transfer, it appears that the LLC would not have had the funds to cover the \$350,000 contribution.

So the money used for the contribution appears to have come from Jacobs' client. We don't know who that client is—but Jacobs, the real estate attorney, **specializes** in working with foreign real estate buyers and advising realtors on how to avoid federal requirements aimed at disclosure of foreign buyers who use shell companies to **launder money** through U.S. real estate. In 2016, for example, he hosted a seminar titled "Avoid the Treasury Trap with Foreign Buyers."

And yes, when we look at the wire transfer records, we see \$1,260.329.80 coming in to Aaron Investments I, LLC on May 15, 2018 from Jacobs:

FC: 00037 ACCOUNT: [REDACTED] RECEIVED: 05/15/18 BENEFICIARY: AARON  
INVESTMENTS I, LLC POSTED: 05/15/18 AMOUNT: 1,260,329.80 SENDING BANK:  
CITIBANK FLORIDA FEE: 0.00 SOFT ORIGINATOR: RUSSELL S. JACOBS P.A. IOTA  
ACCOUN WAIVED: NO GLOBAL REF #: G0181354215201 OTHER REF #: 100 BANK TO  
BANK INFO: RUSSELL S JACOBS P A IOTA ACCOUNT DBA THE JACOBS LAW GROUP PATTO RNEY  
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Only two days later ,on May 17, is the transfer of \$325,000 back out to America First Action:

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SENT ORIGINATOR BENEFICIARY CHAIN BRIDGE
BANK, NA 05/17/18 02:39PM AARON INVESTMENTS I, LLC AMERICA FIRST ACTION, INC.
ABA SET UP 05/17/18 21842 CYPRESS PALM CT 138 CONANT ST 2ND FLOOR
01:47PM BOCA RATON FL 33428 BEVERLY MA 01915 VA
$325,000.00 PHONE 914-774-6856 009145314382
B&P CHECKING ACCT# SET UP BY WATSON,MONET
APPROVED BY PERSAUD,NATERAM PALAJ,ARISTI $0.00
FEE GLOBAL ENERGY PRODUCERS LLC 20180517B1Q8021C027774 FED #
G0181373420401 GLOBAL ID
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But these records also show us two more transfers out of Aaron Investments I, LLC and five more coming into it. There is one more outgoing wire transfer, and it may be the most interesting. It is marked as coming from a personal account for Svetlana Parnas, who married Lev in 2012. The transaction occurred on May 11, or four days before the \$1.26 million transfer came in. It is for \$3556.75. The recipient is marked as Victor Imber:

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SENT ORIGINATOR BENEFICIARY TD BANK, NA
05/11/18 10:44AM SVETLANA M PARNAS Victor Imber ABA SET UP
05/11/18 21842 CYPRESS PALM CT 5778 NW 23rd Way 10:44AM BOCA RATON FL
33428 Boca Raton, FL, 33496 West Palm Beach FL $3,556.75
PHONE 009145314382 B&P CHECKING ACCT# SET UP BY
SVETLANA M PARNAS APPROVED BY DA USER SVETLANA M PARNAS $0.00 FEE
20180511B1Q8021C017618 FED # G0181312862501 GLOBAL ID
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That is a very interesting name. The Daily Beast was first to investigate the contribution to America First Action and this is what they found back on July 19 of 2018:

We end today's edition with a mystery. Leading pro-Trump super PAC America First Action disclosed nearly \$5 million in second-quarter contributions this week. Among its donors was a company called Global Energy Producers LLC (GEP). It donated \$375,000 in May, putting the company among the deep-pocketed group's top 20 donors. But there's very little indication of what the company does or who's behind it.

It appears that GEP was incorporated in April in Delaware, a notorious black hole for corporate disclosure. But FEC filings listed its address as a Boca Raton, Florida, property owned by someone named Victor Imber. The FEC has no record of the Russian-born Imber or

GEP making any previous federal political contributions. Additional public records indicate that Imber may have rented the property to someone named Michael Braid, who likewise has no other apparent connections to the company or history of political contributions. Braid did not respond to questions about GEP. Numerous calls to Imber went unanswered.

Hmm. So six days before Victor Imber's address was used as a false location for Global Energy Partners Producers in a false representation that GEP made the contribution to America First Action, Svetlana Parnas wired Victor Imber a little over \$3500. Perhaps that is the actual "rental" of this address that was going on. That stands out as pretty significant.

But there's more! I've heard mention of money going back out to Igor Fruman's company, and yes, there it is. A transfer of \$490,000 went out to FD Import & Export on May 16, only one day after the big transfer came in and a day before the America First Action transfer went out:

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SENT ORIGINATOR BENEFICIARY JP MORGAN
CHASE BANK NA 05/16/18 11:48AM AARON INVESTMENTS I, LLC FD IMPORT AND EXPORT
CORP ABA SET UP 05/16/18 21842 CYPRESS PALM CT 520 WHITE PLAINS
RD STE 500 09:55AM BOCA RATON FL 33428 TARRYTOWN NY
10591 NY $490,000.00 PHONE 914-467-
7877 009145314382 B&P CHECKING ACCT# SET UP BY
WATSON,MONET APPROVED BY GONZALEZ,ADA JARAMILLO-
BO $0.00 FEE 0659470659480364401114 FED # G0181362929901 GLOBAL ID
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It's especially confusing for Fruman's company to get money from Aaron Investments I, LLC, because Fruman never shows up in any of the corporate filings for it. For further interest, David Correia was originally the Registered Agent and eventually a member, but Lev Parnas filed a form with the state on October 2, 2017 removing Correia from the company and making Svetlana the Registered Agent. Parnas backdated the form to June 15.

Mysteriously, there's also a transfer into Aaron Investments I, LLC from FD Import and Export for \$11,500 on May 10, five days before the big

transfer in from the real estate attorney:

FC: 00037 ACCOUNT: [REDACTED] RECEIVED: 05/10/18 BENEFICIARY: AARON  
INVESTMENTS I, LLC POSTED: 05/10/18 AMOUNT: 11,500.00 SENDING BANK:  
JPMORGAN CHASE BANK FEE: 0.00 SOFT ORIGINATOR: F D IMPORT & EXPORT  
CORP WAIVED: NO GLOBAL REF #: F01813005C1001 OTHER REF #:  
20180510B1QG04C00468720180510B1Q8021R0235681000

Perhaps Parnas had some expenses in getting the large infusion of funds organized? The indictment describes the \$1.26 million as coming from “a private lending transaction between Fruman and third parties”. Other reports in the media have said it was a private loan secured by property Fruman owns. At any rate, we can rest assured that the government knows who the third parties are and there’s a good chance we will find out once the case goes to trial. It should also be noted here that in other reports, Parnas has claimed the \$1.26 million came from the sale of a condo.

Getting back to the rest of the wire transfers, we find another outgoing transfer on the same day as the funds going to Fruman’s company, May 17. This transfer is for \$12,950 and went to JetSmarter, Inc. That company has been described as an Uber service for private aircraft. This could well be payment for one of the many trips Parnas and/or Fruman made. I’ve tried to see if that time coincides with any of the trips we’ve seen reported, but so far nothing:

[REDACTED] SENT ORIGINATOR [REDACTED] BENEFICIARY WELLS FARGO  
05/17/18 02:25PM AARON INVESTMENTS I, LLC JETSMARTER INC ABA [REDACTED]  
SET UP 05/17/18 21842 CYPRESS PALM CT 500 EAST BROWARD BLVD STE 1900  
01:56PM BOCA RATON FL 33428 FT LAUDERALE FL 33394 CA  
\$12,950.00 [REDACTED] PHONE 954-315-0050 009145314382  
B&P CHECKING ACCT# [REDACTED] SET UP BY [REDACTED] WATSON, MONET  
APPROVED BY [REDACTED] PERSAUD, NATERAM \$0.00 FEE INVOICE # 4184  
20180517B1Q8021C027208 FED # G0181373374901 GLOBAL ID

But the choice of flight provider is very interesting. Virtually every name associated with JetSmarter is Russian. In 2017, the then-CEO, Edward Gennady Barsky, resigned when he was indicted for embezzling \$11 million from the real estate investment company he had just left to come to JetSmarter. The current CEO, who is one of the founders, is Sergey Petrossov, who is only 30. His father spent 15 years in Russian prisons and is best friends with “Vyacheslav Ivankov, a.k.a. Yaponchik, who’s been called the John Gotti of the Russian mob and once had a

crew of 100 soldiers in Brighton Beach". Yes, that Brighton Beach, aka South Brooklyn, where Lev Parnas grew up and got his first job selling co-ops for Fred Trump. I'm pretty sure this isn't the first time Ivankov's name has come up in the stories about Parnas and Fruman.

The earliest transaction we see in the wire transfer records is on May 30, 2017. Since it is so far removed in time from these other events, I'm not going to put the name in here from whom the money came, but it was for \$30,000 received into Aaron Investments I, LLC. The name is Russian and comes up on searches as a male in his mid-20's living in South Florida. The name also turns up in an email address for a Toyota dealership's Russian flyer, but not on that dealership's current staff list. The name is also associated with a defunct LLC incorporated in January of 2018 and dissolved by the state last month. At any rate, that's a lot of money for a kid in his mid-20's to have if he's also helping to sell Toyotas.

On December 18, 2017, we have income of \$10,000 into Aaron Investments I, LLC from WeHold, LLC. The one person affiliated with this company, which is still active, appears to be quite active in commercial real estate.

The final three wire transfers, which all came into Aaron Investments I, LLC within an 18 day period in the middle of January, 2018, totaled \$5,300. These transfers came from Aaron G. Parnas. Aaron Parnas is the son of Lev Parnas and would have been in the middle of his first year of law school at the time of these transfers:

FC: 00037 ACCOUNT: [REDACTED] RECEIVED: 01/12/18 BENEFICIARY: AARON  
INVESTMENTS I, LLC POSTED: 01/12/18 AMOUNT: 3,000.00 SENDING BANK:  
WELLS FARGO BANK N A FEE: 0.00 SOFT ORIGINATOR: AARON G  
PARNAS WAIVED: NO GLOBAL REF #: F018012035C001 OTHER REF #:  
201801121B7033R00632220180112B1Q8021R0137601000

FC: 00037 ACCOUNT: [REDACTED] RECEIVED: 01/23/18 BENEFICIARY: AARON  
INVESTMENTS I, LLC POSTED: 01/23/18 AMOUNT: 2,000.00 SENDING BANK:  
WELLS FARGO BANK N A FEE: 0.00 SOFT ORIGINATOR: AARON G  
PARNAS WAIVED: NO GLOBAL REF #: F0180230613501 OTHER REF #:  
201801231B7031R01342320180123B1Q8021R0248851000

FC: 00037 ACCOUNT: [REDACTED] RECEIVED: 01/30/18 BENEFICIARY: AARON  
INVESTMENTS I, LLC POSTED: 01/30/18 AMOUNT: 300.00 SENDING BANK:  
WELLS FARGO BANK N A FEE: 0.00 SOFT ORIGINATOR: AARON G  
PARNAS WAIVED: NO GLOBAL REF #: F01803000D7101 OTHER REF #:  
201801301B7031R00015420180130B1Q8021R0034411000

Much about Aaron, Lev and Svetlana Parnas can be read here, where we learn that this summer, Aaron interned at the Miami office of Rudy Giuliani's former law firm. He also managed to get his undergraduate degree simultaneously with his high school diploma, which enabled him to enter law school at the age of 18. He volunteered for the Trump campaign and has said he wants to be president some day.

We of course don't know the source of these funds Aaron put into one of many entities his father named after him. Some were incorporated around the time Aaron was born. The money could be as innocent as birthday gifts from friends and family. Recall, though that the Parnas family was at that time actively avoiding paying the \$500,000 awarded to Ples in the lawsuit. And to put those funds into an entity that was being used to break the law is not a good plan for someone wanting to be president. That is, unless that someone plans to mirror the path of Donald Trump and the illegal schemes Fred used to funnel money to Donald.