

TIM GRIFFIN: ROVE'S US ATTORNEY PROJECT COMES FULL CIRCLE

Remember the entire point of Karl Rove's plot to fire a bunch of US Attorneys and replace them with partisan hacks? It was to advance the political career of the new USAs.

Perhaps his most prominent success on that measure is Chris Christie. Though Christie abandons his state even in the face of blizzards—and then blames the resulting chaos on New Jersey's cities—he is still (implausibly) mentioned as a potential 2012 presidential candidate.

But the true measure of Rove's success at politicizing the DOJ comes in the form of Tim Griffin.

Griffin, you'll recall, has a history of leading the GOP's vote caging operations in 2000 and 2004. Seemingly to reward Griffin for doing such important dirty work—and also to boost the career of such a loyal hack—Rove pushed hardest to make sure that Griffin got the US Attorney position he wanted in his native Arkansas. And though he only stayed on the job until it became clear the Republicans were trying to “gum [his appointment] to death”—to basically run out the clock on any confirmation—he was actually only US Attorney for a matter of months.

No matter, between that and solid GOP backing, Griffin won election to Arkansas' 2nd Congressional District.

And now, TPM reports, Griffin has been placed by Republicans on the House Judiciary Committee, the committee that spent months investigating the politicization of justice for which Griffin was the most obvious symbol.

Well, we had the equally corrupt Hans Von Spakovsky at the FEC (not to mention as head of

DOJ's Civil Rights Division), so I guess we'll survive Tim Griffin's "oversight" of the Judiciary Department. But if you were in any doubt about Republican's goals to continue to politicize justice in this country, Griffin's selection for HJC should answer that question.

OBAMA/BUSH DOJ UPDATE TO OLC CHRISTMAS CAROL

Through what can only be described as a Christmas miracle, our very own Mary has "discovered" the new version of the OLC Christmas carol, as updated by the Obama/Bush OLC.

STATE SECRETS SANTA AND SCOTUS

2011 is going to be a busy and critical year for state secrets litigation in the Supreme Court, and the Obama Administration will be arguing for an expansion of the doctrine in the Supreme Court when it returns to business in January.

VAUGHN WALKER ISSUES FINAL AL-

HARAMAIN OPINION ON DAMAGES AND ATTORNEY FEES

Judge Vaughn Walker has issued an extremely significant decision in the illegal wiretapping case of al-Haramain v. Bush/Obama. He has awarded damages and attorney fees to the plaintiffs on their claims of illegal and unconstitutional surveillance by the US government.

OBAMA FORMALIZES HIS INDEFINITE DETENTION BLACK HOLE

The Obama administration is preparing an executive order that would formalize indefinite detention without trial for some detainees at the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, but allow those detainees and their lawyers to challenge the basis for continued incarceration.

THE MISPLACED US DETERMINATION TO INDICT ASSANGE

The US determination to prosecute Julian Assange is not just a destructive and myopic scheme to effect prior restraint in a digital world, it is laughable from the point of legal foundation.

ACLU APPEALS 9TH CIRCUIT JEPPESEN DECISION TO SCOTUS

The ACLU, who represents the plaintiffs in Mohamed v. Jeppesen, has appealed from the 9th Circuit en banc decision by petitioning the Supreme Court for certiorari.

DURHAM TORTURE TAPE CASE DIES, US DUPLICITY IN GENEVA & THE PRESS SNOOZES

Just how inattentive and asleep at the wheel does the government think the American media and citizenry are, to brazenly engage in the simultaneous duplicity of relying on the Durham investigation in Geneva for the UN UPR On Human Rights at the same moment it was using the Durham investigation to bleed out the statute of limitation on the primary jurisdiction of the investigation at home? Well, they think the media and people are completely asleep and, sadly, they are quite correct.

LETTER TO DOJ AND

JOHN DURHAM RE: TORTURE TAPE CRIMES EXPIRING

As we have heard absolutely nothing from Eric Holder, John Durham, the DOJ or the Obama Administration in relation to indictments or other results of the investigation Mr. John Durham has been conducting since January 8, 2008, nearly three years, I thought a letter was in order asking just exactly what their status was. Here is that letter.

OBAMA DOJ MOVES 9TH CIRCUIT TO STAY DADT BAN

As expected, the Obama Administration has appealed the DADT injunction to the 9th Circuit. There are, however, some interesting twists.