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**ON DAY BILL COSBY IS FOUND GUILTY OF
SEXUAL ASSAULT, FINANCIAL RECORDS
SHOW VILLARAIGOSA ACCEPTED DONATIONS
FROM COSBY LEGAL TEAM, SEXUAL
PREDATORS**

*Villaraigosa Accepted Over \$114,000 from Cosby Legal
Team, Others Convicted and Accused of Sexual Assault*

LOS ANGELES, CA – While John Chiang was announcing his plan to test more than 13,000 untested rape kits in the State of California today and end the backlog, Bill Cosby was simultaneously being convicted of sexual assault. But today also marked the posting deadline for campaign finance reports in the governor's race, and past records show Antonio Villaraigosa has not only lined his pockets and taken donations from polluters, Big Oil, and companies modeled on pyramid schemes, but he has also accepted the support of individuals convicted of sexual assault, as well as the Cosby legal team.

“Antonio Villaraigosa has made it clear where he stands in the #MeToo movement after being all too eager to accept the support of those guilty of sexual assault and their defenders,” said Fabien Levy, Deputy Campaign Manager and Communications Director for John Chiang’s campaign. “At a time when survivors are showing tremendous courage and stepping forward with their stories, Californians deserve a leader who isn’t afraid to call out sexual harassment, abuse, and rape. Antonio’s willingness to be bought off speaks volumes to the little regard he has for this watershed movement in our country.”

Villaraigosa’s campaign for governor of California has accepted over \$114,000 from individuals convicted of sexual assault, individuals accused of sexual assault, and lawyers for those found guilty of sexual assault.

In October 2017, four months after Bill Cosby’s mistrial and the world already heard about his gross misconduct, Villaraigosa accepted \$29,200 from Angela Agrusa, who led the cross-examination of Andrea Constad and defended Cosby in court. In February 2018, Villaraigosa accepted \$56,400 from Ryan Seacrest, the same month Seacrest was accused of sexual misconduct by his former stylist. And in March 2017, Villaraigosa accepted \$29,200 from Chris Albrecht, a former HBO executive accused of assaulting women in 1991 and 2007, and who was forced to resign from HBO in 2007.

Levy added, “John Chiang is the only candidate for governor who has put forward a plan to combat sexual harassment and abuse in California’s state government, and who is working right now to end the backlog of untested rape kits in our state. Californians can trust him to work to change the culture of sexual harassment and abuse, and hold predators and abusers accountable for their actions.”

Background:

Villaraigosa accepted over \$29K from lawyer who defended Bill Cosby; Cosby convicted of sexual assault in April 2018: On October 25, 2017, Angela Agrusa contributed \$29,200 to Villaraigosa's gubernatorial campaign. In September 2016, Bustle reported that Agrusa joined Bill Cosby's legal team in August to defend him against allegations of sexual assault and rape. Specifically, Agrusa,

Led the cross-examination of Mr. Cosby's accuser, Andrea Constand, a former Temple University staff member. Ms. Constand had testified that she was assaulted in 2004. Prosecutors say the veteran entertainer drugged and digitally penetrated her at his home outside Philadelphia. Mr. Cosby says the sexual encounter was consensual. The jury could not reach a decision on his guilt or innocence, despite deliberating for six days.

According to the Philadelphia Inquirer, Agrusa withdrew from Cosby's legal team before his retrial. According to The New York Times, in April 2018, Bill Cosby was convicted of three counts of sexual assault in relation to Andrea Constand, who alleged that "in a visit in early 2004 to Mr. Cosby's home near Philadelphia, when she was 30 and he was 66, Mr. Cosby gave her pills that left her immobile and drifting in and out of consciousness. He said he had only given her Benadryl." The Times reported that Cosby previously "admitted to having given women quaaludes in an effort to have sex with them." Cosby was convicted of "penetration with lack of consent, penetration while unconscious, and penetration after administering an intoxicant," each a felony charge carrying a sentence of up to 10 years prison. The Times reported that more than 50 women have accused Cosby of sexual assault, many of which are past the statutes of limitations for prosecution. [California Secretary of State, [10/25/2017](#); The New York Times, [4/26/2018](#); [8/15/2017](#); Bustle, [9/5/2016](#); The

Philadelphia Inquirer, [8/15/2017](#); CNN, [6/19/2017](#)]

Villaraigosa accepted \$29,200 from former HBO exec accused of assaulting two women: On March 16, 2017, Chris Albrecht contributed \$29,200 to Villaraigosa's gubernatorial campaign. In May 2007, The New York Times reported,

Time Warner announced that the chairman and chief executive of its Home Box Office unit, Chris Albrecht, had agreed to resign at the company's request, three days after he was arrested and charged with assaulting a girlfriend in a Las Vegas parking lot... In a memorandum to his colleagues Tuesday, Albrecht said that he was an alcoholic and that the incident in Las Vegas, on which he did not elaborate, was the result of a lapse in his sobriety... Wednesday's events unfolded as The Los Angeles Times reported that in 1991, HBO paid a settlement of at least \$400,000 to a subordinate of Albrecht's who had accused him of choking her during a confrontation in her office.

[California Secretary of State, [3/16/2017](#); The New York Times, [5/10/2007](#)]

Villaraigosa accepted \$56,400 from Ryan Seacrest: In February 2018, the Los Angeles Times reported that Ryan Seacrest contributed \$56,400 to Villaraigosa's 2018 gubernatorial campaign. According to the California Secretary of State, Seacrest contributed to Villaraigosa's campaign on December 15, 2016. In February 2018, NBC News reported:

The ex-stylist of Ryan Seacrest who claims she endured years of unwanted sexual misconduct was put in physically inappropriate situations on multiple occasions, according to a former co-worker who said he witnessed the alleged harassment. 'She would go to tie his shoe and Ryan would shove her head toward his crotch,' the former co-worker told Kate Snow by phone... Suzie Hardy, a former stylist at the cable channel E!, had accused Seacrest, 43, of sexual misconduct last year but finally went public with her claims on Monday.

[California Secretary of State, [12/6/2016](#); NBC News, [2/28/2018](#); Los Angeles

Times, [2/26/2018](#)]

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