

CASE TITLE: United States v. McClain, et al.
CASE NUMBER: 20 CR 812
ACTIVITY: Telephone Conversation between Michael McClain and Lou
Lang
DATE: November 8, 2018
TIME: 2:43 p.m.
TARGET PHONE: (217) 257-6280
SESSION NUMBER: 15167

SPEAKERS: McCLAIN = Michael McClain
LANG = Lou Lang

* * * *

(NON-PERTINENT CONVERSATION)

1 McCLAIN: Hey Lou, um, what have you decided about, um, moving
2 along to another career?
3
4 LANG: Well, it's always been an option for me, but, um, you
5 know I, I've had my sights set on other things within
6 my current career.
7
8 McCLAIN: Right.
9
10 LANG: But, but I have this, uh, thought that you're about to
11 tell me something I need to know.
12
13 McCLAIN: Well, um, so, um, we know the woman who's threatening
14 that if AH you're in leadership she's going to go public.
15 We know that Rich Miller is claimin' he's got emails
16 from women, um, and communication between you and, and
17 women, and uh, um, I, I just think it's in your best
18 interest to, to leave while you're, you're strong and
19 not face all that if you're still a member.
20
21 LANG: So, um, based on, uh, and all that-
22
23 McCLAIN: So this is no longer, this is no longer me talking. I'm
24 an agent, somebody that cares deeply about ya, who
25 thinks that you really oughta move on.
26
27 LANG: Um, so that tells me that that person is, uh, no longer
28 interested in moving me up in leadership, right?
29
30 McCLAIN: That's right, that's right.
31
32 LANG: Um, uh, and I would never embarrass him that way,
33 although I must say, I, I do believe that all of that
34 is bullshit. But in the, in the environment in which we

35 are today, doesn't really matter if it's bullshit or
36 not, does it?
37
38 McCLAIN: No, (unintelligible) I mean you handled that first
39 claim, but also, we, I think you and I as lawyers would
40 say she did a pitiful job also. (Laughs) I mean-
41
42 LANG: Yeah.
43
44 McCLAIN: -just pitiful. Ah, and so it helps with (unintelligible)
45 discredit her, and uh credentialize you. But, I don't
46 know, this next gal, maybe she (unintelligible) does
47 the best (unintelligible) all of a sudden. Um, you know
48 then, then it's (unintelligible) you know, the- he fired
49 his, his chief of staff of over 25 years, you know what
50 I mean? I-
51
52 LANG: Sure.
53
54 McCLAIN: (Unintelligible) he uses Cousineau for certain things.
55
56 LANG: Yeah.
57
58 McCLAIN: He uses me for certain things, and there's no reason
59 with your skillset why he won't use you for certain
60 things.
61
62 LANG: And do you think uh, he would, uh, be helpful to me in,
63 uh, business, uh, procurement?
64
65 McCLAIN: Uh- yes. But I, I also wanna tell ya that I don't think
66 you're gonna have a hard time (laughs).
67
68 LANG: Well I don't, I don't either. Were you, you were not
69 aware of this when we met, Mike?
70
71 McCLAIN: Uh, this all came about, um, since you and I talked. A-
72 , at that point, he was just worried about ya cause ya
73 know, we all hear rumors and stuff like that and he was
74 just concerned about, um, uh, ya know maybe after three
75 decades it's a good time for you to go make a buck. Um,
76 but he, h, he wasn't, ya know, it, it wasn't like "Mike,
77 now you gotta tell him that he's just not gonna get on
78 leadership. And, and now if he, then if he goes on the
79 dark side after that, he's embarrassed and he's
80 weakened, whereas if he leaves before, um, like the
81 caucus votes or the, I'm, elected Speaker, um, he leaves
82 with, with strength." And I guess this gal is claimin'
83 that she's not going public. She doesn't- unless she,
84 unless you're in leadership.

85
86 LANG: Well, alright, so that's something I'll have to
87 consider, but more important than what she has to say
88 is what he has to say.
89
90 McCLAIN: Right.
91
92 LANG: And uh, I hear you. So, I'll give some, uh, some more
93 thought to this, um, since a lot of things are not a
94 secret to you folks, um, I, I, I, I have had an offer
95 or two.
96
97 McCLAIN: Good.
98
99 LANG: Uh, um, um, on the other hand I may just choose to go
100 it alone.
101
102 McCLAIN: Mhm.
103
104 LANG: Uh, maybe I can pull in enough things so I don't have
105 to be ya know, somebody's partner or somebody's, uh,
106 employee.
107
108 McCLAIN: Mhm.
109
110 LANG: Uh, but that's something I can think about. Um, uh, if
111 I were to pull the plug on this, um, uh, is there a
112 suggested time?
113
114 McCLAIN: Well, I don't know what he's gonna do if the caucus
115 votes, but two years ago, if you remember, you were the
116 caucus chair. You, you, you and Tim were at the front
117 table.
118
119 LANG: Yeah, yeah well.
120
121 McCLAIN: Yeah. I, I haven't talked to him about that specific
122 role but if he doesn't choose you for that role then
123 that'll start the buzz.
124
125 LANG: Oh, I don't know, I think people sort of looked at that
126 as kind of a throwaway, I, I don't know. Um, I, I, I
127 don't think, just off the top of my head, I don't think
128 I can make that happen that fast. Phone call from the
129 Speaker, um, um, or even a phone call from me, say, "of
130 course we want you around."
131
132 McCLAIN: Right. And the Speaker-
133
134 (Simultaneous conversation.)

135
136 LANG: -I have to figure if, if Steve Davis can pull down a
137 living, um, while being-
138
139 McCLAIN: (Laughs.) Yeah, yeah right, I got it. (Laughs.) Well,
140 there's a lot, there a lot of worse, uh, lobbyists than
141 Steve Davis that they're pulling down (unintelligible).
142 (Laughs.)
143
144 LANG: Well, so Mike, I'm gonna, I'm gonna give this some
145 thought.
146
147 McCLAIN: Okay.
148
149 LANG: Um, um, I appreciate you leveling with me. Um, i, it
150 wasn't really my plan for my future, but, um, you know
151 th-, the caucus is important to me and I would-
152
153 McCLAIN: Right.
154
155 LANG: -never, I wouldn't do anything to damage my Speaker or
156 my caucus.
157
158 McCLAIN: Right.
159
160 LANG: Um, he's been very good to me, um, and I'm not gonna do
161 anything nasty to him. Um, so let me think about this,
162 I think-
163
164 McCLAIN: Of course.
165
166 LANG: -you know where we'll end up going. It's hard for me to
167 get my arms around that decision because you know I put
168 a lot of my life into our caucus.
169
170 McCLAIN: Oh, absolutely, sir. Your life, your brains, your
171 treasure, uh, (unintelligible) you've done, uh,
172 (unintelligible) you've dedicated your life really to
173 it, so.
174
175 LANG: Um, it, it, it sounds easy to say well just go make
176 money assuming I can, and I think I can, but it sounds
177 easy, um, but for me, it was never about money. If it
178 was, I wouldn't have been there 30 years in the first
179 place.
180
181 McCLAIN: Exactly.
182
183 LANG: Uh, well you know the feeling. Y-
184

185 McCLAIN: Yep.
186
187 LANG: -You, ya know, um, you left in a different way, but-
188
189 (Simultaneous conversation.)
190
191 McCLAIN: Yeah.
192
193 LANG: -but you know how you felt about it while you were doing
194 it and the fact that you've been around all these years
195 to try to help the Speaker, speaks about you.
196
197 McCLAIN: Well, ya know (unintelligible) when I lost in '82, I
198 was in depression for over a year. And I didn't come
199 back to lobby until like '85, and so. But, ya know,
200 everybody respects ya and loves ya Lou, so, uh, just
201 think about it hard, would ya?
202
203 LANG: Well, I think you know, look, let me put it to you this
204 way. If I'm not gonna be back in leadership, am I gonna
205 sit in the Stratton Building? I, I just don't see me
206 doing that. So-
207
208 McCLAIN: Right.
209
210 LANG: -even, even if I, even, let's assume for the second that
211 instead of the Speaker looking out for my best interest,
212 the Speaker was just pissed off at me, right? And he-
213
214 McCLAIN: Right.
215
216 LANG: -shuns me and sends me back to the Stratton Building.
217 Well, after 31 years, that would be a public insult I
218 wouldn't want.
219
220 McCLAIN: Right.
221
222 LANG: Right?
223
224 McCLAIN: Right.
225
226 LANG: And I don't, I don't really wanna be in that position
227 now either. I don't wanna be in an office next to, ya
228 know, Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz.
229
230 McCLAIN: (Unintelligible) Andrade. (Laughs.) Yeah, yeah.
231
232 LANG: So, I, I, I, I, I, you know where this is gonna go but
233 I just need to get my arms wrapped around this.
234
235 McCLAIN: Yes, sir.

236
237 LANG: Um.
238
239 McCLAIN: And if you wanna talk about it more just call me, Lou.
240
241 LANG: Well, I, I may is now. Maybe the Speaker has some ideas
242 now.
243
244 McCLAIN: I'd be glad to do that.
245
246 LANG: Okay, I-
247
248 McCLAIN: Okay.
249
250 LANG: You know, I have created a lot of friends over the years,
251 so-
252
253 McCLAIN: Yes, you have.
254
255 LANG: There may be some people that wanna write me a check
256 just, just 'cause they love me.
257
258 McCLAIN: Exactly.
259
260 LANG: Alright, um-
261
262 McCLAIN: Alright.
263
264 LANG: By the end of next week, I'll be able to have a rational
265 conversation. I assume that will be okay with him and
266 that as long as this gets done, um, before session starts
267 in January we'll be okay, right?
268
269 McCLAIN: Yes.
270
271 LANG: Okay. So I-
272
273 McCLAIN: Okay.
274
275 LANG: -won't look to rush to something during veto session.
276
277 McCLAIN: Okay.
278
279 LANG: Alright.
280
281 McCLAIN: I'll let him know and if he, if he's got a different
282 opinion of that, I'll (unintelligible) back.
283
284 LANG: Alright, and-
285
286 McCLAIN: Alright.

287
288 LANG: Ya know he c-, he, he can call me himself if he wishes,
289 I know this is not a good conversation for him, but I'm
290 always available for him.
291
292 McCLAIN: Yep. I got it.
293
294 LANG: Alright.
295
296 McCLAIN: Alright. God bless you, sir.
297
298 LANG: Thanks, Mike.
299
300 McCLAIN: Bye, Lou.
301
302 (END OF CONVERSATION)