

CASE TITLE: United States v. Madigan and McClain  
CASE NUMBER: 22 CR 115  
ACTIVITY: Telephone Conversation between Michael McClain and  
Will Cousineau  
DATE: August 28, 2018  
TIME: 9:52 a.m.  
TARGET PHONE: (217) 257-6280  
SESSION NUMBER: 12138

SPEAKERS: McCLAIN = Michael McClain  
COUSINEAU = Will Cousineau

(CLIP 1 BEGIN)

1 McCLAIN: So I have a question for ya.  
2  
3 COUSINEAU: Okay.  
4  
5 McCLAIN: So um, I, I met with Kevin Quinn, who asked me if I  
6 could help find him a job, right?  
7  
8 COUSINEAU: Alright.  
9  
10 McCLAIN: And um, and just between you and me um, I know that,  
11 and I think I casually mentioned it to you once, uh,  
12 that Speaker intends to help him after he gets-  
13  
14 COUSINEAU: Yes.  
15  
16 McCLAIN: After he gets sworn in and uh, and he's got his rules.  
17  
18 COUSINEAU: Right.  
19  
20 McCLAIN: Um, but he, he just feels like he can't do it now.  
21  
22 COUSINEAU: Right.  
23  
24 McCLAIN: And, Kevin said that um, he's talked to Kasper, and  
25 Kasper said that the draft is done on his investigation  
26 and it doesn't look too bad.  
27  
28 (Non-pertinent conversation.)  
29  
30 McCLAIN: So um, so I decided un-until that investigation comes  
31 out, it's gonna be real hard to find the guy a job  
32 (laughs).  
33  
34 COUSINEAU: Agreed, agreed.  
35  
36 McCLAIN: Um, and so I decided I, I, I'd try to put some guys  
37 together to kick him a grand each, including me, uh,

38 for six months or until he, if, if he gets a job earlier  
39 than that then that, it would all terminate. So, um,  
40 wondered if—and then my thought is actually do a  
41 contract with him for each person so that uh he would  
42 do like a report um, you know like, just gonna say six  
43 house members, three senators, three aldermen, three  
44 county board members. So at the end of the day you and  
45 I would have a um, not only a contract in case the IRS  
46 checked us out, but we'd also have a piece of paper,  
47 uh, you know two or three page piece of paper from this  
48 is the report that he did.  
49  
50 COUSINEAU: Mhmm.  
51  
52 McCLAIN: I wondered if you, you're game to be part of that.  
53  
54 COUSINEAU: So, I don't know if the firm would want uh, to do that  
55 given, you know, the optics of-  
56  
57 McCLAIN: Right-  
58  
59 COUSINEAU: Their issues.  
60  
61 McCLAIN: Right.  
62  
63 COUSINEAU: Um, but, I mean look, you can give somebody a gift so  
64 um, so I am um, I mean I'm h-  
65  
66 (Simultaneous conversation.)  
67  
68 McCLAIN: So, so Will do you have a company besides-  
69  
70 COUSINEAU: No-  
71  
72 McCLAIN: Being part of, Cornerstone?  
73  
74 COUSINEAU: No, no, no. So are you asking for a \$1,000 dollars per  
75 month? Or are you asking for just a \$1,000 dollars for  
76 him?  
77  
78 McCLAIN: Uh, \$1,000 dollars per month. And, and I don't wanna be  
79 cumbersome, I can go to other parties. Um, I-  
80  
81 COUSINEAU: You can do what?  
82  
83 McCLAIN: I can go to other, other people. I mean I, so, so far  
84 Mike Alvarez and (unintelligible).  
85  
86 COUSINEAU: Mike? Hello, Mike?  
87  
88 McCLAIN: Uh, yeah I'm at that rest stop, Will.  
89

90 COUSINEAU: Sorry you broke up.  
 91  
 92 McCLAIN: I'm at that rest stop and sometimes I drop a call.  
 93  
 94 COUSINEAU: Okay.  
 95  
 96 McCLAIN: You know south of town?  
 97  
 98 COUSINEAU: Um, so, okay let me, let me, let me, let me see. Let me  
 99 um, I'll have to run some traps at the firm. Uh, let  
 100 me-  
 101  
 102 McCLAIN: No I'm not trying to get, I'm not trying to get you to  
 103 do more-  
 104  
 105 COUSINEAU: No, no, no. I, so, so I think what I would do is talk  
 106 to the Smith brothers first. That's probably the way to  
 107 do it. If you talk to Mike and Bill, and, look, this is  
 108 uh in, in, in their world uh, this is about um, improving  
 109 and continuing to uh, maintain relationships, right?  
 110  
 111 McCLAIN: Right.  
 112  
 113 COUSINEAU: And that's how they would see it. And he would not  
 114 register, correct?  
 115  
 116 McCLAIN: Oh no, no, no. This is totally a consultant. And as far  
 117 as I'm concerned, except for the people that are signing  
 118 on, uh no one else even knows about it except for our  
 119 friend.  
 120  
 121 COUSINEAU: Right. Okay. Um, okay. Let me um, let me have some  
 122 discussions.  
 123  
 124 McCLAIN: Okay.  
 125  
 126 COUSINEAU: And I will um, I will get back to you, I will get back  
 127 to you.  
 128  
 129 McCLAIN: Okay.  
 130  
 131 COUSINEAU: I mean, if it was \$1,000 dollars at some point this  
 132 year, I mean I could do that myself but, I mean, \$1,000  
 133 dollars a month is obviously (laughs) a bit of a  
 134 different situation.  
 135  
 136 McCLAIN: Right, right.  
 137  
 138 COUSINEAU: Uh, so, let me um, let me uh, let me talk to them okay?  
 139  
 140 McCLAIN: Yep. Uh, yeah and it, and it, and-  
 141

142 (Simultaneous conversation.)  
143  
144 COUSINEAU: I wanna be a, I wanna be a team player Mike, you know  
145 that.  
146  
147 McCLAIN: Everybody, everybody knows, everybody knows you're a  
148 team player, so, it's not a question of that.  
149  
150 (CLIP 1 END)

(CLIP 2 BEGIN)

151 COUSINEAU: Well let me uh, so it'd be a six month contract is what  
152 you would think?  
153  
154 McCLAIN: Yep, so I, I would, I would say let's say start September  
155 15<sup>th</sup> and end six months later. That gives uh, our friend  
156 almost two months to find something for him.  
157  
158 COUSINEAU: Okay. Okay, um, okay. And I will um, and, and you don't  
159 care if I sell it as this is a continuation this is,  
160 this is a request and a continuation of how we improve  
161 a relationship.  
162  
163 McCLAIN: Right.  
164  
165 COUSINEAU: Okay, okay.  
166  
167 McCLAIN: And, I, you know just, I think you gotta hit hard it's  
168 a consultant contract it's not-  
169  
170 COUSINEAU: Yeah.  
171  
172 (Simultaneous conversation.)  
173  
174 McCLAIN: He's, he's not gonna f-, he's not gonna float around  
175 saying I represent Cornerstone, I mean.  
176  
177 COUSINEAU: Correct. Right. These are, these are big boys and girls.  
178 And they, that would be part of the deal I, is, to me,  
179 is he doesn't say what he's do-, that he's working for  
180 us. He doesn't say anything, there's nothing public and,  
181 and just, he, and I, my hope would be that he would do  
182 some actual work. Cause I could use some help so, um,  
183 so I assume you don't care if he's tasked a bit for  
184 that?  
185  
186 McCLAIN: Oh he would, he, no, no.  
187  
188 (Non-pertinent conversation.)  
189  
190 McCLAIN: I, I'd, uh tell them to not, what I'd like to do is I'd  
191 like to keep the people that know this real small.  
192  
193 COUSINEAU: Okay.  
194  
195 McCLAIN: So, and, and so if they feel like they have to have a  
196 board meeting then just kind with-, withdrawal it  
197 because the more people that know it's just, it's too  
198 easy for people to babble. You know what I mean?  
199  
200 COUSINEAU: Yeah, right. Right, I agree. I agree.

201  
202 McCLAIN: So if they're gonna, if, if you feel like they're gonna  
203 say um, uh, I'm helping Mike Madigan out by hiring one  
204 of his former employees then, you know I, I just soon  
205 not, I just soon not go there. You know what I mean?  
206  
207 COUSINEAU: Yeah, yep. Yep, no I get it. I get it. Okay I will um,  
208 I will uh, I'll talk to them. I'll do my very best uh,  
209 I will, I'll do my very best, you know that so.  
210  
211 McCLAIN: I know that. So Will um, you ought to talk to your  
212 accountant and uh, and see if you ought a start another  
213 company.  
214  
215 COUSINEAU: And just squirrel some money away?  
216  
217 McCLAIN: Yeah because uh-  
218  
219 (Simultaneous conversation.)  
220  
221 McCLAIN: I'm sorry, go ahead.  
222  
223 COUSINEAU: So, so I was and, and it's interesting you bring this  
224 up, so I was going to, so I, if, can I lay a bunch of  
225 cards on the table to you?  
226  
227 McCLAIN: Sure.  
228  
229 COUSINEAU: So um, ha ha, so as I think you knew, Macy and I just  
230 went through and did a huge like back-, backyard  
231 remodel.  
232  
233 McCLAIN: Right, I heard about it.  
234  
235 COUSINEAU: And, (laughs), so while I am plowing money into like a  
236 401(k), that's money I can't touch right?  
237  
238 McCLAIN: Right.  
239  
240 COUSINEAU: Um, so I don't have a lot of uh, liquid right now. Uh,  
241 and so, but my goal was once I, once I build back up my  
242 liquid, which should be in the next month or two, I was  
243 going to start plowing some money into a place where I  
244 could make my own personal political contributions.  
245  
246 McCLAIN: Right.  
247  
248 COUSINEAU: Um, so that, so that I have the Cornerstone money, I  
249 have some client money, you know obviously what I can  
250 raise, but then I have this little nest egg where you  
251 know every month I'm just putting it together. Maybe  
252 it's like \$1,000 dollars or something towards that. And,

253 and look, my salary is still, from Cornerstone, based  
254 on the six months of last year so it's, it's not yet  
255 where I think it should be. So, I'm hopeful that at the  
256 end of this year they will give me a large bump, and  
257 then I'll be able to put more money into that sort of  
258 little pot, right?  
259  
260 McCLAIN: Right.  
261  
262 COUSINEAU: So anyway, my, my point is, you bring this up at a good  
263 time because I'm sort of thinking through how I do that.  
264 And so maybe the best way is to start a separate entity  
265 from which I can, from which I can do that.  
266  
267 McCLAIN: Right.  
268  
269 COUSINEAU: Um.  
270  
271 McCLAIN: And, and you want that entity to do, be able to do more  
272 than just political contributions.  
273  
274 COUSINEAU: Mhmm. Things like this and such.  
275  
276 McCLAIN: Well yeah like, um, Will um, at one point in time I had  
277 uh, maybe five consultants working for me.  
278  
279 COUSINEAU: Uh-huh.  
280  
281 McCLAIN: And, and all they ever really did is give me pieces of  
282 paper.  
283  
284 COUSINEAU: Uh-huh.  
285  
286 McCLAIN: But they were consultants, right?  
287  
288 COUSINEAU: Right, right.  
289  
290 McCLAIN: And that, and that uh, so uh, um, not saying that you  
291 h-, that, that, that will happen to you in the, in the  
292 future but it, it, it helps you to be flexible enough  
293 not to um, I mean if he comes to you and says um I, I  
294 really need some help um, can you, can you hire uh, like  
295 a, what, what's that crazy guy that's uh, his best fr-,  
296 committeemen?  
297  
298 COUSINEAU: Joe Lullo?  
299  
300 McCLAIN: Yeah, but yeah, just for a few months can you hire him  
301 for a few months? You, you really don't want to go  
302 through Cornerstone and, you know.  
303  
304 COUSINEAU: Right.

305  
306 McClAIN: So, eh, you just, I think you want to be nimble enough  
307 to say of course, of course.  
308  
309 COUSINEAU: Right, right. Yeah no, that's right.  
310  
311 McClAIN: And, and, and he doesn't a, do it very often but, you  
312 know about every two years he's got somebody that he's  
313 got to care of for a month or two right?  
314  
315 COUSINEAU: Right, right.  
316  
317 (CLIP 2 END)