

# WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT EUGENE SCALIA, SECRETARY OF LABOR

Eugene Scalia, the son of former Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, is the Secretary of Labor.

## SCALIA AT THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR:

This isn't his first time at the Department of Labor. In 2001, he was nominated to the position of Solicitor, the No. 3 job at the Department of Labor. His nomination was blocked, so President George W. Bush appointed him as a recess appointment.<sup>1</sup> Scalia was **notorious for siding with management** in his cases, and the AFL-CIO expressed concern about his appointment.<sup>2</sup> Scalia stayed until January 2003.

## SCALIA IN PRIVATE PRACTICE:

After leaving the Department of Labor, Scalia became a partner at Gibson, Dunn, and Crutcher, a law firm that focuses on defending massive corporations. He used the knowledge that he gained at the Department of Labor about whistleblower protection laws to expertly oppose them in private practice.<sup>3</sup> In 2005, he was hired to **defend Walmart against allegations of retaliation against whistleblowers**.<sup>4</sup> In 2006, he helped Walmart avoid complying with a Maryland law that would have required the company to contribute to employees' healthcare costs or pay into a state Medicaid fund.<sup>5</sup> It would have required the company to spend just 8% of payroll on healthcare.<sup>6</sup> Scalia also worked to block laws created under Obama, and made procedural challenges to fight their enforcement by filing several lawsuits that Mother Jones said "single-handedly slow[ed] its rollout to a snail's pace" thanks to the chilling effect of nonstop bureaucratic challenges to the law.<sup>7</sup> He threw up enough roadblocks that Dodd-Frank, an act intended to protect people from predatory lending practices, was hampered from the start. In one instance, he even defended SeaWorld against safety rules.<sup>8</sup> All of this was done to enrich corporations while making them less accountable to the law. **Scalia earned \$6 million working for Gibson, Dunn, and Crutcher.**<sup>9</sup>

## SCALIA AT LABOR (AGAIN):

Scalia is now back at the Department of Labor, and this time he is in charge.<sup>10</sup> This is an example of the "revolving door" problem in Washington -- highly paid lobbyists and corporate lawyers coming in and out of government. Because who is Scalia really working for -- his law firm and their corporate clients, or the American people?

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