

William J. Clinton
Presidential History Project

Briefing Materials

Janet Reno

September 27 - 28, 2004

Prepared by Darby Morrisroe, Research Director

September 2004

MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED OR CIRCULATED

JANET RENO TIMELINE

Prepared by Darby A. Morrisroe

Miller Center of Public Affairs, University of Virginia, 8/12/2004

- 1960** Reno graduates from Cornell University with a bachelor's degree in chemistry.
- 1963** After graduating from Harvard Law School, Reno joins the Miami law firm of Brigham & Brigham as an associate. (Paul Anderson, *Janet Reno: Doing the Right Thing*, New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., p. 47)
- 1966** Reno, along with Florida state legislator and fellow Harvard alumnus Gerald Lewis, open the law firm of Lewis & Reno in Miami. (Anderson, p. 52)
- 1971** Reno works for the Florida House Judiciary Committee as General Counsel. In this capacity, Reno writes legislation on no-fault divorce and drafts the language for a state constitutional amendment reforming Florida's court system. (Anderson, p. 61)
- 1972** Reno runs for a seat in the Florida State Legislature with a campaign focused on criminal justice issues. Though she wins the Democratic primary, she is narrowly defeated in the general election. After the election, she joins the office of Dade State Attorney Richard Gerstein. (Anderson, p. 62)
- 1976** Reno joins the Miami law firm of Steel, Hector & Davis as a partner. (Anderson, p. 66)
- 1978** When Dade State Attorney Richard Gerstein resigns, Governor Reubin Askew (D-FL) appoints Reno to the post until an election can be held in November. Reno wins the November election and holds this position until she becomes U.S. Attorney General. (Anderson, pp. 67, 76)
- 1992** Hugh Rodham, a senior Miami public defender, arranges for Reno to meet with his sister Hillary Rodham Clinton during a Miami campaign stopover. (Anderson, p. 123)
- In November, William Jefferson Clinton is elected President of the United States.
- 1993**
- January* On the 19th, the Justice Department's Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) releases a report charging Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director William S. Sessions with ethical abuses relating to the use of government cars, planes, personnel and funds. (*The Washington Post*, 1/23/1993)
- On the 20th, the Senate Judiciary Committee begins hearings on Zoë Baird's

nomination for Attorney General. Amid revelations that Baird illegally hired undocumented immigrants to work in her home, Baird withdraws her nomination. Following Baird's withdrawal from Senate consideration, management of the Department of Justice experiences some confusion. The highest-ranking Bush holdover in the Department, Assistant Attorney General Stuart Gerson, insists that he is in charge of the Justice Department and reports only to the Clinton White House. Meanwhile, Webster Hubbell and Michael Cardozo occupy the Attorney General's suite of offices and have been reporting to Counsel to the President Bernard Nussbaum and Deputy Counsel to the President Vince Foster on the direction of the Justice Department. (*The New York Times*, 1/25/1993)

FBI Director Sessions responds to the Justice Department report in a memorandum prepared by his lawyers. The document, given to the White House, Congress and news organizations, argues that the OPR report is misleading and biased and "should not be confused with an objective inquiry." (*The Wall Street Journal*, 1/25/1993)

February After an FBI background check reveals that Attorney General candidate Judge Kimba Wood's babysitter had been an illegal immigrant, her nomination is withdrawn. (*The Washington Post*, 2/8/1993)

It is reported that Administration officials have already concluded that the ethics charges against Sessions are so serious that he must leave office, but they hope he will "see reality" and step down voluntarily. Nevertheless, the White House publicly adheres to its announced plan of taking no action until Nussbaum reviews the matter. (*Los Angeles Times*, 2/6/1993)

On the 9th, Reno travels to Washington, D.C. to meet with senior White House officials to discuss the possibility of her appointment to the still vacant Attorney General post. It is reported that Mary Jo White, interim U.S. Attorney for New York's Eastern District, is also under consideration for the position. (*The Washington Post*, 2/10/1993)

In announcing Reno's nomination as Attorney General on the 11th, Clinton remarks, "She is a front-line crime fighter and a caring public servant. She has devoted her life to making her community safer, keeping children out of trouble, reducing domestic violence and helping families." (*The New York Times*, 2/12/1993)

In a letter to FBI agents, Sessions challenges the findings of the Justice Department report charging him with violations of ethical standards. Sessions tells the agents that the charges "are simply not true." Both Nussbaum and Acting Attorney General Stuart M. Gerson ask Sessions not to release publicly a lengthy rebuttal to the OPR report given by Sessions to the White House. (*The Washington Post*, 2/17/1993)

On the 18th, Reno begins a series of “courtesy calls” to members of Congress. (Anderson, p. 155)

On the 28th, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) attempts to serve a warrant on the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas, where cult leader David Koresh and 94 followers are suspected of illegal firearms violations. The attempt ends in a shootout between the ATF and cult members in which four ATF agents are killed and another sixteen are wounded. Following the confrontation, Clinton turns the handling of the conflict over to the FBI. (Anderson, p. 187)

March

The Senate Judiciary Committee holds hearings on Reno’s nomination on the 9th and 10th. Following smooth confirmation hearings, the Committee unanimously recommends Reno to the full Senate. (*1993 Congressional Quarterly Almanac*, Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 1994, p. 306)

On the 11th, the Senate unanimously approves Reno’s nomination, 98-0. (*The New York Times*, 3/12/1993)

Reno is sworn in on the 12th in the Roosevelt Room of the White House.

Supreme Court Justice Byron White announces his decision to retire at the end of the Court’s current term this summer. White House officials indicate Reno, Nussbaum and Chief of Staff Thomas “Mack” McLarty will lead the search for a replacement. The day after White’s announcement, Clinton holds a Saturday meeting with the search team to begin the selection process. Among those whose names are most often mentioned in the press are federal Circuit Court Judges Amalya Kearse of New York and Stephen Breyer of Massachusetts, U.S. District Court Judge Jose Cabranes of Connecticut, and Judith S. Kaye, who was recently named by Governor Mario Cuomo (D-NY) as the Chief Judge of New York’s highest court. (*The Washington Post*, 3/20/1993)

On the 23rd, Reno announces her decision to seek prompt resignations from all United States Attorneys. Clinton defends Reno’s request, noting that “all those people are routinely replaced” and the Administration has not “done anything differently” than previous administrations. (*The New York Times*, 3/24/1993; *The Washington Post*, 3/26/1993)

April

Reno announces the Administration’s four nominees for the top posts at Justice: Philip Heymann for Deputy Attorney General, Webster Hubbell for Associate Attorney General, Drew Days III for Solicitor General and Carl Stern for Director of Public Affairs. (Anderson, pp. 224-225)

On the 18th, Reno meets with Clinton to discuss the continuing standoff in Waco and to seek approval for an FBI raid on the Branch Davidian compound. Reno indicates concern that the children in the compound are being sexually abused and

that Koresh might be planning a mass suicide. Clinton agrees to the raid. (Bill Clinton, *My Life*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2004, p. 498; Anderson, p. 187)

On the 19th, the FBI raids the Branch Davidian compound. After the FBI fires tear gas into the building, members of the cult reportedly start fires which engulf the compound. The fire kills all but nine of the cult members, including twenty five children. That evening, Reno addresses the press from the Department of Justice briefing room. "I think the FBI acted professionally and with remarkable restraint....These are the hardest decisions in the world to make," says Reno. Responding to questions regarding Clinton's role in the decision, Reno says, "I approved the plan, and I'm responsible for it. I advised the President, but I did not advise him as to the details.... made the decisions. I'm accountable. The buck stops with me." (Clinton, p. 499; Anderson, pp. 194-195)

Clinton nominates Lani Guinier, a law professor and former lawyer for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, to lead the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division. In the weeks that follow, Guinier's nomination becomes the subject of controversy due to a number of controversial law review articles she had written. (*The New York Times*, 4/29/1993)

Reno names the seven Assistant Attorneys General that will head the Department's litigating divisions. (Anderson, p. 229)

On the 28th, Reno appears before a congressional panel investigating Waco.

May

During testimony before the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, Reno urges the Senate to adopt measures that would federally criminalize violence or threats against abortion providers or those seeking abortions. (*The New York Times*, 5/13/1993)

On the 14th, Reno testifies before the Senate Government Affairs Committee in support of reauthorizing the expired independent counsel statute. Reno remarks that the "credibility and public confidence engendered by the fact that an independent and impartial outsider has examined the evidence and concluded that prosecution is not warranted serves to clear a public official's name in a way that no Justice Department investigation ever could." (*The New York Times*, 5/16/1993)

On the 21st, Reno meets with Sessions to discuss the ethics charges against him. Following the meeting, Justice Department officials and Sessions's lawyers report that Reno has made no decision regarding the Director. (*The New York Times*, 5/22/1993)

Direct contacts between White House officials and the staff of the FBI's Office of Public Affairs regarding the firing of White House travel office staff prompt Reno to complain that, in bypassing the Attorney General, the White House has ignored

its own policies aimed at preventing a politicization of the FBI. In a call to protest the White House handling of the matter, Reno tells Nussbaum, "It would have been better to have gone through the Attorney General's office." Nussbaum tells Reno that the aides thought "it was just a police matter" appropriately handled with the FBI. During one meeting at the White House, FBI Office of Public Affairs Director John E. Collingwood was given "guidance" in crafting a statement later released by the White House. The statement served to bolster the White House position that the firing of the seven-person travel staff was motivated by possible criminal acts rather than political patronage. (*The Washington Post*, 5/25/1993)

On the 25th, the Administration announces it will investigate the actions of White House staff in the firing of the White House travel office staff. In the meantime, the staff's pay and benefits will be restored. In order to avoid "any possible appearance of impropriety," Nussbaum says that, in the future, White House officials will contact one of the top three Justice Department officials before approaching the FBI. (*Los Angeles Times*, 5/26/1993)

June

On the 3rd, Clinton announces his withdrawal of Lani Guinier's nomination to head the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division because he cannot defend her controversial writings on voting rights. The decision follows weeks of public controversy over her nomination. (*The Washington Post*, 6/4/1993)

On the 9th, it is reported that Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt is a leading contender for the Supreme Court vacancy but that U.S. Appeals Court Judge Stephen G. Breyer is still under serious consideration. (*The Washington Post*, 6/9/1993)

Clinton delays the announcement of his choice for the Supreme Court. Media reports speculate that the postponement results from the fact that his leading choice, Judge Stephen G. Breyer, failed to pay Social Security taxes for a household worker. (*The Washington Post*, 6/13/1993)

On the 14th, Clinton nominates federal Circuit Court Judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg to the U.S. Supreme Court. In announcing the nomination, Clinton offers praise for the two other leading candidates for the position, Babbitt and Breyer, saying they would make good additions to the Court and "may well find themselves in that position someday in the future." (*The Wall Street Journal*, 6/15/1993)

In a smooth confirmation process, the Judiciary Committee approves Ginsburg's nomination, 18-0, and the Senate confirms, 93-3, her appointment to the Supreme Court.

On the 30th, the President signs legislation reauthorizing the independent counsel statute.

- July* During a meeting with Reno and Nussbaum on the 17th, FBI Director Sessions refuses a request from Reno to resign. Reno and Nussbaum tell Sessions that if he refuses to resign, the Administration will soon fire him. Later in the week, Clinton formally fires Sessions and announces the selection of federal District Judge Louis J. Freeh of Manhattan to replace him. (*The Washington Post*, 7/18/1993, 7/20/1993)
- On the night of the 20th, Deputy White House Counsel Vincent Foster's body is found in a park by the Potomac River. Foster is the apparent victim of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Foster's office is sealed and searched by federal agents for any material that might bear on his death. Clinton orders a high-level DOJ investigation into Foster's death. (*Chicago Sun-Times*, 7/21/1993; *Los Angeles Times*, 7/22/1993; *The Washington Post*, 7/23/1993, 7/29/1993)
- August* U.S. Park Police and FBI agents close their investigation into Foster's death, concluding it was a suicide. (*The Washington Post*, 8/11/1993)
- Reno expresses support for a White House proposal that would consolidate the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the FBI in an effort to combat drugs. (*The New York Times*, 8/19/1993)
- October* Reno travels to Mexico City where she meets with President Carlos Salinas de Gortari and Mexican Attorney General Jorge Carpizo. During the visit, she tours the country's drug war headquarters and encourages the passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). (Anderson, p. 283)
- Reno tells the Senate Commerce Committee that television networks must begin efforts to limit violence on television. (*The New York Times*, 10/21/1993)
- November* The Senate passes the Omnibus Anti-Crime Bill, increasing penalties for violent crimes and authorizing additional federal funds for state prison construction. (1993 *Congressional Quarterly Almanac*, p. 293)
- On the 30th, Clinton signs the "Brady Bill" into law. The measure requires a five-day waiting period to purchase handguns to allow local police time to conduct background checks. (*The Washington Post*, 12/2/1993)
- December* The Administration confirms reports that files relating to the Clintons' investment in an Arkansas real estate partnership (Whitewater) linked to a failed savings and loan under federal investigation (Madison) were found in Foster's office after his suicide and turned over to the Clintons' personal attorney David E. Kendall. Clinton tells his personal attorney to give the Justice Department all documents relating to the Whitewater investigation. "The President has voluntarily decided to release these documents for whatever relevance they may have to any Department of Justice law enforcement inquiries," says Communications Director Mark

Gearan after a lengthy meeting with Nussbaum and other White House aides. (*The Washington Post*, 12/22/1993; *The Associated Press*, 12/23/1993)

House and Senate Republicans call for further investigations into the Whitewater matter. Rep. Jim Leach (R-IA), the ranking Republican on the House Banking Committee, asks Reno to appoint an independent counsel to take over the Justice Department investigation into possible wrongdoing in the Whitewater matter. In the Senate, Minority Leader Robert J. Dole (R-KS) and Sen. Alfonse M. D'Amato (R-NY) ask Banking Committee Chairman Sen. Donald W. Riegle, Jr. (D-MI) for a hearing into Whitewater, arguing that the Clintons' dealings "need ventilating." (*The Washington Post*, 12/23/1993)

The Justice Department subpoenas all documents relating to Whitewater in the Clintons' possession.

Reno announces that sexual orientation will no longer be given any scrutiny in background checks conducted by the FBI or Department of Justice. (Anderson, p. 252)

1994

January On behalf of President Clinton, Nussbaum sends Reno a letter requesting she appoint an independent counsel to look into the Clintons' investments in the Whitewater land development company as "expeditiously as possible." (*The Wall Street Journal*, 1/12/1994)

On the 20th, Reno appoints New York attorney Robert J. Fiske, Jr. as independent counsel to investigate the Whitewater matter.

On the 21st, Heymann announces his decision to leave the Justice Department. Heymann indicates that the decision was mutual and that he and Reno "concluded that our operational and management styles are too different for us to function fully effectively as a management team at the Department of Justice." Heymann will be replaced by Department of Defense General Counsel Jamie Gorelick. (Anderson, p. 227)

February The FBI arrests a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) officer, Aldrich Ames, and his wife for spying for the KGB and its successor Russian agency. (Anderson, p. 254)

The Department of Justice concludes a year-long reexamination of the "Thornburgh Memo," which governs the circumstances under which federal prosecutors can circumvent defense counsels and communicate directly with their clients. Under a new regulation adopted by Reno after consultation with the defense bar, prosecutors can still go behind the backs of defense counsels to speak to clients before indictment but are prohibited from such actions after indictment

without the pre-approval of a judge. (*Legal Times*, 2/14/1994)

March

On the 1st, Reno and Vice President Gore announce an Administration proposal that would institute a federal “three strikes and your out” law for criminals convicted of violent federal crimes and announce plans to create federal special response teams to work with state and local officials in fighting crime. (*The Washington Post*, 4/10/1994)

Associate Attorney General Webster Hubbell resigns following reports questioning his billing practices as a private attorney. (*The Boston Globe*, 3/16/1994)

April

Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun announces his resignation from the Supreme Court. Counsel to the President Lloyd Cutler tells reporters that the White House will try to avoid a long drawn-out selection process. (*Newsday*, 5/13/1994)

Along with Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt and District Court Judge Jose Cabranes, Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell is frequently mentioned as a possible Supreme Court nominee. Responding to questions about the feasibility of nominating a sitting Senate majority leader, Cutler says, “I think it would be legally possible, yes. How politically possible, I wouldn’t know.” The issue is somewhat clouded by the fact that Mitchell had approved a pay raise for Supreme Court justices. The Constitution prevents members of Congress from filling jobs for which they voted for a pay raise. (*USA Today*, 4/7/1994)

President Clinton signs the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act, which makes it a federal crime to use force to intimidate abortion clinic workers or women seeking abortions. (*1994 Congressional Quarterly Almanac*, p. 355)

Cutler officially asks the Justice Department to determine whether the Constitution prevents a sitting member of Congress from serving on the Supreme Court if he would receive the benefit of a pay raise he approved. (*The Washington Post*, 4/9/1994)

George Mitchell removes his name from consideration for the Supreme Court vacancy on the 12th. (*The Boston Globe*, 4/16/1994)

May

On the 13th, Clinton announces his selection of Stephen G. Breyer, Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, to fill the Supreme Court seat vacated by Justice Blackmun. The selection of Breyer receives widespread support among both Republican and Democratic senators. (*The Washington Post*, 5/14/1994)

Cutler asks the Justice Department’s Office of Legal Counsel to consider whether President Clinton can be sued while in office for acts committed before taking

office. “There is an institutional interest here and we’ve asked the Justice Department to look at the institutional interest,” says Cutler. (*The Washington Post*, 5/18/1994)

In response to the Cutler’s request, the Justice Department provides the White House with research on past cases involving presidential immunity from civil suits for actions taking place before assuming the presidency. According to Cutler, the White House did not request a formal opinion “because there’s ongoing litigation and we’re simply seeking advice and information.” (*USA Today*, 5/20/1994)

July The Senate Judiciary Committee begins Breyer’s confirmation hearings on the 12th. The confirmation hearings are uneventful with numerous legal scholars and the American Bar Association offering strong support for the nominee. On the 19th, the Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously approves Breyer’s nomination to the Supreme Court. (*The Washington Post*, 7/16/1994)

The Justice Department and Microsoft reach an agreement on the settlement terms in the DOJ’s antitrust investigation of the company. (*The Washington Post*, 7/18/1994)

On the 27th, the Senate easily confirms Breyer, 87-9.

August On the 5th, a judicial panel replaces Whitewater independent counsel Robert W. Fiske, Jr. with another Republican, former judge Kenneth Starr. The judges indicate they acted to protect “against perceptions of conflict.” (*Newsday*, 8/6/1994)

On the 9th, Reno asks a judicial panel to appoint an independent counsel to investigate charges that Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy illegally accepted travel, entertainment and gifts from representatives of Tyson Foods, Inc. “There are reasonable grounds to believe that further investigation is warranted,” says Reno. The investigation of Espy by the Department of Justice began in April. (*The Washington Post*, 8/10/1994)

September On the 9th, a special federal judicial panel names Donald Smaltz as independent counsel to investigate the charges of bribery against Agriculture Secretary Espy. (*The New York Times*, 9/10/1994)

The U.S. and Cuba reach an agreement under which the United States consents to accept at least 20,000 new Cuban immigrants per year and Cuba agrees to stop its citizens from fleeing the country on rafts and small boats. (*The New York Times*, 9/9/1994)

On the 13th, Clinton signs the Omnibus Crime Control Act, which bans a number of assault weapons, allows for the death penalty for dozens of federal crimes, and

authorizes new spending for police and prisons. (*The Washington Post*, 8/14/1994)

October Denying the charges against him, Espy resigns as Secretary of Agriculture on the 3rd. (*The New York Times*, 10/4/1994)

1995

January On the 6th, the Administration announces plans to strengthen border controls by hiring 1,200 additional border agents. It is reported that the move is prompted by concerns that Mexico's economic crisis will lead to an increase in illegal immigration into the U.S. Reno makes the announcement while on a four day tour of California, Texas and Arizona. (*The Washington Post*, 1/7/1995)

On the 23rd, the Justice Department files suit in federal court against California, Pennsylvania and Illinois for failing to enforce the provisions of the federal "motor voter" law. Reno indicates that charges may be filed against two other states: South Carolina and Michigan. In making the announcement, Reno notes, "This is a common sense law that is already making voting more available to all Americans. Congress has the authority to regulate federal elections, and it used that authority when it passed the law. We must now use the authority that Congress gave us to enforce it." (*The Washington Post*, 1/24/1995)

February On the 16th, the Justice Department appeals a federal judge's ruling earlier in the week throwing out the antitrust settlement reached between Microsoft and the DOJ, saying it was too easy on Microsoft. Microsoft joins in the appeal. Says Reno, "We believe we did the right thing in this case. We thoroughly investigated Microsoft's conduct. We found and brought the case we believed to be supported by the evidence." (*The New York Times*, 2/17/1995)

March The Justice Department announces plans to award \$2.15 million in grants to develop gun detectors that would allow the police to identify people carrying concealed weapons. (*The New York Times*, 3/10/1995)

Reno asks a judicial panel to name an independent counsel to investigate charges that Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Henry Cisneros lied to FBI investigators regarding financial payments to a former mistress. (*The Washington Post*, 3/15/1995)

April In response to a report by the U.S. Sentencing Commission recommending a reduction in the sentences for crack cocaine users, Reno issues a statement acknowledging that efforts should be made to reduce the disparity in the federal sentencing guidelines' differential treatment of defendants convicted of crack cocaine and powder cocaine offenses. However, says Reno, "I strongly oppose measures that fail to reflect the harsh and terrible impact of crack on communities

across America.” Reno also opposes a Commission decision to reduce sentences in money-laundering cases. (*The New York Times*, 4/16/1995)

On the 19th, a truck bomb explodes outside the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. Following the blast, more than 100 FBI and Treasury agents are sent to Oklahoma City to investigate. Reno meets with President Clinton to discuss federal laws that might apply to the attack and to inform him that a standing emergency response plan is in force. The “sophistication” of the bomb, Reno tells the President, indicates it is the work of terrorists. In a news conference that evening, Reno says that in this case “the death penalty is available and we will seek it.” (*The New York Times*, 4/20/1995; *The Washington Post*, 4/20/1995)

In the wake of the Oklahoma City bombing, Clinton proposes a new set of anti-terrorism measures including the hiring of 1,000 additional federal agents and a reconsideration of the existing ban on military participation in domestic law enforcement activities. (*The New York Times*, 4/27/1995)

May

In a change in U.S. policy, the Administration announces that it will end the preferential treatment of Cuban refugees and, after granting admission to a final group of 20,000, will return Cuban refugees to Cuba. The deal was reached during secret negotiations with Cuban officials. (*The New York Times*, 5/3/1995)

The Justice Department announces a major reorganization of the Oklahoma City bombing investigation team, placing it under the direction of a lead prosecutor and FBI inspector. (*The New York Times*, 5/6/1995)

Reno requests an independent counsel to investigate charges that Commerce Secretary Ronald Brown improperly accepted a financial gift from a business partner and filed inaccurate financial disclosure statements. (*The New York Times*, 7/7/1995)

A federal judicial panel names David Barrett independent counsel to investigate the charges against HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros. (*The New York Times*, 5/25/1995)

July

Clinton calls for new restrictions on “cop-killer” bullets as he touts his anti-crime legislation, which includes gun control measures and the expansion of the federal death penalty. (*The Washington Post*, 7/1/1995)

A federal judicial panel names Daniel Pearson independent counsel to investigate charges against Secretary Ronald Brown. (*The New York Times*, 7/7/1995)

On the 13th, Clinton issues a memorandum to Reno and Secretary of Education Richard Riley outlining his interpretation of the Equal Access Act and asking them to prepare a booklet explaining the “range of religious expression” permitted in public schools. (*The New York Times*, 7/13/1995)

On the 19th, the House begins hearings into charges that federal law enforcement officials with the ATF and FBI made serious mistakes during the 1993 standoff with Branch Davidians at their compound near Waco. Hearings continue through August and include more than 90 witnesses. (*1995 Congressional Quarterly Almanac*, p. 6:33)

August Appearing before a House committee investigating the Waco standoff, Reno stands by her decision to conduct the raid, “We will never know whether there was a better solution...We didn’t misunderstand Koresh. We didn’t suffer from misinformation. I wasn’t misled. The fate of the Branch Davidians was in David Koresh’s hands, and he chose death for the men and women who had entrusted their life to him. And he, David Koresh, chose death for the innocent children of Waco.” (*1995 Congressional Quarterly Almanac*, p. 6:36)

October Reno gives federal prosecutors permission to seek the death penalty in the Oklahoma City bombing cases against Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols. (*The New York Times*, 10/21/1995)

The Senate Judiciary Committee holds two days of hearings on the Waco standoff beginning on October 31st. (*1995 Congressional Quarterly Almanac*, p. 6:36)

November Reno discloses that she has Parkinson’s disease but will remain on the job. Reno says she does not feel like the disease presents “any impairment” and that it will have no effect on her ability to perform her duties. (*The New York Times*, 11/17/1995)

December Reno recommends that the President veto a measure that would end federal affirmative action programs. (*The New York Times*, 12/8/1995)

Clinton signs an executive order directing Reno to develop a policy requiring that all individuals arrested on federal charges be tested for drugs as a condition of bail. (*The Washington Post*, 12/15/1995)

1996

January On the 12th, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announces it is bolstering its patrols along the U.S.-Mexico border to prevent illegal immigration. Reno reports that the INS is sending an additional 200 border patrol agents and 100 more inspectors. The move comes one week after Congress increases the agency’s budget by 24 percent. (*The New York Times*, 1/13/1996)

February The Justice Department launches a civil rights investigation into a series of suspicious fires at predominantly black churches in the South. (*The Washington Post*, 2/8/1996)

April Commerce Secretary Ronald Brown dies in an airplane crash in the Balkans.

Reno reportedly sends a letter to Senate Republican leaders threatening an Administration veto of any immigration bill that allows states to deny public education to illegal aliens. (*The New York Times*, 4/16/1996)

On the 29th, Reno joins Clinton on a trip to Miami to discuss federal anti-drug policy. (*The New York Times*, 4/29/1996)

June

At Reno's request, a federal judicial panel expands the scope of Starr's investigation to look into charges that White House officials improperly obtained confidential FBI files on Republicans. (*The Washington Post*, 6/22/1996)

On the 22nd, Clinton announces support for legislation that would create a national sex offender registry and directs Reno to report back to him in 60 days with a plan for how such a system could be devised, even without a change to federal law. (*The New York Times*, 6/23/1996)

October

Reno announces plans to assess the use of U.S. Sentencing Guidelines by federal prosecutors in order to insure their correct application. Says Reno, "Any attempt to massage them or twist them is inappropriate...We need to review all the uses and work together to develop the best sentencing structure we can consistent with the interests of justice." (*The Washington Post*, 10/11/1996)

On the 12th, FBI releases a report showing that the nation's crime rate has fallen to the lowest level in a decade. (*The Washington Post*, 10/13/1996)

November

HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros resigns.

Clinton is re-elected President of the United States.

On the 27th, at Reno's request, a judicial panel names Curtis von Kann independent counsel to investigate conflict of interest charges against Assistant to the President Eli Segal. (*The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, 10/30/1997)

It is reported that the Department of Justice is considering naming an independent counsel to look into charges that the Democrats received illegal foreign campaign contributions during the 1996 election. (*The Washington Post*, 11/7/1996)

Reno rejects a congressional request for an independent counsel to investigate fundraising activities of the Democratic National Committee. (*The Washington Post*, 11/30/1996)

December

On the 11th, Reno makes her first oral arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court, arguing in favor of increased discretion for police officers to make searches of cars they stop for traffic violations. (*The New York Times*, 12/12/1996)

On the 12th, Clinton invites Reno to a meeting at the White House during which he asks her to stay on as Attorney General for his second term. (*The Washington Post*, 12/13/1996)

1997

January Reno and Freeh indicate their frustration with the lack of cooperation from the Saudi government in relation to an FBI investigation of a 1996 terrorist bombing that killed nineteen Americans. (*The New York Times*, 1/25/1997)

April After an independent audit finds that INS employees failed to implement new safeguards to prevent the granting of citizenship to criminals, Reno assigns two aides, over the objection of the INS Commissioner, to troubleshoot the problems. In making the announcement, Reno says, "I am committed to taking any and all steps necessary to insure the integrity of the nation's naturalization program." (*The New York Times*, 4/26/1997)

May Reno authorizes federal prosecutors to seek the death penalty against Theodore Kaczynski in the Unabomber case. (*The New York Times*, 5/16/1997)

June The Administration announces a new federal initiative to reduce crime and drug use in public housing projects. The plan will allocate \$250 million among thirteen different cities. According to Reno, the funds will be used, in part, to provide for more investigators and community-based patrol officers. (*The Washington Post*, 6/6/1997)

July Reno steps in to suspend the deportation of thousands of refugees from the Central American wars whose status was changed by a new immigration law. "We must recognize the special circumstances of individuals whose cases were pending when the new law was enacted and avoid any unfairness that comes from applying new rules to pending cases," says Reno. (*The New York Times*, 7/11/1997)

Reno and Office of National Drug Control Policy Director General Barry McCaffrey recommend a plan to the President that would reduce the substantial sentencing disparities between convictions for crack and powder cocaine. In their letter to the President, the two write that the disparity "has become an important symbol of racial injustice in our criminal justice system. We cannot turn a blind eye to the corrosive effect this has had on respect for the law in certain communities and of the effective administration of justice." (*The New York Times*, 7/22/1997)

August In a speech to the American Bar Association in San Francisco, Reno criticizes the Senate for the "unprecedented slowdown" in confirming federal judges. "We need to put any partisan differences aside and work together to resolve this situation," she says. "Without enough judges, our laws will become empty promises and

swift justice will be become a meaningless phrase.” There are currently 101 vacancies in the federal courts, equaling twelve percent of the judiciary. (*The New York Times*, 8/6/1997)

September In a major reorganization of the investigation, Reno brings in a veteran prosecutor and a senior FBI investigator to handle the inquiry into allegations of illegal fundraising activities by the Clinton-Gore re-election campaign. (*The Washington Post*, 9/17/1997)

October The Justice Department charges Microsoft with violating an earlier antitrust agreement by forcing personal computer makers to include its Internet browser when installing its Windows 95 operating system. The Department asks as federal judge to find Microsoft in contempt of court for violating the 1995 consent decree. During a news conference, Reno says, “Forcing PC manufacturers to take one Microsoft product as a condition of buying a monopoly product like Windows 95 is not only a violation of a court order, it is plan wrong.” (*The Washington Post*, 10/21/1997)

Independent counsel Curtis von Kann clears Eli Segal of all charges. (*The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, 10/30/1997)

December Following a year-long Department of Justice investigation, Reno announces that she will not seek an independent counsel to look into charges of illegal fundraising activities by President Clinton and Vice President Gore. (*The New York Times*, 12/3/1997)

Reno signs a communiqué, along with representatives from six other countries, pledging to identify and prosecute high tech criminals from each other’s countries, even without applicable extradition laws. (*The New York Times*, 12/11/1997)

1998

January On the 16th, a judicial panel approves Reno’s request that Starr’s inquiry be expanded to include an investigation of whether Clinton asked Monica Lewinsky to lie about their relationship in testimony she gave in the Paula Jones suit against the President. (*The Washington Post*, 1/30/1998)

February At Reno’s request, Carol Bruce is named independent counsel to investigate charges that Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt lied to Congress regarding the Interior Department’s rejection of an Indian gambling project. (*The New York Times*, 2/12/1998)

During testimony before Congress, Reno indicates that unless the telecommunications industry makes progress in modifying communications technology to allow for legal wiretapping by law enforcement, the Department of Justice will pursue the matter in Court. The modifications are required by the

Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act of 1994. (*The Washington Post*, 2/27/1998)

March Following public statements threatening legal action, representatives from the telecommunications industry reopen talks with Reno and the Justice Department regarding modification of telecommunications technology to allow wiretapping. (*The Washington Post*, 5/7/1998)

The Justice Department files suit to prevent Lockheed Martin's intended acquisition of Northrop Grumman. The Department alleges that such a move would be dangerous to the national defense. "This merger isn't just about dollars and cents," says Reno. "It's about winning wars and saving lives." Such a merger would "cost taxpayers more and take the competitive wind out of the sails of innovation in the production of many critical systems that protect our fighting men and women." (*The New York Times*, 3/24/1998)

After failing to reach an agreement with the telecommunications industry, Freeh and Reno file papers with the Federal Communications Commission, beginning a legal battle designed to preserve wiretapping capabilities. (*The Washington Post*, 3/30/1998)

April It is reported that the Administration plans to block the importation of 58 types of foreign assault weapons. (*The New York Times*, 4/6/1998)

Testifying before a congressional committee, Reno indicates that the Administration may create a stockpile of vaccines and antidotes to guard against the possibility of a chemical or biological terrorist attack. (*The New York Times*, 4/23/1998)

May A federal panel names Ralph Lancaster independent counsel to investigate charges that Secretary of Energy Alexis Herman engaged in influence peddling and solicitation of illegal campaign contributions. (*The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, 5/27/1998)

June Reno decides that the Department of Justice will not use federal drug laws to prosecute physicians who assist with patients' suicides under a new Oregon law. (*The Washington Post*, 6/6/1998)

August On the 6th, a House committee investigating allegations of illegal campaign financing in the Clinton-Gore re-election campaign, votes to charge Reno with contempt of Congress for failing to comply with a subpoena to provide the committee with DOJ reports on the matter. Reno gives no indication that she will ever comply with the subpoena and accuses the committee of tampering with a criminal investigation. (*The New York Times*, 8/7/1998)

On the 26th, Reno orders a 90-day investigation into whether Gore lied to Justice Department officials investigating his fundraising activities. (*The Washington Post*, 8/27/1998)

October Reno calls on Congress to add offenses based on sexual orientation to the list federal hate crimes. (*The New York Times*, 10/19/1998)

November Reno announces that there is insufficient evidence to seek the appointment of an independent counsel into Gore's campaign fundraising activities during the 1996 election. (*The New York Times*, 11/25/1998)

December A federal jury acquits former Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy of all bribery charges. (*The New York Times*, 12/3/1998)

1999

January Reno closes a Department of Justice inquiry into charges that former Deputy Chief of Staff Harold Ickes lied to a Senate committee in 1997. Reno concludes that "there is no reasonable basis to believe that any additional investigation would discover additional evidence sufficient to prove that Ickes's testimony was knowingly false." (*The New York Times*, 1/30/1999)

February On the 12th, the Justice Department opens an investigation into the practices of independent counsel Kenneth Starr. (*The New York Times*, 2/12/1999)

Reno and Starr meet to discuss a "framework" for an investigation of the independent counsel's tactics in the Lewinsky case. (*The New York Times*, 2/25/1999)

March On the 17th, Reno testifies before Congress in opposition to reauthorization of the independent counsel statute. Reno tells the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, "We at the Department have come to believe that the Act's goals have not been well-served by the act itself – and that we could do better without a statute." (*1999 Congressional Quarterly Almanac*, p. 18:30)

Clinton directs the federal government to work more closely with state and local law enforcement agencies to reduce gun violence and to increase the prosecution of criminals who use guns. Clinton puts Reno and Secretary of the Treasury Robert Rubin in charge of developing a strategy against gun violence. (*The Washington Post*, 3/21/1999)

May Following congressional criticism of the investigation, Reno announces the creation of a team of FBI agents to review the government's handling of the investigation of nuclear scientist Wen Ho Lee, suspected of spying for China. "I want to review everything we've done to see if there is anything that could have been done differently," says Reno. (*The Washington Post*, 5/7/1999)

- June* On the 30th, the existing independent counsel statute expires. Without the statute, decisions regarding ethics investigations of federal officials will be left to the Attorney General. (*The New York Times*, 6/30/1999)
- July* Reno denies reports that she plans to resign to become the dean of a Florida law school. (*The New York Times*, 7/30/1999)
- August* Despite six years of statements to the contrary, the FBI concedes that it used “pyrotechnic” tear gas canisters during the standoff with the Branch Davidians. The revelation is considered sufficiently important that Reno and Freeh order a thorough investigation into the Waco siege. During a weekly press briefing, Reno expresses her displeasure with the news, “Prior to April the 19th (1993), I received assurances that the gas and its means of use were not pyrotechnic. Since then, I have consistently been told that no pyrotechnic devices were used. I intend the results of the review to be made public, and I will not stop until I get to the bottom of this.” (*The New York Times*, 8/26/1999; *The Washington Post*, 8/27/1999)
- September* Reno orders U.S. Marshals to seize a tape from FBI headquarters with recordings between FBI commanders and field agents on the day of the FBI assault on the Waco compound. Previously undisclosed, the recording includes communications authorizing the use of inflammable tear gas rounds. (*The New York Times*, 9/2/1999)
- Former HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros pleads guilty to lying to federal agents conducting a background check. (*The New York Times*, 9/8/1999)
- Reno names former Senator John Danforth (R-MO) to head an independent investigation of the FBI’s tear gas assault on the Branch Davidian compound. (*The Washington Post*, 9/10/1999)
- The Justice Department files suit against cigarette companies charging them with conspiracy to defraud and mislead the public regarding the health effects of smoking. “For the past 45 years,” says Reno, “the companies that manufacture and sell tobacco have waged an intentional coordinated campaign of fraud and deceit.” The federal government is seeking billions of dollars to compensate for the funds spent on smoking-related health care provided by the government to senior citizens, military personnel and federal employees. (*The New York Times*, 9/23/1999)
- October* The independent counsel clears Secretary Babbitt of any wrongdoing. (*The New York Times*, 10/14/1999)
- November* After fisherman rescue six-year-old Elian Gonzalez from an inner tube in the waters off Ft. Lauderdale, he is given to his great-uncle Lazaro Gonzalez in Miami. Elian’s father seeks assistance from the Cuban government to help in the

return of his son to Cuba. U.S. immigration officials grant Elian temporary permission to remain in the country. (*The New York Times*, 4/14/2000)

December Lazaro Gonzalez files an asylum request on behalf of Elian. (*The New York Times*, 4/14/2000)

2000

January On the 5th, the INS rules that only Elian's father is entitled to custody of the child and establishes a January 14th deadline to return the child to Cuba. On the 10th, a Florida court determines that a Florida family court can evaluate the merit of motion for temporary custody from Lazaro Gonzalez. On the 12th, Reno announces that it is up to the federal courts alone to decide the disposition of the case but lifts the January 14th deadline to allow Lazaro Gonzalez to appeal his case in the federal courts. On the 27th, the INS asks a federal court in Miami to reject the asylum request on the grounds that the father's rights take precedence. The federal court gives the Miami relatives until February 28th to respond to the Justice Department's argument that they have no legal claim to the child. (*The New York Times*, 4/14/2000)

February Appearing before a Senate committee considering the issue, Reno announces plans to improve Internet security by encouraging companies and federal agencies to work together. Reno also proposes a five-year plan that would institute harsher penalties for hackers and encourage standardized investigative technologies. (*The New York Times*, 2/17/2000)

March In exchange for ending some lawsuits that could bankrupt the company, Smith & Wesson agrees to accept a variety of restrictions on the manufacturing and distributions of its handguns. (*The New York Times*, 3/18/2000)

On the 21st, a federal judge rejects a request for an asylum hearing for Elian Gonzalez, ruling that Reno was entirely within her discretion to deny asylum. (*The New York Times*, 4/14/2000)

April The independent counsel clears Secretary Alexis Herman of soliciting illegal campaign contributions. (*Chicago Sun-Times*, 4/5/2000)

After several weeks of failed negotiations and the Miami family's refusal to hand over Elian, on the 12th, Reno sets a deadline of 2 p.m. the following day for the Miami relatives to turn over Elian to U.S. authorities. The relatives fail to comply with the deadline and secure an emergency stay from a U.S. Circuit Court. After all negotiations with the family fail, on the 22nd, armed U.S. immigration agents seize Elian Gonzalez from the home of Lazaro Gonzalez in the early morning and reunite him with his father. (*The New York Times*, 4/14/2000, 4/23/2000)

The Justice Department reportedly asks the federal judge handling the case to break Microsoft into two companies to insure competition in the software industry. (*The New York Times*, 4/25/2000)

June The federal judge in the Microsoft case accepts the Department of Justice proposal to break Microsoft into two companies. (*The New York Times*, 6/9/2000)

July A jury finds that federal officials are not liable for the deaths resulting from the FBI raid of the Branch Davidian compound. (*The New York Times*, 7/15/2000)

October Reno announces plans to make public the Department of Justice investigation critical of the investigation and prosecution of Wen Ho Lee. (*The New York Times*, 10/6/2000)

On the 28th, the President signs the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Prevention Act.

2001

January On his last day in office, Clinton issues pardons to 140 individuals, including John Deutch, Henry Cisneros, Susan McDougal and Marc Rich. (*The New York Times*, 1/21/2001)

George W. Bush is sworn in as President of the United States.

TIMELINES

- Janet Reno Timeline, prepared by Darby A. Morrisroe, Miller Center of Public Affairs, University of Virginia, 8/12/2004.
- Timeline of the Clinton Presidency, prepared by Robbie Robinson, Miller Center of Public Affairs, University of Virginia, 5/30/2002.
- “The Clinton Presidency: Eight Years of Peace, Progress and Prosperity,” *U.S. National Archives and Records Administration*, <<http://clinton5.nara.gov/WH/Accomplishments/eightyears-02.html>> (6/12/2002).

SELECTED WRITINGS AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY JANET RENO

- “Announcement by President Clinton of Janet Reno As Attorney General Nominee,” *Federal News Service*, 2/11/1993.
- Janet Reno, “Looking at Reno,” *Texas Lawyer*, 2/22/1993.
- “Remarks at Swearing-In Ceremony for Janet Reno As Attorney General,” *Federal News Service*, 3/12/1993.
- “Remarks by President Clinton to Justice Department Personnel with an Introduction by Attorney General Janet Reno,” *Federal News Service*, 4/29/1993.
- Janet Reno, “An Address to the National Press Club,” Washington, D.C., *Federal News Service*, 7/1/1993.
- Janet Reno, “AG Janet Reno Speaks Her Mind,” *The Connecticut Law Tribune*, 10/11/1993.
- Janet Reno, “NAFTA: After the Debate, the Battle,” *Miami Herald*, 11/12/1993.
- Janet Reno, “Is Crime Bill Money Well Spent?; Americans Need Real Help Now,” *Chicago Sun-Times*, 7/30/1994.
- Janet Reno and Dick Thornburgh, “ADA – Not a Disabling Mandate,” *The Wall Street Journal*, 7/26/1995.
- Janet Reno, “Statement Concerning the Events Surrounding the Branch Davidian Standoff,” Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on Crime and Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, Subcommittee on National Security, International Affairs and Criminal Justice, U.S. House of Representatives, 104th Congress, 1st Session, 8/1/1995.
- William J. Perry and Janet Reno, “A Treaty in the U.S. Interest,” *The Washington Post*, 9/11/1996.
- Janet Reno, “An Address to the American Bar Association,” San Francisco, California, *Federal News Service*, 8/5/1997.
- Janet Reno, “To Make All Americans Safer,” *The Washington Post*, 6/17/1999.
- Janet Reno, “A Statement on the Court Ruling on the Elian Gonzalez Case,” *Federal News Service*, 4/19/2000.
- Janet Reno, “News Conference on the Retrieval of Elian Gonzalez from the Home of Lazaro Gonzalez (Excerpted),” *FDCH Political Transcripts*, 4/22/2000.

- “Exit Interview: Janet Reno,” *NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*, PBS, 1/18/2001, <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/politics/jan-june01/reno_1-18.html> (6/12/2004).
- Elizabeth Vrato, “Janet Reno,” in *The Counselors: Conversations with 18 Courageous Women Who Have Changed the World* (Philadelphia: Running Press, 2002) pp. 125-135.

JOINING THE ADMINISTRATION

- “Reno Named First Woman Attorney General,” *1993 Congressional Quarterly Almanac* (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 1994) pp. 303-307.
- Paul Anderson, “Nomination” and “Confirmation” in *Janet Reno: Doing the Right Thing* (New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1994) pp. 131-177.
- Stephen Labaton, “Confusion Reigns at Justice Department; In Wake of Baird Withdrawal, Bush and Clinton Aides Vie for Power,” *The San Francisco Chronicle*, 1/25/1993.
- Bill Clinton, *My Life* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2004) pp. 490-491.
- Larry Rohter, “Tough ‘Front-Line Warrior,’” *The New York Times*, 2/12/1993.
- Michael Isikoff and David Von Drehle, “Prosecutor Wins High Marks Battling Miami Vice,” *The Washington Post*, 2/12/1993.
- Larry Rohter, “Strong Hand, Sharp Eye in Justice Department Nominee,” *The New York Times*, 2/16/1993.
- David Johnston, “Senate Panel, 18-0, Backs Attorney General Nominee,” *The New York Times*, 3/11/1993.
- Remarks on the Swearing-In of Attorney General Janet Reno, *Public Papers of the President: William Jefferson Clinton, 1993-2001*, 3/12/1993.
- “Four Cases for Janet Reno (Editorial),” *The Washington Post*, 3/14/1993.
- Daniel Klaidman, “Reno Walking Into a Political Minefield; White House Aides Have Already Picked Her Deputies, Begun Developing Justice Policy,” *The Recorder*, 3/15/1993.
- David Johnston, “Attorney General Seeks Resignations from Prosecutors,” *The New York Times*, 3/24/1993.
- Dan Balz, “Clinton Defends Ousting U.S. Attorneys; GOP Steps Up Criticism of Attorney General’s ‘March Massacre,’” *The Washington Post*, 3/26/1993.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ORGANIZATION

- Department of Justice Organizational Chart, 1996 United States Government Manual (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1996) p. 329.
- Summary Descriptions of Key Department of Justice Offices, prepared by Darby A. Morrisroe with information from the United States Department of Justice Website, Miller Center of Public Affairs, 2/28/2001.

POLITICS AND POLICYMAKING AT THE DOJ

- Stephen Labaton, “Who’s in Charge? Bush Holdover Says He Is, but Two Clinton Men Differ,” *The New York Times*, 1/25/1993.
- David Johnston, “Clinton’s Trials with the Justice Dept.,” *The New York Times*, 3/26/1993.
- David Johnston, “Senior Officials Named at Justice Department.,” *The New York Times*, 4/3/1993.
- Pierre Thomas, “Top Reno Deputy Quits, Citing Conflict in Styles,” *The Washington Post*, 1/28/1994.
- Lawrence Altman, “Reno Discloses Diagnosis of Parkinson’s Disease,” *The New York Times*, 11/17/1995.
- Peter Baker and John F. Harris, “Clinton Asks Reno to Stay As Attorney General,” *The Washington Post*, 12/13/1996.
- Benjamin Wittes, “The Surprising Loyalist Said to Be Too Independent for the White House’s Liking, Janet Reno Is, in Truth, a Faithful Clintonite Soldier,” *Legal Times*, 12/23/1996.
- Robert Suro, “Vacancies at Highest Levels Force Reno to Be Hands-On at Justice Dept.,” *The Washington Post*, 5/18/1997.
- James Oliphant, “The One True Survivor; Janet Reno, After Enduring Seven Years of Criticism, Is Leaving on Her Own Terms,” *Legal Times*, 12/18/2000.

SELECTED ISSUES AND EVENTS

Sessions Departure

- David Johnston, "FBI Director Told to Resign Or Be Removed," *The New York Times*, 7/17/1993.
- Michael Isikoff and Ruth Marcus, "Clinton Fires Sessions As FBI Director," *The Washington Post*, 7/20/1993.

Waco Standoff

- Paul Anderson, "Siege at Waco" in *Janet Reno: Doing the Right Thing* (New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1994) pp. 181-216.
- Bill Clinton, *My Life* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2004) pp. 497-499.
- "Hearings Probe 1993 Waco Siege," *1995 Congressional Quarterly Almanac* (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 1996) pp. 6:33-6:36.
- David Johnston, "Ex-Senator Picked by Reno to Head New Waco Inquiry," *The New York Times*, 9/8/1999.

Thornburgh Memo/Reno Regulation

- Daniel Klaidman, "Defense Bar Displeased; DOJ Unwraps New Policy on Contact with Counsel," *Legal Times*, 4/14/1994.

Gun Control/Anti-Crime Legislation

- "President Signs 'Brady' Gun Control Law," *1993 Congressional Quarterly Almanac* (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 1994) pp. 300-303.
- Ann Devroy and Pierre Thomas, "White House, Justice Department Put Crime in the Political Cross Hairs," *The Washington Post*, 4/10/1994.
- "Lawmakers Enact \$30.2 Billion Anti-Crime Bill," *1994 Congressional Quarterly Almanac* (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 1995) pp. 273-274.
- "Clinton Orders Tighter Federal-State Reins on Gun Violence," *The New York Times*, 3/21/1999.
- "Anti-Crime Package Seeks to Protect Women and Children from Violence," *2000 Congressional Quarterly Almanac* (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2001) p. 15-19.

Terrorism

- Todd S. Purdum, "Clinton Seeks More Anti-Terrorism Measures," *The New York Times*, 4/27/1995.

Immigration

- Robert Suro, "Clinton Administration to Bolster Border Controls," *The Washington Post*, 1/7/1995.
- Steven Greenhouse, "U.S. Will Return Refugees to Cuba in Policy Switch," *The New York Times*, 5/3/1995.

Microsoft Antitrust Case

- Elizabeth Corcoran, "Microsoft Deal Came Down to a Phone Call; With Bill Gates on the Line, Justice Dept. Ends a Lengthy Probe," *The Washington Post*, 7/18/1994.
- "Justice Department v. Microsoft: The Evidence and the Answers," *The New York Times*, 10/27/1997.
- Joel Brinkley and Steve Lohr, "Retracing the Missteps in the Microsoft Defense," *The New York Times*, 6/9/2000

Elian Gonzalez

- Bill Clinton, *My Life* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2004) pp. 904-906.
- Rick Bragg and Lizette Alvarez, "Miami Family Told to Turn Over Boy After Talks Fail," *The New York Times*, 4/13/2000.
- Rick Bragg, "Cuban Boy Seized by Agents and Reunited with His Father," *The New York Times*, 4/23/2000.
- David Johnston, "For Reno, a Difficult Call in the Last Minutes," *The New York Times*, 4/23/2000.

JUDICIAL SELECTION

General Commentary

- Tinsley E. Yarbrough, "Clinton and the Courts" in *The Clinton Presidency: The First Term, 1992-1996*, Paul S. Herrnson and Dilys M. Hill, eds. (St. Martins Press: New York, 2000) pp. 43-59.
- David M. O'Brien, "Judicial Legacies: The Clinton Presidency and the Courts" in *The Clinton Legacy*, Colin Campbell and Bert A. Rockman, eds. (Chatham House: New York, 2000) pp. 96-117.
- Stephen Labaton, "Clinton May Use Diversity Pledge to Remake Courts," *The New York Times*, 3/8/1993.
- Sandra Torrey, "Reno Blames Senate for Judicial Vacancies," *The Washington Post*, 8/6/1997.
- "Partisan Impasse Blocks Judicial Confirmations for Most of the Year," *1999 Congressional Quarterly Almanac* (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2000) pp. 18:49-18:56.

Ginsburg Appointment

- "Ginsburg Easily Wins Seat on High Court," *1993 Congressional Quarterly Almanac* (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 1994) pp. 318-321, 324-325.

Breyer Appointment

- "Centrist Justice Easily Confirmed," *1994 Congressional Quarterly Almanac* (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 1995) pp. 303-305, 308-310.

INDEPENDENT COUNSEL

General Commentary/Independent Counsel Statute

- Robert J. Spitzer, "Table 5.1: Independent Counsel Investigations," in *The Presidency and the Law: The Clinton Legacy*, David Gray Adler and Michael A. Genovese, eds. (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2002) pp. 93-94.
- Katy J. Harriger, *The Special Prosecutor in American Politics, Second Edition* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2000) pp. 90-96, 141-143.
- "Reno Backs Revival of Independent Counsel Law," *The New York Times*, 5/16/1993.
- "Independent Counsel Law Renewed," *1994 Congressional Quarterly Almanac* (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 1995) pp. 295-297.
- Stephen Labaton, "Experience Sours a Once-Enthusiastic Reno on Applying the Independent Counsel Law," *The New York Times*, 11/29/1997.
- "In Wake of Presidential Probe, Independent Counsel Law Allowed to Expire," *1999 Congressional Quarterly Almanac* (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2000, 1995) pp. 18:27-18:33.
- David Johnston, "Independent Counsel Law Is Too Flawed to Renew," *The New York Times*, 3/18/1999.
- David Johnston, "Attorney General Taking Control As Independent Counsel Law Dies," *The New York Times*, 6/30/1999.

Independent Counsel Investigations

- Katy J. Harriger, *The Special Prosecutor in American Politics, Second Edition* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2000) pp. 224-230
- George Lardner, Jr., "Starr Gets Authority for FBI Files Probe; Court Gives Independent Counsel Broad Mandate," *The Washington Post*, 6/22/1996.
- "Excerpts from Reno Request on Expansion of Whitewater Inquiry," *The New York Times*, 1/30/1998.
- David Johnston and Don Van Natta, Jr., "Reno and Starr Said to Agree on Framework for an Inquiry," *The New York Times*, 2/25/1999.
- David Johnston, "Agriculture Chief Faces New Inquiry on Business Gifts," *The New York Times*, 8/10/1994.

- Pierre Thomas and Guy Gugliotta, “Special Counsel Sought to Investigate Cisneros,” *The Washington Post*, 3/15/1995.
- Jefferey Goldberg, “What Is Janet Reno Thinking?” *The New York Times*, 7/6/1997.
- “Statement by Reno on Why She Did Not Seek an Independent Counsel,” *The New York Times*, 12/3/1997.
- David Johnston, “Reno Is Extending Inquiry Into Gore and Fundraising,” *The New York Times*, 8/26/1998.
- David Johnston, “Reno Rejects Outside Inquiry on Clinton for Campaign Ads,” *The New York Times*, 12/8/1998.

JANET RENO SUGGESTED TOPICS

Prepared by Darby A. Morrisroe

Miller Center of Public Affairs, University of Virginia, 8/15/2004

Joining the Administration

- Discuss the circumstances surrounding your nomination as Attorney General. Comment on your confirmation process.
- Did you have any discussions with President Clinton regarding your role and priorities as Attorney General?
- What were the challenges facing the Department of Justice at the time of your arrival?

Politics and Policymaking at the Department of Justice.

- What were your priorities for the Justice Department? How did you view your role as Attorney General?
- Describe the Justice Department's policy agenda during your tenure.
- What major issues, events and investigations most occupied your time (Waco, anti-crime legislation, terrorism, immigration, antitrust litigation, sentencing guidelines, Elian Gonzales, etc.)?
- How were sub-Cabinet appointments made at the Department of Justice?
- Discuss your relationships with other legal policymakers in the Administration (White House Counsels, Solicitors General, Office of Legal Counsel, Office of Policy Development, agency counsels, etc.). How did the Administration coordinate legal policymaking?
- Describe your relationship and involvement with the Department's litigating divisions.
- Comment on your relationship with the investigative and enforcement agencies at DOJ (FBI, DEA, INS, etc.). Discuss Sessions' departure as FBI Director and Freeh's appointment.
- Discuss the use of the independent counsel statute during your tenure (Whitewater, White House Travel Office, Espy, Cisneros, Brown, Segal, Babbitt, Herman, campaign finance investigations, etc.). Comment on your change of position regarding the statute.
- Discuss the frequency and nature of your interactions with President Clinton. How involved was Clinton in setting the Justice Department's agenda? On which Justice Department issues was Clinton most engaged?

Attorney General's Relationship with White House Staff and Other Departments

- Discuss your views regarding the ideal role of the Attorney General in relationship to the White House. How would you characterize your relationship with the White House over the course of your tenure as Attorney General?
- With which members of the White House staff did you work most closely? Comment on your relationships with Clinton's White House Counsels. On what issues did you work directly?
- Discuss your relationships with other Cabinet members. With which members of the Cabinet did you work most closely? On what issues?
- Discuss Clinton's relationship with and use of his Cabinet.
- Comment on the role of an Attorney General during presidential impeachment controversies.

Attorney General's Relationship with Congress

- Discuss your relationships with key members of Congress and the judiciary committees.
- Comment on the level of involvement of the Justice Department in congressional relations for the Administration (crime legislation, judicial nominations, immigration, etc.).
- Describe your interactions with key members of Congress and its investigative committees.
- Discuss your experiences testifying before Congress.

Judicial Selection

- What political concerns and philosophies guided President Clinton's judicial appointments?
- What role did you and the Department of Justice play in selecting and screening the nominees? Discuss the division of judicial selection responsibilities with the White House Counsel's office.
- What were the Administration's objectives in nominating Ruth Bader Ginsburg? What factors led to the selection of Stephen Breyer? Discuss the process of choosing these nominees.
- Comment on the Administration's impact on the federal courts.

The Clinton Presidency in Retrospect

- Discuss your observations of Clinton's decision-making style. What were the distinctive characteristics of Clinton as a public leader, a legislative leader, and a party leader?
- What is Clinton's legacy in the area of legal policy? What legal issues did he most influence?
- What do you consider to be your most significant contributions during your years in the Clinton Administration?
- What were the strengths and weaknesses of the Clinton presidency?
- What features of the Clinton presidency were overlooked or misunderstood by the press?
- How should the Clinton presidency be viewed in historical perspective?