

## **The Story of Jack Abramoff**

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[Jack Abramoff](#) is one of the most notorious fraud artists in America, most known for his deceptive lobbying tactics which eventually landed him in a medium security prison in Cumberland, Maryland for three and a half years. Abramoff gave an interview with CBS correspondent [Lesley Stahl](#) in November of 2011. The [interview](#), which was recently re-aired July 8, 2012, goes into the details of Abramoff's fraudulent business interactions.

Abramoff used gifts and other incentives, such as golfing trips to Scotland, access to private jets, free drinks and meals at his D.C. restaurant, [Signatures](#), and tickets to sporting events and concerts, to bribe lawmakers into voting on tax breaks and legislation that benefitted his clients. On the other side, he would convince his clients, like Indian tribes, to make large contributions to specific members of Congress. Abramoff was so good at his job that he made \$20 million a year for his dirty work.

In his interview with Stahl, Abramoff admitted to spending "over a million dollars a year on tickets to sporting events and concerts" which he used to lobby congressmen and senators. He "had two people on his staff whose virtual full-time job was booking tickets." But perhaps the most horrifying technique that Abramoff initiated was hiring people in the congressional office to do his bidding. He would target specific people, such as [Neil Volz](#)—chief of staff to Congressman [Bob Ney](#)—and offer to pay them three times their salary if they agreed to do what he asked. For example, while Volz was employed by Abramoff, he "asked Ney to insert some language into a reform bill that would give a backdoor license to an Indian casino owned by one of Abramoff's clients." Ney, the only congressman charged in this scandal, ended up serving 17 months in prison.

It was later found that Abramoff had been cheating his Indian tribe clients, overbilling four Indian casinos by over \$45 million. Abramoff is now working to pay off upwards of \$24 million in restitution to these tribes.

Abramoff now says he regrets his corruptive actions, saying that he "was totally blinded by what was going on." Congress has since introduced new reforms to prevent a similar scandal from happening again.

Unfortunately, money is an extremely persuasive temptation and makes people act in ways that go against their morals, especially when they are trying to provide for their family. If you are currently under investigation for committing [fraud in Arizona](#), don't let the charges ruin your professional and personal relationships. You will need to retain a highly qualified fraud attorney if you want to protect your career and your reputation, and the sooner you seek help, the better your chances of success will be.

Jeremy Geigle is a criminal defense attorney and shareholder at JacksonWhite. He has been practicing over 8 years and has handled thousands of felony and misdemeanor counts. He works in both adult and juvenile court handling DUIs, aggravated felonies and sex crimes in Arizona. He works in Federal, State and local jurisdictions including Phoenix, Mesa, Gilbert, Chandler, Scottsdale, Glendale, Tempe and Peoria. Mr. Geigle is a 5-Star-Client-Rated Attorney on Avvo. To read more about what former clients

are saying about hiring Mr. Geigle or to set up a free consultation, please visit [www.jacksonwhitelaw.com/criminal-defense-law](http://www.jacksonwhitelaw.com/criminal-defense-law).

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