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## Faircloth and the Coushatta tribe

### Stopping By

Posted: 25 May 2008 10:32 AM

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#### Regular Member


 Total Posts: 118  
 Joined 2008-04-05

[http://www.nola.com/news/index.ssf/2008/05/jindals\\_counsel\\_defends\\_his\\_wo.html](http://www.nola.com/news/index.ssf/2008/05/jindals_counsel_defends_his_wo.html)

"Before becoming executive counsel this year to Gov. Bobby Jindal, Alexandria lawyer Jimmy Faircloth was a key figure in a high-risk business venture that is sparking new controversy in a Louisiana Indian tribe still shaken after becoming the victim of a national scandal.

From 2005 to 2007, Faircloth advised the Coushatta Indians to invest \$30 million in a formerly bankrupt Israeli technology firm called MainNet, which so far has shown no financial return for the tribe and is dependent on monthly installments of Coushatta cash. The company also hired Faircloth's brother, on the attorney's suggestion, after the tribe began investing."

### Coach Blanco

Posted: 25 May 2008 11:02 AM

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#### Senior Member


 Total Posts: 1244  
 Joined 2007-09-12

#### Stopping By - 25 May 2008 10:32 AM

[http://www.nola.com/news/index.ssf/2008/05/jindals\\_counsel\\_defends\\_his\\_wo.html](http://www.nola.com/news/index.ssf/2008/05/jindals_counsel_defends_his_wo.html)

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Have any of the attorneys on this board ever dealt with Faircloth? Most of the stuff I've heard about him has not been very flattering, but I would appreciate comments from anyone who has first-hand experience dealing with him.

### maurepas1

Posted: 25 May 2008 10:03 PM

[\[ Ignore \]](#) [\[ # 2 \]](#)

#### Senior Member


 Total Posts: 2757  
 Joined 2007-09-19

Have you read reader comments to this story? All are negative. Somebody from the Jindal camp needs to start flooding the message boards with spin. Is everyone still on the plane coming in from AZ? Here is a sampling, but for the real meal go to [http://www.nola.com/news/index.ssf/2008/05/jindals\\_counsel\\_defends\\_his\\_wo.html](http://www.nola.com/news/index.ssf/2008/05/jindals_counsel_defends_his_wo.html) (the comments are at the end of this lengthy story:

Comment No. 1:

Terrible. The typos diminish my message.

That would be "Governor" with a capital "G".

And that would be (not really, because she gave a failure of a firm an extra \$ 156 million).

That would be "whose".

... but the message is still the same.

The ethics talk has no walk to it. How can our legislators be so naive to give Jindal everything he wants without questioning a thing?

Comment No. 2:

Is it just me, or is the rate of ethic lapses surrounding Jindal higher than the fastest rate of Fast Eddie?

Comment No. 3:

Is it just me, or does Bill Jefferson suddenly seem par for the course ? This is pretty serious stuff. It's as if we blindly elected a lap dog.....some of us told you so. Abramoff is still higher on the right wing food chain then jindal, easily. Wake up Louisiana before they sell us to the Chinese....

Comment No. 4:

Bobby's the ethics guy....lolololololololololol

— Signature

*"My only regret is that I have but one King Cake to bake for my City,"* Maurepas (1931-1999)

**PROFILE**

**DM1**

Posted: 25 May 2008 10:22 PM

[ Ignore ] [ # 3 ]

**Senior Member**



Total Posts: 2444

Joined 2008-04-20

**Stopping By - 25 May 2008 10:32 AM**

[http://www.nola.com/news/index.ssf/2008/05/jindals\\_counsel\\_defends\\_his\\_wo.html](http://www.nola.com/news/index.ssf/2008/05/jindals_counsel_defends_his_wo.html)

"Before becoming executive counsel this year to Gov. Bobby Jindal, Alexandria lawyer Jimmy Faircloth was a key figure in a high-risk business venture that is sparking new controversy in a Louisiana Indian tribe still shaken after becoming the victim of a national scandal.

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Good news is we were already at the bottom of the barrel to start with, so with Jindal we just stay at bottom for 4 more years. I do not think it will happen but I hope McCain picks Jindal for V.P. and that will at least get out the state for few months.

— Signature

McCain , The bad economy is just your imagination. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ivroxPyG-IE&feature;=related>

[PROFILE](#)

**FormerLa**

Posted: 27 May 2008 09:27 AM

[ Ignore ] [ # 4 ]

**Senior Member**



Total Posts: 2141

Joined 2007-08-27

[PROFILE](#)

And you wonder why he wants the "business" dealing of the Guv s office secret

**Coach Blanco**

Posted: 28 May 2008 01:15 PM

[ Ignore ] [ # 5 ]

**Senior Member**



Total Posts: 1244

Joined 2007-09-12

More on Faircloth:

*The Gambit Weekly, May 27, 2008*

*Despite their demanding state jobs, the governor's attorney and health secretary have found time to do a bit of moonlighting.*

*Gov. Bobby Jindal's top staffers wear many hats — not all of them in public — when it comes to their professional lives. During this watershed era, when "disclosure" is the unofficial state motto and executive officials are touted as "superstars" by the new Republican governor, that shouldn't be the situation. Nonetheless, holding down a well-hidden side gig is becoming something of a trend in the Jindal Administration.*

*For instance, Jindal executive counsel Jimmy Faircloth, who supposedly gave up his private law practice to represent and advise the governor, is back in court arguing a case that has absolutely nothing to do with his gubernatorial appointment or the public interest. Additionally, Health and Hospitals Secretary Alan Levine recently wrapped up a consulting contract that he managed to fulfill on top of his state-salaried duties.*

*This isn't a matter of whether these two men have benefited in some nefarious fashion from their public positions. By all accounts, they're clear on that front. Yet the shared circumstances of their moonlighting habits clearly raise questions as to how seriously they take their public positions. No doubt the governor, lawmakers and general public expect high-ranking public officials to focus solely on their public jobs, to the exclusion of all other employment opportunities.*

*Moreover, shouldn't all outside work be immediately disclosed to the public?*

*Although he didn't offer a comment for this story, Jindal apparently believes so, as evidenced by the first executive order he issued after taking office in January. It calls for Cabinet members to disclose all financial dealings — but it doesn't take effect until Jan. 15 of the year after their original commission. That lapse in time means many other collateral career moves likely won't come to light until long after the fact. As has been noted recently (Gambit Weekly, "Keeping It Zipped," May 13), that too has become a hallmark of the Jindal Administration.*

*At least for now, Jindal doesn't seem to be too keen on taking any administrative action against Faircloth or Levine. However, Faircloth's double-dipping has placed the governor in a precarious situation — because Jindal made a big deal of forcing his top legal adviser to sever ties with his private practice last December, when Faircloth announced his initial intention to maintain at least some of his law practice on the side while advising the new governor.*

*One of Faircloth's clients was the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, which operates a casino in Kinder and interacts with the state frequently on Indian gaming issues. "Jimmy can't try to serve two masters," Jindal said at the time, adding that an administration championing ethics reform shouldn't show an inkling of conflict. "We have to show we're going beyond the letter of the law."*

*Those words may come back to haunt Jindal — and Faircloth.*

*According to documents obtained from the 9th Judicial District Court in Rapides Parish, Faircloth on May 1 enrolled as lead counsel in an ongoing case (Dr. Tommy*

*Granger v. St. Frances Cabrini Hospital). That move conflicts squarely with Jindal's pronouncement in December. In a prepared statement issued through the governor's press secretary last week, Faircloth says the case was first filed in 2003 and was scheduled to be tried in January, just as he accepted Jindal's offer.*

*He adds that "the Rules of Professional Responsibility prevented me from withdrawing without client consent, and there was not enough time to prepare another attorney even if the client consented. Thus, the client agreed to continue the trial provided that I would re-enroll." The case is now scheduled for November 2008, at which time Faircloth could very well end up arguing the case as a "sole practitioner, not as a member of my former firm."*

*If the case does go to trial, Faircloth says he would do the work pro bono in his private time. "This arrangement properly balances my ethical obligations as both an attorney and a public servant," he says.*

*Levine says he worked at his side job as a consultant during personal time as well. When asked during an interview two weeks ago if he views his position as DHH secretary as a 9-to-5 job, Levine answered in the affirmative, explaining that was how he was able to juggle responsibilities. The three-month, \$140,000 consulting position, which ran from January to March, was actually an extension of Levine's previous job as the top administrator at the North Broward Hospital District in Florida.*

*When he accepted Jindal's offer to become secretary and quit the Florida post, he says a severance package of sorts was built into the contract calling for him to serve as a consultant. The transitional help, though, overlapped his first few months at DHH. Asked if Jindal knew about the situation, Levine said, "I doubt it."*

*In his own written statement, again issued by Jindal's press secretary last week, Levine argued that calling his three-month arrangement a "consultant" contract was incorrect.*

\*\*\*\*

*In their written responses, both men alluded to Louisiana's new ethics laws, which, now that they're on the books, make Faircloth and Levine's side jobs an even bigger story. Jindal may have given his top aides the Biblical admonition that they can't serve two masters, but in at least these two cases, it's seems quite clear that exceptions can be made.*

I guess this explains why Melissa Sellars is so hard to get ahold of- she's too busy writing press releases for senior staffers. What happend to Jindal's promise that he would demand the resignation of any member of his administration if there's even the appearance of an impropriety or a conflict of interest?

**PROFILE**

**FormerLa**

Posted: 28 May 2008 02:42 PM

[ Ignore ] [ # 6 ]

**Senior Member**



Total Posts: 2141  
Joined 2007-08-27

That my friends is an appearance

**PROFILE**

**FormerLa**

Posted: 28 May 2008 03:21 PM

[ Ignore ] [ # 7 ]

**Senior Member**



Total Posts: 2141  
Joined 2007-08-27

<http://centrallapolitics.blogspot.com/2007/12/jindal-says-faircloth-made-mistake.html>

Loox like ole jimmy could use a test too

**PROFILE**

<< Who is Chaz Roemer Yuma? Are you not even smart enough to get his name right, or are you inventing people?lol  
If Jindal Is Not on the Ticket, What Does This Mean for Jindal's Future? >>

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