

Corporate Cabinet Profile Series



Nominee: Senator Jeff Sessions

Cabinet Title: Attorney General

Former (if confirmed): Junior U.S. Senator from Alabama

Corporate Connection: Lockheed Martin

One of the most controversial Trump picks is U.S. Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.), a senator since 1996 and GOP stalwart. Over his Senate career, he has received nearly \$2.5 million from the finance, insurance and real estate industries. In 2016, he received more than \$300,000 in campaign contributions from defense contractors -- \$55,000 from Lockheed Martin alone.¹ He is a member of the Senate Committee on Armed Forces and the Budget Committee.² As Alabama's attorney general in the mid 1990s, Sessions failed at times to combat corporate crime and wrongdoing, casting serious doubt on whether Trump's attorney general nominee would be tough on corporate crime if confirmed.³

- Over Sessions' long Senate career, he has received nearly \$2.5 million from the finance, insurance and real estate industries.⁴
- Sessions owns \$31,000 in corporate bonds for Petrobras, a Brazilian oil company involved in a corruption scandal, which Sessions says he will divest if confirmed.⁵
- Sessions holds health care and technology investments that he also will divest, according to the Trump transition organization.⁶
- Sessions' net worth is about \$7 million.⁷
- As Alabama attorney general, Sessions refused to join other states in suing Big Tobacco. He also opposed 22 of his fellow state attorneys general, siding instead with the insurance industry, Exxon and the corporate lobby group National Association of Manufacturers in *Adams v. Robertson*, a U.S. Supreme Court case about consumer class actions.⁸
- Sessions in 2014 penned an anti-immigration op-ed for Breitbart.com, the far-right website once headed by Steve Bannon, now Trump's chief strategist.⁹

¹ <https://www.opensecrets.org/politicians/contrib.php?cycle=2016&cid=N00003062&type=C>

² <http://www.sessions.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/committee-assignments>

³ <http://www.citizen.org/documents/sessions-blunders-alabama-ag-report.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.opensecrets.org/politicians/industries.php?cycle=Career&cid=N00003062&type=C>

⁵ <http://www.rollcall.com/news/policy/sessions-plans-divest-investments-ag>

⁶ <http://www.rollcall.com/news/policy/sessions-plans-divest-investments-ag>

⁷ <http://www.rollcall.com/news/policy/sessions-plans-divest-investments-ag>

⁸ <http://www.citizen.org/documents/sessions-blunders-alabama-ag-report.pdf>

⁹ <http://www.sessions.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/news-releases?ID=60F69CB6-5BF7-47DC-9C6F-426E9DDB3C26>