

# Oh, Paula!

## Ann Coulter's Treachery

“I totally believed she was the good Christian girl she made herself out to be. ... now it turns out she's a fraud – at least to the extent of pretending to be an honorable and moral person.” – *Ann Coulter*

Ann Coulter, “attorney and self-admitted anti-Clinton elf,”<sup>1</sup> styles herself as the consummate champion of the weak and voiceless, citing her clandestine aid to Paula Jones as evidence. As it turns out, Coulter's service was self-serving, not selfless, and the beneficiary of her help became impoverished, not enriched.

### Secret Advisor to Paula Jones

In the midst of “serious” Clinton-administration scandals, Paula Jones' story of sexual harassment by then-Governor Bill Clinton seemed more a nuisance than anything else. Jones claimed her reputation had been damaged and she sought an out-of-court settlement to escape the limelight. (Jones: “I wanted this case settled. I always wanted this case settled.”<sup>2</sup>)

At a critical juncture, Ann Coulter entered the fray, providing clandestine behind-the-scenes legal services for Jones. The secrecy, apparently, was for Coulter's sake because she reportedly feared the disapproval of her law firm, the Center for Individual Rights.

### Laughter

One day in 1997, prior to her involvement with Jones, Coulter debated the salacious specifics of Jones' lawsuit with fellow contributors on MSNBC. Repeatedly, Coulter countered their points with salient sections from Jones' complaint – gleefully shouting “Paragraph 22” or “Paragraph 23.” One might expect *outrage* over a sexual assault, or *righteous indignation* over abuse of power. Instead, Coulter's face, voice and body language exulted in pure joy. (Empathy for Jones was absent; present, instead, was exultation and anticipated victory over the Clintons.)

### Sabotaged Negotiations

As it turned out, Coulter's goal was not to represent her client but to “get the president.” Consequently, after Coulter gained possession of attorney-client-privileged information – namely, the specific nature of Clinton's “distinguishing characteristics” which Jones claimed to be able to identify – Coulter vigorously leaked those details to the press for the express purpose of *sabotaging* Jones' delicate settlement negotiations.<sup>3</sup> (Coulter: “We were terrified that Jones would settle. It was contrary to our purpose of bringing down the president.”)<sup>4</sup>

(By the way, the leaked rumor proved false.)

## Media Hell

As a result of the sabotaged negotiations, Jones reluctantly went to court, the Lewinsky scandal erupted, and Jones' life was radically altered. Rather than receiving the settlement she so desperately desired, Jones entered media hell and gained a fractured family. Coulter, however, benefited, later boasting that she “got a bestseller out of it.”<sup>5</sup> Meanwhile, Jones remained in media hell.

## Taking Credit

After impeachment, Coulter then took *credit* for vindicating Jones' reputation (Coulter: “The reason we were doing it for Paula – well, was *for* Paula. She had been defamed and I think we can say we got her reputation back.”).<sup>6</sup> Jones still endured media hell.

Nevertheless, Coulter had the gall to say, “I think Linda Tripp is a hero, too, and Paula Jones, to face those sorts of attacks *I* wouldn't have wanted to.”<sup>7</sup> The *reason* Jones had “to face those attacks of attacks” that Coulter wouldn't have wanted to face was, in part, due to Coulter's betrayal of Jones.

## “Trailer Park Trash”

“Had she settled the case in September 97,” observes author Joe Conason, Jones “would have had three times as much money, we never would have heard of Monica Lewinsky, and it probably would have been much better for her and her family.”<sup>8</sup> As it was, due to marital breakup, legal fees, back taxes, and a defense fund fiasco, Jones thought the only way out of her family meltdown and financial chaos was to discreetly pose for *Penthouse*.

Ironically, after abandoning Jones – without ever offering her any post-impeachment aid – Coulter denounced her as “trailer park trash,”<sup>9</sup> doing precisely what she had previously condemned Clinton supporters for doing.

But conservative pundette Ann Coulter, one of the legal “elves” who assisted Jones, is pissed at Jones. “I totally believed she was the good Christian girl she made herself out to be,” Coulter says. “I was doing this for her, not just to expose Clinton ... (but) now it turns out she's a fraud – at least to the extent of pretending to be an honorable and moral person.”<sup>10</sup>

Naturally, Paula Jones views things a little differently:

“I haven't been out doing anything and trying to make a lot of money. I haven't been offered a book deal like everybody else in this huge thing has done. Ann Coulter's done books. I haven't seen her call me up and say: ‘Paula, would you like for me to help you write a book, a really nice, decent?’ I haven't had any help from anybody whatsoever.”<sup>11</sup>

## Defender of the Weak and Voiceless?

To recap, as a clandestine attorney for Paula Jones, Ann Coulter 1) (pre-Monica) *sabotaged* her own client's quest for an out-of-court settlement in order to “get the president,” 2) (post-impeachment) *took credit* for vindicating Jones' reputation and *commiserated with* Jones for having “to face those sorts of attacks *I* wouldn't have wanted to” even though she had helped put Jones into that position, and, 3) (post-*Penthouse*) *condemned* Jones as “trailer-park trash.”

Ann Coulter regularly rails against abuses by the rich and powerful against the weak and voiceless. As it turns out, her condemnation of Jones should have been self-directed: “I totally believed she was the good Christian girl she made herself out to be. ... now it turns out she’s a fraud – at least to the extent of pretending to be an honorable and moral person.”

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## Endnotes:

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<sup>1</sup> Geraldo Rivera, *Rivera Live*, CNBC, June 7, 2000.

<sup>2</sup> Paula Jones, *Rivera Live*, CNBC, October 25, 2000.

<sup>3</sup> Ann Coulter, *Hartford Courant*, June 25, 1999.

<sup>4</sup> Michael Isikoff, *Uncovering Clinton: A Reporter's Story*, Crown Publishers, 1998, pg. 183.

<sup>5</sup> *Rivera Live*, CNBC, November 16, 1998.

<sup>6</sup> Ann Coulter, *Hannity & Colmes*, Fox News Channel, August 17, 1999.

<sup>7</sup> Ann Coulter, Young America's Foundation's (YAF) 21<sup>st</sup> Annual National Conservative Student Conference, July 18, 1999.

<sup>8</sup> Joe Conason, *The Edge with Paula Zahn*, Fox News Channel, October 26, 2000.

<sup>9</sup> Ann Coulter, Universal Press Syndicate, October 30, 2000.

<sup>10</sup> David Carr, *inside.com*, October 17, 2000. [http://inside.com/story/Story\\_Cached/0,2770,11670\\_7\\_2\\_1.00.html](http://inside.com/story/Story_Cached/0,2770,11670_7_2_1.00.html).

<sup>11</sup> Paula Jones, *Larry King Live*, CNN, October 24, 2000.