

**Timeline of Events: Records Show Obama Administration’s Consistent and Unwavering Support for Tackling Corruption in Ukraine**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event / Statement</b>	<b>Citation</b>
<b>Nov. 2013</b>	Maidan protests begin against Russian-backed President Yanukovitch.	
<b>Feb. 2014</b>	Yanukovitch flees to Russia.	
<b>March 2014</b>	Russia invades Crimea.	
<b>April 2014</b>	Russian-backed separatist war in Eastern Ukraine starts.	
<b>April 2014</b>	Hunter Biden joins the board of Burisma.	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/09/world/europe/corruption-ukraine-joe-biden-son-hunter-biden-ties.html?module=inline">https://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/09/world/europe/corruption-ukraine-joe-biden-son-hunter-biden-ties.html?module=inline</a>
<b>April 16, 2014</b>	U.K.’s Serious Fraud Office (SFO) freezes Zlochevsky’s assets.  In his congressional deposition, George Kent explained that the administration had worked with British authorities on the case to seize Zlochevsky’s assets. “That was an issue of our interest because we had made a commitment to the Ukrainian Government in 2014 to try to recover an estimated tens of billions of dollars of stolen assets out of the country. The first case that U.S., U.K., and Ukrainian investigators worked on was a case against Zlochevsky.”	<a href="https://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/246364.html">https://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/246364.html</a>  George Kent impeachment deposition at 80-81.
<b>April 21, 2014</b>	Sally Painter (Blue Star) requests a call with State Department senior official Dan Fried:  “Please let me know a time convenient to briefly speak on Ukraine.”  Documents show no indication of follow-up to or action resulting from this request.	Email from Painter to Fried, April 21, 2014.
<b>May 12, 2014</b>	Burisma Holdings issues a press release saying Hunter Biden has joined its board, and that he will be “in charge of the Holdings’ legal unit and will provide support for the company among international organizations.”	<a href="https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/5980032-Burisma-Announces-Hunter-Biden-s-Appointment-to.html">https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/5980032-Burisma-Announces-Hunter-Biden-s-Appointment-to.html</a>
<b>May 14, 2014</b>	John Kerry is forwarded the news of Hunter joining Burisma’s board by Sr. Adviser David Thorne. Full text of email reads:  “Just a heads up...”  No indication of any reply from Secretary Kerry.	Email from David H. Thorne to Secretary Kerry, May 14, 2014.
<b>May 15, 2014</b>	Department official forwarding press guidance issued for US Ambassador in Poland re Hunter Biden’s Burisma role:  “Regarding Hunter Biden story, as VP spokesperson Kendra Barkoff said: ‘Hunter Biden is a private citizen and a lawyer. The vice president does not endorse any particular company and has no involvement with this company.’	Email from Department official to Ambassador Stephen D. Mull and Front Office of U.S. Embassy Warsaw, May 15, 2014.

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	<p>In addition, Jay Carney said in yesterday’s WH press briefing, ‘Hunter Biden and other members of the Biden family are obviously private citizens and where they work does not reflect an endorsement by the administration or by the Vice President or President.’</p> <p>Regarding the connection to Yanukovich – the USG can’t speak for Burisma Holdings. Hunter Biden made a statement that one of his roles in the company is to consult on transparency. ‘I believe that my assistance in consulting the company on matters of transparency, corporate governance and responsibility, international expansion and other priorities will contribute to the economy and benefit the people of Ukraine.’”</p>	
<p><b>May 16, 2014</b></p>	<p>Blue Star meets with Undersecretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment Catherine A. Novelli:</p> <p>“No worries...thanks for setting up the meeting. It was wonderful to see Cathy and to have so much time to catch up and discuss just about everything. All the best Karen”</p>	<p>Email from Karen Tramontano to State Department official, May 16, 2014</p>
<p><b>May 20, 2014</b></p>	<p>Officials within Embassy Kyiv circulate a Ukrainian-language <i>Pravda</i> article:</p> <p>“Subject: Tracking: Journalists are trying to find out the owner Burisma firm</p> <p>Journalists are trying to find out the owner Burisma firm (Hunter Biden and Alexander Kwasniewski are members of the board of its Directors)</p> <p><a href="http://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2014/05/20/7025859/">http://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2014/05/20/7025859/</a>”</p> <p>No indication of replies or further discussion on this chain.</p>	<p>Internal email at Embassy Kyiv, May 20, 2014.</p>
<p><b>May 25, 2014</b></p>	<p>Petro Poroshenko wins the presidency in Ukraine.</p>	
<p><b>June 7, 2014</b></p>	<p>Poroshenko takes office.</p>	
<p><b>June 19, 2014</b></p>	<p>The Ukrainian Parliament approves Vitaly Yarema as prosecutor general.</p>	
<p><b>August 5, 2014</b></p>	<p>Prosecutor General Yarema opens an investigation of Burisma owner Mykola Zlochevsky on suspicion of “unlawful enrichment.”</p>	<p><i>See</i> January 2015 U.K. <u>court judgment</u> at para. 71 (“Investigation 805 was referred to in a letter from the Prosecutor General’s office [undated but in response to an inquiry of 14 November 2014]. It was there stated that an investigation had been registered on 5 August 2014 into an allegation of unlawful</p>

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		enrichment as a result of receiving a large bribe and money laundering based on the information provided from the competent authorities in the United Kingdom in the course of their money laundering investigation started on 22 March 2014”).
<b>October 14, 2014</b>	Ukraine’s Parliament passes a law establishing the National Anti-Corruption Bureau (NABU). The NABU, of which the U.S. government is supportive, is a priority of anti-corruption campaigners who helped lead the Revolution of Dignity.	<a href="https://nabu.gov.ua/en/history-nabu">https://nabu.gov.ua/en/history-nabu</a>
<b>November 3, 2014</b>	<p>News items circulated to distribution lists at the State Department includes the following:</p> <p><b>“(SBU) Britain Reportedly Freezes Assets of ex-Ecology Minister</b> – Local media is reporting that UK courts have frozen assets belonging to former Ecology Minister Nikolai Zlochevskiy as part of a corruption investigation. Zlochevskiy owns Burisma Holdings, whose board members include Hunter Biden, Devon Archer, and former Polish President Kwasniewski.”</p> <p>No indication of reply or subsequent action in response to this email.</p>	Internal State Department email, November 3, 2014.
<b>December 25, 2014</b>	Yarema’s office closes the probe into Burisma.	Kent impeachment deposition at 81.
<b>Feb. 3, 2015</b>	<p>George Kent, after coordinating with the U.S. Department of Justice, meets with PG Yarema’s deputy. Kent criticizes him for having “shut the criminal case” that had been the basis for a U.K. court freezing Zlochevsky’s assets. Kent demands: “how much was the bribe and who took it?”</p> <p>The deputy replies: “ha ha ha ha, that’s what President Poroshenko asked us last week.”</p>	Kent impeachment deposition at 80-81.
<b>Feb. 10, 2015</b>	Viktor Shokin takes office as Ukraine’s prosecutor general, replacing Yarema.	
<b>May 27, 2015</b>	<p>Deputy Secretary of State Tony Blinken meets with Hunter Biden at the latter’s request.</p> <p>Documents do not show what they discussed or any follow-up from the meeting.</p>	Scheduling email from State Department official to Tony Blinken, May 26, 2015.
<b>May 30, 2015</b>	Beau Biden dies.	

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<b>June 26, 2015</b>	Blue Star’s Sally Painter chats with Steve Mull about NATO enlargement, mentions “will be speaking with Vice President Biden tonight during a Truman Fellows function and will keep you posted on my progress.”  Neither Ukraine nor Burisma is discussed in this email. Documents show no evidence of a further reply.	Email from Steve Mull to Sally Painter, June 26, 2015.
<b>June 30, 2015</b>	Scheduling email for Hunter to meet with John Kerry, about a month after Beau Biden’s death. No indication of topic or subsequent change in policy.	Email from State Department official to Hunter Biden’s assistant, June 30, 2015.
<b>July 1, 2015</b>	Blinken lunch with Hunter Biden  No indication of topic.	Scheduling email, July 1, 2015
<b>September 24, 2015</b>	U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Geoffrey Pyatt gives a speech criticizing the Prosecutor General’s Office for blocking anti-corruption investigations, including into Burisma.	<a href="https://www.rferl.org/a/us-ambassador-upbraids-ukraine-over-corruption-efforts/27271294.html">https://www.rferl.org/a/us-ambassador-upbraids-ukraine-over-corruption-efforts/27271294.html</a>
<b>October 8, 2015</b>	U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland testifies before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that “the Prosecutor General’s Office (PGO) has to be reinvented as an institution that serves the citizens of Ukraine, rather than ripping them off.” She continues, “That means it must investigate and successfully prosecute corruption and asset recovery cases, including locking up dirty personnel in the PGO itself.”	<a href="https://concorde.ua/rs/daily/item_57760/">https://concorde.ua/rs/daily/item_57760/</a>
<b>November 6, 2015</b>	Hunter Biden meets with Amos Hochstein, the State Department Special Envoy and Coordinator for International Energy Affairs.  No indication of topic.	Scheduling email from Amos Hochstein to Department official, November 2, 2015.
<b>November 22, 2015</b>	Preparing and clearing a briefing checklist (BCL) for VPOTUS trip to Kyiv  Item 1: “There is wide agreement that anticorruption must be at the top of the reform priority list, and that reforms must include an overhaul of the Prosecutor General’s Office, including removal of Prosecutor General Shokin.”	Internal DOS email clearing document for Biden engagement November 22, 2015.
<b>December 2, 2015</b>	Points for Secretary Kerry call with Poroshenko  “I join the Vice President in urging you to replace Prosecutor General Shokhin, as well. He has blocked clean-up of the Prosecutor General’s Office. The longer you protect him, the more Ukrainians and the international community will ask questions about your commitment to true judicial reform.”	Department email circulating call sheet for Kerry/Poroshenko call  December 2, 2015.

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<b>December 2, 2015</b>	<p>BCL for a call between Biden and Kyiv mayor Klitschko</p> <p>“You should also encourage him to re-energize reform efforts, especially efforts to fight corruption.”</p> <p>“On a national level, Ukraine has recently taken important steps on anticorruption. Naming a new anti-corruption prosecutor and establishing an inspector general in the Prosecutor General’s Office are critical signals that Ukraine is turning the page.”</p>	<p>Department email circulating points for Biden/Klitschko meeting</p> <p>December 3, 2015.</p>
<b>December 6, 2015</b>	<p>Russian-language news article posts on <i>Podrobnosti.biz</i> regarding Hunter Biden’s role with Burisma. State Department investigation traces the website to Russian-controlled Crimean city of Sevastopol.</p>	<p>Email from Geoffrey Pyatt to Victoria Nuland and Amos Hochstein, December 6, 2015.</p>
<b>December 6, 2015</b>	<p>State Department refers any questions regarding Hunter Biden to the Vice President’s office.</p> <p>No indication of any questions being received, nor any changes in Vice President Biden’s remarks to the Ukrainian parliament the next day.</p>	<p>Email from Kate Bedingfield to Geoff Pyatt, Michael Carpenter, Colin Kahl, Amos Hochstein, Victoria Nuland, December 6, 2015</p>
<b>December 8, 2015</b>	<p>VP Biden gives a speech in Kyiv calling on Ukrainian lawmakers to fight the country’s “historic battle against corruption” and “make real the Revolution of Dignity.” Says that “it’s not enough to set up a new anti-corruption bureau and establish a special prosecutor fighting corruption. The Office of the General Prosecutor desperately needs reform. The judiciary should be overhauled.”</p>	<p><a href="https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2015/12/09/remarks-vice-president-joe-biden-ukrainian-rada">https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2015/12/09/remarks-vice-president-joe-biden-ukrainian-rada</a></p>
<b>Jan. 4, 2016</b>	<p>Pyatt emails Nuland, et al. re “Diamond Prosecutors case.” “As you’ll recall, this case goes right to the top in the PGO and is a critical test of old Ukraine vs. new.”</p> <p><i>See</i> Impeachment deposition of George Kent at 337:</p> <p>Mr. GOLDMAN: One thing. And just to be clear, what Vice President Biden was doing was very fundamentally different than any advocacy for a politically oriented investigation. Is that your assessment?</p> <p>Mr. KENT: The request for the dismissal of Shokin was related directly to him, to his actions in the diamond prosecutors case, in his undermining of our assistance to Ukraine.”</p>	<p>Email from Pyatt to Nuland and others, January 4, 2016</p>
<b>Jan. 21, 2016</b>	<p>Vice President Biden meets with Ukrainian President Poroshenko and discusses “the need to continue to move forward on Ukraine’s anti-corruption agenda.”</p>	<p><a href="https://ua.usembassy.gov/readout-vice-president-bidens-meeting-president-ukraine-petro-poroshenko-012116/">https://ua.usembassy.gov/readout-vice-president-bidens-meeting-president-ukraine-petro-poroshenko-012116/</a></p>

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<b>Feb. 1, 2016</b>	Internal State Department circulates “anti-corruption paper,” which includes recommendation to enlist Senator John McCain in pushing for Shokin’s removal.	Email chain between redacted Department officials, February 1, 2016.
<b>Feb. 11, 2016</b>	<p>Vice President Biden speaks with Poroshenko by phone and the two agree “that it is essential for Ukraine to continue to take action to root out corruption and implement reforms.”</p> <p>In a Jan. 23, 2018, Q&amp;A at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), Biden says he told Ukrainian leaders that the U.S. would withhold \$1 billion in loan guarantees unless they fired Shokin. President Trump and Rudy Giuliani have cited this repeatedly as “evidence” that Biden improperly pushed for Shokin’s firing, even though the former Vice President was calling for Shokin to be fired because he <i>wasn’t</i> pursuing corruption cases vigorously enough.</p> <p>“I looked at them and said: I’m leaving in six hours. If the prosecutor is not fired, you’re not getting the money. Well, son of a bitch. (Laughter.) He got fired. And they put in place someone who was solid at the time.” Biden continued, “So they made some genuine substantial changes institutionally and with people. But ... there’s now some backsliding.”</p>	<p><a href="https://ua.usembassy.gov/readout-vice-president-bidens-call-president-petro-poroshenko-ukraine-021116/">https://ua.usembassy.gov/readout-vice-president-bidens-call-president-petro-poroshenko-ukraine-021116/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.cfr.org/event/foreign-affairs-issue-launch-former-vice-president-joe-biden">https://www.cfr.org/event/foreign-affairs-issue-launch-former-vice-president-joe-biden</a></p>
<b>Feb. 16, 2016</b>	Shokin resigns.	<a href="https://www.kyivpost.com/article/content/ukraine-politics/media-prosecutor-general-shokin-submits-resignation-408228.html">https://www.kyivpost.com/article/content/ukraine-politics/media-prosecutor-general-shokin-submits-resignation-408228.html</a>
<b>Feb. 17, 2016</b>	Blue Star’s CEO Karen Tramontano seeks a meeting with Undersecretary Cathy Novelli, noting to State Department staff that Tramontano “knows CN from both her time in government and industry, and she requests a meeting (30 minutes of CN’s time) to ask for her personal thoughts on a client matter.”	Email between redacted DOS officials, February 17, 2016.
<b>Feb. 18, 2016</b>	VP Biden speaks to President Poroshenko and commends him on the decision to fire Shokin, “which paves the way for needed reform of the prosecutorial service.” The Vice President “urged President Poroshenko to continue on this positive trajectory, to include successful implementation of the new legislation and continued visible progress on anti-corruption reforms, noting this will require unity and stability.”	<a href="https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2016/02/19/readout-vice-president-bidens-call-president-petro-poroshenko-ukraine">https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2016/02/19/readout-vice-president-bidens-call-president-petro-poroshenko-ukraine</a>
<b>Feb. 18, 2016</b>	Undersecretary Novelli confirms upcoming March 1 meeting with Blue Star and John Buretta, Burisma’s outside counsel. No mention of Hunter Biden is made in securing this meeting, nor does Hunter Biden attend.	Email from Cathy Novelli to redacted DOS staffers, February 18, 2016
<b>Feb. 18/19</b>	Vice President Biden speaks by phone with Poroshenko. The Feb. 19 U.S. Embassy statement says Biden again urged the Ukrainian leader to “to accelerate Ukraine’s efforts to fight corruption, strengthen justice and the rule of law, and fulfill its IMF requirements.”	<a href="https://ua.usembassy.gov/readout-vice-president-bidens-calls-prime-minister-arseniy-yatsenyuk-president-petro-poroshenko-ukraine-021916/">https://ua.usembassy.gov/readout-vice-president-bidens-calls-prime-minister-arseniy-yatsenyuk-president-petro-poroshenko-ukraine-021916/</a>

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<p><b>Feb. 24, 2016</b></p>	<p>State Department officials coordinating for the upcoming Novelli/Blue Star meeting mention Hunter Biden’s name. Note that this is <u>after</u> the meeting has been confirmed, and that Hunter Biden does not attend the meeting:</p> <p>“Per our conversation, Karen Tramontano of Blue Star Strategies requested a meeting to discuss with U/S Novelli USG remarks alleging Burisma (Ukrainian energy company) of corruption. She noted that two high profile U.S. citizens are affiliated with the company (including Hunter Biden as a board member). Tramontano would like to talk with U/S Novelli about getting a better understanding of how the U.S. came to the determination that the company is corrupt.</p> <p>According to Tramontano, there is no evidence of corruption, has been no hearing or process, and evidence to the contrary has not been considered. Would appreciate any background you may be able to provide on this issue and suggested TPs for U/S Novelli’s meeting.”</p>	<p>Email chain between redacted DOS officials, February 26, 2016.</p>
<p><b>March 1, 2016</b></p>	<p>Blue Star meeting with Novelli.</p>	<p>Confirmation email between DOS staffers and Blue Star, March 1, 2016</p>
<p><b>March 21, 2016</b></p>	<p>Blue Star requests meeting with Amos Hochstein. Meeting is confirmed for that Thursday, March 24:</p> <p>“I understand that you have previously met with Sally regarding energy issues in Ukraine, and she is hoping to brief you on a sensitive energy matter ahead of President Poroshenko’s upcoming visit to DC next week.</p> <p>Sally and Karen, schedule permitting, would be accompanied by John Buretta of Cravath, who is assisting us with this particular energy case. The best times for his schedule are this Tuesday before noon or Thursday before 1:30pm. If either day is possible for a quick meeting, we would be greatly appreciative. Please let us know what might work with your schedule this week and thank you for your consideration.”</p>	<p>Email from Redacted DOS official to Amos Hochstein, March 21, 2016.</p>
<p><b>March 30, 2016</b></p>	<p>Ambassador Pyatt discusses with A/S Nuland, disparaging Blue Star’s prior efforts on behalf of Burisma:</p> <p>“So I see below Ukraine hired a new lobbyist – same firm that saw Kathy Novelli complaining about my pressure on the PGO’s cover-up of the case against the disgraced Yanukovich era environment minister....”</p>	<p>Email from Geoffrey Pyatt to Victoria Nuland, March 30, 2016.</p>

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April 14, 2016	Vice President Biden speaks with Ukrainian President Poroshenko by phone, emphasizing “the urgency of putting in place a new Prosecutor General who would bolster the agency’s anti-corruption efforts and strongly support the work of its reformers.” Biden also speaks the same day to newly elected Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman, emphasizing the importance of confirming “a new, reformist Prosecutor General.”	<a href="https://ua.usembassy.gov/readout-vice-president-bidens-call-president-petro-poroshenko-ukraine-041416/">https://ua.usembassy.gov/readout-vice-president-bidens-call-president-petro-poroshenko-ukraine-041416/</a>
May 12, 2016	Yuriy Lutsenko, who had headed Poroshenko’s political bloc in Parliament, takes office as prosecutor general, after Parliament changed the law to allow someone without a law degree or legal experience to hold the position.	
May 13, 2016	Biden speaks with Poroshenko to commend the appointment of Lutsenko and the creation of an inspector general for the Prosecutor General’s Office.	<a href="https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2016/05/13/readout-vice-president-bidens-call-president-petro-poroshenko-ukraine">https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2016/05/13/readout-vice-president-bidens-call-president-petro-poroshenko-ukraine</a>
June 3, 2016	United States signs Sovereign Loan Guarantee. Press statement notes that:  “This guarantee reinforces the United States’ strong commitment to the people of Ukraine by strengthening the Government of Ukraine as it continues to institute reforms that reduce corruption, improve the business climate, stabilize the economy, and make the government more responsive to the people”	<a href="https://ua.usembassy.gov/u-s-signs-loan-guarantee-agreement-ukraine/">https://ua.usembassy.gov/u-s-signs-loan-guarantee-agreement-ukraine/</a>
June 7, 2016	Blue Star’s Sally Painter emails Dan Fried following a meeting:  “Dear Dan,  Thank you for taking the time to listen. It is greatly appreciated. The man’s name is Nikolai Zlochevsky - but sometimes written as Mykola Zlochevsky.  Many thanks and warmest personal regards, Sally”  <i>NB:</i> As shown below, Fried refers Painter to George Kent, who has repeatedly called for Zlochevsky’s prosecution.	Email from Sally Painter to Dan Fried, June 7, 2016.
June 10, 2016	Dan Fried refers Blue Star to George Kent re Zlochevsky:  “As it turns out, George Kent, our DCM in Kyiv is in town and willing to be in touch with you. You may reach him at: [ADDRESS REDACTED].”	Email from Dan Fried to Sally Painter, June 10, 2016.



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<b>June 27, 2016</b>	Blue Star’s Sally Painter seeks coffee with Deputy Secretary Blinken re Ukraine. State Department schedulers note:  “This was one of those things where he got pulled aside and asked for a meeting and couldn’t really say no, so we probably want to check to see how much of a priority this is. I’d presume not high on the list.”	Email between redacted DOS officials, June 27, 2016.
<b>July 6, 2016</b>	DOS officials suggest that Blinken decline the meeting with Blue Star “A number of us on the desk have met with Sally and Karen previously. Please feel free to steer them EUR’s way once again; I’m happy to be the POC and to figure out the right level of meeting for them this time.”	Email between redacted DOS officials, July 6, 2016.
<b>July 8, 2016</b>	Tony Blinken passes on meeting with Blue Star and staffers “pass them to EUR.”	Scheduling email between redacted DOS officials, July 8, 2016.
<b>July 21, 2016</b>	Catherine Croft emails George Kent and others regarding the fact that Blue Star has requested a meeting with incoming Ambassador Yovanovitch: “Do not intend to take a meeting, but wondering what kind of relationship, if any, Post has with them.”	Email from George Kent to Catherine Croft, Ambassador Pyatt and redacted DOS officials, July 21, 2016
<b>July 22, 2016</b>	Blue Star declines to meet with EUR, Sally Painter says she “wanted Tony’s advice,” and isn’t interested in speaking to anyone but Blinken.  No indication of further followup.	Email between redacted DOS officials, July 22, 2016.
<b>July 29, 2016</b>	Email chain between George Kent and Catherine Croft re not having Blue Star meet with Ambassador Yovanovitch.  Croft: “We had already offered our regrets to Blue Star. But they keep trying through every channel they can. I just wanted you to have a heads up in case they come to you again as well.”  Kent: “Well, Sally Poyater [sic] never did call me, after Dan Fried tried to broker it. I think that means he gave her a taste about what I would have said re: Zlochevsky, Burizma [sic], and Hunter Biden.”	Email from George Kent to Catherine Croft, July 29, 2016.
<b>August 12, 2016</b>	George Kent to staff:  “For ECON: how have we traditionally treated/engaged Burisma, given the Zlochevsky connection, but also perhaps US involvement beyond Hunter Biden?”  As shown below, Kent ends up recommending that USAID not accept sponsorship from Burisma.	Email from George Kent to embassy officials, August 15, 2016.

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<b>August 22, 2016</b>	Marie “Masha” Yovanovitch arrives in Ukraine as the new U.S. ambassador.	
<b>August 30, 2016</b>	<p>Bohdan Vitvitsky, a former U.S. prosecutor embedded as an advisor to the Ukrainian prosecutor general, emails George Kent, noting Blue Star representatives are in Kyiv. Kent notes his exasperation:</p> <p>Vitvitsky: “The two who were here are:</p> <p>Karen A. Tramontano, CEO at Blue Star Strategies; '97-01 Deputy Chief of Staff to Pres. Clinton and counselor to Chief of Staff John Podesta (the connection?); in 01 Chief of Staf for Pres. Clinton's transition team.</p> <p>John D. Buretta: partner at Cravath; Principal Deputy Assistant A.G. in Crim Div Feb. '13 to Oct. '13; former AUSA.”</p> <p>Kent: “Oof. Blue Star again. Thanks.”</p>	Email from Bohdan Vitvitsky to George Kent, Jeffrey Cole and Christopher Smith, August 30, 2016.
<b>August 31, 2016</b>	<p>Kent recommends refusing Burisma’s offer to sponsor USAID event based on the “Washington Post test”</p> <p>“On the other hand, there’s always the Washington Post test of foreign service decision making. As in: would we want an article on the front page of the Washington Post (and in this case, the Kyiv Post, and on the FB pages of Sergiy Leshchenko and Mustafa Nayyem) commenting about this public private partnership with Burisma, the link to Hunter Biden, and the link to Zlochevsky, who almost certainly paid off the PGO in December 2014 (I had the then First deputy PG Danylenko tell me the bribe was \$7 million) to have the case against him closed and his \$23 million in assets frozen in the UK unfrozen?”</p> <p>He ultimately concludes the answers is “no.”</p>	Email from George Kent to Alan Purcell and various redacted DOS officials, August 31, 2016
<b>August 31, 2016</b>	<p>George Kent recommends that, if Lutsenko is planning to travel to the United States, DOS officials meet with Lutsenko to deliver tough messages on combatting corruption:</p> <p>“As Jeff, Johannes, and I discussed yesterday, engagement in Washington has the potential upside of allowing Washington interlocutors to deliver stiff messages and not leave us Kyiv-based folk as the only such voices. We’ll see where the trip facilitators and eventually the Ukrainian embassy drive this. On the State side, INL A/S Brownfield is a tough, feisty Texan who loves delivering straight messages with his quirky humor; EUR DAS Brink already engaged Lutsenko in May with appropriate tonality. Our sense is Bruce Schwartz knows the</p>	Email from George Kent to Bohdan Vitvitsky, Jeffrey Smith, Johannes van den Hoogen, August 31, 2016.

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	same game. We’ll see what else may emerge. We will not offer meetings, but presuming the trip is a go regardless, we’ll see to ensure appropriate messaging from appropriate interlocutors.”	
<b>September 6, 2016</b>	<p>George Kent emails colleagues regarding a call he received from Blue Star, making clear that the efforts of Burisma’s lobbyists are backfiring:</p> <p>“Bridget, Jorgan:</p> <p>Need to give you a heads up that I took a call just now from Sally Painter from Blue Star Strategies, the first time we have interacted. I am confident it will be the last. Nearly simultaneously her boss, Karen Tramontano, called on the other line asking to talk to the Ambassador (who is out on the run the rest of the day, event to event). Painter adopted a hostile, aggressive tone from the outside, and was rude and accusatory throughout. It was unlike any conversation I have had in my 24+ years in the foreign service, and completely inappropriate on her part. She ended the conversation by saying that she would take the matter up with ‘The Under Secretary.’ (NFI)”</p>	Email from George Kent to Bridget Brink, Jorgan Andrews, September 6, 2016
<b>September 8, 2016</b>	<p>Sally Painter email to Dan Fried:</p> <p>“Dear Mr. Ambassador,</p> <p>Quick update. Masha called Karen back and they had a very good conversation.</p> <p>She said she would clear up any confusion around the misrepresentation that we are representing Andriy Klyuyev – which as you know we are not and have never met him.</p> <p>Thank you very much for your guidance, support and most importantly friendship. Karen and I deeply appreciate it and you. Warmest sally”</p>	Email from Sally Painter to Dan Fried, September 8, 2016
<b>September 15, 2016</b>	Burisma’s outside counsel send letter to Ambassador Yovanovitch re: Burisma.	Letter from John D. Buretta, Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP to Ambassador Yovanovitch, September 15, 2016.
<b>September 15, 2016</b>	<p>George Kent emails Ambassador Yovanovitch:</p> <p>“This is further to the Blue Star effort to rehabilitate the reputation of their non-client in the US, former Ministry of Ecology Zlochevsky, who clearly has retained the services of a blue chip law firm (Cravath),and his energy company Burisma, which in turn has Hunter Biden on its board.</p>	Email from George Kent to Masha Yovanovitch, September 15, 2016

**Timeline of Events: Records Show Obama Administration’s Consistent and Unwavering Support for Tackling Corruption in Ukraine**

Date	Event / Statement	Citation
	I think a briefing by Johannes and Jeff Cole on the background of the Zlochevsky case and the US effort therein would be in order, so you can separate what the US position on this set of circumstance is, as opposed to paid legal counsel.”	
<b>November 18, 2016</b>	Blue Star requests a meeting with Ambassador Yovanovitch.	Email from redacted DOS officials to Masha Yovanovitch and George Kent, November 23, 2016
<b>December 15, 2016</b>	<p>Briefing Paper for Ambassador Yovanovitch’s meeting with Blue Star.</p> <p>After two years of effort, US policy still remains firmly in favor of reform, opposed to corruption, and in favor of Ukraine prosecuting Zlochevsky and Burisma:</p> <p>WHAT DO WE WANT?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· You should hear Tramontano out on Zlochevskiy’s situation, but not suggest we will change our posture on his case.</li> </ul> <p>WHAT DO(ES) THEY/HE/SHE WANT?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Tramontano would like the USG to take a more positive view of Zlochevskiy and possibly meet with him.</li> </ul>	Email from George Kent to Kyiv Staff Assistants, attaching Briefing Check List (BCL) for Ambassador Yovanovitch’s meeting with Karen Tramontano.