

Press Release

Friday, February 24, 2023

FROM: Melissa L. Norton

Chief Counsel

SUBJECT: Philadelphia Common Pleas Court Judge Mark B. Cohen

1st Judicial District Philadelphia County

1 JD 2023

HARRISBURG, PA - On Thursday, February 23, 2023, the Judicial Conduct Board filed formal charges in the Court of Judicial Discipline against Philadelphia County Common Pleas Court Judge Mark B. Cohen. The Board Complaint alleges violations of the Code of Judicial Conduct and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Under the Pennsylvania Constitution, Judge Cohen, as the subject of the charges, is presumed innocent in all proceedings before the Court of Judicial Discipline. The Board has the burden of proving the charges filed in the Court of Judicial Discipline by clear and convincing evidence.

In accordance with the rules which govern proceedings before the Court of Judicial Discipline, Judge Cohen has the right to respond to the charges, to obtain and inspect the evidence which forms the basis of the allegations, and to a public trial before the Court of Judicial Discipline.

Upon completion of the trial, if the Court determines that any of the charges have been proven by clear and convincing evidence, it will schedule a hearing to determine what sanction, if any, should be imposed. Possible sanctions include censure, suspension, fine or removal from office.

The Board Complaint accompanies this press release. The documents are also available on the Board's website at www.jcbpa.org (select the Resource Tab then select Press Releases in the drop down menu).

Court filings for all cases prosecuted by the Board are available on the Court of Judicial Discipline website at http://www.pacourts.us/courts/court-of-judicial-discipline.

Counsel:

Representing the Judicial Conduct Board: James P. Kleman, Jr., Senior Deputy Counsel

Representing Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judge Mark B. Cohen: Samuel C. Stretton, Esquire

Contact: Melissa L. Norton, Chief Counsel

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA COURT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE

IN RE:

Judge Mark B. Cohen Court of Common Pleas 1st Judicial District Philadelphia County

1 JD 2023

TO: MARK B. COHEN

You are hereby notified that the Pennsylvania Judicial Conduct Board has determined that there is probable cause to file formal charges against you for conduct proscribed by Article V, § 17(b) and § 18(d)(1) of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the Code of Judicial Conduct. The Board's counsel will present the case in support of the charges before the Pennsylvania Court of Judicial Discipline.

You have an absolute right to be represented by a lawyer in all proceedings before the Court of Judicial Discipline. Your attorney should file an entry of appearance with the Court of Judicial Discipline within fifteen (15) days of service of this Board Complaint in accordance with C.J.D.R.P. No. 110.

You are hereby notified, pursuant to C.J.D.R.P. No. 302(B), that should you elect to file an omnibus motion, that motion should be filed no later than thirty (30) days after the service of this Complaint in accordance with C.J.D.R.P. No. 411.

You are further hereby notified that within thirty (30) days after the service of this Complaint, if no omnibus motion is filed, or within twenty (20)

days after the dismissal of all or part of the omnibus motion, you may file an Answer admitting or denying the allegations contained in this Complaint in accordance with C.J.D.R.P. No. 413. Failure to file an Answer shall be deemed a denial of all factual allegations in the Complaint.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA COURT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE

IN RE:

Judge Mark B. Cohen Court of Common Pleas 1st Judicial District Philadelphia County

1 JD 2023

COMPLAINT

AND NOW, this 23rd day of February, 2023, comes the Judicial Conduct Board of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (Board) and files this Board Complaint against Judge Mark B. Cohen, First Judicial District, Philadelphia County, alleging that Judge Cohen has violated the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Code of Judicial Conduct, as more specifically delineated herein.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- Article V, § 18 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania grants
 to the Board the authority to determine whether probable cause exists to file
 formal charges against a judicial officer in this Court, and thereafter, to prosecute
 the case in support of such charges in this Court.
- 2. From January 2, 2018, until the present, Judge Cohen served continuously as a judge of the Court of Common Pleas, First Judicial District, Philadelphia County.
 - Presently, Judge Cohen is on leave for an issue unrelated to this Complaint.
- The Board received a report contending that Judge Cohen authored and made improper posts to his personal Facebook page.

- 4. Based on this report, former Board Chief Counsel opened a complaint on his authority against Judge Cohen for investigation.
- Pursuant to Article V, § 18(a)(7) of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Board determined that probable cause exists to file formal charges against Judge Cohen in this Court based on his postings to his personal Facebook page.
- 6. Generally speaking, Judge Cohen's Facebook postings at issue consisted of the following: (1) his sympathetic, supportive, or positive views of political figures, living and dead, of the Democratic Party and, generally, of the political "left"; (2) his support for legislation instituted and embraced by the Democratic Party and, generally, the political "left"; (3) his support for policy initiatives or issues embraced by the Democratic Party and, generally, the political "left"; (4) his criticism of political figures of the Republican Party and the political "right"; and and (5) his criticism of policy initiatives and legislation instituted and embraced by the Republican Party or the political "right."
 - i. Judge Cohen was not a candidate for retention or for higher judicial office when he made the improper Facebook posts to his personal Facebook page.
- 7. Judge Cohen's Facebook page is accessible to any member of Facebook.
- Judge Cohen's Facebook page noted his status as a judge, despite the fact that it was a personal Facebook page.

- 9. Judge Cohen's admitted Facebook postings that the Board found to warrant formal charges are set forth as follows in Paragraphs 9(i) through 9(lxvi)¹ and screenshots of same are attached hereto this Board Complaint as Exhibit A(i)-(lxvi), made a part hereof, and incorporated herein as though set forth in full:
 - i. October 29, 2022, 12:28 p.m. "David DePape, captured Pelosi assailant, continues to gain notoriety as more and more of his extremist posts come to light. It is clear that he is a failed and hateful man capable of many awful things."
 - ii. October 28, 2022, 9:16 p.m. "CNN: David DePape, 42 accused attempted murderer of Paul and Nancy Pelosi, apparently made hateful, bigoted posts against LGBTQ people, Jews, the January 6 Committee, and other right-wing targets. Why am I not surprised?"
 - iii. November 20, 2022, time not listed "Today is President Joe Biden's Birthday. Many people his age are impaired. But he has proven to be an excellent President. His experience enables him, and does not wear him down. I look forward to many more achievements!"
 - iv. November 21, 2022, time not listed "Philly DA Larry Krasner's credibility gained when a federal jury voted to dismiss a claim by former ADA Carlos Vega that Krasner had discriminated against him by age when he fired him. Krasner saw him as flawed, the City said in defense."
 - v. November 10, 2022, 6:40 p.m. "The victories of Governor-Elect Josh Shapiro & Senator-Elect John Fetterman show Gov Tom Wolf should be credited with improving public respect for Pa. state government. Fetterman first LG to win statewide for other post since 1966."
 - vi. November 9, 2022, 3:22 a.m. "My friend and former House colleague Josh Shapiro, whose father Dr. Steve Shapiro was a classmate of mine at Central High, has been elected Pa's Governor. I have no doubt he is up to the job."
 - vii. November 3, 2022, 7:10 p.m. "MSNBC: Former President Barack Obama: When we vote, we win."

¹ Unless otherwise noted, the quoted text in Paragraphs 9(i)-9(lxvi) was authored personally by Judge Cohen.

- Viii. November 2, 2022, 4:43 p.m. "My former legislative colleague Kenyatta Johnson, now completing his 3rd term in the Philly City Council has been found along with his wife Dawn Chavous to be not guilty on all charges in federal court today by a jury verdict. A vindication!" In the subsequent posts to this posting, Judge Cohen was asked the question if Councilman Johnson would have his legal bills paid, and Judge Cohen provided the following response: "To the best of my knowledge, no. Friends and admirers can choose to contribute to a defense fund, if he has set one up."
- ix. September 22, 2022, (approximate) "Philly DA Krasner, in switch of tactics, now demands to testify before Pa House Committee seeking evidence of wrongdoing to begin impeachment proceedings. Good move!"
- x. September 21, 2022 (approximate), time not listed "MSNBC: Presidential Press Secretary Kanine [sic] Jean-Pierre says Administration has reduced the severity of COVID with widespread vaccinations, but more efforts are needed. She's right, but its wrong to say pandemic is over."
- xi. September 20, 2022 (approximate), time not listed "Babette Josephs was the most public and persistent fighter for women's rights in Post-Roe Pennsylvania. I would like to see her birthday, August 4, be publicly celebrated as Babette Josephs Day."
- xii. September 13, 2022, 5:50 p.m. "Ken Starr, independent prosecutor of Bill Clinton, whose overzealousness led to issuing X-rated report on Clinton's sex life, has died at 76. The report led to Clinton's impeachment, but surprisingly led to increase of public support for him."
- xiii. September 5, 2022, 2:47 p.m. "New Deal Labor Secretary Frances Perkins, the first woman to serve as a Cabinet Secretary, is a great leader to remember on Labor Day." The posting includes a photograph of former Secretary Perkins reposted from the "A Mighty Girl" Facebook page (originally posted September 5, 2022), which includes the following text: "FRANCES PERKINS[,] as U.S. Secretary of Labor and the first woman in the Cabinet, Perkins fought to establish a minimum wage, overtime pay, the 40-hour work week and to end child labor." The posting concludes with further text from the "A Mighty Girl" Facebook page noting that the page is honoring former Secretary Perkins as a labor rights pioneer and a New Deal champion.
- xiv. September 5, 2022, 11:04 a.m. "Philadelphia/Tri-State Labor Day Parade brings back memories of Wendell Young, [III,] father

of the current UFCW leader, Wendell Young[,] IV. Key early events in the union's history happened in my original legislative district, in neighborhoods of East Oak Lane and Olney." The posting also includes a photograph of Mr. Young reposted from the "Bob Ingram" Facebook page. The post includes the following text, originally posted to the "Bob Ingram" Facebook page: "Remembering my late friend the great labor leader Wendell Young 3rd on this Labor Day. He told me, 'Life is all stories,' which I've never forgotten."

- xv. August 4, 2022, 2:51 a.m. "As a young man, I remember journalistic anger at Roger Maris & Eugene McCarthy for becoming national heroes with heroic achievements. John Nichols' hit job against Liz Cheyney [sic] in the The Nation is of the same sad kind." In the midst of the exchange of posts that ensued from this post, Judge Cohen posted the following: "I believe from personal experience that people can and do change their views over time. As a judge, I am not permitted to endorse or otherwise back any candidate for anything. But I strongly disbelieve that good works by anyone should subject them to harsh criticism while those who do far fewer good things remain totally ignored."
- xvi. August 1, 2022, 9:26 a.m. "The killing of Osama Ben [sic] Laden's number two by drone in downtown Kabul at the age of 71 shows intense & nuanced focus of this Administration on the national interest. Withdrawing troops is clearly not the same as accepting terrorism."
- xvii. October 24, 4:20 p.m. "A plea for more domestic spending and less military spending." The posting reposts a photograph of a fighter jet, with the headline "Just in case you didn't know what different parts of fighter jet [sic] are called." There are lines to different parts of the fighter jet that indicate which domestic spending cuts allegedly paid for that part of the fighter jet. For example, the line to the nose of the fighter jet indicates that Medicare cuts paid for that part of the plane. This photograph was originally posted by the "Rebecca Hains, Author" Facebook page on September 8, 2022.
- xviii. September 1, 2022, 5:59 p.m. "There's a lot of anti-city, anti-NYC, and anti-intellectual people in this world. A teacher in Oklahoma is being threatened with loss of her teaching certification for giving her students the phone number for online books from the Brooklyn public library. A once famous book was titled 'A Tree Grows in Brooklyn;' minds grow there too." The posting includes a reposting of a photograph of a letter sent by Oklahoma Secretary of Education Ryan Walters regarding the

firing of High School English Teacher Summer Boismier and his intent to request the Oklahoma State Board of Education to revoke Ms. Bosimier's teaching certificate. This photograph was originally posted to the "Warner West" Facebook page on August 31, 2022. The post concludes with text reposted from the "Warner West" Facebook page that recounted Ms. Boismier's story.

- xix. September 1, 2022, 7:20 a.m. "An example of the madness of book banning." The posting includes a reposting of a photograph of students in a classroom with the following text: "At George Dawson Middle School[,] an autobiography co-authored by George Dawson at 103 has been banned. Mr. Dawson was the grandson of a slave. He learned to read at 98. His book is an inspiration to all readers except it can't be read at the school that bears his name." This photograph was originally posted by the "Andi Cude" and "True Blue Party" Facebook pages on August 31, 2022.
- xx. August 30, 2022, 8:56 a.m. "Canada requires a license to own firearms, and passing a test on firearm safety. Automatic weapons are prohibited. Murders in Canada (38.3 million people) are only about 50% higher than in Philadelphia (1.7 million)."
- August 29, 2022, 8:55 p.m. "With allies among the leaders of xxi. both parties, I spearheaded Pennsylvania's pioneering 2015 law against the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement seeking [to] deprive Israel of foreign trade on a state by state basis. A federal appeals court has recently ruled in favor of the constitutionality of a similar law in Arkansas." The posting includes a link to an opinion article from the National Jewish Advocacy center bearing the following title: "A Federal Appeals Court Just Struck a Huge Blow to the BDS Movement." The post contains a comment from the "Ed Doogan" Facebook page which states the following: "So take away from the Palestinians the only nonviolent way they have to pressure Israel and when they resort to violence[,] give Israel an excuse to kill more Palestinian men, women, and children. This is a terrible law and as a judge[,] you should be ashamed of yourself."
- xxii. August 5, 2022, 9:19 p.m. "Inquirer: Unemployment falls to 3.5%, tying for the lowest since 1969. More people are employed in US than ever before, showing a very strong economy and strengthening Social Security System. It's time for critics to reevaluate this Administration."
- xxiii. August 3, 2022, 9:39 p.m. "Senator Amy Klobuchar predicts Sen. Kirsten [sic] Sinema will be on board with Inflation Reduction

Act next week, & it will pass Senate, lowering annual deficit, fighting climate change, & reducing prescription costs. A victory for fiscal responsibility."

- August 3, 2022, 1:13 a.m. "By a 59% to 41% vote, Kansas xxiv. voters rejected a constitutional amendment that would have allowed the legislature to ban abortion. High turnout took place on 100 degree day, and sent a message that even conservative states are not on board with US Supreme Court reversal of Roe v. Wade." The posting reposts an article from Apnews.com entitled "Kansas voters resoundingly protect their access to abortion." This article was originally posted by the "Stephen Drachler" Facebook page on August 3, with the following statement from that page: "When Kansas speaks, the nation will be listening. Kansas voters repudiated the radical U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday as they rejected a Constitutional amendment that would have opened to door [sic] to the Legislature banning abortion in the Jayhawk state. It wasn't close 60-40 with a record turnout in 100 degree weather. Independent voters turned out in droves to vote in a primary election where they normally could not vote."
- August 2, 2022, 3:28 p.m. "A plea for credit unions, which often offer lower fees, lower cost loans, higher interest rates and better customer service than commercial banks do." The post also reposts a photograph that contains the following text: "Women should remove their money from banks. Seriously. Every penny. Use credit unions. Let's stop them from using our money to pay for lobbyists that take our rights away." This photograph was originally posted by the "Addicting Info" Facebook page on July 13, 2022.
- xxvi. August 2, 2022, 3:23 p.m. "Truth!" This posting also contains a reposting of a photograph of a tweet made by Nina Turner, a former Democratic Ohio State Senator, which contains the following text: "There's nothing moderate about letting our planet burn, allowing our food air & water to be poisoned, or letting people go without food and shelter. These are not moderate positions." This photograph was originally posted by the "Corinna Bloom" Facebook page on July 19.
- XXVII. July 30, 2022, 6:06 p.m. "Despite the support of Baer, Gov. Tom Wolf, and many others, the legislature still has not raised the minimum wage above the current \$7.25 level. When Parraised the minimum wage to \$7.15 (10 cents less than the federal level which ultimately followed), under my leadership in 2006, I immediately advocated that it should soon go up to \$8.00. Even after 16 years, and a \$15.00 an hour minimum wage in NJ, NY,

California and other states, the minimum wage in Pa and the USA has remained stagnant. The posting includes a reposting of a photograph originally posted on July 30, 2021, on Judge Cohen's Facebook page, that bears the text "Legislative critic John Baer endorses higher Pa minimum wage. He says it would be a big step for legislative credibility and help a million people."

- XXVIII. July 28, 2022, 10:29 p.m. "Texas calls itself the Lone Star state, due to its brief experience as a separate country, after winning independence from Mexico. But in these days of five star ratings, and Texas' passage of a variety of dubious laws, being a one star takes on a new and accurate meaning." The post includes a reposting of a photograph of a cartoon depicting a highway and a billboard that reads: "Welcome to Texas, the Lone Star State based on recent reviews" and a five-star rating system with only one star filled. This photograph was originally posted by the "Ava Levin Leas" Facebook page on July 27, 2022. In the comment discussion that follows, one commenter stated "I prefer originality. Texas should again become a one star country." Judge Cohen replied, "You are not alone!"
 - xxix. July 28, 2022, 7:09 p.m. "Joe Manchin seems to be retreating a bit on opposition to legislation dealing with climate change and investing in human infrastructures for social services. We'll soon see if his possible change of heart leads anywhere."
 - XXX. July 27, 2022, 5:50 p.m. "Prophetic words from the Rev. Billy Graham 41 years ago." The post includes a reposting of a photograph of the former Reverend Graham with the following quotation, attributed to him: "I don't want to see religious bigotry in any form. It would disturb me if there was a wedding between the religious fundamentalists and the political right. The hard right has no interest in religion except to manipulate it." The photograph was originally posted by the "Chester Hitchcock" Facebook page on July 26, 2022.
 - XXXI. July 26, 2022, 5:20 p.m. "NYT: Former Philadelphians Bruce Marks and Mike Roman were key players in alternate elector scheme. At least the poor records of Philly sports teams did not disqualify them. Marks is stepping up to defend his role, citing Hawaii in 1960." This posting led to an intense comment argument between Mr. Marks, who was, in fact, one of Judge Cohen's Facebook friends, and other individuals who were his Facebook friends, including Marc Stier, who is a well-known progressive political figure. Some of these persons accused Mr. Marks, who is an attorney, of professional misconduct and criminal conduct. Judge Cohen attempted to bow out of the conversation at one point, by stating the following: "And as a

judge, I am limited in the degree to which I can comment on political actors, attorneys or judges in court proceedings."

- XXXII. July 26, 2022, 8:13 a.m. "Words of wise advice from Canada!" The posting includes reposting of a photograph of a tweet from "Aaron Hoyland," which contains the following text: "In Canada, our schools have more than one door too. We have folks struggling with mental illness. We watch the same movies, listen to the same music and play the same violent video games as Americans. And, since Columbine, the US had 200 school shootings. We had 3. It's the guns." This photograph was originally posted on June 2, 2022 by the "David Reid" Facebook page.
- November 1, 2022, 10:08 a.m. "Did you know that both xxxiii. Frankenstein and Dracula were played by union members? Neither did I." The post includes a reposting of a photograph of the Boris Karloff-version of Frankenstein and the Bela Lugosiversion of Dracula, with the following text: "DID YOU KNOW?... Frankenstein & Dracula were union organizers? Boris Karloff, who played Frankenstein, along with Bela Lugosi who played Dracula, were founding members of the actors union, Screen Actors Guild (SAG). Both men actively recruited Actors and Actresses to join the then unrecognized Union (between 1933 and 1937). It was not uncommon to see Karloff in full monster makeup, handing out applications to join the Screen Actors Guild." This photograph was originally posted by the "John Meyerson" Facebook page on November 1, 2022, with the following additional text: "Solidarity Forever!"
- xxxiv. September 18, 2022 (approximate), time not listed "Philadelphia Museum of Art stayed open yesterday during a one-day warning strike. Bad news for labor!"
- xxxv. September 14, 2022, 3:30 p.m. "Record profits are undermining tough corporate bargaining stances." The post also includes a photo with the following statement posted from the "Labor 411" Facebook page: "BNSF is the largest rail company in the US. Last year they had a net income of \$8.8B. They have 35k workers. If they kept half of their profit and split the rest with all employees everyone could receive a \$125k RAISE. Instead BNSF is cutting sick days. This is why they strike."
- xxxvi. September 14, 2022, 2:05 p.m. "Bad news for Texas kids and school boards. Perhaps good news for Texas educators' future pay raises and working conditions." The post contains a photo of an article from the Houston Chronicle bearing the headline "Poll:

77% of Texas teachers want to quit" that was posted from the Facebook page of "Johnny Mitchell."

- September 11, 2022, 2:40 a.m. "Bruce Springsteen is also a fan of unions, as are not about 60% of our country." The posting also includes a photograph of Bruce Springsteen reposted from the "Jeff Rechenbach" Facebook page (originally posted on September 5, 2022), bearing the following quotation attributed to Springsteen: "Unions have been the only powerful and effective voice working people have ever had in the history of this country." The post concludes with the following additional text reposted from the "Jeff Rechenbach" Facebook page: "The Boss understands the value of unions. On this day set aside for the recognition of workers, let's remember it is the Labor Movement that built the middle class in our nation."
- September 11, 2022, 2:18 a.m. "A strong endorsement of the labor movement of his time from famed defense attorney Clarence Darrow." The posting also includes a photograph of Clarence Darrow reposted from the "Ron Klink" Facebook page (originally posted on September 10, 2022), bearing the following quotation attributed to Darrow: "With all their faults, trade-unions have done more for humanity than any other organization of men that ever existed. They have done more for decency, for honesty, for education, for the betterment of the race, for the developing of character in man, than any other association of men." The post concludes with the following additional text reposted from the "Ron Klink" Facebook page: "I believe this with all my heart and soul."
 - xxxix. September 10, 2022, 4:27 p.m. "Good news for empowering people. Too bad for Superman." The posting also includes a cartoon reposted from the "Glen Williams" Facebook page, which depicts a child speaking to an obviously-dejected Superman; the child states "Sorry Superman[.] My new heroes are union members. They've been fighting for me and my family our whole lives."
 - xl. September 5, 2022, 4:53 p.m. "Farm workers are vital to our food supply. Thanks to Mary Rose Cunningham for sharing." The posting also includes a photograph of a painting reposted from the "Jonathan Zasloff" Facebook page (originally posted September 4, 2022) depicting farm workers carrying bushels of food with the text "Honoring the immigrants on Labor Day who put food on our tables" on the photograph.
 - xli. September 5, 2022, 11:30 a.m. "Another good Labor Day Greeting!" The posting also includes a photograph reposted from

the "Mike McDonough" Facebook page, which depicts men at an apparent labor organization meeting with the following text: "This long holiday weekend has been brought to you by the blood, sweat, and tears of the labor movement."

- xlii. September 5, 2022, 11:18 a.m. "More well thought-out Labor Day greetings!" The posting also includes a photograph reposted from the political Facebook page of Pennsylvania State Senator Tina Tartaglione (D-Philadelphia) (originally posted September 5, 2022), which depicts a cartoon of happy workers of various professions, i.e., a cook, a nurse, a fireman, with the following text from Senator Tartaglione: "During Labor Day we honor and celebrate the contributions of America's workers and the fights that got us here. American was built by the middle class, and the middle class was built by unions."
- xliii. September 4, 2022, 6:15 p.m. "Tomorrow is Labor Day. As you enjoy it, remember why workers successfully fought to have it established during the Presidency of Grover Cleveland." The posting includes a reposting of a photograph originally posted on the "John Meyerson" Facebook page that same day. The photograph depicts a wall with the graffiti "Never Cross a Picket Line. Class War," painted on the wall. The post concludes with the following text originally posted to the "John Meyerson" Facebook page: "Happy Labor Day! We must never forget the reason we celebrate the sacrifices that workers have made in their fight for social and economic justice! We still have a long way to go!"
- xliv. July 28, 2022, time not listed "This speaks for the views of many workers." The posting contains a reposting of a photograph of a tweet from "Blondie," which contains the following text: "Jobs need to understand that the ONLY way to make me feel appreciated is to pay me what I'm worth, that's it. No amount of 'lunch is on me', T Shirts or 'team building' is going to cut it." The photograph was originally posted by the "More Perfect Union" Facebook page on July 21, 2022.
- xlv. July 28, 2022, 6:44 p.m. "A very good point!" The posting includes a reposting of a photograph of a cartoon with Lisa Simpson making a speech, with a projection screen behind her. The screen bears the following text: "Trickle down economics has never gotten Billionaires to spread the wealth. That's what unions are for." This photograph was originally posted on the "Americans for Tax Fairness" Facebook page on July 26, 2022.
- xlvi. August 30, 2022, 1:14 p.m. "Still another take on the student loan debt repayment plan." The posting includes a reposting of a

cartoon of a man at a trolley track switch and five people tied to the tracks on one of the track branches where they trolley is headed. Behind the trolley are the bodies of a number of people who the trolley had already run over. The man at the train track switch states "But if I divert the trolley now[,] that would be unfair to all the people it's already killed."

- xlvii. August 29, 2022, 11:10 a.m. "Another take from a supporter of student debt cancellation!" The posting includes a reposting of a photograph bearing the following statement: "If you're mad about student loan forgiveness, I feel bad for you son. I got 99 problems but being weirdly bitter that life is getting slightly easier for other people ain't one." This photograph was posted originally by the "Marti Murphy" Facebook page on August 28, 2022.
- xlviii. August 28, 2022, 7:46 a.m. "My former colleague in Harrisburg wades into theology to support debt forgiveness for education loans." The posting includes a reposting of a photograph bearing the following statement: "If you're a Christian and you're big mad about the possibility of student loan debt being cancelled, let me remind you that the entirety of your faith is built upon a debt you couldn't pay that someone stepped in and paid for you." This photograph was originally posted on August 27, 2022, by the "Brett Cott" Facebook page.
 - xlix. August 26, 2022, 2:09 p.m. "One more way to say that reducing student loan debt makes a lot of sense." The posting also includes a reposting of a photograph of a religious painting of Jesus miraculously distributing the loaves and fishes to the multitude with the following text: "Jesus's [sic] miracle of the loaves and fishes was a slap in the face to all the people who brought their own lunch." This photograph was originally posted on August 25, 2022, by the "Bob Kefauver" Facebook page.
 - I. August 26, 2022, 12:49 p.m. "Another Facebook friend with a big [heart emoji]!" The post is a reposting of a post made by the "Kiernan Majerus-Collins" Facebook page on August 26, 2022, which states the following: "I paid off my relatively modest undergraduate student loans a few years ago, and I'm thrilled that at least some other people won't have to do the same. Higher education which benefits our whole society should be free."
 - li. August 25, 2022, 1:34 p.m. "I agree with this!" The posting also includes a reposting of a photograph with the following text on it: "I worked hard to pay off my student loans, others should have to too! I swam across that river, how dare they build a

- bridge!" The photograph was originally posted on August 25, 2022 by the "Warren Fretwell" Facebook page.
- lii. August 13, 2022, 6:40 p.m. "Former US Secretary of Labor Robert Reich is absolutely right on this." The post includes a reposting of a photograph of former Secretary Reich with the following quotation, attributed to him: "A decent society wouldn't push millions of students into debt. It would recognize that higher education isn't mainly a personal investment; it's a public good." This photograph was originally posted by the "Steve Sherman" Facebook page on August 12, 2022.
- liii. October 15, 2021, time not listed "Rick Wilson, MSNBC, urging more vigor in January 6 investigation: 'Unpunished terrorism is just a practice run.'"
- liv. October 19, 2021, time not listed -"The state that gave us Estes Kefauver and two Al Gores is now trying to make knowledge of black history illegal. Shameless retrogression!" This posting includes a newspaper opinion piece that criticized the passage of an anti-Critical Race Theory bill in Tennessee.
- lv. November 6, 2021, 3:11 p.m. "One year ago, our country voted for massive change. We are starting to get it, but more can be done."
- lvi. November 7, 2021, 11:01 p.m. "Takeaways from Four Seasons doc: (1) The Trump Presidential campaign was out of money, and the Four Seasons was willing to host the press conference for free; (2) a flood of hate calls and ridicule led to company choice to develop PR campaign."
- lvii. November 14, 2021, 8:44 p.m. "6.2% inflation hurts those with salaries or pensions. It encourages workers to unionize & those with pensions to seek gains."
- lviii. November 15, 2021, 3:14 p.m. "Latest figures in contested court races of Philly judges show little change: Dumas up 18,801 for Commonwealth Court, McLaughlin down for Supreme Court by 28,252. Barring discovery of major error, Dumas & Kevin Brobson to win." A person responded to this post, stating, "So sad for [McLaughlin] and Lane."
- lix. November 17, 2021, 7:36 p.m. "President Joe Biden eloquently advocates for his Build Back Better Plan." In addition to Judge Cohen's commentary, he re-posted a post from President Joe Biden, part of which is immediately visible on his Facebook page, as follows: "I ran for president believing it was time to rebuild the backbone of this nation working people and the middle class. To rebuild the economy from the botto....."

- Ix. November 18, 2021, 11:33 p.m. "Good night Kevin McCarthy. Good night moon. No matter how long Kevin talks, we'll have House passage of Build Back Better soon."
- lxi. November 19, 2021, 7:52 a.m. "At 8:00 a.m., US House returns to session, delayed by Kevin McCarthy speech of record length, to pass Build Back Better bill and improve many, many American lives."
- lxii. November 19, 2021, 3:22 p.m. "President <u>President Joe Biden's</u> [sic] Build Back Better Bill passed the US House this morning. Chuck Schumer says he wants passage by Christmas."
 - a. In response to another poster's question about whether the bill would actually help many people after the "moderate" Ds and Rs "gut it," Judge Cohen posted "I think so, but we'll see." The other poster remarked, "I guess a little help is still better than zero. Progress in a democracy is so slow," to which Judge Cohen responded, "Yes it is, unfortunately!"
- Ixiii. November 20, 2021, 12:04 a.m. "Joe Biden turns 79 today. Happy Birthday Mr. President! Enjoy your five days a week of workouts!"
- lxiv. November 23, 2021, 11:14 a.m. "David Morrison [another poster] says the JFK assassination was a major transition for his life. In tribute, he posts this excerpt from a speech Kennedy was prepared to give in Dallas had he lived." Judge Cohen then re-posted David Morrison's November 22, 2021 posting of the undelivered Kennedy speech, part of which is immediately visible on Judge Cohen's page as follows: "Neither the fanatics nor the faint-hearted are needed. And our duty as a Party is not to our Party alone, but to the nation, and, indeed, to all mankind. Our d..."
- Ixv. November 23, 2021, 4:00 p.m. "Lori Dumas now leads for Commonwealth Court by 22,227. Her opponent Drew Compton conceded today. Congratulations to my fellow Philadelphia Common Pleas Judge! Her victory is well-deserved."
- lxvi. November 26, 2021, 9:42 a.m. "Organizing for progressive change can be very difficult. Longtime activist Marc Stier and his commenters discuss the reasons why." In addition to Judge Cohen's commentary, he re-posted a post from Marc Stier, part of which is immediately visible on his page, as follows: "Listening to a call about progressive messaging on taxes. Our problem is not that majority doesn't agree with us. Our problem is mobilizing people and encou...."

CHARGES

Count 1 - Violation of Canon 1, Rule 1.1

- 10. By virtue of some or all of the conduct alleged in paragraphs 6 through 9(Ixvi) and set forth at Board's Exhibit A, Judge Cohen violated Canon 1, Rule 1.1 of the Code of Judicial Conduct.
- 11. Canon 1, Rule 1.1 states the following:

Canon 1, Rule 1.1. Compliance with the Law.

A judge shall comply with the law, including the Code of Judicial Conduct.

- 12. The definition of "Law" in the "Terminology" section of the Code includes, *interalia*, statutes, decisional law, and Supreme Court Rules and directives, including the Code itself.
- 13. By virtue of some of all of his Facebook postings as described above in paragraphs 6 through 9(lxvi) and set forth in Board's Exhibit A, Judge Cohen violated the Code of Judicial Conduct, as set forth below.

Count 2(a) and (b) - Violation of Canon 1, Rule 1.2

- 14. By virtue of some or all of the conduct alleged in paragraphs 6 through 9(lxvi) and set forth at Board's Exhibit A, Judge Cohen violated Canon 1, Rule 1.2 of the Code of Judicial Conduct.
- 15. Canon 1, Rule 1.2 states the following:

Canon 1, Rule 1.2. Compliance with the Law.

A judge shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary and shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety.

By virtue of some of all of his Facebook postings as described above in paragraphs6 through 9(lxvi) and set forth at Board's Exhibit A, Judge Cohen violated Canon

- 1, Rule 1.2 in that his conduct failed to promote public confidence in the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary.
- 17. By virtue of some or all of his Facebook postings as described above in paragraphs 6 through 9(Ixvi) and set forth at Board's Exhibit A, Judge Cohen violated Canon 1, Rule 1.2 in that his conduct failed to avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety.

Count 3 - Violation of Canon 1, Rule 1.3

- 18. By virtue of some or all of the conduct alleged in paragraphs 6 through 9(lxvi) and set forth at Board's Exhibit A, Judge Cohen violated Canon 1, Rule 1.3 of the Code of Judicial Conduct.
- 19. Canon 1, Rule 1.3 states the following:

Canon 1, Rule 1.3. Avoiding Abuse of the Prestige of Judicial Office.

A judge shall not abuse the prestige of judicial office to advance the personal or economic interests of the judge or others, or allow others to do so.

20. By virtue of some of all of his Facebook postings as described above in paragraphs 6 through 9(lxvi) and set forth at Board's Exhibit A, Judge Cohen violated Canon 1, Rule 1.3 in that his conduct abused the prestige of his judicial office to advance his own personal or economic interests or the personal or economic interests of others who are referenced in his Facebook postings.

Count 4 - Violation of Canon 3, Rule 3.1(C)

21. By virtue of some or all of the conduct alleged in paragraphs 6 through 9(lxvi) and set forth at Board's Exhibit A, Judge Cohen violated Canon 3, Rule 3.1(C) of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

22. Canon 3, Rule 3.1(C) states the following:

Canon 3, Rule 3.1. Extrajudicial Activities in General.

Judges shall regulate their extrajudicial activities to minimize the risk of conflict with their judicial duties and to comply with all provisions of this Canon. However a judge shall not...(C) participate in activities that would reasonably appear to undermine the judge's independence, integrity, or impartiality.

23. By virtue of some of all of his Facebook postings as described above in paragraphs 6 through 9(lxvi) and set forth at Board's Exhibit A, Judge Cohen violated Canon 3, Rule 3.1(C) in that his extrajudicial conduct in making the Facebook postings reasonably appeared to undermine his independence, integrity, and impartiality.

Count 5 - Violation of Canon 3, Rule 3.7(A)

- 24. By virtue of some or all of the conduct alleged in paragraphs 6 through 9(lxvi) and set forth at Board's Exhibit A, Judge Cohen violated Canon 3, Rule 3.7(A) of the Code of Judicial Conduct.
- 25. Canon 3, Rule 3.7(A) states the following:

Canon 3, Rule 3.7. Participation in Educational, Religious, Charitable, Fraternal or Civic Organizations and Activities.

- (A) Avocational activities. Judges may write, lecture, teach and speak on non-legal subjects and engage in the arts, sports, and other social and recreational activities, if such avocational activities do not detract from the dignity of their office or interfere with the performance of their judicial duties.
- 26. By virtue of some of all of his Facebook postings as described above in paragraphs 6 through 9(lxvi) and set forth at Board's Exhibit A, Judge Cohen violated Canon 3, Rule 3.7(A) in that his extrajudicial conduct in making the Facebook postings detracted from the dignity of his office.

Count 6 - Violation of Canon 4, Rule 4.1(A)(3)

- 27. By virtue of some or all of the conduct alleged in paragraph 9(xv) and set forth at Board's Exhibit A(xv), Judge Cohen violated Canon 4, Rule 4.1(A)(3) of the Code of Judicial Conduct.
- 28. Canon 4, Rule 4.1(A)(3) states the following:
 - Canon 4, Rule 4.1. Political and Campaign Activities of Judges and Judicial Candidates in General.
 - (A) Except as permitted by Rules 4.2, 4.3, and 4.4, a judge or a judicial candidate shall not ... (3) publicly endorse or publicly oppose a candidate for any public office[.]
- 29. By virtue of his Facebook posting as described above in paragraph 9(xv) and set forth at Board's Exhibit A(xv), Judge Cohen violated Canon 4, Rule 4.1(A)(3) in that his extrajudicial conduct in making the Facebook posting constituted an endorsement of former U.S. Representative Liz Cheney, who was then a candidate for re-election, by Judge Cohen's attempt to criticize her detractor in the media.

Count 7 - Violation of Canon 4, Rule 4.1(A)(11)

- 30. By virtue of some or all of the conduct alleged in paragraphs 6 through 9(lxvi) and set forth at Board's Exhibit A, Judge Cohen violated Canon 4, Rule 4.1(A)(11) of the Code of Judicial Conduct.
- 31. Canon 4, Rule 4.1(A)(11) states the following:
 - Canon 4, Rule 4.1. Political and Campaign Activities of Judges and Judicial Candidates in General.
 - (A) Except as permitted by Rules 4.2, 4.3, and 4.4, a judge or a judicial candidate shall not ... (11) engage in any political activity on behalf of a political organization or candidate for public office except on behalf of measures to improve the law, the legal system, or the administration of justice[.]

32. By virtue of some of all of his Facebook postings as described above in paragraphs 6 through 9(Ixvi) and set forth at Board's Exhibit A, Judge Cohen violated Canon 4, Rule 4.1(A)(11) in that his conduct constituted political activity on behalf of a political organization, namely the Democratic Party.

Count 8 - Violation of Article V, § 17(b) of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

- 33. By virtue of some or all of the conduct set forth above, Judge Cohen violated Article V, § 17(b) of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- 34. Article V, § 17(b) of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania states, in pertinent part, the following:

Article V, § 17(b) [Derivative Violation]

Justices and judges shall not engage in any activity prohibited by law and shall not violate any canon of legal or judicial ethics prescribed by the Supreme Court.

- 35. A violation of the Code constitutes an automatic, derivative violation of Article V, § 17(b) of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- 36. By virtue of some or all of the conduct set forth above, Judge Cohen violated the following provisions of the Code: Canon 1, Rule 1.1, Rule 1.2, and Rule 1.3; Canon 3, Rule 3.1(C) and Rule 3.7(A); Canon 4, Rule 4.1(A)(3) and Rule 4.1(A)(11).
- 37. By virtue of his violations of the Code as set forth above, Judge Cohen violated Article V § 17(b) of the Pennsylvania Constitution.

WHEREFORE, Mark B. Cohen, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, First Judicial District, Philadelphia County, is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Article V, § 18(d)(1).

Respectfully submitted,

MELISSA L. NORTON

Chief Counsel

DATE: February 23, 2023 By:

James P. Kleman, Jr. Senior Deputy Counsel

Pa. Supreme Court ID No. 87637

Judicial Conduct Board

Pennsylvania Judicial Center

601 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 3500

Harrisburg, PA 17106

(717) 234-7911

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA COURT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE

IN RE:

Judge Mark B. Cohen Court of Common Pleas 1st Judicial District Philadelphia County

1 JD 2023

VERIFICATION

I, James P. Kleman, Jr., Senior Deputy Counsel to the Judicial Conduct Board, verify that the Judicial Conduct Board found probable cause to file the formal charges contained in the BOARD COMPLAINT. I understand that the statements herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. § 4904, relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

Respectfully submitted,

MELISSA L. NORTON Chief Counsel

Date: February 23, 2023 By:

James P. Kleman, Jr. Senior Deputy Counsel

Pa. Supreme Court ID No. 87637

Judicial Conduct Board Pennsylvania Judicial Center

601 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 3500

P.O. Box 62525

Harrisburg, PA 17106

(717) 234-7911

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA COURT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE

IN RE:

Judge Mark B. Cohen Court of Common Pleas

1st Judicial District

Philadelphia County

1 JD 2023

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

I certify that this filing complies with the provisions of the Case Records Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania that require filing confidential information and documents differently than non-confidential information and documents.

Submitted by: Judicial Conduct Board of Pennsylvania

Signature:

Name: \$\forall AMES P. KLEMAN, JR.

Deputy Counsel

Attorney No.: 87637

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA COURT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE

IN RE:

Judge Mark B. Cohen Court of Common Pleas 1st Judicial District Philadelphia County

1 JD 2023

PROOF OF SERVICE

In compliance with Rule 122 of the Court of Judicial Discipline Rules of Procedure, on February 23, 2023, a copy of the Board's foregoing Complaint was sent by UPS Overnight to Judge Cohen's counsel, Samuel C. Stretton, Esquire, who agreed to accept service, at the following address:

Samuel C. Stretton, Esquire 103 South High Street P.O. Box 3231 West Chester, PA 19381-3231

Respectfully submitted,

DATE: February 23, 2023 By:

James P. Kleman, Jr. Senior Deputy Counsel

Pa. Supreme Court ID No. 87637

Judicial Conduct Board

Pennsylvania Judicial Center

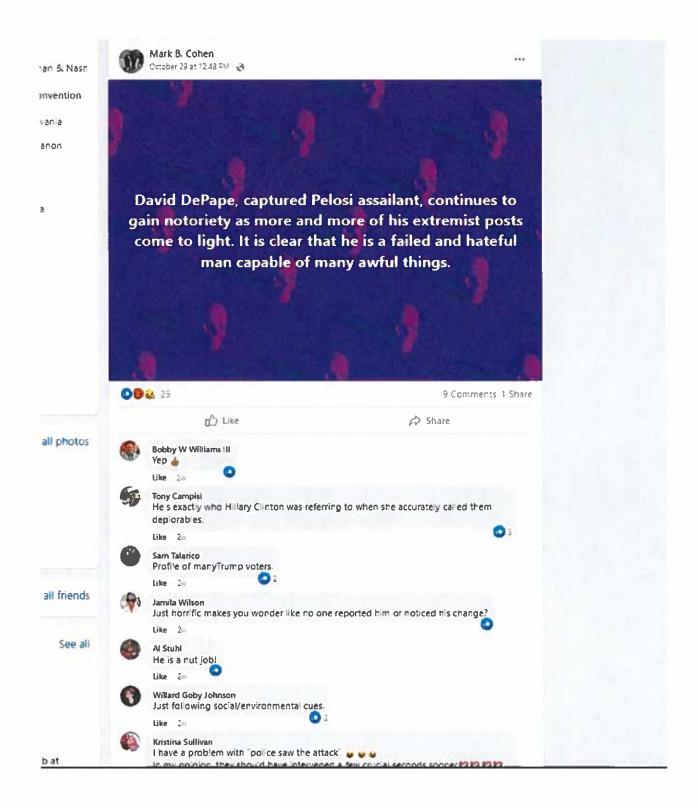
601 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 3500

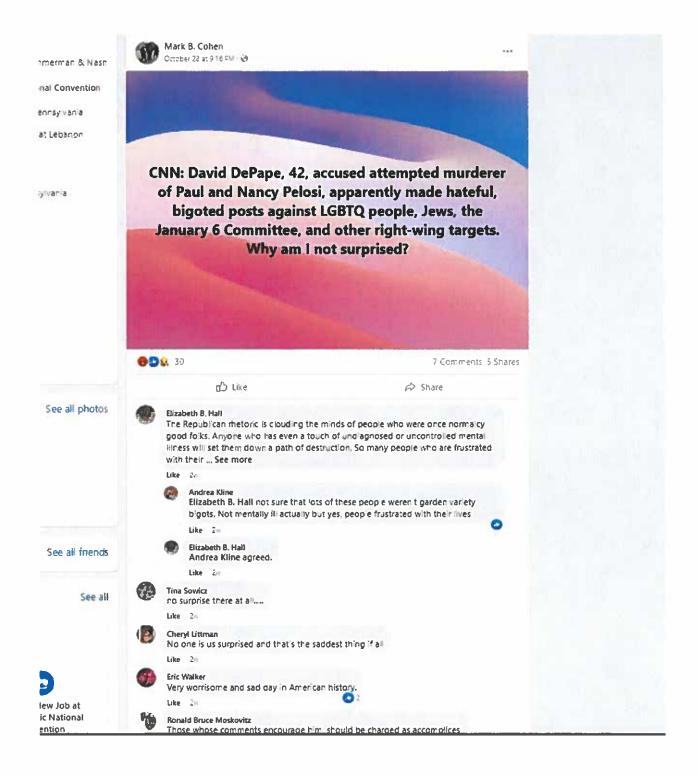
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Harrisburg, PA 17106

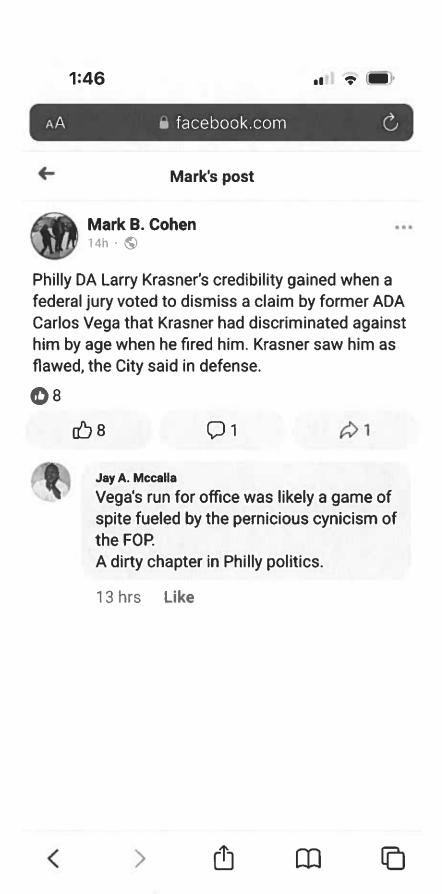
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Board's Exhibit A I - LXVI

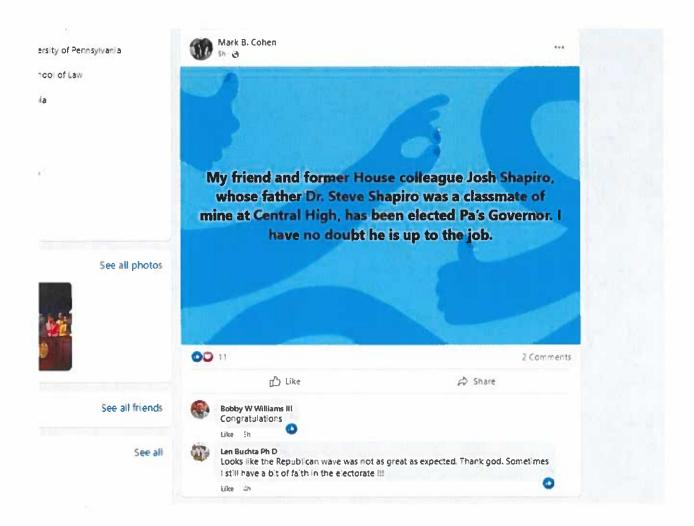


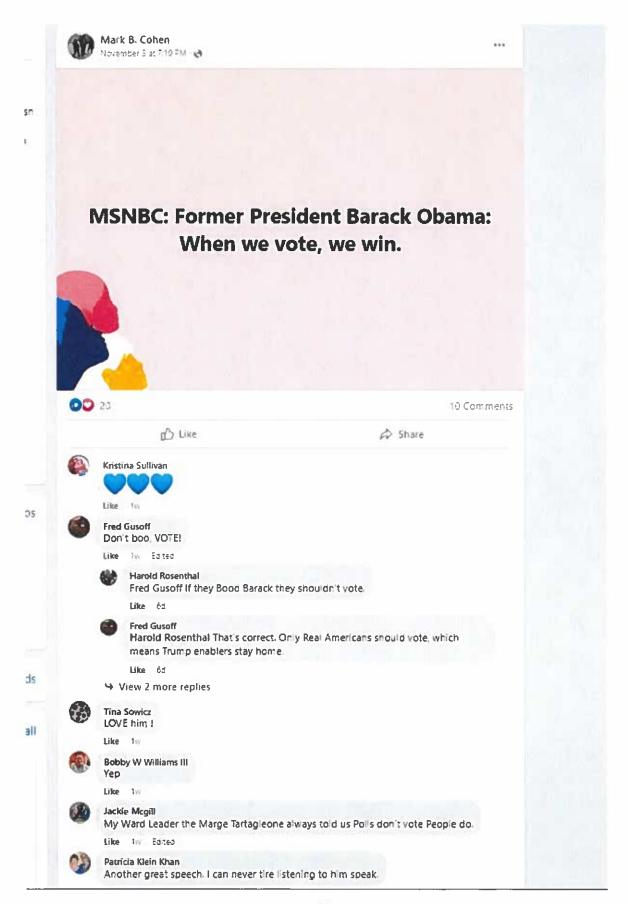


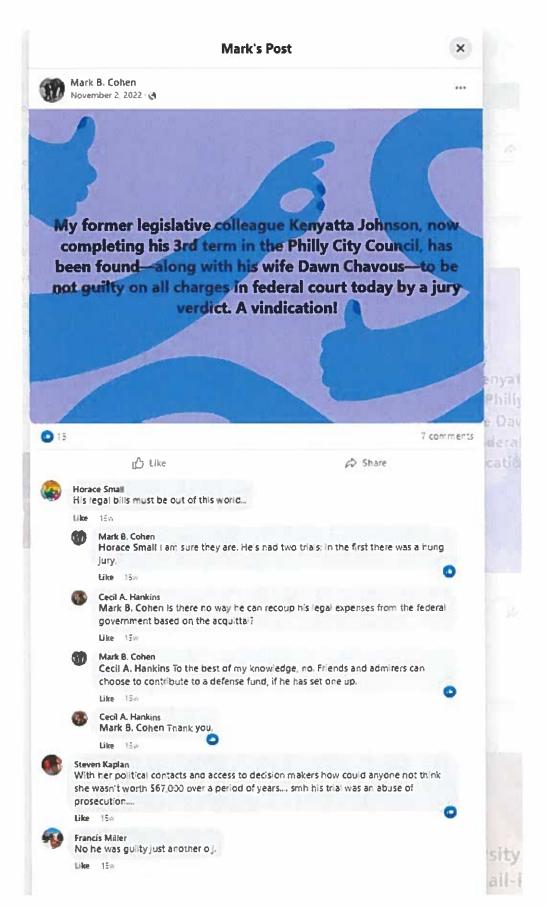


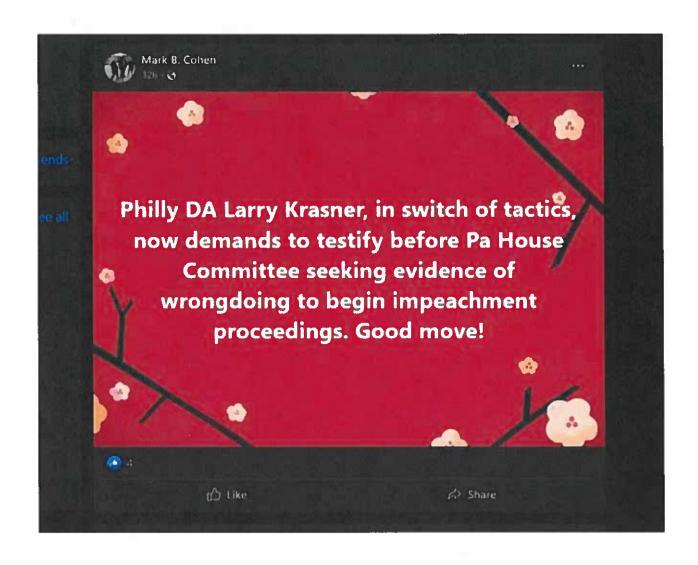


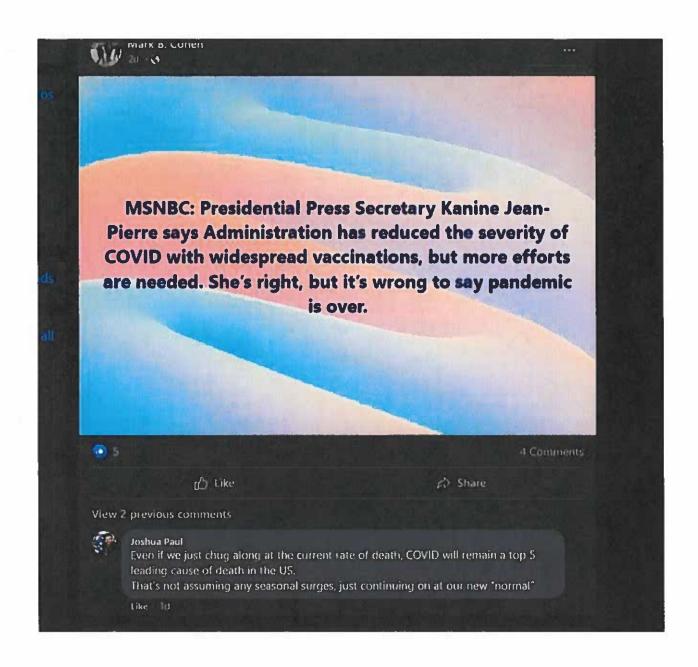








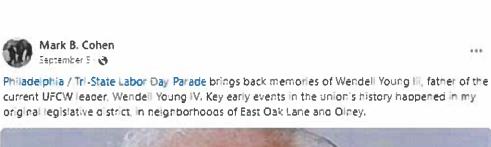














Bob Ingram

September 5 😯

Remembering my late friend the great labor leader Wendell Young 3rd on this Labor Day. He told me, "Life is all stories," which I've never forgotten.



1 Comment 1 Share



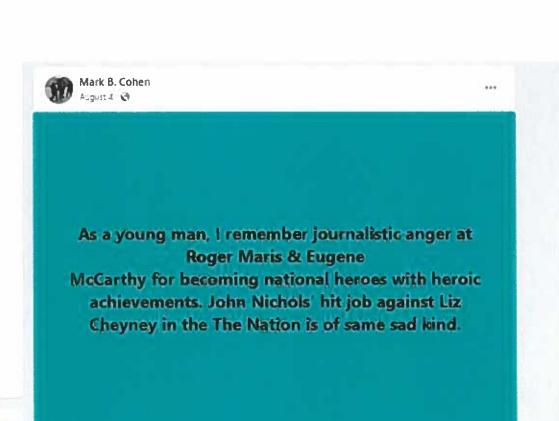
A Share



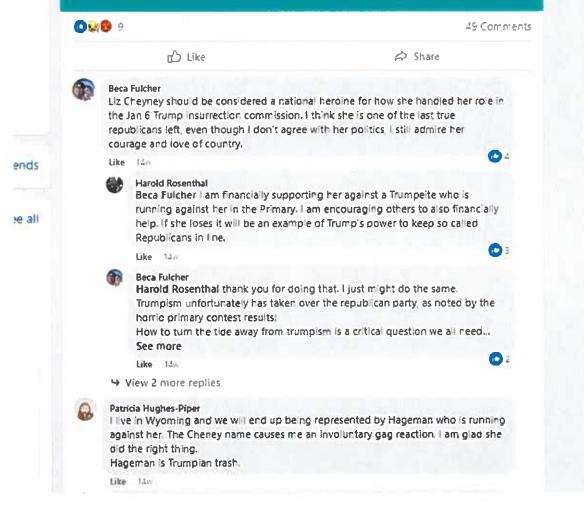
Gerry Kosinski

Proud graduate and former teacher at North Catholic, my alma mater. His world outlook was shaped by the Oblates there and the Jesuits at St. Joseph's University. Elected to head his union at age 23.

Like Sw Edited



otos





Florence Buckley

To view Cheney as a hero because of the sole act to defy the destruction by Trump, is to ignore the rest of her life and actions to cement an ultra conservative world view. A hit job?

Like 14w





Mark B. Cohen

Florence Buckley I believe from personal experience that people can and do change their views over time. As a judge, I am not permitted to endorse or otherwise back any candidate for anything. But I strongly disbelieve that good works by anyone should subject them to harsh criticism while those who do far fewer good things remain totally ignored.

Like 14w



Harold Rosenthal

Mark B. Cohen Correct on, Mark. I never say right. One, such as Liz Cheney, who sacrifices the possibility of her entire career, rather than support Trump as the others do, deserves the metal of honor for helping to protect our democracy. Now there, Judge, I'm not suggesting you support her for political office. How about for that metal?

Like 14v

⇒ View 16 more replies



Brendan Skwire

I'm no fan of Cheney's politics, but she is doing righteous work with the J6 committee. I typically like Nichols, but he needs how to read the freakini room.

Like 14₀





Dave Callen

If we win White House in 24, a place should be made for her.

Like 14%





Harold Rosenthal

Dave Callen I believe democracy is best served by the tension of two groups whose goal is to improve our country but suggest different means. We need the type of Republican Party Cheney and few others who claim that party title support. Despite what ma... See more

Like 14/



Susan Saxe

Dave Callen Only if it's in the vicinity of the 9th circle of hell.

Like 14a

→ View I more reply



Susan McLeer

Both of you were in Grant Parkl Awe, love, and appreciation to you, Mark, and you Hall

Like 14%



Harold Rosenthal

Susan McLeer I was in Chicago not as a delegate but as a supporter of Gene McCarthy. I arranged to ball out those the police arrested for being involved. That included New York McCarthy delegates. They had gone to caucus during the Convention. When the... See more

Like 14w





Mark B. Cohen

Harold Rosenthal I just learned something new! You ought to write or dictate memoirs.

Like 14.4



Patricia Hughes-Piper

I live in Wyoming and we will end up being represented by Hageman who is running against her. The Cheney name causes me an involuntary gag reaction, I am glad she did the right thing.

Hageman is Trumpian trash.

Like



Harold Rosenthal

Mark, Were you angered at your parents? Both actively supported Gene McCarthy. I believe your dad may have been a delegate.

Like 14m



Mark B. Cohen

Harold Rosenthal No Hall I rooted for Roger Maris, and started to campaign for Eugene McCarthy in 1967. As an intern for Bill Green in 1967, I attended a meeting of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and McCarthy's walk out from it. I was present when he told reporters, after hearing testimony from Dean Rusk, "There's only one thing we can do: take it to the people." I was there with you and my father in Chicago: I marched in Grant park with both you and my parents. Your comments misread what I said.





Carole Ann Comelius

Harold Rosenthal Mr Cohen has not said he is angry but remembers the anger of the media and compares this to Nichols.

Like 14a





David Stein

This conversation takes me back to when I first followed any election from the eyes of an 11 year old. If I were an adult in 1968, I would have supported any Democratic candidate who would have gotten us out of that awful war.

Like 14v





Harold Rosenthal

Mark B. Cohen Sorry to have misread your comments. I remember that walk with the McCarthy Delegates as they left the Convention after Humphrey became the nominee. We walked between two groups of young people about the same age. On the park side were the clean for Gene youth with love in their eyes. In the street side were soldiers with fixed bayonets and fear in their eyes. If it wasn't for the singing led by the performer, who had played Tevyua. whose name I don't now remember, someone may have set off the sold ers and we would all have been killed.

Like 14W



Harold Rosenthal

Mark, I now remember. The person who led us in singing which saved us from possibly being bayoneted to death, was Theodore Bike.

Like 125



Carole Ann Comelius

Many of us are uneasy with Cheney despite our support for her battle against trumpism.

Like 14w





Jeanne Doyle

Carole Ann Comelius When I think of Cheney the phrase "a broken clock is right twice a day" comes to mind.

Like 14v.



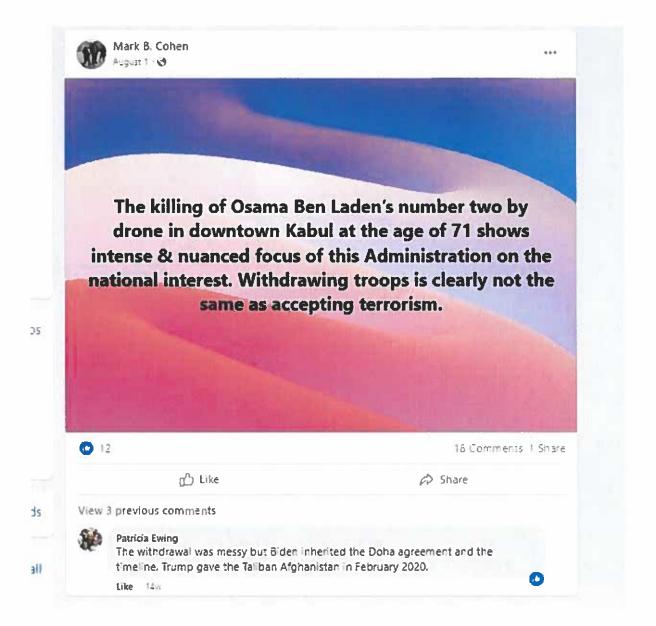


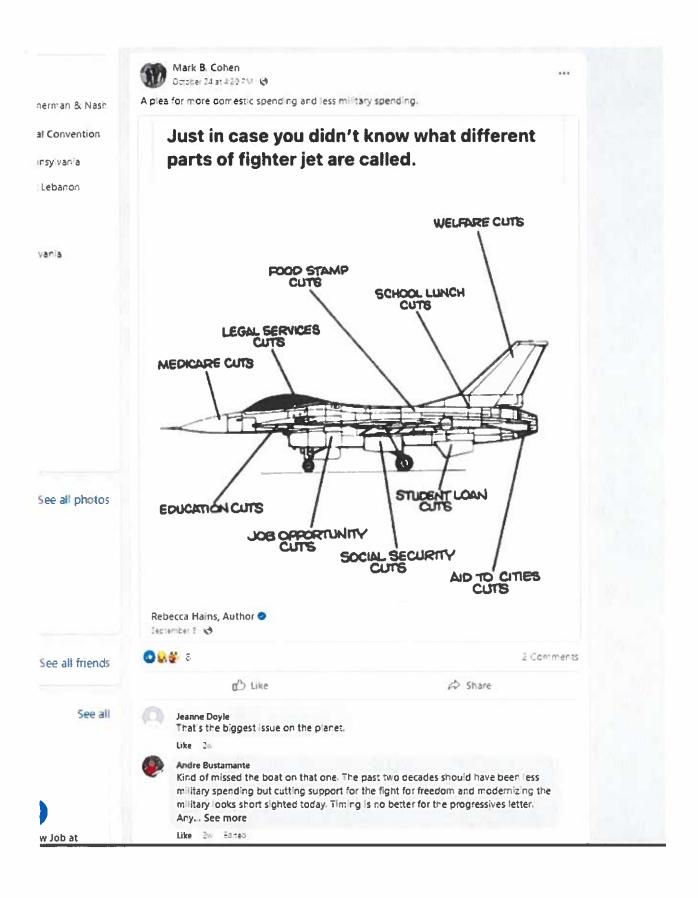
Florence Buckley

To view Cheney as a hero because of the sole act to defy the destruction by Trump, is to ignore the rest of her life and actions to cement an ultra conservative world view. A hit job?

Like 14w







...

There's a lot of anti-city, anti-NYC, and anti-intellectual people in this world. A teacher in Oklanoma is being threatened with loss of her teaching certification for giving her students the phone number for online books from the Brooklyn public library. A once famous book was titled "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn;" minds grow there too.



Ryan Walters Office of the Secretary of Education State of Oklahoma

Okishoma State Board of Education:

In light of recent events leading to the subsequent firing of Norman High School Engish Teacher Summer Boismier, I am auking the Oklahorna State Board of Education to revoke her teaching certificate immediately. There is no place for a teacher with a liberal political agenda in the classroom. Ms. Boismier's providing access to banned and pomographic material to students is unacceptable and we must ensure she doesn't go to another district and do the same thing. This action must be dealt with swiftly and with respect to all our tids and parents.

Teachers are one of our state's greatest assets and it is unfortunate that one of them has caused such harm and shame for the entire profession. This type of behavior will not be telerated in Oldahome and I speak for parents across the state who are demanding swift and immediate action.

Kids first,

15

П

Ryan Walters

Oklahoma Secretary of Education

State Capital Building + 2109 North Cherola Hauferand, State 217 + Oktoberts City, Oktaboras 73105 + 405.521 2142

Warner West

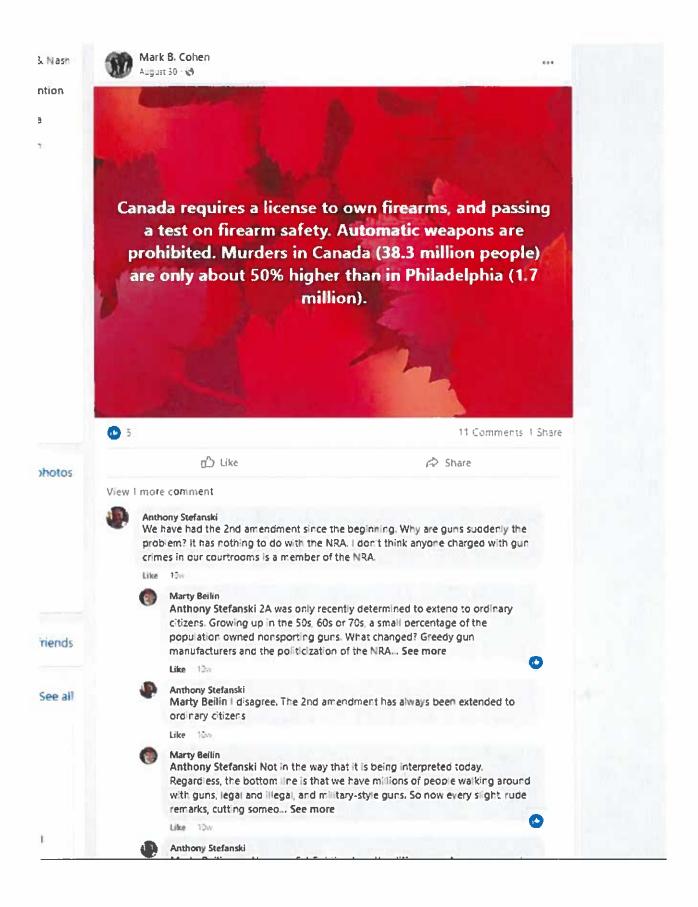
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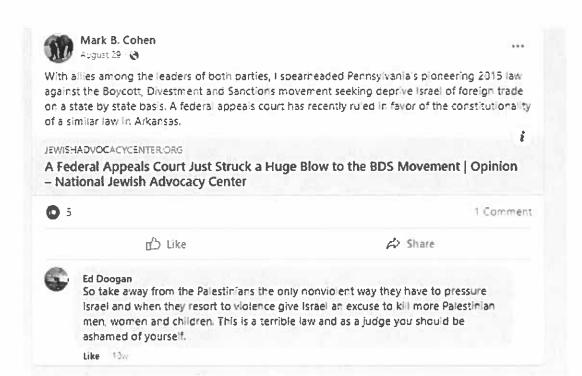
For those who haven't been following the Summer Boismier story here in Norman, OK, she was an English teacher at Norman High that was forced to resign for shafi... See more

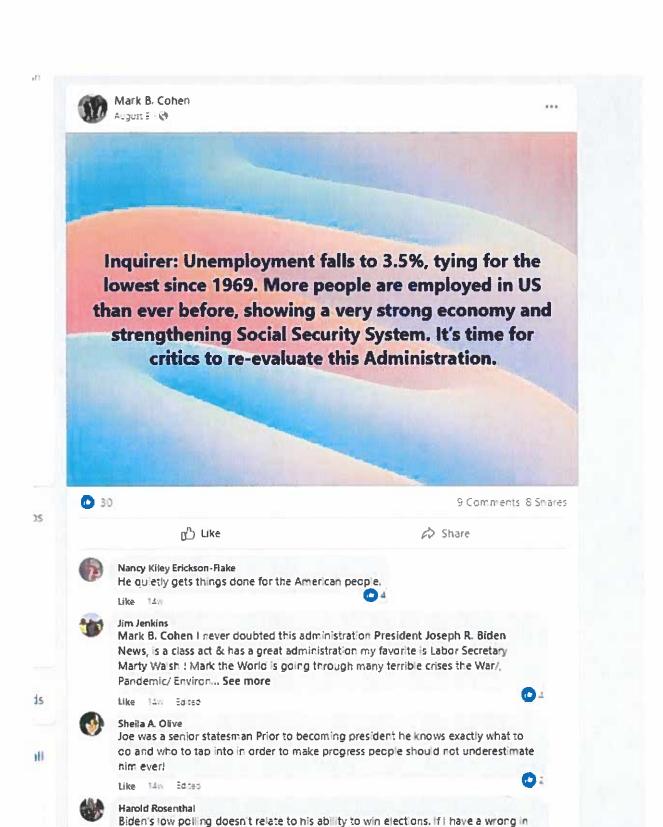




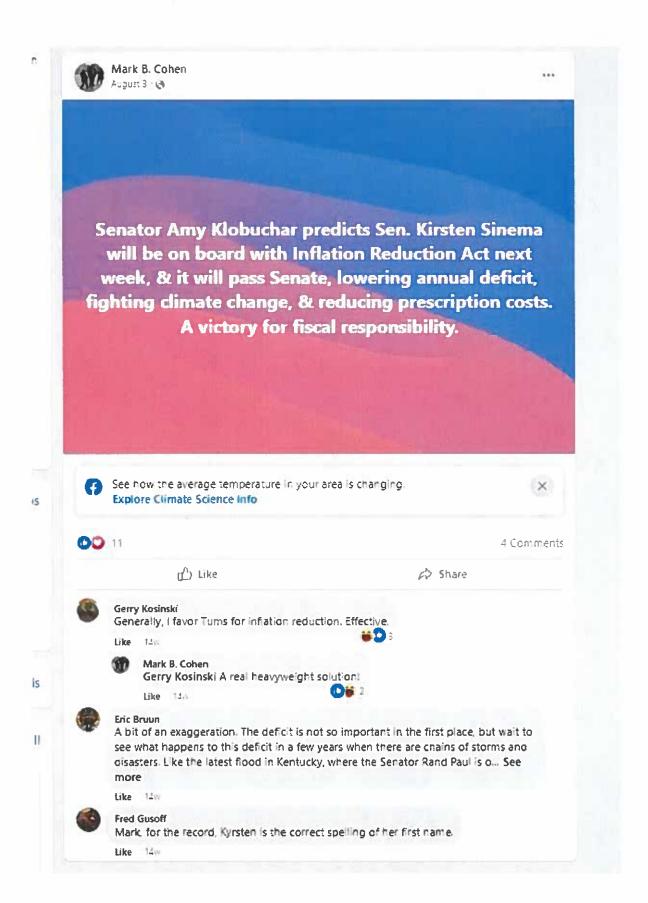
2 Comments, 5 Shares







my life, if I just paid too much for gas and I'm polled, it's his fault. The poll that is significant to winning an election is one that touts Biden against another candidate.





Mark B. Cohen

August 8 - 🚱

By a 59% to 41% vote, Kansas voters rejected a constitutional amendment that would have allowed the legislature to ban abortion. High turnout took place on 100 degree day, and sent a message that even conservative states are not on board with US Supreme Court reversal of Roe v Wade.



Stephen Drachler

August 3 : 🔞

When Kansas speaks, the nation will be listening. Kansas voters repudiated the radical U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday as they rejected a Constitutional amendment... See more



AFNEWS.COM

Kansas voters resoundingly protect their access to abortion

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) - Kansas voters on Tuesday sent a resounding message about their de...

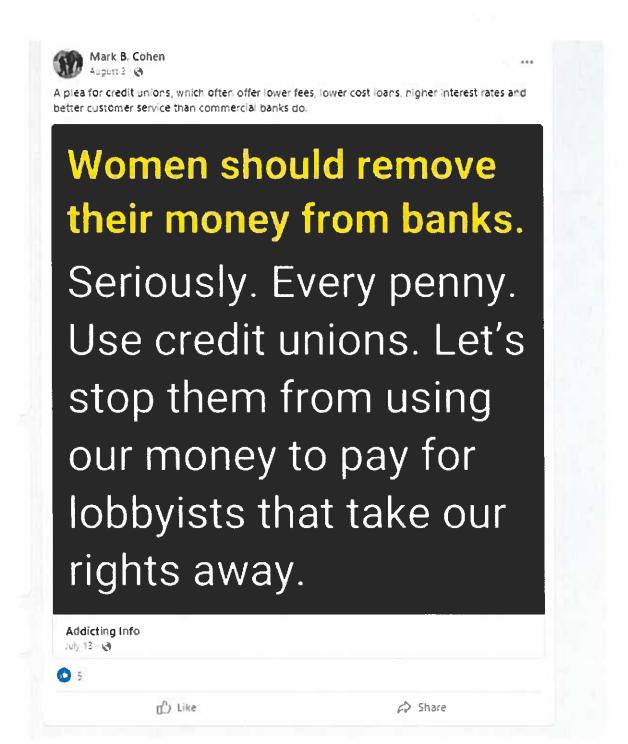


7

1 Share

Like

⇔ Share







...

Despite the support of Baer, Gov. Tom Wolf, and many others, the legislature still has not raised the minimum wage above the current \$7.25 level. When Pa, raised the minimum wage to \$7.15 (10 cents less than the federal level which ultimately followed), under my leadership in 2006, I immediately advocated that it should soon go up to \$6.00. Even after 16 years, and a \$15.00 an hour minimum wage in NJ, NY, California and other states, the minimum wage in Pa and the USA has remained stagnant.



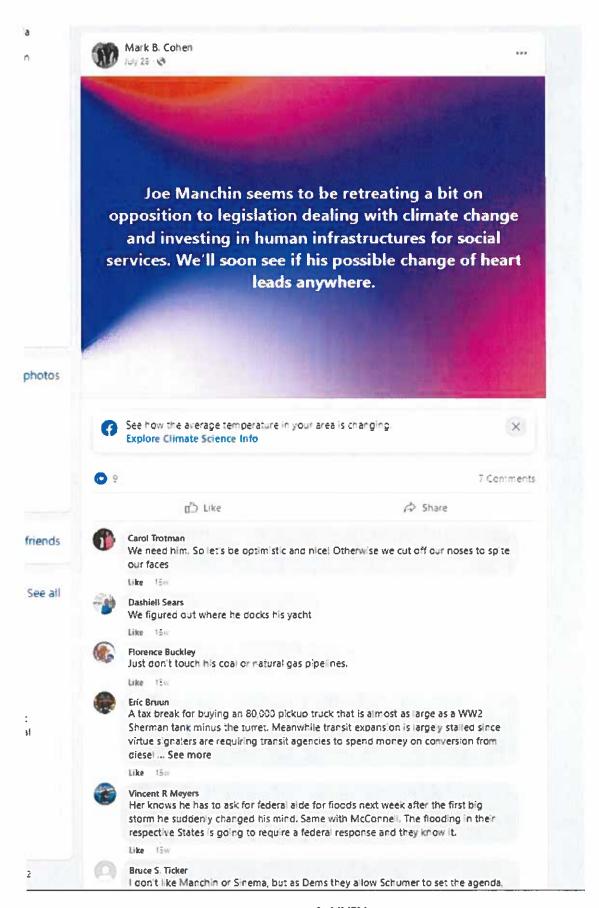
Legislative critic John Baer endorses higher Pa minimum wage. He says it would be a big step for legislative credibility and help a million people.

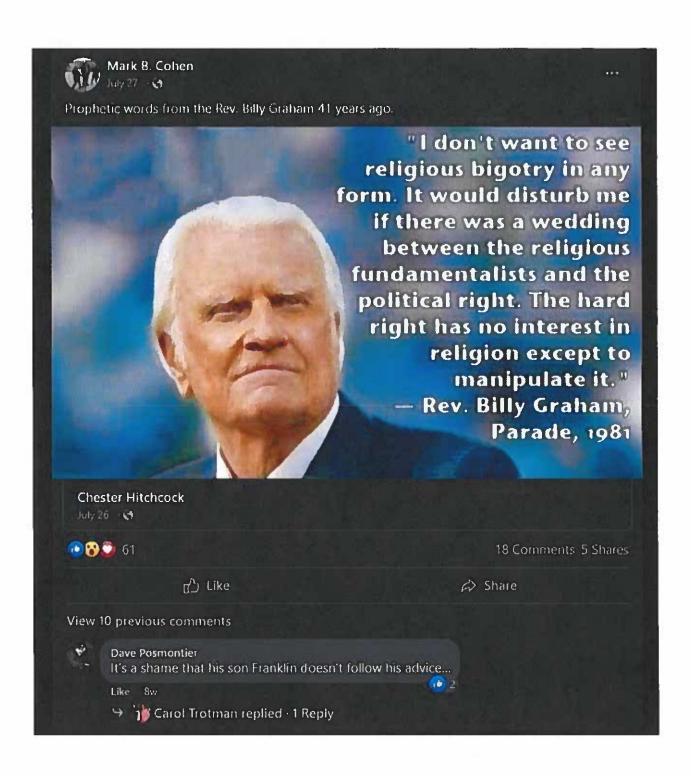


Like

A Share









NYT: Former Philadelphians Bruce Marks and Mike Roman were key players in alternate elector scheme. At least the poor records of Philly sports teams did not disqualify them. Marks is stepping up to defend his role, citing Hawaii in 1960.



心 Like

A Share

View 4 previous comments



Bruce Marks

Judge, i think you have the headline wrong. Perhaps, "NYT uses attorney-client communications apparently improperly leaked by the January 6 Committee to baselessly attack President Trump's Philadelphia based legal team" 1. does it concern you that attorney-client communications are being leaked by the Committee? Do you think this undercuts the Rule of Law in America, which includes the right to engage counsel? 2. Do you see much difference between Congress improperly leaking attorney-client communications and the US Supreme Court employee improperly leaking the draft decision on Roe? Doesn't this conduct undermine confidence in our political and legal systems?

Like 13w Edited

∧ Hide 16 Replies

confidence in our political and legal systems?

Like 13w Edited

→ Hide 16 Replies



Mark B. Cohen

Bruce Marks I think you raise good points about the leaking of attorney-client communications. I need to know more about the House standards for investigating committees before I can fully answer your questions.

Like 13w



Mark B. Cohen

Bruce Marks Thank you for your response. Did the January 6 Committee violate any existing House rule, or any provision of the resolution establishing the Committee?

Like 13w



Marc Stier

Bruce Marks "All agree that attorney-client privilege applies to confidential communications between an attorney and a client, or his representatives, made for the purpose of obtaining or rendering legal advice, and not in the furtherance of a crime or fraud."

The NYT claims you were part of the efforts to mount a coup against the government of the United States. If true, no attorney-client privilege protects you.

As for undermining confidence in our political and legal system--you took part in a scheme created by the man who has done more to do that with his false claims about election fraud than anyone in our entire history.

If I were you I'd start making amends before you follow Giuliani and have to defend you license to practice law.

Like 13w Edited





Marc Stier Thank you for participating in this discussion, about which you are better informed than I.

Like 13w





Marc Stier

Mark B. Cohen I remembered that doctrine from some legal case I read about as an undergraduate. I no longer remember the case.

1.0cm 1.5cm



Bruce Marks

Mark B. Cohen I do not know the answer, and, of course, the Democrat majority can make their own rules, but presumably any subpoeaned materials were to be used for the investigation, not to be gratuitously leaked to the NYT. It seems that it would be an abuse of power to use the subpoenas for political, rather than investigative, purposes. Of course, there is a bigger institutional picture here. If the Democrats do this, then the Republicans are likely to do the same when they take control after the midterms. It is not good for the institution, the country, or the judicial system.

Like 13w



Bruce Marks

Marc Stier The NYT times does not claim that I was part of a coup. Where do you see that? Why would you think that I was part of a coup? If you read the article, you will see that the quote from an email attributed to me was critical of the Trump legal strategy. The only matter in which I entered an appearance for Trump was in the US Supreme Court. Have you read that filing? Does that evidence that I as part of a coup? I do agree that the NYT might have created confusion by writing about other attorneys and me in the same article, which could cause someone like you to draw false inferences. Do you see that as a problem?

Like 13w



Bruce Marks

Ed Doogan the attorney client privilege does not apply to legal advice designed to further a fraud or crime. But nothing in the article, or the email attributed to me, suggests that I was part of a fraud or a crime. I did disagree with the characterization of a "fake elector" scheme. In 1960, the Democrats sent an alternative slate of electors to DC while contesting the Kennedy-Nixon race. This precedent was followed by the Trump campaign in 2020 (with the caveat that I was not personally involved in the elector documents from Pennsylvania or any other state). The problem is that the Democrats and left wing media conflate different issues as part of their alleged "Big Lie". There are significant legal differences between the alternative elector program (which is what the Democrats did in 1960), falsely claiming fraud (as opposed to raising legitimate Constitutional and legal issues as I did in the US Supreme Court petition), and the advice given to Trump that the VP had the Constitutional authority to reject electors (in which I had no involvement and disagree legally, although I don't think Professor Eastman giving incorrect advice which he thought was correct is a crime).

Like 13w



Ed Doogan

Legitimate constitutional and legal questions that were thrown out of court 64 times? And your attempt to make what happened in 1960 analogous to what happened in 2020 is ridiculous on its face. The only thing analogous is that republicans lost an election and blamed voter fraud instead of a repudiation of their candidate. The 1960 presidential election in Hawaii was in the middle of their mandated recount and two slates of electors were ready depending on who won. It was Nixon himself (never known to be above dirty tricks) who said that the democratic electors from Hawaii should be seated.

As I said earlier, republicans had 64 opportunities to present evidence that there was voter fraud on a scale big enough to affect the outcome of the election and just like in Chicago 1960 they provided none. There were also recounts in several contested swing states including PA where we both love. The extremely far right Supreme Court even found that your case had no merit. At least Nixon was man enough to admit defeat instead of almost destroying our government. And Professor Eastman KNEW that the theory he was proposing was illegal. Nice try genius.

https://www.newsweek.com/fact-check-did-vice-president...



NEWSWEEK.COM

Fact Check: Did Vice President Richard Nixon reject Hawaii's election results in 1960?

Like 13w Edited



Marc Stier

Bruce Marks The NYT says you took part in the scheme to propose fake electors. That was immoral and dishonest. Illegal, too? Well there are some pretty smart lawyers who are claiming that the entire Trump effort to encourage Pence to block certification of PA's electors was fraudulent. And if the fake electors were chosen to encourage that fraud, then yes you were part of it.

I think you are all a bunch of traitors to our country.

If you were capable of shame you would know that too. At any rate, if we can save this country from your fascist party, you will go down in history as successors to the confederates. And you may remember what Marx said about history repeating itself: the first time as tragedy, the second time as farce.

Like 13w



Bruce Marks

Marc Stier please quote where I am accused of this. I dont see it.

Like 13w

LIKE ISW



Bruce Marks

Marc Stier please quote where I am accused of this. I dont see it.

Like 13w



Bruce Marks

Ed Doogan Ed, if and when your allegations have factual support, I'll respond. There was no recount in Pennsylvania. Where do you live? The Supreme court made no merits determination on the petition I filed. It became moot after January 20. Why do you claim this? There was a pending challenge in Pennsylvania in the US supreme court, no different than the Hawaii case.

Like 13w



Ed Doogan



Like 13w



Ed Doogan

Guess again dumbass. In the Hawaii case the two slates of electors were sent because the electoral college was counted early in December and it was Hawaii's first presidential election and they were still in the middle of recount even though Hawaii's electors had no affect on the outcome. 64 court cases weren't enough if they would have just listened to one more time.

"Voters, not lawyers, choose the President. Ballots, not briefs, decide elections," the judge wrote. Bibas was one of three judges on the Circuit Court of Appeals panel that consisted entirely of GOP appointees.

The judge's opinion was announced Friday afternoon and sided with a district court ruling that also rejected it."

If republican nominated judges rejected other arguments, 64 court cases were rejected in total and your brief was rendered moot because it was too late then only an absolute moron would think they still had a leg to stand on.

Like 13w

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Mark B. Cohen

Marc Stier None of us here are arguing about a decision-making body. It is their province to investigate and report they find. Whatever they find is if major public import, but it should be done within the standards of the House of Representatives, about which I am not expert. The attorney-client privilege varies from state to state, and is aimed at court proceedings. The January 6 Committee is not a court. And as a judge, I am limited in the degree to which I can comment on political actors, attorneys or judges in court proceedings.

Like 13v



Ed Doogan

Bruce Marks I'm no legal expert but doesn't criminal behavior by the attorney involved nullify attorney client privilege?

Like 13w



Bruce Marks

Mark B. Cohen I do not know the answer, and, of course, the Democrat majority can make their own rules, but presumably any subpoeaned materials were to be used for the investigation, not to be gratuitously leaked to the NYT. It seems that it would be an abuse of power to use the subpoenas for political, rather than investigative, purposes. Of course, there is a bigger institutional picture here. If the Democrats do this, then the Republicans are likely to do the same when they take control after the midterms. It is not good for the institution, the country, or the judicial system.

Like 13w



Bruce Marks

Marc Stier The NYT times does not claim that I was part of a coup. Where do you see that? Why would you think that I was part of a coup? If you read the article, you will see that the quote from an email attributed to me was critical of the Trump legal strategy. The only matter in which I entered an appearance for Trump was in the US Supreme Court. Have you read that filing? Does that evidence that I as part of a coup? I do agree that the NYT might have created confusion by writing about other attorneys and me in the same article, which could cause someone like you to draw false inferences. Do you see that as a problem?

Like 13w



DID YOU KNOW?..

Frankenstein & Dracula were union organizers?

Boris Karloff, who played Frankenstein. along with Bela Lugosi who played Dracula, were founding members of the actors Union, Screen Actors Guild (SAG).

Both men actively recruited Actors and Actresses to Join the then unrecognized Union (between 1933 and 1937).

It was not uncommon to see Karloff in full monster makeup, handing out applications to join the Screen Actors Gulld.

John Meyerson November 1 at 634 4M (v)

Solidarity Forever!

15

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22 5 Comments

Share

Ted Van Dyk Join or else.

Like

1w Matt Jackson

Ronald Reagan was president of the Screen Actors Guild.

Like Im

Bobby W Williams III They played monsters not idiots!

Like to

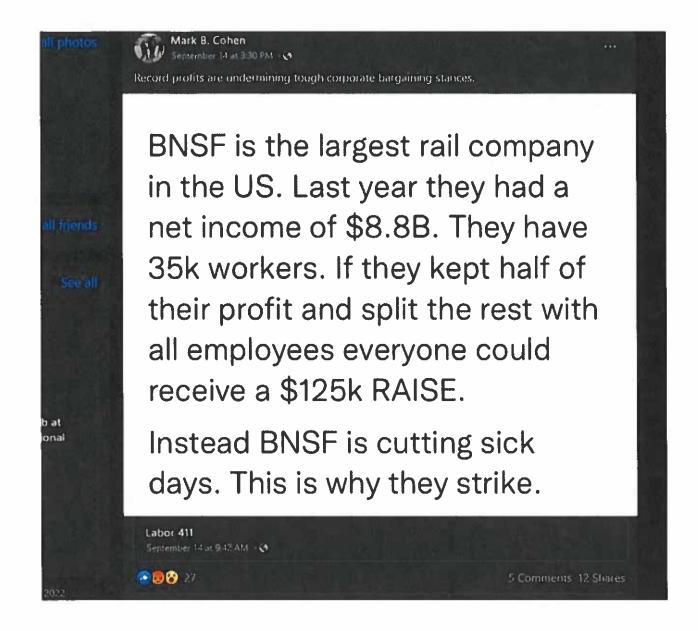
n∆ Like

Gerry Kosinski

They unionized since their bosses wanted blood from them.

Mark B. Cohen Gerry Kosinski A great line!







Bad news for Texas kids and school boards. Perhaps good news for Texas educators' future pay raises and working conditions.

Poll: 77% of Texas teachers want to quit

Gong Greater tall streets, a I disag finant als irrow, a towir worthplane rubber and a reveal link of stap-port and request, steam lines three-quarters of Trian trachers are nel-soully considering briefug. the profession, a pull from the Uherber finds Flounda-tion harms.

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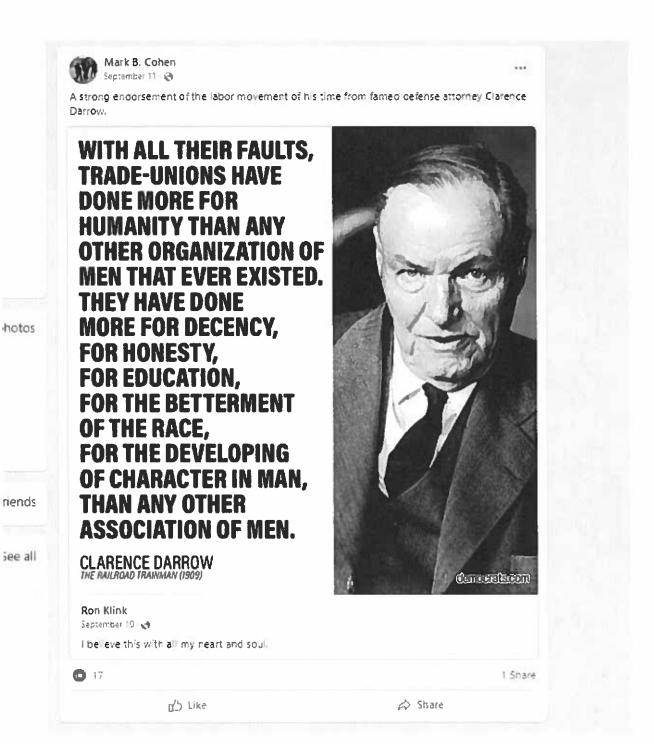
Johnny Mitchell

Houston Chronicle, 9/9/22









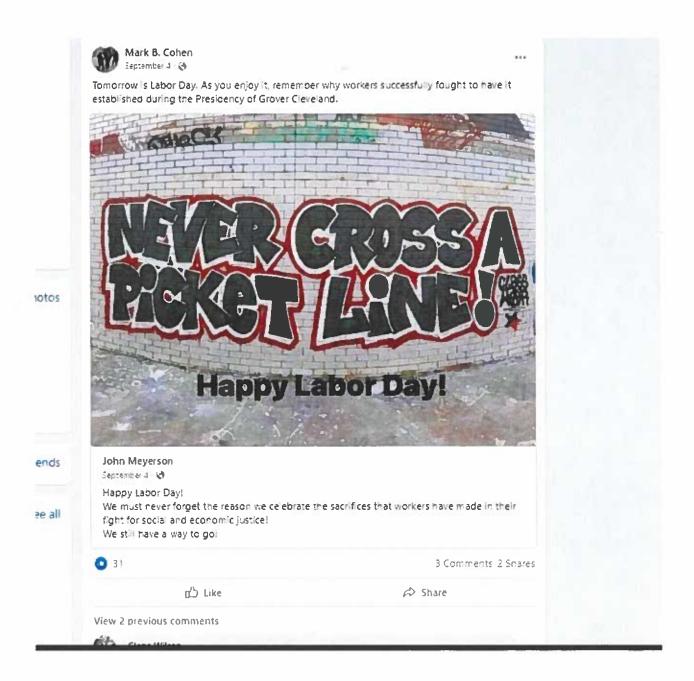


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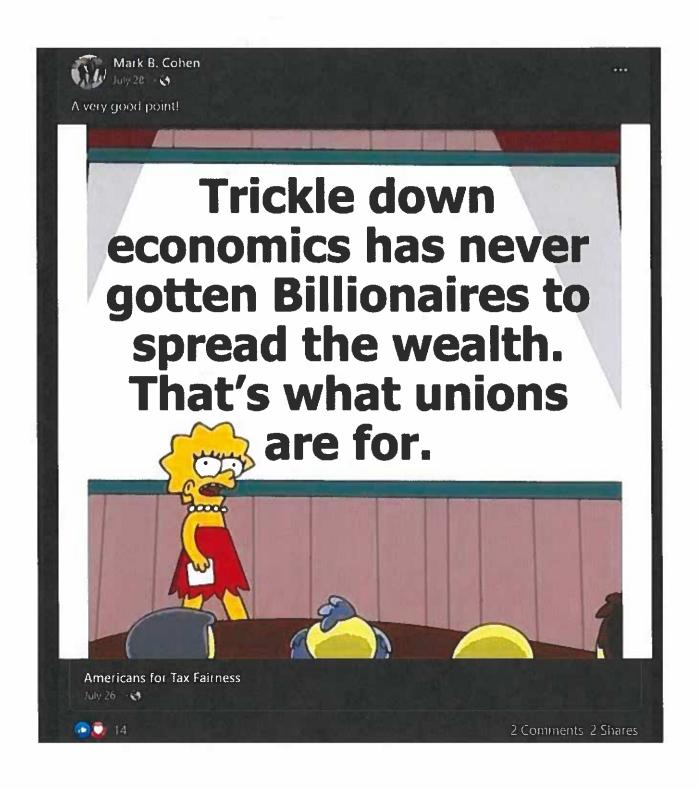


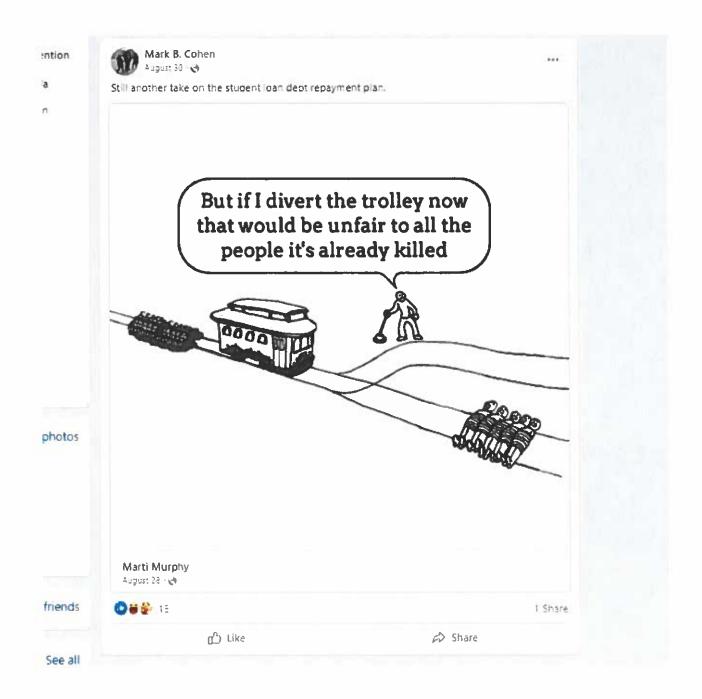


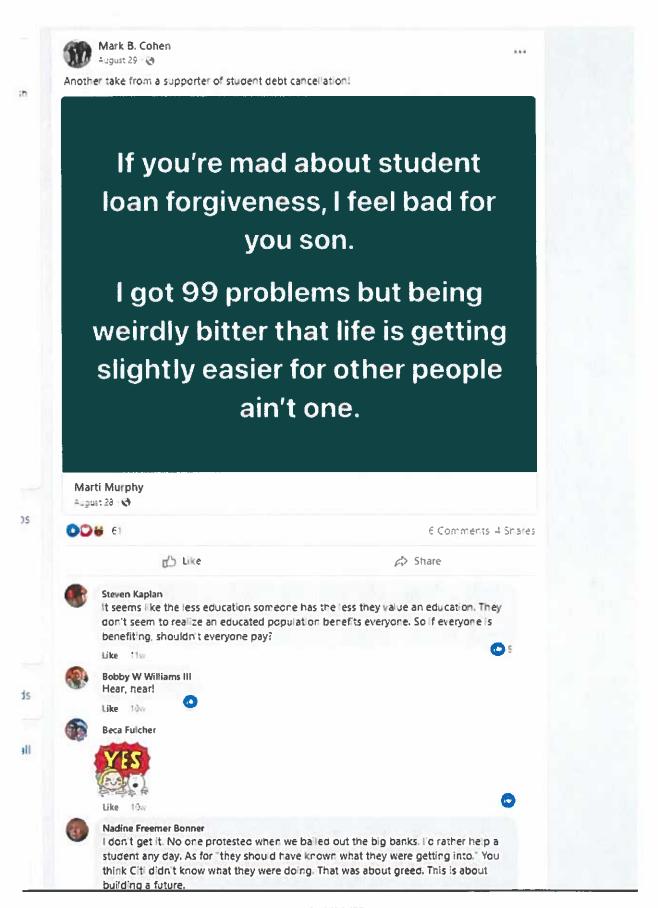


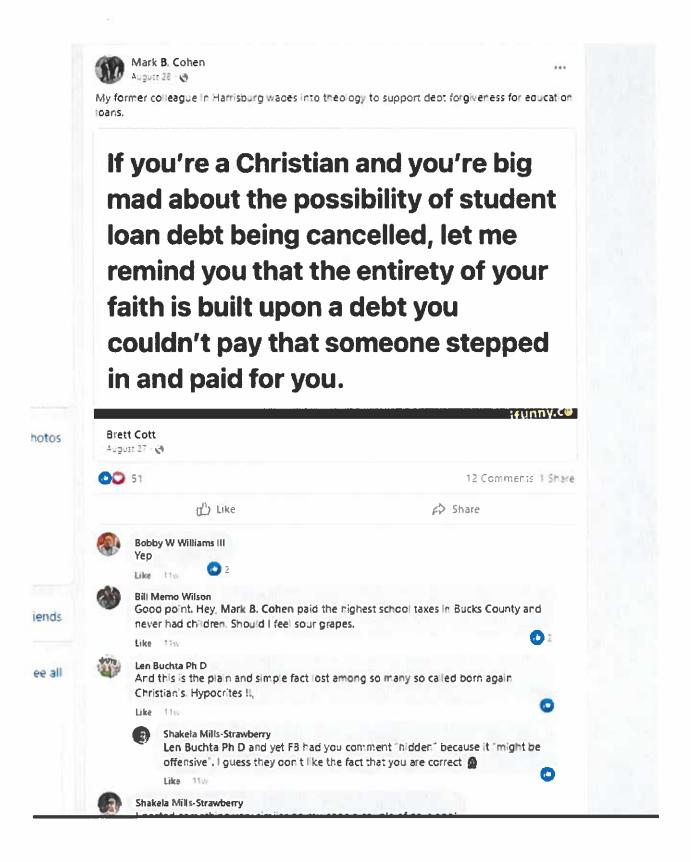


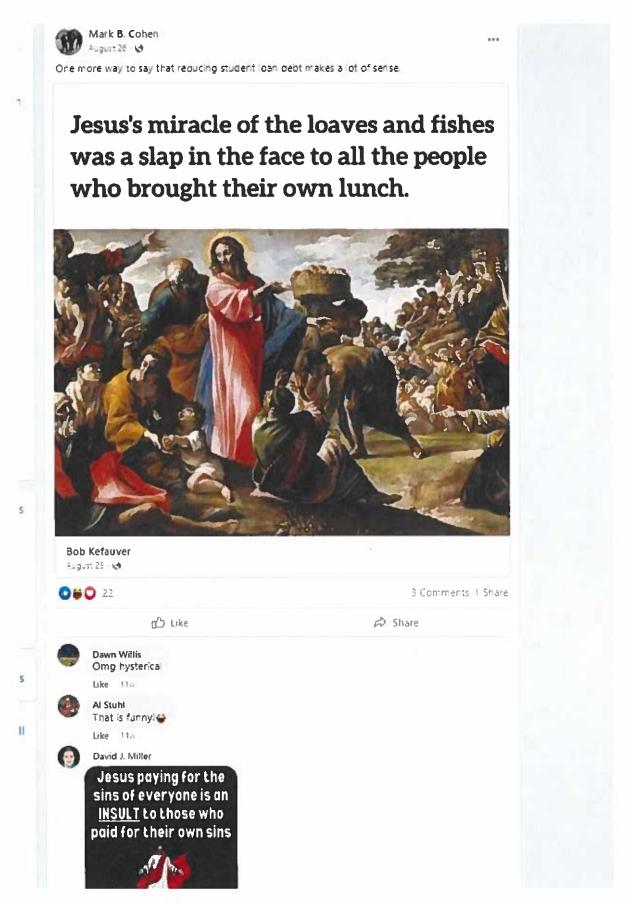


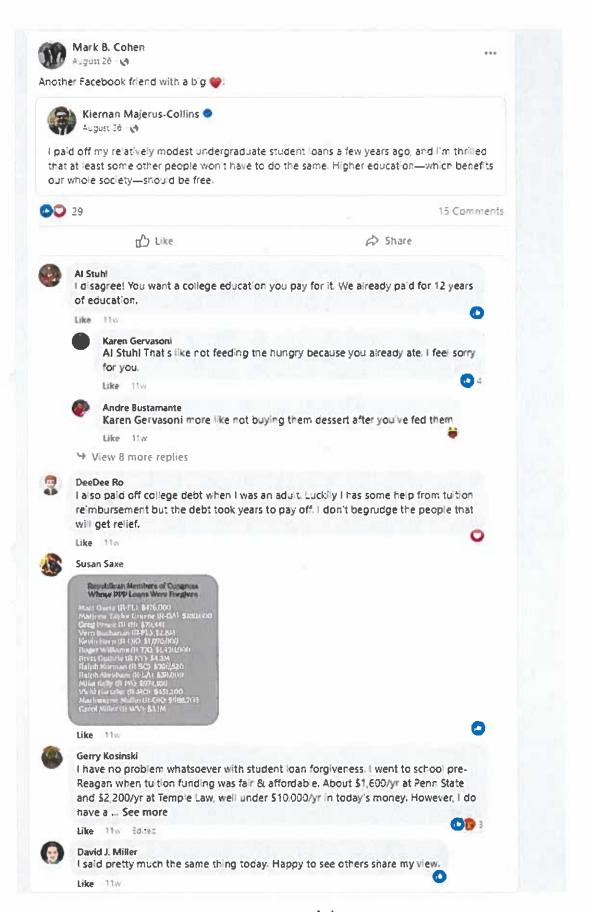


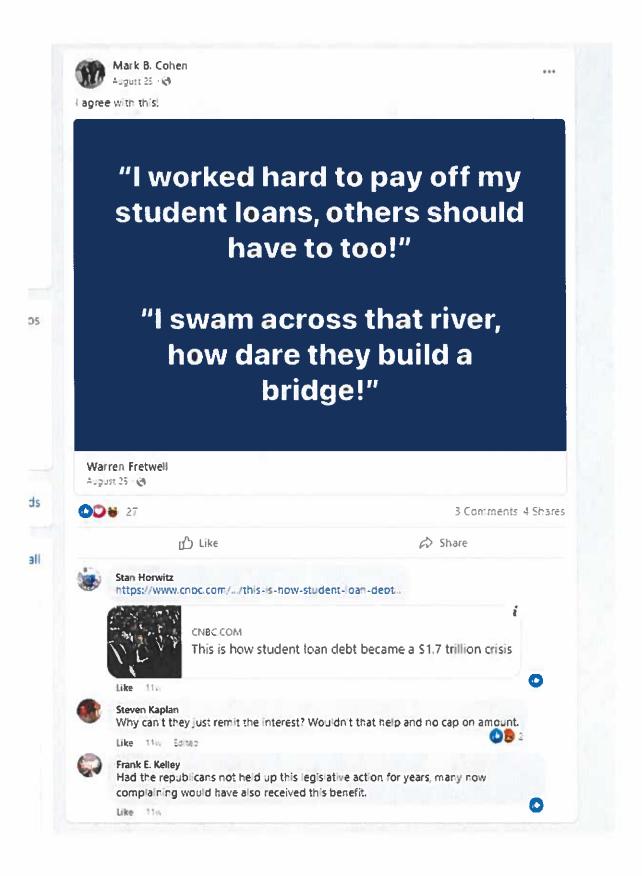


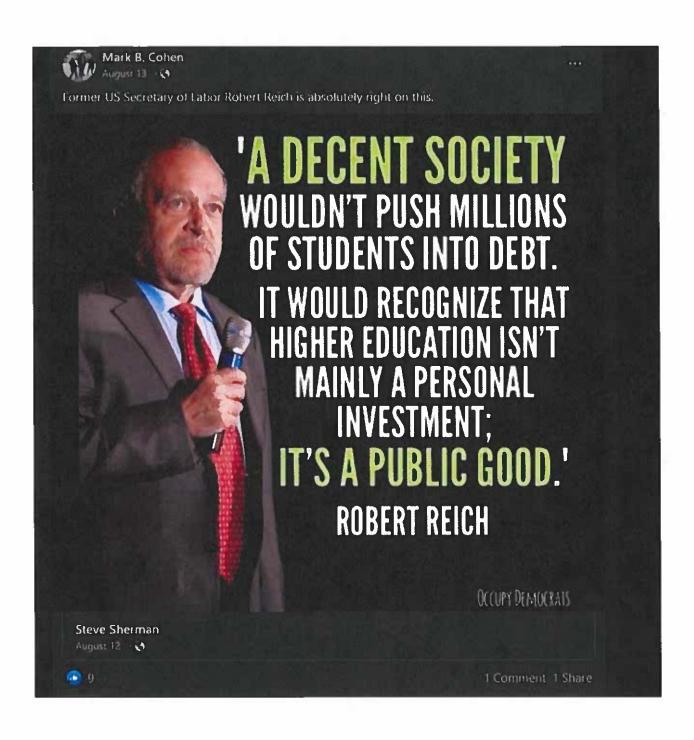


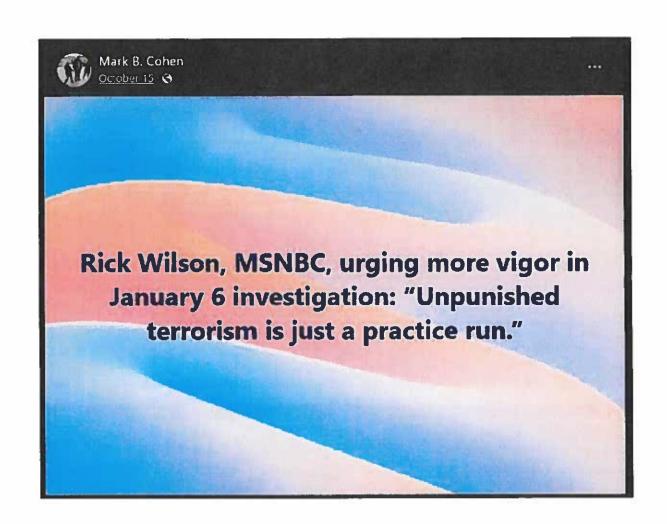












Nonsense and bigotry are reigniting in Texas, but spreading elsewhere as well! The state that gave us Estes Kefauver and two Al Gores is now trying to make knowledge of black history illegal. Shameless retrogression!

SHOTHERS COM SUNDAY DOTOSTS OF THE SALE

Tennessee law makes it illegal to teach Black history in K-12



On the first day of classes at the Uni-versity of Temperous at Martin secretic, I field all times of the American blanes Directly pleases that I would be in its

Shively thouses that I would be in the lature of a probly (rance). Truncases "exheritation in a west I teaching I same living in hit others that I would be treating however the country of the conting seminates.

This pair oping, the mil Lee algoritation the anti-Critical Race Theory that he shift in the appendix of the print in the spin of the continuous distant states they past oping, free Armanization had ever heart of CHI, and nominals of law schools, it's truely that the law of the chief of the schools, it's truely

Arrivations has every heart of a signature from the of has schools, it is threly faught, and faught ned all in h. The Buddenly in this point year, however, it one of those partenly likely type neutrings flugge, our consecutivity flugge, and politicisms compare all oblices with the distovery that children were being indoc-trinated with thee periodisms theory in K-12 echania

What is real intent behind law?

In Tennesses, our new less first makes it fillegal for any public N-IZ scaled is truch that star zero is infar-ently superior to another; that people are inherently purileged in zerial, etc. because of their race or new, or that yea-ple's sporal character is described by

ple's moral character is descrimed by race of ser. While we should be gled that Transcessee is firstly enthwing the traching of racial superfectly in any form, our legislatter chould have passed this part of its legislatter ob suid have passed this part of its legislation of years ago, when it midd have consisted to constitute. Bight up into the 1960s public related in Transcessee were suggested. Where in Tennessee openly and prood by characterized themselves as superfaces as they can a they characterized flath.



Machillo police grab John Louts, a loader of cliff lights decreant reters, of Morrison's Cafeteria on Ways End Avenue on April 29, 1966. Leuks uses the first persons of many to be arrested by the police. Asset Malifest structuration

ency ever unvides, since no one is doing should some a certain mousest of dis-that He, the real object here is to pre-troon, should it met? that He, the real object here is no pre-word compature (rams discussing marity Som contaries of white commission over Elack people

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Why should trith cause divised.

The legislature trice to cover this up by saying that it needs have done not great the state of the street of t termentions social enversees of their and white, which envired believing





