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To: 'Sarah Palin'; Leschper; Beth (GOV); 'fek9wnr@yahoo.com'; Balash; Joseph R (GOV); Perry; Kristina Y (GOV)
Subject: Jim Clark pleads guilty

Former Murkowski chief of staff pleads guilty to corruption charges

ANCHORAGE, Alaska -- Jim Clark, the former chief of staff to Gov. Frank Murkowski, has pleaded guilty to a single count of conspiracy.

The charges stem from an ongoing federal investigation into public corruption of Alaska politicians.

Specifically, the plea agreement indicates that Clark committed mail and wire fraud in order to advance a "scheme" in which VECO Corp. would eventually pay more than \$68,000 in expenses relating to Gov. Murkowski's re-election campaign.

The charges go on to say that the scheme was hatched so that the public would "be deceived and the payments would not be disclosed, as required by law."

The charges stem from the 2006 Petroleum Profits Tax debate in the state Legislature. Two former state lawmakers, Pete Kott and Vic Kohring, have already been found guilty of corruption-related charges stemming from the PPT 20/20 debate.

This is a breaking news story. Return to KTUU.com for updates to this story as they become available.

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