

THE WHITE HOUSE PAYOLA SYSTEM

In 2011, Leonnig and her *Post* colleague [Joe Stephens](#) revealed in a series of stories how the [Obama administration](#) pressed to approve a \$535 million federal loan to [Solyndra](#), a [solar panel](#) manufacturer whose leading investors were tied to a major Obama fundraiser. Their stories documented how White House aides for the senior-most White House advisers pressured Office of Management and Budget officials to make a decision on approving the Solyndra loan in time for a press conference they had tentatively scheduled for the Vice President to announce the funding. The company was one President Obama himself touted in a visit in 2010, shortly after independent auditors raised concerns about Solyndra's financial stability.[9]