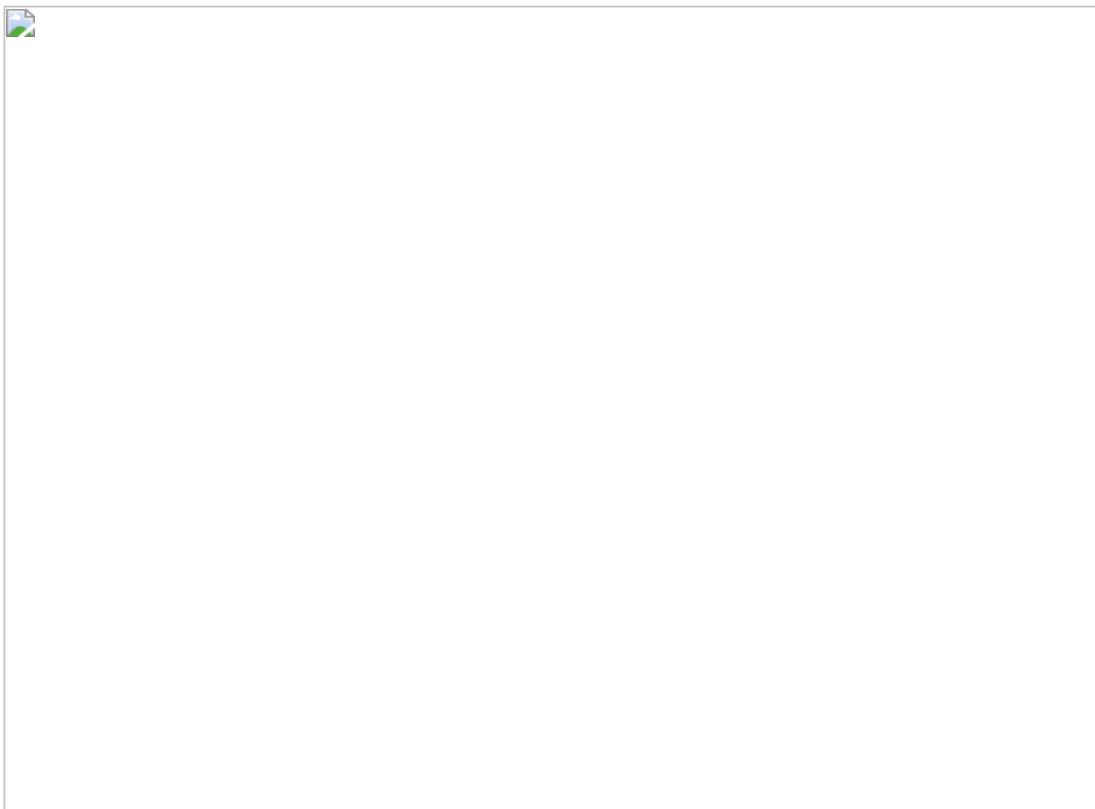


Russian Hooker Says She Gave Recordings of Deripaska Discussing 2016 Election Back To Deripaska For Gawker and Gizmodo Media

by [sundance](#)

This is VERY interesting, actually a MASSIVE FIND by Ziiggii, and simultaneously an apropos signal of the collapsing narrative.

Back in March 2018, CNN was giddy about a Russian prostitute arrested in Thailand named Anastasia Vashukevich; who claimed to have evidence of Russia's interference in the 2016 election. CNN framed the prostitute story around a possibility that her claims would back-up the ridiculous Trump *'hookers' angle* in the Steele dossier.



CNN even sent Ivan Watson to Thailand to interview Ms. Vashukevich in the hopes that she could validate the “hookers” and “pee-tapes” material that was in the Steele dossier.

Well, it turns out the recordings Ms. Vashukevich **was promoting/leveraging**, were actually **recordings of Oleg Deripaska**; and, at his request she returned them to him. News today:

[...] Vashukevich told The Associated Press that she had turned over audio recordings to Russian oligarch Oleg Deripaska, whose conversations about election interference she claimed to have taped.

She has said she provided “escort” services to Deripaska, who is close to Russian President Vladimir Putin and who has links to Paul Manafort, Trump’s former campaign manager now being tried in the United States on money laundering and other charges.

Speaking to an AP reporter in the courtroom in Pattaya, Vashukevich said she had promised Deripaska she would no longer speak on the matter, and that he had already promised her something in return for not making that evidence public. ([read more](#)).

This is HUGE.

Why?

Because everyone was wondering how the salacious and ridiculous Russian “hookers” and “pee tapes” story went into the Steele Dossier. Well, in recent discoveries, including text message and emails between DOJ Deputy Bruce Ohr and Christopher Steele, it was uncovered that Christopher Steele was representing Oleg Deripaska; and was also likely employed (at least in part) by Oleg Deripaska.

It now stands as a virtual certainty that Deripaska was the source of those ridiculous claims that Steele put into the dossier.

Further, and in **full appreciation for [Ziiggii’s discovery](#)**, here is a picture of Anastasia Vashukevich (the Russian escort currently imprisoned in Thailand) and Russian Billionaire Oleg Deripaska [on his boat](#) in October 2017:



Pay close attention to the caption (translated):

Training: Hunting for the Oligarch.

Mistress Olegarkha Nastya Rybka 🐟 together with the heroine of sex on the quay Sasha Travkoy 🍀 will conduct an exclusive outreach training for girls 👗 from 18 to 23 years old. 📌 The training they will teach:

How and where to meet people from Forbes 🏆, techniques of dating and attracting attention. 📌 Effective patterns of behavior.

📌 How and about what to communicate with the billionaire, to support the conversation, so that it would be fun and interesting; How can you satisfy a man who is tempted by a woman's attention in bed and probably uncover his sexual potential, find his fetishes and hidden sexual desires; 📌 How to tear down the roof of the oligarch, make his life fascinating 🐱; how to stand out in a highly competitive environment, to be remembered and become unique for him;

📌 Strategies of the impact on a married object; How to merge your wife / mistress / official favorite;

📌 How to fall in love with yourself with chips and methods of falling in love.

📌 How to be bold, ready for any moves, dare change his life

return for removing his travel restriction, the FBI asked Deripaska for help in framing Donald Trump and providing information about Paul Manafort in September of 2016.

References:

- ◆ John Solomon approached by [Adam Waldman \(Oleg's lobbyist/lawyer\) HERE](#)
- ◆ Oleg's Story and connection to the [DOJ/FBI Scheme outlined HERE](#).
- ◆ Bruce Ohr and Chris Steele [connecting to Oleg Deripaska HERE](#)
- ◆ Adam Waldman (Oleg's lawyer) now [refusing to cooperate with investigators HERE](#).

The Daily Beast can confirm a key part of the claim Michael Avenatti made Tuesday about Donald Trump's lawyer.

NOAH SHACHTMAN KATE BRIQUELET 05.08.18 6:10 PM ET

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY THE DAILY BEAST

The Daily Beast can confirm that Donald Trump's personal lawyer Michael Cohen received hundreds of thousands of dollars from a company connected to Russian oligarch Viktor Vekselberg.

The allegations were initially made Tuesday by Michael Avenatti, porn actress Stormy Daniels' lawyer, and confirmed by a source familiar with the matter.

"How the fuck did Avenatti find out?" the source asked The Daily Beast.

According to a dossier published by Avenatti on Tuesday evening, "Vekselberg and his cousin Mr. Andrew Intrater routed eight payments to Mr. Cohen through a company named Columbus Nova LLC beginning in January 2017 and continuing until at least August 2017."

The funds, Avenatti suggested, may have been used to reimburse Cohen for the \$130,000 payment made to Daniels in exchange for her silence about an alleged affair with Trump.

Intrater was also a donor to the Republican National Committee, on which Cohen served as a deputy finance chairman. In June 2017, Intrater donated \$35,000 to a joint fundraising committee for the RNC and Trump's reelection campaign. He also gave a quarter-million dollars to Trump's inaugural committee. (Previously, Intrater gave only to Democrats like Gov. Bill Richardson and Sen. Ted Kennedy.)

Intrater and Vekselberg have also been active investors in the U.S. technology and media sectors. Columbus Nova Technology Partners was the first and only outside investor in Gawker Media, before the company was felled by a lawsuit funded by Trump ally Peter Thiel. Columbus Nova also backed the record label of former Def Jam boss Lyor Cohen, invested in the streaming-music pioneer Rhapsody, and put money behind a gig-economy site, a "genetic risk" firm, and a company called Tomfoolery Incorporated.

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In a statement, Columbus Nova lawyer Richard Owens of Latham & Watkins insisted that Vekselberg did not have an ownership interest in the firm. "Reports today that Viktor Vekselberg used Columbus Nova as a conduit for payments to Michael Cohen are false. The claim that Viktor Vekselberg was involved in or provided any funding for Columbus Nova's engagement of Michael Cohen is patently untrue," Owens said. "Neither

Viktor Vekselberg nor anyone else outside of Columbus Nova was involved in the decision to hire Cohen or provided funding for his engagement.”

However, up until Tuesday night, Columbus Nova’s own website described the company as “the U.S. investment vehicle for the Renova Group”—Vekselberg’s asset-management firm. The site also noted that Intrater “is a former Director and current Member of the Executive Board of Renova Group.” (That page of the site was suddenly removed early Wednesday morning.)

In addition, Columbus Nova was listed on the website for the Renova Group as one of its “companies” until late last year, as NBC News reported. (That website is currently “under construction.”)

Through Renova, Vekselberg has holdings all over the world—including a 26.2 percent stake in Rusal, the aluminum-producing giant owned by Oleg Deripaska, the Russian oligarch now infamous for bankrolling former Trump campaign boss Paul Manafort. The U.S. government imposed economic sanctions on both Deripaska and Vekselberg in early April. But later that month, the U.S. Treasury Department, in effect, slow-rolled the sanctions, giving companies and individuals until late October to get out of business with Rusal, which is appealing Washington’s ruling. “Given the impact on our partners and allies, we are... extending the maintenance and wind-down period while we consider Rusal’s petition,” Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said in a statement.

According to *The New York Times*, Vekselberg was recently questioned by federal agents working with special counsel Robert Mueller. CNN reported that those queries involved the oligarch’s payments to Cohen.

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While Cohen’s lawyers refused to comment on the payments, Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani dismissed the news as Avenatti having foreseen the president’s Tuesday withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal—part of “one of the best days of the Trump presidency”—and simply trying to “stink it up as much as possible.”

Cohen and Trump’s lawyers did not immediately respond to requests for comment. But this development could put further pressure on the president’s inner circle. If Avenatti’s analysis is correct and the payments violated federal banking law, then Cohen could be in serious legal jeopardy. There are reportedly concerns in the president’s inner circle that Cohen could begin cooperating with investigators. The greater the legal jeopardy he faces, the greater pressure he will face to cooperate. And he wouldn’t be the only one; former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn and Trump campaign official Rick Gates are already cooperating with Mueller’s investigators.

Meanwhile, Avenatti is making a sport of riding Cohen in the press.

When Cohen appeared in federal court last month, Avenatti and his porn-star client were in the gallery watching. Following the appearance, Daniels crowed to a gaggle of reporters, “For years, Mr. Cohen has acted like he is above the law, he has considered himself and openly referred to himself as Mr. Trump’s fixer. He has played by a different set of rules, or should we say no rules at all.”

“That ends now,” Daniels concluded.

Avenatti also filed a defamation claim against Cohen one day after Daniels’ highly anticipated 60 Minutes appearance.

Days after Cohen won a 90-day stay in Daniels’ lawsuit and said he’d invoke his Fifth Amendment rights in the case, Avenatti filed a defamation claim against the president.

—Additional reporting by Lisa Schwartz and Betsy Woodruff.

UPDATE: This story has been updated with a statement from Columbus Nova and additional information on its relationship to Viktor Vekselberg.

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