

Mike Coffman

Chantel Taylor is a fraud and Ethics Watch is a front organization for the Democrat Party. Taylor creates the fiction of nonpartisanship so her organization can maintain a nonprofit tax status by gently slapping a few Democrats on the wrist from time to time while gut punching as many Republicans as she can.

Taylor disregards any ethical concerns as she habitually misstates facts and the law in hoping that she can find reporters who are either too lazy or don't have the time to fact check her press releases. Taylor's goal is all about making wild accusations so she can get one-day hit pieces into the media to create negative perceptions for Republicans. In turn, Taylor uses these stories to raise the money from her partisan donor base, which she refuses to disclose, to pay her salary and for overhead.

A typical example of Taylor's work is taken from one of her latest press releases on April 3, 2008 that headlines: *"Colorado Ethics Watch Finds that Secretary of State Mike Coffman is Using Taxpayer Time to Fundraise for Congressional Campaign"*

Taylor knows that elected officials don't have "official office hours" and that they are responsible for their duties 24/7. I'm often at work in the office at nights and weekends in addition have work related meetings outside of my office yet, unlike typical state employees, I don't accrue overtime, sick leave, or vacation time. Elected officials establish their own schedules and are permitted to do political activities so long as they are not conducted using their offices or with public resources. The law lumps all political activities together whether it's a Governor visiting with an editorial board as part of a re-election effort or an elected official meeting campaign contributors for breakfast, lunch, or for coffee outside of their office. If the law didn't allow this, how could former Attorney General Ken Salazar have campaigned for the U.S. Senate, how could Governor Bill Ritter run for re-election, or how can Mayor John Hickenlooper help raise money for the Democratic National Convention? Is Taylor going to ask for copies of Mayor Hickenlooper's schedules? I don't think her Democrat donors would reward her for doing that.

There are no ethical boundaries that seem to restrict Taylor from advancing her political agenda. So long as the media is willing to take her seriously, without investigating her work, she will continue to be successful in attacking Republicans and in meeting all of her fundraising goals.