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June 19, 2015

The Honorable Trey Gowdy
House of Representatives
Select Committee on Benghazi
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6090

Dear Chairman Gowdy:

I write to request the immediate release of the full transcript of Sidney Blumenthal's deposition before the Select Committee on Benghazi. There have been numerous leaks about his emails and testimony, many of which have given an inaccurate account of what occurred in the deposition. It is unfair to my client, to the work of the Committee, and to the public to allow this inaccurate record to persist.

According to press accounts, unidentified members and staff of the Select Committee have been speaking to the press and selectively releasing emails and details about Mr. Blumenthal's testimony. For example, here are just a few – but not all – of the leaks that we have seen:

- Just one day after Mr. Blumenthal's deposition, the *National Review* published an email that he provided to the Committee but had not yet been made public.[1]

- Also just one day after the deposition, *Bloomberg News* released a different email that Mr. Blumenthal shared with the Committee but had not yet been made public.[2]

- *Politico* published a story on June 17th quoting "a source who has reviewed the email exchange" to mischaracterize email conversations between Secretary Hillary Clinton and Mr. Blumenthal. The same article also quoted "Republicans privy to the Benghazi

[1] Joel Gehrke, *NR Exclusive: Blumenthal's Email to Hillary on Spinning Qaddafi's Fall*, NATIONAL REVIEW (June 17, 2015) http://www.nationalreview.com/article/419931/nr-exclusive-blumenthals-e-mail-hillary-spinning-qaddafis-fall;

[2] Josh Rogin, *Clinton Confidante Sent Bad Intel on Gaddafi*, BLOOMBERG VIEW (June 17, 2015) http://www.bloombergview.com/articles/2015-06-17/blumenthal-sent-hillary-clinton-bad-intel-on-qaddafi.

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committee's strategy," "a Republican congressional source," and "another GOP select committee member" to describe Mr. Blumenthal's document submission and testimony.[3]

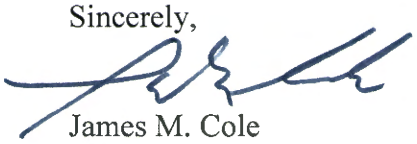
- On June 19th, *Fox News* quoted "congressional sources" to publicly disclose income Mr. Blumenthal has received.[4]

This is inappropriate and contrary to the rules of the Committee. Leaks like these are distorting the truth by mischaracterizing facts and circumstances. They are creating an incomplete and unfair narrative about the deposition, Mr. Blumenthal's knowledge about Libya, and the tragedy that occurred in Benghazi.

Mr. Chairman, you have stated that you want to run this Select Committee in a fair and even-handed way. In light of these leaks, the only way to achieve that is to release the full transcript right away. Mr. Blumenthal fully cooperated with the Select Committee, and answered every question asked. The public deserves to know the whole truth about what occurred during his deposition, and fairness demands it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



James M. Cole

cc: The Honorable Elijah Cummings, Ranking Member

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[3] Kenneth P. Vogel and Rachael Bade, *Benghazi panel probes Sidney Blumenthal's work for David Brock*, POLITICO (June 17, 2015) http://www.politico.com/story/2015/06/benghazi-panel-sidney-blumenthals-david-brock-119130.html#ixzz3dMcYnFEy. *Politico* has since printed a correction to the mischaracterization.

[4] Judson Berger, *Sources: Clinton confidant who sent Libya memos paid $200G by Brock network*, FOX NEWS (June 19, 2015), http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2015/06/19/sources-clinton-confidant-who-sent-libya-memos-being-paid-200g-by-brock-network/.