

ADDINGTON, DAVID S.: Files, 1987-1988 – REAGAN LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

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ADDINGTON, DAVID S.: Files, 1987-1988

Legislative Affairs, White House Office of

Biography

David S. Addington (1957-) is an American lawyer, public servant, and conservative academic.

Addington was born in Washington, DC in 1957. His father was Brigadier General Jerry Addington. Addington's childhood followed a typical military childhood pattern with many family moves and some time spent abroad.

Addington graduated from Sandia High School in Albuquerque, New Mexico in 1974. He was admitted to the United States Naval Academy and attended beginning in the fall of 1974, but dropped out during his freshman year. He is a graduate of the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University (B.S.F.S., summa cum laude) and holds a J.D. degree (with honors) from Duke University School of Law. He was admitted to the bar in 1981.

During the Reagan Administration, Addington served in a wide variety of positions concluding at the White House. He was an assistant general counsel for the Central Intelligence Agency from 1981 to 1984.

From 1984 to 1987 Addington was counsel for the House committees on intelligence and foreign affairs. He served as a staff attorney on the joint U.S. House-Senate committee investigation of the Iran-Contra affair as an assistant to Congressman Bill Broomfield (R-MI). Addington was also a special assistant and deputy assistant to President Ronald Reagan in the Office of Legislative Affairs at the White House, 1987-1988. His primary duties involved defense appropriations and lobbying for the efforts to maintain funding to the Nicaraguan resistance fighters (the "Contras")

Then Addington became heavily involved in both Bush Administrations. From 1989 to 1992, Addington served as special assistant to Richard "Dick" Cheney who was then the Secretary of Defense. In 1992 President George H.W. Bush appointed Addington as the Department of Defense's general counsel.

During the early years of the Clinton Administration, Addington returned to the Congress and was the Republican staff director of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

In 1994-1995, Addington headed a political action committee, the Alliance for American Leadership, set up to support Republican candidates for public office, with a principle focus on being a Presidential exploratory committee for Cheney, as the former Defense Secretary contemplated running for the 1996 Republican Presidential nomination.

From 1995 to 2001, Addington worked in private practice, for law firms Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz and Holland & Knight and the American Trucking Association.

He also provided extensive assistance to Dick Cheney when the latter was chief executive officer of Halliburton Corporation and was in charge of vetting potential Presidential running mates for Texas Governor George W. Bush. His long association with Cheney was rewarded when Cheney was surprisingly chosen as Bush's Vice-President. After the election victory, Addington was appointed counsel to the Vice President.

After he began working for Cheney, Addington was influential in numerous policy areas. He provided advice and drafted memoranda on many of the most controversial policies of the Bush Administration. Addington's influence strongly reflects his hawkish views on US foreign policy, a position he has long held. As Vice Presidential counsel, Addington was known for his focus on the constitutional independence of the Vice President. He tried to protect the inner workings of the Office of the Vice President from investigations by the Government Accountability Organization (GAO) and private organizations.

In 2005 Addington was appointed the Chief of Staff for the Vice President after his previous Chief of Staff, Lewis "Scooter" Libby resigned facing perjury and obstruction of justice charges. As chief of staff, Addington supervised the Vice President's staff. As chief of staff, Addington supervised the Vice President's staff. This title also included "Assistant to the President," and as such, Addington provided advice on behalf of the Vice President to White House staff.

Over the course of eight years, Addington was reportedly involved in the more visible controversies of the Bush Administration. Press reports state Addington took a leading role in pressing for the use of torture (so-called "enhanced interrogation techniques"), the Department of Justice Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) "torture memos" justifying and legalizing torture" and the National Security Agency's warrantless surveillance on United States citizens' telecommunications. Addington has neither confirmed or denied any of these reports.

Press reports state that Addington consistently advocated the expansion of presidential powers and the "unitary executive theory", a nearly absolute deference to the executive branch from Congress and the judiciary. Addington stated in his sworn House Judiciary Committee testimony that he intends the term "unitary executive" to refer to the provision of the Constitution that vests all "executive power" in "a President" rather than in multiple officials or Congress.

Another controversy involved the oversight for declassification by the National Archives Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO), Addington stating the Office of the Vice President was exempt from this oversight. He was pressed to provide depositions on this attitude but the United States Court of Appeals, District of Columbia overruled previous rulings and Addington did not have to testify on this position.

Addington, along with other officials, was mentioned by title in I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby Jr.'s indictment for five felony charges related to the Plame affair, regarding the leak of the identity of a CIA officer, and he testified at the Libby trial.

A PBS *Frontline* documentary "Cheney's Law" broadcast on October 16, 2007 detailed Addington's key role in Bush Administration policy making, and noted that he declined to be interviewed regarding his thoughts on the limits of executive privilege. On June 26, 2008, Addington testified under subpoena from the House Judiciary Committee along with former Justice Department attorney John Yoo in a contentious hearing on detainee treatment, interrogation methods and the extent of executive branch authority. This testimony was Addington's only public statement during his eight years as Cheney's Vice Presidential Counsel and Chief of Staff.

Human Rights Watch and *The New York Times* editorial board have called for the investigation and prosecution of Addington "for conspiracy to torture as well as other crimes."

In November 2006, the German government received a complaint seeking the prosecution of Addington and 15 other current and former US government officials for alleged war crimes. The German Prosecutor General at the Federal Supreme Court declined to initiate proceedings on the complaint.

Since his time in the Bush Administration Addington has served as Senior Vice President and Deputy Chief Operating Officer at The Heritage Foundation and as Senior Vice President, General Counsel, and Chief Legal Officer at the National Federation of Independent Business.

Addington is married to Cynthia Mary Addington and they have three children.

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*The 72-Hour Document: The Sandinista Blueprint for Constructing Communism in
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Inside the Sandinista Regime: A Special Investigator's Perspective - February 1986

*Revolution Beyond Our Borders: Sandinista Intervention in Central America -
September 1985*

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Report of the National Bipartisan Commission on Central America - January 1984 (1)(2)

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Background Notes - Guatemala September 1984

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Background Notes - Belize September 1984

“Belize Post Report” March 1983

“Guatemala Post Report” December 1985

“Panama Post Report” September 1984

“Nicaragua Post Report” October 1986

The U.S. and Central America: Implementing the National Bipartisan Commission Report August 1986 (2 copies)

Crackdown on Freedom in Nicaragua and Profiles of Internal Opposition Leaders August 1986

Attack on the Church: Persecution of the Catholic Church in Nicaragua

Briefing Book: Central America Democracy, Peace and Development Initiative February 1984

President Reagan - Central America: Defending Our Vital Interests 04/27/1983

The Sandinista Military Build-Up: An Update October 1987 (2 Copies)

The Sandinista Constitution August 1987

A Plan for Fully Funding the Recommendations of the National Bipartisan Commission on Central America March 1987

Sandinista Prisons: A Tool of Intimidation

Broken Promises: Sandinista Repression of Human Rights in Nicaragua October 1984

Nicaragua Biographies: A Resource Book January 1988

Atlas of the Caribbean Basin July 1984 (2d Edition)

Background Paper: Nicaragua's Military Build-up and Support for Central American Subversion 07/18/1984