

**CLAUDE A. ALLEN, *White House***

Claude A. Allen served as assistant to the president for domestic policy from 2005 until February 2006, when he resigned, allegedly to spend more time with his family.<sup>1</sup> On March 9, 2006, Mr. Allen was arrested on two charges for stealing merchandise from Target and Hecht's stores: theft by scheme over \$500 and theft over \$500.<sup>2</sup>

On January 2, 2006, Mr. Allen was observed making fraudulent returns at a Target store, was apprehended by the store's loss prevention manager and charged with theft under \$500 for the incident.<sup>3</sup> A subsequent investigation revealed that Mr. Allen had recovered fraudulent refunds of over \$5,000 at Hecht's and Target stores in 2005, as documented by American Express and Visa credit card records and store videos.<sup>4</sup> A Target video captured Mr. Allen purchasing a Bose theatre system for \$525 and a Kodak printer for \$237, leaving the store and re-entering the store moments later without the merchandise. Mr. Allen then selected the same theatre system and printer, brought them to the counter and had a sales clerk refund the items to his credit card, even though the merchandise he originally purchased remained in his car.<sup>5</sup>

In August 2006, pursuant to a plea agreement, Mr. Allen pleaded guilty to a single count of shoplifting. In so doing, Mr. Allen avoided the maximum sentence of 18 years. Under the terms of the plea agreement, Mr. Allen was sentenced to two years of supervised probation, 40 hours of community service, a \$500 fine and required to pay Target \$850 in restitution.<sup>6</sup> If Mr. Allen completes probation his criminal record will be erased, thereby permitting him to resume practicing law.<sup>7</sup>

Prior to his stint as President Bush's top domestic policy advisory, Mr. Allen served as deputy secretary in the Department of Health and Human Services, where he was a strong

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<sup>1</sup> Ernesto Londono and Michael A. Fletcher, Former Top Bush Aide Accused of Md. Thefts, *The Washington Post*, March 11, 2006. (Exhibit 1)

<sup>2</sup> Montgomery County Department of Police, Press Release, Gaithersburg Man Arrested for Theft Scheme, March 10, 2006. (Exhibit 2)

<sup>3</sup> Maryland v. Allen, Case No. D060016390, Arrest Warrant (Md. Mar. 7, 2006). (Exhibit 3)

<sup>4</sup> Id.

<sup>5</sup> Id.

<sup>6</sup> Holli Chmela, Ex-Bush Aide Admits Shoplifting and Is Fined, *The New York Times*, August 5, 2006. (Exhibit 4)

<sup>7</sup> Id.

advocate for abstinence-only AIDS prevention programs.<sup>8</sup> In 2003, President Bush nominated him to a seat on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, but his nomination was blocked because of his lack of legal experience.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Londono and Fletcher, *The Washington Post*, Mar. 11, 2006.

<sup>9</sup> Michael Fletcher and Joshua Partlow, Arrest of Ex-Bush Aide Shocks Associates, *The Washington Post*, March 12, 2006. (Exhibit 5)