

Obama's Commerce Secretary Nominee: Billionaire "Penny" Pritzker

By [Stephen Lendman](#)

Global Research, March 13, 2013

Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [Global Economy](#)

She's one of America's most powerful women. Forbes estimates she's worth \$1.85 billion.

She's also heir to the Hyatt Hotels and Pritzker family fortune. It's net worth exceeds \$20 billion.

Her [official bio](#) calls her a "civic and business leader." She's PSP Capital Partners founder, chairman and CEO. She also heads Pritzker Realty Group and Artemis Real Estate Partners. Previously she was involved in other family businesses.

In February 2011, Obama appointed her to the President's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness (PCJC). General Electric CEO Jeff Immelt headed it.

He destroyed jobs at the same time. He offshored them to low wage countries. He pretended to advise Obama on creating them. He faked it. PCJC met four times. It was a sham. It accomplished nothing.

In January 2012, it was disbanded. It never should have been established in the first place. It was smoke and mirrors. It did nothing to create jobs.

Pritzker serves on Hyatt's board. She's a former Wm. Wrigley, Jr. Company, Marmon Group and LaSalle Bank board member. She chaired credit reporting firm TransUnion.

She's a Council on Foreign Relations member. She belongs to other elitist groups..

In its August 2008 "[Power of Penny Pritzker](#)" article, Bloomberg called her the "billionaire head of Barack Obama's fundraising machine (and) the person to call when you want to 'get the job done,' says Warren Buffett."

In 2008, she was Obama's campaign finance team national chairwoman. She raised millions. She shattered fundraising records.

She helped get Obama elected. She organized "the best financed campaign in US history," said Bloomberg. In 2012, she was a top bundler.

She was up for Commerce Secretary before. She dropped out of the running. She focused on business priorities. She had internal disputes to resolve.

She ran suburban Chicago-based Superior Bank. In 2001, it collapsed. It had \$2.3 billion in assets.

It was a predatory lender. It was heavily into subprime fraud. Pritzker was one of its

originators. Some called her the [subprime queen](#). For others she was the [doyenne of predatory lending](#).

She cost FDIC \$700 million. Depositors lost \$65 million. She bears full responsibility. With Ernst and Young and Merrill Lynch, [she originated subprime](#) fraud.

Superior Bank operated a nationwide origination system. It was founded in 1988. Pritzker family members bought Lyons Savings. It was bankrupt.

They paid \$42.5 million. They got \$645 million in tax credits in return. They put up \$1 million to get it. They got more. Sweetheart deal terms included all federally insured bank deposits.

They took full advantage. They concentrated on subprime lending. In December 1992, they acquired Alliance Funding. It was a wholesale mortgage originator.

In November 2002, [In These Times](#) headlined “Breaking the Bank,” saying:

Superior had

“a familiar ring. Using a variety of shell companies and complex financial gimmicks, (its) managers and owners exaggerated the profits and financial soundness of the bank.”

“While (it) actually lost money throughout most of the '90s, publicly it appeared to be growing remarkably fast and making unusually large profits.”

“Under that cover, (it) paid its owners huge dividends and provided them favorable loans and other financial deals deemed illegal by federal investigators.”

It was a “mini-Enron.” When it collapsed, Pritzker and other family members [profited hugely](#). Borrowers and depositors were scammed.

Superior’s auditor “doubled as a financial consultant.” He engaged in “dubious accounting practices.” He played fast and loose with numbers.

Pritzker ignored sound risk management principles. She ran a predatory lending operation.

She settled for pennies on the dollar. No one went to jail.

Retired Ameritech manager Fran Sweet lost \$100,000. She called the Pritzkers “crooks. “They don’t care anything about people who spent their whole lives trying to save” she said.

Many Superior depositors lost everything they had over the FDIC insured \$100,000 limit.

Bloomberg reported controversy surrounding credit reporting firm TransUnion.

At the time, it controlled “the \$3.3 billion market in equal shares with Atlanta-based Equifax and Dublin-based Experian Group Ltd.”

“After widespread consumer complaints about shoddy service in the credit checking industry, (Congress) passed legislation in 2003 that allowed people to

get free copies of credit reports so they could check for mistakes and block information obtained from identity theft.”

The same year, Klamath Falls, OR-based Judy Thomas won a \$5.3 million settlement. She claimed TransUnion took six years to correct a mistake in her credit report. On appeal, it was reduced to \$1.3 million.

In 2008, Pritzker withdrew her name from Commerce Secretary consideration. Friends say she now wants the job.

Stephen Lendman lives in Chicago. He can be reached at lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net.

His new book is titled “Banker Occupation: Waging Financial War on Humanity.”

<http://www.claritypress.com/LendmanII.html>

Visit his blog site at sjlendman.blogspot.com.

Listen to cutting-edge discussions with distinguished guests on the Progressive Radio News Hour on the Progressive Radio Network.

It airs Fridays at 10AM US Central time and Saturdays and Sundays at noon. All programs are archived for easy listening.

<http://www.progressiveradionetwork.com/the-progressive-news-hour>

<http://www.dailycensored.com/penny-pritzker-obamas-likely-commerce-secretary-choice/>

The original source of this article is Global Research
Copyright © [Stephen Lendman](#), Global Research, 2013

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Stephen Lendman](#)

About the author:

Stephen Lendman lives in Chicago. He can be reached at lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net. His new book as editor and contributor is titled "Flashpoint in Ukraine: US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III."

<http://www.claritypress.com/LendmanIII.html> Visit his blog site at sjlendman.blogspot.com. Listen to cutting-

edge discussions with distinguished guests on the Progressive Radio News Hour on the Progressive Radio Network. It airs three times weekly: live on Sundays at 1PM Central time plus two prerecorded archived programs.

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca