

# Mueller Pierced Manafort's Attorney-Client Privilege Once, May Try the Tactic Again



Paul Manafort

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A little-noticed court filing unsealed this week as part of special counsel Robert S. Mueller III's ongoing probe could have big consequences for his other targets – showing he's willing to use suspects' lawyers to provide evidence against them, according to ***The Washington Post***.

An opinion by U.S. District Court Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell found that one of Manafort's former lawyers could be compelled to testify to the grand jury. She found a "crime fraud" exception to the attorney-client privilege, writing:

When a person uses the attorney-client relationship to further a criminal scheme, the law is well established that a claim of attorney-client or work-product privilege must yield to the grand jury's investigatory needs.

**Above the Law** reports (sourcing the National Law Journal) that

the attorney in question is Melissa Laurenza, partner at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld whose practice focuses on campaign law and lobbying registration.

**Read the *Washington Post* article.**