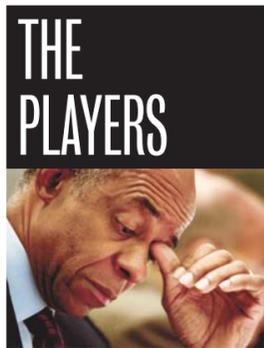


# BREAKING DOWN THE CASE

Nearly four years after FBI agents found \$90,000 in marked bills stuffed inside the freezer in his Washington D.C. home, former Congressman William Jefferson will go on trial Tuesday, facing 16 federal bribery and public corruption charges.



**THE PLAYERS**  
**WILLIAM JEFFERSON**  
 The former nine-term New Orleans congressman is accused of accepting bribes for himself and his family in exchange for promoting various business ventures in Nigeria, Ghana and other African nations. "I'm in the shadows, behind the curtain," he allegedly told an FBI informant.

**VERNON JACKSON**  
 CEO of iGate Inc., a small Kentucky telecommunications firm that developed technology called "Triple Play" to transmit video, voice and

data over copper phone lines. Pleaded guilty to bribery charges and sentenced to seven years and three months in prison.

**LORI MODY**  
 A wealthy northern Virginia investor who paid \$3.5 million to license iGate's technology. Believing she was defrauded, she went to the FBI in 2005 and became a government informant. She secretly recorded conversations with the congressman and was videotaped handing him \$100,000 in marked bills, \$90,000 of which the FBI found in his freezer.

**BRETT PFEFFER**  
 A gregarious former Jefferson congressional aide and investment adviser to Mody, he introduced the two and served as a go-between. Pleaded guilty to bribery charges and was sentenced to eight years in prison.

**ATIKU ABUBAKAR**  
 Former vice president of Nigeria who was to have ensured that iGate would be a player in the nation's burgeoning telecommunications

system, a deal Jefferson estimated would make \$200 million annually for the firm. Abubakar saw his presidential ambitions thwarted in 2007, partly as a result of a Nigerian ethics investigation triggered when the FBI asked for help with its ongoing Jefferson probe.

**ANDREA JEFFERSON**  
 Jefferson's wife and manager of ANJ Group LLC, a company Vernon Jackson paid \$367,500 in cash, nearly \$90,000 in travel and 30 million shares of iGate stock.

**SULEIMAN YAHYAH**  
 Chairman and CEO of Rosecom.Net, the Nigerian firm that was to have been iGate's partner in securing the telecommunications contract. "He's got a lot of people to pay off," Jefferson allegedly told Mody in a recorded conversation.

**JAMES CREAUGHAN**  
 A Baton Rouge lobbyist who once worked for U.S. Sen. Russell Long, D-La., Creaughan worked on several deals with Jefferson, including a proposal by Global Environmental Energy Inc. to build garbage-to-

energy incinerators in western Africa. The FBI didn't know about Creaughan until it questioned then-Rep. Jefferson just before searching his New Orleans house in August 2005. But after speaking to Creaughan, the Justice Department says it "opened up the floodgates" to the variety of business ventures connected to the former congressman.

**NOREEN WILSON**  
 A Florida investor, Wilson was involved in several business deals with Jefferson, including the effort to build incinerators in western Africa and efforts to cash in oil development rights off the coasts of the western African nations of Sao Tome and Principe. Wilson was so close to the Jefferson family that after Katrina, she helped put up members of the Jefferson family in one of her Florida condominiums. She and Creaughan are listed by the Justice Department as unindicted co-conspirators in the Jefferson case.

## IN THE COURTROOM

**T.S. ELLIS III**  
*The judge*

Appointed to the federal bench by President Ronald Reagan, Ellis has said that he considers political corruption one of the most heinous of crimes because of the betrayal of public trust. The Jefferson case won't be his first high-profile trial. In 2002, he presided over the trial of the so-called American Taliban, John Walker Lindh. He expressed no sympathy for Lindh's argument that he couldn't leave the Taliban for fear of being killed. "Life is about making choices and living with the consequences," Ellis said. "You make a bad choice to join the Taliban and engage in that effort over there."

**ROBERT TROUT**  
*Attorney for the defense*

One of Washington's best-known white-collar defense attorneys, Trout has garnered a reputation for maintaining a

nice guy image while aggressively advocating for his clients. A former federal prosecutor, Trout is now a partner in a small firm with Plato Cacheris, the lawyer who represented Monica Lewinsky. Trout's previous high-profile clients include former Clinton Environmental Protection Agency administrator Carol Browner, who was accused of destroying agency computer files sought by a conservative legal group, and Schlyer Tilney, a Merrill Lynch executive charged with helping Enron inflate its profits.

**MARK LYTLE**  
*The prosecutor*

Lytly has worked almost exclusively on the Jefferson case for several years, even before the grand jury indicted him in June 2007. Lytly was part of a prosecution team that has been aggressive, ordering a raid of Jefferson's congressional office — the first in U.S. history — and the raid of then-Nigerian Vice President Atiku Abubakar's Maryland home. A Detroit native, Lytly worked as a trial attorney for the Justice Department's tax division and a staff attorney for the Securities and Exchange Commission and helped imprison several high-profile tax cheaters.

## JEFFERSON CASE TIMELINE

Based on court documents and FBI transcripts:

### 2000

The seeds of the federal indictment against U.S. Rep. William Jefferson began in 2000, when Vernon Jackson, the CEO of the Kentucky-based technology company iGate Inc., sought the New Orleans Democrat's help in promoting his firm's high-speed data, voice and video transmission technology called "Triple Play." Developing nations in Africa became targets for major deals. The government alleges Jefferson ultimately sought a share of the company's profits for himself and his family, a scheme uncovered when an angry investor began cooperating with the FBI.



Vernon Jackson

### 2001

**Jan. 19:** The ANJ Group LLC is registered in Louisiana listing Jefferson's wife, Andrea, as manager.  
**Jan. 22:** iGate CEO Vernon Jackson signs a "professional services agreement" with the ANJ Group to pay \$7,500 monthly, 5 percent of profits and options to buy 1 million shares of stock.



Andrea Jefferson

### 2003

**July:** Jefferson introduces Jackson to officials from Nigeria's Netlink Digital Television Ltd., which agrees to license iGate's technology for \$45 million. NDTV would make a single payment to iGate of \$6.5 million before the deal unraveled. The U.S. government alleges Jefferson negotiated a side deal to receive \$5 per subscriber.  
**July 24:** Jackson sweetens the contract with ANJ Group to give it 35 percent of the profits from African business ventures. Over 3 1/2 years, \$367,500 was paid to ANJ along with more than 30 million shares of iGate stock, the government says.

### 2004

**Spring:** With NDTV's financing in jeopardy, Jefferson pitches iGate's technology to a new investor, wealthy northern Virginia philanthropist Lori Mody. The two are introduced by former Jefferson congressional aide Brett Pfeffer, who was then working as an investment adviser for Mody.  
**May 6:** A lawyer for NDTV blasts Jefferson and Jackson in a letter and lists bank accounts through which it says money was paid to the ANJ Group and a company called Jefferson Interests Inc.  
**May 28:** Jefferson writes to Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo accusing an official for NDTV of demanding a kickback of \$1 million.  
**June 25:** Mody agrees to pay \$3.5 million to license iGate's "Triple

Play." Mody, Pfeffer and Jefferson later meet at the Jones Walker law firm where Jefferson's daughter, Jamila, is an employee and set up



Lori Mody

Mody's new Nigerian company. Pfeffer says William Jefferson tells him he wants 5 percent to 7 percent for his family. Pfeffer says Jefferson later demands that an unnamed member of his family be paid \$2,500 to \$5,000 monthly for marketing.  
**July 22:** Mody wires \$1.5 million to iGate.

### 2004 (CONTINUED)

**August:** Pfeffer helps persuade Mody to invest \$3.2 million in a government software company, EIM, another firm that the government says Jefferson promised to promote.  
**Sept. 20:** Mody wires \$2 million to iGate.  
**December:** Mody meets with Jefferson for lunch in congressional dining room. He tells her he wants 5 percent to 7 percent of her Nigerian company for his five daughters.



Brett Pfeffer

### 2005

**February:** Mody asks Jackson for verification that her \$3.5 million had been used to purchase "Triple Play" rights from NDTV. Jackson puts her off. Mody fires Pfeffer and refuses to return e-mail messages from Jackson and Jefferson.  
**March:** Mody contacts the FBI alleging that she was being defrauded by iGate.  
**March 17:** At the urging of the FBI, Mody begins secretly recording discussions with Pfeffer and Jefferson.  
**March 31:** Mody meets Pfeffer at the Ritz-Carlton restaurant in McLean, Va., "under the guise of restoring the iGate and EIM deals." Pfeffer tells Mody that Jefferson "would want a piece of EIM" if Jefferson lands a deal for the firm.

An hour later, Pfeffer calls Mody to say that Jefferson "expressed a willingness to move forward on the deals."  
**April 12:** Mody, Pfeffer and Jefferson meet over dinner in Washington. Jefferson proposes getting \$10 million financing through Export-Import Bank.  
**April 27:** Over dinner in McLean, Va., Jefferson tells Mody she will have to form a joint venture with a Nigerian firm, Rosecom, and the Nigerian state-owned telecommunications company, Nitel, whose managing director is Vice President Atiku Abubakar. Jefferson describes Abubakar as "corrupt."  
**May 11:** Rosecom accepts an offer from Nitel to use iGate's technology

to form the broadband telecommunications backbone in Nigeria.  
**May 12:** Over dinner in Washington, Jefferson tells Mody that Rosecom's Suleiman YahYah will probably have to pay bribes to get the deal done. "We got to motivate him real good. He's got a lot of people to pay off." Jefferson also proposes a new distribution of profits.  
**May 24:** At a Washington meeting, Jefferson shows Mody a brochure of the proposed Nigerian venture



Atiku Abubakar

that projects earnings at \$200 million annually by the fifth year.  
**May 31:** Jefferson and Mody talk about replicating the Nigerian deal in Ghana.  
**June 3:** Nigerian telecom firm Nitel informs Rosecom that it is considering doing business with a Chinese company instead, potentially killing the iGate deal.  
**June 8:** Over dinner in Washington, Mody gives Jefferson a stock certificate worth 30 percent of her newly formed Nigerian company. The stock was assigned to Global Energy & Environmental Services LLC, an African company set up in the name of Jefferson's five daughters. Mody also agrees to pay an additional \$3.5 million to Rosecom to leverage financing

through the ExIm Bank.  
**June 17:** Jefferson meets Mody in Washington and proposes taking over iGate from Jackson. He seeks \$10 million in financing from Mody for the takeover.  
**June 21:** Alarmed that Nitel is snubbing Rosecom, Jefferson writes to Abubakar asking for help in getting the iGate deal back on track.  
**June 22:** Jefferson calls Mody about an upcoming Ghana trip. Mody wires \$59,225.18 to ANJ Group account at Dryades Savings Bank.  
**June 24:** Mody agrees to finance the Ghana venture as long as Jefferson gives his best effort. "I will give it a thousand percent," he says.

### 2005 (CONTINUED)

**July 1:** Mody wires \$30,000 to ANJ Group account at Dryades Savings Bank.  
**July 6-11:** Jefferson goes to Ghana with Pfeffer. The \$9,248 trip is paid for by Mody's Win-Win Strategies.  
**July 18:** Driven by an undercover FBI agent, Mody and Jefferson go to the Potomac, Md., home of Abubakar. Jefferson says later that Abubakar expects 50 percent of the profits from the Nigerian deal. In exchange, Jefferson says that Nitel will do business with Rosecom and that iGate's debt to NDTV, the original investor, will be erased.  
**July 21:** Jefferson tells Mody the deal with Abubakar is on, but says she should pay \$500,000 on the "front end" to ensure "the little hook is in there." They also discuss details of a Ghana venture, and Mody asks whether Jefferson is "happy" with 30 percent. "Jefferson responded in the affirmative," according to government documents. She writes on a piece of paper "WJ 30%." He scratches out WJ and writes "Global," presumably a reference to his daughters' Nigerian company.  
**July 26:** Jefferson tells Mody that Abubakar is preparing to return to



Ghana's flag



Nigeria's flag

Nigeria and "he must have that," pointing to a piece of paper with the word "cash." Mody asks whether "we could do a smaller amount . . . probably no more than 100, you know, k." Jefferson replies, "Good idea."  
**July 30:** About 8:30 a.m., Mody meets with Jefferson at the Ritz-Carlton restaurant in Arlington, Va. In the parking lot with the FBI watching, Jefferson takes a briefcase with \$100,000 cash from Mody's trunk and drives away.  
**Aug. 1:** About 10:15 a.m., Mody meets with Jefferson at Ritz-Carlton again and asks about the "package" for Abubakar. "I gave him the African art you gave me and he was very pleased," Jefferson tells her.



Federal agents raid Jefferson's Uptown home

**Aug. 3:** The FBI raids Jefferson's house in Washington and finds \$90,000 of the cash Mody gave him stored in his freezer. Agents also raid his New Orleans home, Abubakar's home and the office of Jefferson's accountant, Jack Swetland.

### 2006

**Jan. 11:** Pfeffer pleads guilty in U.S. District Court to conspiracy to commit bribery of public official and aiding and abetting bribery of public official. He agrees to cooperate with investigators.  
**May 3:** Jackson pleads guilty to conspiracy to bribe a public official and agrees to cooperate with the investigation.  
**21:** FBI raids Jefferson's office on Capitol Hill and hauls away boxes of documents and computer files.  
**May 25:** In the face of an outcry from Capitol

Hill, President George W. Bush orders the documents from Jefferson's office sealed for 45 days.  
**May 26:** Pfeffer is sentenced to eight years in prison.



Feds raid Jefferson's office on Capitol Hill

### 2006 (CONTINUED)

**June 15:** Democratic Caucus votes to eject Jefferson from the House Ways and Means Committee. A day later, the full House does the same.  
**July 10:** U.S. District Judge Thomas Hogan rules that the FBI was justified in executing a search warrant of Jefferson's office. Jefferson appeals.  
**Aug. 13:** Twelve candidates sign up to run against Jefferson in the 2nd Congressional District.  
**Nov. 7:** Despite the roiling FBI probe, Jefferson finishes first in the open primary with 30



Jefferson celebrates election victory

percent of the vote, facing a runoff against state Rep. Karen Carter, D-New Orleans.  
**Dec. 9:** Jefferson defeats Carter, getting 57 percent of vote.

### 2007

**June 4:** A federal grand jury in Virginia returns a 16-count indictment that accuses Jefferson of bribery, racketeering, money laundering, obstruction of justice and violation of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. "The schemes charged are complex, but the essence of this case is simple: Mr. Jefferson corruptly traded on his good office, and on the Congress where he served as a member of the United States House of Representatives, to enrich himself and his family through a pervasive pattern of fraud, bribery and corruption that spanned many years and two continents," said Chuck Rosenberg, then U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia.

### 2008

**June 7:** Jefferson appears before Judge T.S. Ellis III in Alexandria, Va. Federal District Court and pleads innocent. Afterward, Jefferson says: "Did I make a mistake in judgment along the way? Yes, I did, that I deeply regret. But did I sell my office or conduct official acts for money? Absolutely not. This case involved purely private business activities and not official acts by me."  
**Aug. 3:** A three-member panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia rules that the FBI's 2006 search of Jefferson's office, the first of a sitting congressional member, was handled in a way that violated the speech or debate clause of the Constitution.

### 2009

**March 31:** U.S. Supreme Court refuses to hear the Justice Department appeal of the D.C. Circuit Court's ruling on the search of Jefferson's office.  
**Nov. 4:** Jefferson wins Democratic Party runoff against former New Orleans TV reporter Helena Moreno.  
**Dec. 6:** After nine terms in Congress, Jefferson is upset by Republican Anh "Joseph" Cao in a low-turnout general election.  
**Dec. 12:** 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Virginia turns down Jefferson's request to throw out most of the charges against him on grounds the grand jury that indicted him heard testimony about his legislative activities in violation of the constitution's Speech or Debate clause. It upheld an earlier ruling by a three-judge panel on the court that found discussion about his congressional activities was not central to the government's case.

### 2009

**May 18:** Supreme Court refuses to take up Jefferson's appeal of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling, clearing the way for the trial to begin in Alexandria, Va.

Source: Staff research

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