

**CBS Shareholder Meeting Question**  
**Justin Danhof, Esq.**  
**General Counsel and Free Enterprise Project Director**  
**The National Center for Public Policy Research**  
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I'm Justin Danhof of the National Center for Public Policy Research, representing my colleague at the National Center, Amy Ridenour, who is a CBS shareholder.

I have a very simple question: what has happened to honesty and objectivity in American newsrooms? In its most recent poll on the state of the media, Pew Research reported that Americans think the news media is biased, frivolous and liberal. Two out of three Americans think today's news stories are simply inaccurate and 76 percent say the media favors one side over the other in reporting.<sup>1</sup>

CBS's coverage of the Benghazi scandal is emblematic of one of the major problems with the mainstream press – an unwillingness to speak out against the failings of progressive politicians.

I don't need to re-hash all of the details, but as the Heritage Foundation reported this month, "CBS News President David Rhodes is the brother of Ben Rhodes, the White House deputy national security adviser who drafted the newly released document about Benghazi just days after the Sept. 11, 2012, attack that killed four Americans."<sup>2</sup> But that information was not made public until a watchdog organization, Judicial Watch, obtained connecting documents after filing a court case.

This obvious conflict of interest is only the surface of a much deeper and more systemic issue. Then-CBS News investigative reporter Sharyl Attkisson tried to obtain these same documents, but later said CBS News was unwilling to pursue the issue. She has since left the network citing its unwillingness to engage in investigative reporting about the Obama Administration.<sup>3</sup> When dead Americans and a White House re-write of the events on the ground no longer constitute an issue worth investigating, what use is CBS News to the public dialogue? I am not saying CBS News failed to cover Benghazi at all, but a failure to fully investigate a major conflict of interest is appalling.

We don't need Bernie Goldberg to come in here and explain how the vast majority of producers and reporters are liberal folks, but why can't they check their politics at the door and be objective in news reporting and analysis? So my question is this: what kind of policy does CBS News have to avoid and report on conflicts of interest such as with the Benghazi cover up, and, in a country where nearly twice as many people identify as conservative than liberal,<sup>4</sup> why does CBS continue only to cater to liberal Americans?

*Contact:*

*David Almasi at (202) 543-4110 x11 or (703) 568-4727 (text-enabled) or [dalmasi@nationalcenter.org](mailto:dalmasi@nationalcenter.org)  
Judy Kent at (703) 759-7476 or [jkent@nationalcenter.org](mailto:jkent@nationalcenter.org)*

*The National Center for Public Policy Research*

*501 Capitol Court NE*

*Washington DC 20002*

*(202) 543-4110*

*[www.nationalcenter.org](http://www.nationalcenter.org)*

*[www.conservativeblog.org](http://www.conservativeblog.org)*

*@NationalCenter*

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.mediaite.com/online/biased-frivolous-and-liberal-poll-shows-most-americans-still-distrust-the-media/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://blog.heritage.org/2014/05/01/cbs-news-quiet-benghazi/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://townhall.com/tipsheet/katiepavlich/2014/03/10/breaking-investigative-reporter-sharyl-attkisson-resigns-from-cbs-news-n1806639>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.gallup.com/poll/166787/liberal-self-identification-edges-new-high-2013.aspx>