

Ex-top NASA official charged in Mississippi

January 11 2010, By HOLBROOK MOHR , Associated Press Writer

(AP) -- A former high-ranking NASA official is being indicted on charges he steered a \$600,000 contract to Mississippi State University.

Courtney A. Stadd has already been convicted of steering a different contract for almost \$10 million to the university. The school was a client of his consulting firm. Stadd was sentenced in November to three years probation.

The 55-year-old Stadd was [NASA](#) chief of staff and [White House](#) liaison from 2001-2003.

U.S. Attorney Don Burkhalter said Monday that Stadd faces up to 55 years if convicted of the nine new charges, which include [conspiracy](#) and obstruction.

The contract was from NASA's Stennis Space Center in Mississippi for a study.

Burkhalter says Stadd has pleaded not guilty.

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Citation: Ex-top NASA official charged in Mississippi (2010, January 11) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2010-01-ex-top-nasa-mississippi.html>

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