

CNN's *Erin Burnett OutFront*

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7:00:58 p.m. [TEASE]

10 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: OutFront Next; New KFILE Report]

ERIN BURNETT: And new details about the Goldman Sachs executive and former Obama White House lawyer who Jeffrey Epstein once called his great defender. A new KFILE report on their relationship.

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7:30:27 p.m. [TEASE]

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BURNETT: Plus, our file with an exclusive on just how close Jeffrey Epstein was with a Goldman Sachs executive and former Obama White House lawyer, a friendship that included gifts and talk of visiting Epstein's private island.

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7:43:32 p.m. [TEASE]

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BURNETT: And next, KFILE with an exclusive report on the Goldman Sachs executive who Jeffrey Epstein once called his great defender. We're now learning more about just how deep their friendship was, including an XOXO sign off on an email and talk of visiting Epstein's island.

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7:48:38 p.m.

5 minutes and 54 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Exclusive; Inside Epstein's Friendship With a Former Obama White House Counsel]

BURNETT: New tonight, an exclusive KFILE report uncovering new details about top Goldman Sachs executive and former Obama White House counsel Kathy Ruemmler's relationship with Jeffrey Epstein. A review of hundreds of e-mails between Epstein and Ruemmler, a woman he once called his "great defender" shows discussions about Epstein's legal and reputational troubles, as well as more personal communications like plans for a proposed trip to Epstein's island and gifts he'd given her. Ruemmler has repeatedly said she regrets ever knowing Epstein, and that she had "no knowledge of any new or ongoing unlawful activity on his part." That's her

quote. *OutFront* now, KFILE's Andrew Kaczynski, who has been breaking all of this reporting. So, Andrew, what have you found?

ANDREW KACZYNSKI: Well, Erin, these new messages reveal even more details about Kathy Ruemmler relationship with Jeffrey Epstein, a relationship that, according to these e-mails, both of them described as a friendship. There are hundreds of e-mail exchanges between the two. Some of the messages they discussed Epstein's legal battles and reputational problems after his 2008 conviction. Other communications between the two include plans for a proposed trip to Epstein's island and responses to gifts he'd given Ruemmler. In one instance, she wrote, "totally tricked out by Uncle Jeffrey today. Jeffrey boots, handbag and watch." Now, in some of these back and forth messages, Ruemmler discussed personal matters in her life. She expressed gratitude for their, "friendship" sometimes concluded her messages to Epstein with the sign off XO and XOXO. There's one example we found where Ruemmler sent Epstein a message on his 62nd birthday in 2015 to wish him well, writing I hope you enjoy the day with your one true love. Adding a smiley face. Epstein replied with a raunchy note and an apparent reference to masturbation, writing, "they say men usually give a name to their penis as it would be inappropriate to make love to a total stranger." Now after receiving Epstein's racy reply, Ruemmler responded, "Hard to believe there is still an open question about whether men are the inferior gender."

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Exclusive; "XOXO" Sign-Offs; Inside a Former Obama WH Counsel's Ties to Epstein]

BURNETT: Okay. So what has Ruemmler said about this message?

KACZYNSKI: Well, Erin, we asked him about that and they referred this exchange. Ruemmler and her communications team referred CNN questions about this to her attorney, Tom Clare, And this is what he told us. He said: "The fact is Ms. Ruemmler does not make any statement about Epstein's penis. She does not reference it. She does not joke about it. She does not banter with Epstein about it. She does not accede to Epstein's unsolicited, gratuitous remarks about men and their penises. Nothing. Her participation in the entire exchange in, I think he meant, is limited to wishing Epstein a happy birthday, ridiculing Epstein for the remark and exiting the exchange."

BURNETT: Okay. So, the files also reveal new details about how Ruemmler advised Epstein regarding some of his legal and reputational problems. So, what more can you tell us about that tonight?

KACZYNSKI: Well, yeah, that's right, Erin. In one exchange from February 2015, Ruemmler addressed a crime victim's rights act lawsuit brought by Epstein's accusers. That's the lawsuit which sought to reopen his so-called sweetheart plea deal from 2008. Ruemmler wrote to Epstein, I told you that the CVRA case is about money. And in another message, after inquiring about which lawyer was handling the case, Ruemmler wrote, victims rights, my ass. In another message from July 2015, Ruemmler forwarded Epstein a *New York Times* story which featured critics of sex offender registries like the one Epstein had been listed on for years by then. "Did

you see the New York Times story re misapplication of sex offender registry? Thinking about whether there is an opportunity there,” Ruemmler wrote. Now, a spokesperson for Ruemmler told CNN in a statement that Epstein, “sought informal advice and she provided feedback based on her understanding at the time without any formal involvement.”

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Exclusive; Epstein Files Reveal Depths of Friendship with Former Obama WH Counsel]

BURNETT: Okay. Well, you also found e-mails that show Ruemmler responding to an invitation from Epstein to visit that infamous private Caribbean island, right?

KACZYNISKI: Yeah, that's right. Absolutely. According to the newly released files, Ruemmler at one point inquired about taking a day trip to Epstein's private island. In a January 16th, 2017 e-mail, that you can see right here, Epstein asked if he could have a plane pick her up in Saint Lucia to fly her to “the island.” Ruemmler replied, asking “can we take a day trip to the island on Saturday or is it too far?” E-mails then show a week later, Epstein appearing to coordinate a private jet to pick her up and referencing a copy of Ruemmler's passport. This trip appears to have fallen through though, with Ruemmler writing two days later, there was, quote, still too much risk in the air. Later that year, Erin, the topic of the island actually came up again in messages between the two after Hurricane Irma damaged the island. Ruemmler mused about traveling there to help Epstein clean up, writing you know how much I like physical labor. It's unclear whether Ruemmler ever visited the island, and she has denied ever going there.

BURNETT: Okay, so what is she saying about these e-mails, then?

KACZYNISKI: So, Erin, Jennifer Connelly, Ruemmler spokesperson, declined to answer some of the detailed questions from CNN. But she told us this, “Ms. Ruemmler has done nothing wrong and has nothing to hide. Nothing in the record suggests otherwise. Jeffrey Epstein was a man of a thousand faces. Ms. Ruemmler only saw the one he put on to win people over and gain credibility and acceptance. Her views were shaped by that, and his denials of any wrongdoing other than what he had pled guilty to years prior. Ms. Ruemmler has been clear and consistent from the outset. She knew him through her work as a criminal defense attorney, shared a client with him, received referrals from him, and was friendly in that professional context. At times, Epstein sought informal advice and she provided feedback based on her understanding at the time, without any formal involvement. Ms. Ruemmler has deep sympathy for those harmed by Epstein, and if she knew then what she knows now, she never would have dealt with him,” Erin.

BURNETT: All right. Andrew Kaczynski from KFILE with more incredible reporting on this story. Thank you.