

- Eugene Fishel

Fishel has provided the following information relevant to your request: after his 2004 defeat, Viktor Yanukovych hired American political advisor Paul Manafort. At the time, Republicans were in control of the White House, it was assumed that it was important to have someone with Republican connections, and Manafort was hired for that reason. Manafort assisted Yanukovych by presenting him in the best possible light. As it related to political strategizing, Manafort may as well have been in Yanukovych's inner circle and had direct access to Yanukovych and his inner circle. Manafort spent a lot of time in Ukraine, met with U.S. embassy personnel, and was Yanukovych's interlocutor with the U.S. embassy and international community. Konstantin Kilimnik worked for Manafort in Kiev and ran Manafort's company when Manafort was not in Ukraine.