

“Questions Swirl Over Ilhan Omar’s Skyrocketing Net Worth”

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**By Alec Schemmel
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MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.—A longtime Democratic operative who worked for top party figures before jumping into private ventures with the now husband of Rep. Ilhan Omar, D-Minn., Tim Mynett, is back in the spotlight as swindling allegations resurface and Congress investigates Omar’s skyrocketing net worth via her husband’s companies, according to her financial disclosures.

William Hailer and Mynett, who met working for now-Minnesota attorney general Keith Ellison when he was in Congress, were both political operatives before they turned to venture capitalism and the wine industry.

Hailer was a senior adviser to former Democratic National Committee chairman Tom Perez and also has an extensive history working for Ellison, who was the DNC cochair. Between consulting fees and reimbursements, Hailer raked in more than \$250,000 advising the DNC and Ellison, according to Federal Election Commission filings.

The pair also cofounded the political consulting firm E Street Group, which raked in almost \$3 million alone from Omar’s House campaigns and then went on to cofound Rose Lake Capital LLC, a venture-capital firm, and eStCru, a wine company, among a web of other ventures they have since embarked on.

[Editor’s note: This article does not include the many details about their business dealings. To read more-complete information about their business dealings, see the entire article posted at foxnews.com on Jan. 25, 2026.]

Through these business ventures, which include wine and cannabis, Hailer left a trail of fraud and swindling allegations tied to eSt Ventures, which was cofounded by Hailer and Mynett, and the subsequently formed Badlands Fund, which was created to control another investment fund that the pair also created called Badlands Ventures.

Following the cannabis incident, Hailer and Mynett faced further allegations of fraud related to their California wine business, eStCru, which saw its valuation jump from between just \$15,000 to \$50,000 in 2023 to between \$1 million and \$5 million in 2024.

In response to the accusations of fraud, a spokesman told Fox News Digital for the pair's venture-capital firm responded that "any disputes with these parties have been settled with cases dismissed with prejudice (cannot be brought again)."

Hailer and Mynett's Rose Lake Capital, the other firm that saw a massive valuation jump on Omar's financial filings—listed as being worth between \$1 and \$1,000 in 2023 and then skyrocketing to between \$5 million and \$25 million the following year—was recently embroiled in misrepresentation allegations as well.

Amid the scrutiny into the firm's massive jump in valuation shown in Congresswoman Omar's most recent financial filings, the firm cofounded by Hailer and Mynett came under fire for scrubbing their firm's website of various high-profile individuals that it claimed were its advisers. Among those listed were former members of Congress and other well-connected persons, including former senator Max Baucus, D-Mont.

Currently, both congressional and federal investigators are looking into the massive valuation jump by Hailer and Mynett's venture-capital fund and wine business. The scrutiny follows backlash from the 2019–2020 election cycle, during which Omar was caught funneling millions in campaign cash to a firm Mynett cofounded with Hailer called the E Street Group.

The expenses covered a range of services, including cable advertising, "digital consulting," video production and editing. Omar claimed that her relationship with her husband began long after her campaign started working with his firm. The payments, while not illegal, generated backlash for Omar and her husband.

In 2021, Republicans in Congress introduced the Oversight for Members and Relatives Act or OMAR Act, aimed at closing the loophole in federal antinepotism law that permitted Omar to funnel her campaign cash to Mynett and his firm.

"For too long, lawmakers of both political parties have engaged in the ethically dubious practice of pocketing campaign funds by 'hiring' their spouses and laundering the money as campaign-related expenses," Rep. Tom Tiffany, R-Wis., said at the time.

The fresh scrutiny into Omar and her husband comes amid rampant fraud uncovered in Minnesota under the purview of Democratic Party leaders that estimates say could amount to as much as \$9 billion in missing funds, and questions on whether Omar or anyone else benefited from it. The fraud has involved various social-services and welfare schemes, including Medicare and child-care funding, and many of those convicted have been part of Minnesota's ballooning Somali population.

Fox News Digital reached out to Hailer and Mynett, and Omar's office.