

HIT: Sri Kulkarni has a criminal history. In 1997, Kulkarni was arrested for felony cocaine possession. He also belonged to a group called the D.C. Burners, which would celebrate the annual drug-riddled Burning Man event, and would dress in elaborate costumes while wearing heavy make-up.

BACKUP:

In 1997, Kulkarni was arrested and charged with felony possession of cocaine:

- In 1997, Kulkarni was arrested for felony possession of cocaine. “Sri Preston Kulkarni, a leading labor-backed candidate in the five-way March 6 primary, acknowledged Tuesday that he was arrested for possessing less than a gram of cocaine when he was a teenager in 1997. The felony charge later was dismissed by a Harris County judge after a two-year probationary sentence, a disposition known as ‘deferred adjudication’ that is frequently meted out for first-time drug offenses.” (Kevin Diaz, “Candidate For Congress Admits Arrest For Cocaine When He Was A Teenager, Riling Fort Bend Race,” [Houston Chronicle](#), 2/20/18)
- On May 23, 1997, Kulkarni was arrested for “unlawfully, intentionally and knowingly” possessing less than one gram of cocaine.

THE STATE OF TEXAS VS. SRINIVAS RAO KULKARNI 2323 SAN ANTONIO #166 AUSTIN, TX 78705	D.A. LOG NUMBER: 356376 CJIS TRACKING NO.: 900343168X-A001 SPN: 01598537 DOB: WM 10-6-78 DATE PREPARED: 5/23/97 RELATED CASES: MICHAEL OLLSEN	BY: DJB DA NO: 699 AGENCY: HCCO #4 O/R NO: 9705230218 ARREST DATE: 5-23-97 BAIL: \$ 2,000 PRIOR CAUSE NO:
NCIC CODE: 5599 04 FELONY CHARGE: POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE CAUSE NO: 753709 HARRIS COUNTY DISTRICT COURT NO: 208	179th AJ	210 365 Vol Page AXGM
IN THE NAME AND BY AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:		
The duly organized Grand Jury of Harris County, Texas, presents in the District Court of Harris County, Texas, that in Harris County, Texas, SRINIVAS RAO KULKARNI, hereafter styled the Defendant, on or about MAY 23, 1997, did then and there unlawfully, intentionally and knowingly possess a controlled substance, namely, COCAINE, weighing less than 1 gram by aggregate weight, including any adulterants and dilutants.		

(The State Of Texas Vs. Srinivas Rao Kulkarni, Case Number 075370901010, Indictment, Harris County District Court, TX, Filed 5/23/97)

Editor's Note: Please contact the NRCC for Kulkarni's full arrest records.

- On August 29, 1997, Kulkarni entered a guilty plea and received two years of deferred adjudication, a \$500 fine, 200 hours of community service, drug and alcohol evaluation and treatment, and conditions of probation.

I understand the above allegations and I confess that they are true and that the acts alleged above were committed on May 23, 1997

In open court I consent to the oral and written stipulation of evidence in this case and to the introduction of affidavits, written statements, of witnesses, and other documentary evidence. I am satisfied that the attorney representing me today in court has properly represented me and I have fully discussed this case with him.

I intend to enter a plea of guilty and the prosecutor will recommend that my punishment should be set at 2 yrs. Deferred Adjudication, \$500.00 fine, 200 hours Community Service, Drug & Alcohol Evaluation and treatment (if any), Standard terms and conditions of probation

and I agree to that recommendation. I waive any further time to prepare for trial to which I or my attorney may be entitled.

[Signature]
DEFENDANT

Sworn to and Subscribed before me on AUG 29 1997

[Signature]
HARRIS COUNTY DEPUTY DISTRICT CLERK

(The State Of Texas Vs. Srinivas Rao Kulkarni, Case Number 075370901010, Plea Of Guilty, Harris County District Court, TX, Filed 8/29/97)

- As part of his probation, Kulkarni was not permitted to travel outside of Harris county or Austin without receiving prior permission from the court through his probation officer.

(g) You are instructed to remain within the limits of Harris County, Texas. You are not to travel outside of Harris County, Texas or change your place of residence unless you receive prior permission from the Court through your Probation Officer; Defendant may reside in Austin for school attendance.

(The State Of Texas Vs. Srinivas Rao Kulkarni, Case Number 075370901010, Community Supervision Order Conditions Of Probation, Harris County District Court, TX, Filed 8/29/97)

- Kulkarni's probationary period lasted until August 28, 1999.

Signed and entered this the 29th day of August A.D., 1997.

Notice of Appeal: _____ 19____

Probation Expires: August 28 1999

[Signature]
PRESIDING JUDGE

(The State Of Texas Vs. Srinivas Rao Kulkarni, Case Number 075370901010, Community Supervision Order, Harris County District Court, TX, Filed 8/29/97)

After two years, the charges against Kulkarni were dismissed, and Kulkarni would later say that the incident showed him how "inhumane and ineffective" the criminal justice system was:

- On September 27, 1999, the charges against Kulkarni were dismissed.

CAUSE NO. 075370901010

THE STATE OF TEXAS
VS.
KULKARNI, SRINIVAS RAO

208TH DISTRICT COURT
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

TERMINATION ORDER

RECORDER'S MEMORANDUM.
This instrument is of poor quality
and not satisfactory for photographic
recording, and/or alterations were
present at the time of filing.

DEFERRED ADJUDICATION (FULL TERM)

THE COURT FINDS THAT THE PROBATIONARY PERIOD IMPOSED UPON THE DEFENDANT HAS EXPIRED AND IT HAS NOT PROCEEDED TO AN ADJUDICATION OF GUILT, IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT ALL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE DEFENDANT BE AND THE SAME ARE DISMISSED AND THE DEFENDANT DISCHARGED EFFECTIVE THE 28TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1999.

OTHER/COMMENTS - _____

SIGNED THIS 27th DAY OF September 1999.

Jessie Colby
JUDGE PRESIDING

PROBATION OFFICER/COURT LIAISON OFFICER

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CLERK'S COPY

(The State Of Texas Vs. Srinivas Rao Kulkarni, Case Number 075370901010, Termination Order, Harris County District Court, TX, Filed 9/27/99)

- **Kulkarni said the incident showed him how “inhumane and ineffective” the criminal justice system was because he had a curfew for his probation and was worried he would be arrested for going to the hospital with his father.** “Kulkarni grew up in a Houston neighborhood with a high crime rate, and said his experiences with gun violence and the criminal justice system have had a profound influence on him. ‘I got arrested when I was 18 years old for possession of less than a gram of drugs,’ Kulkarni said. ‘It really showed me how both inhumane and ineffective the system is.’ Because of the arrest, Kulkarni said for a period of time, he was not allowed to leave his house between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. ‘Cancer doesn’t follow a regular schedule,’ Kulkarni said. ‘When my dad needed to be rushed to the hospital in the middle of the night, I was worried that I would be thrown in jail.’” (Chad Lyle, “UT Alumnus Sri Kulkarni Is Running For Congress On Principle That Personal Stories Matter,” [The Daily Texan](#), 9/20/18)
 - **Kulkarni described the incident as “a youthful indiscretion” at a stressful time in his life when his father was terminally ill with cancer.** “Kulkarni, now a 39-year-old ex-foreign service officer and onetime Senate aide, described the incident as a youthful indiscretion at a stressful time in his life when his father was terminally ill with cancer. ‘We should not be stigmatizing our youth for the rest of their lives,’ he said.” (Kevin Diaz, “Candidate For Congress Admits Arrest For Cocaine When He Was A Teenager, Riling Fort Bend Race,” [Houston Chronicle](#), 2/20/18)

Kulkarni made several posts to the “DC Burners” Facebook group about buying tickets for the event, planning road trips, asking advice for costumes, and promoting his congressional campaign:

- **Kulkarni made several posts to the private Facebook group called “DC Burners - Burning Man In and Around Washington, DC.”**

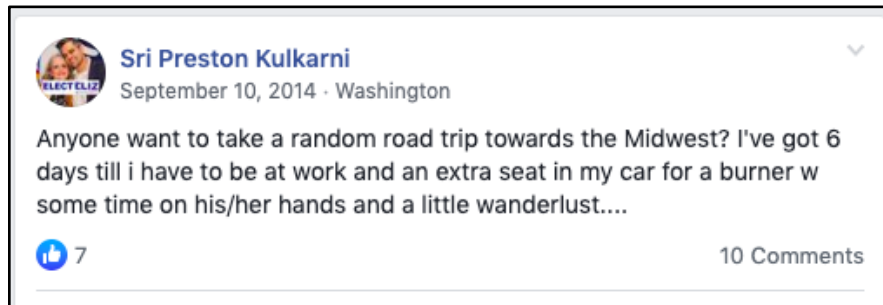
Editor’s Note: Because the DC Burner’s Facebook group is private, only those in the group can open the direct links to the posts. Please contact the NRCC for direct links.

- On May 26, 2013, Kulkarni posted to the DC Burners group trying to buy extra tickets so his whole family could go to Burning Man together.



(“DC Burners - Burning Man In And Around Washington, DC,” [Facebook](#), 5/26/13)

- On September 10, 2014, Kulkarni posted to the DC Burners group offering to take a “burner” on a random road trip to the Midwest.



(“DC Burners - Burning Man In And Around Washington, DC,” [Facebook](#), 9/10/14)

- On September 14, 2014, Kulkarni posted to the DC Burners group, offering to give a ride from NYC to DC.



(“DC Burners - Burning Man In And Around Washington, DC,” [Facebook](#), 9/14/14)

- On July 28, 2015, Kulkarni posted to the DC Burners group, asking for help finding tights for a costume.



(“DC Burners - Burning Man In And Around Washington, DC,” [Facebook](#), 7/28/15)

- On September 9, 2017, Kulkarni made a long post to the DC Burners group about his experience at Burning Man that year and how he wanted to change the direction of politics and get burners to join him.



(“DC Burners - Burning Man In And Around Washington, DC,” [Facebook](#), 9/9/17)

- On September 1, 2018, Kulkarni posted an article to the DC Burners group that featured his connection to the D.C. Burners Club and discussed his candidacy.

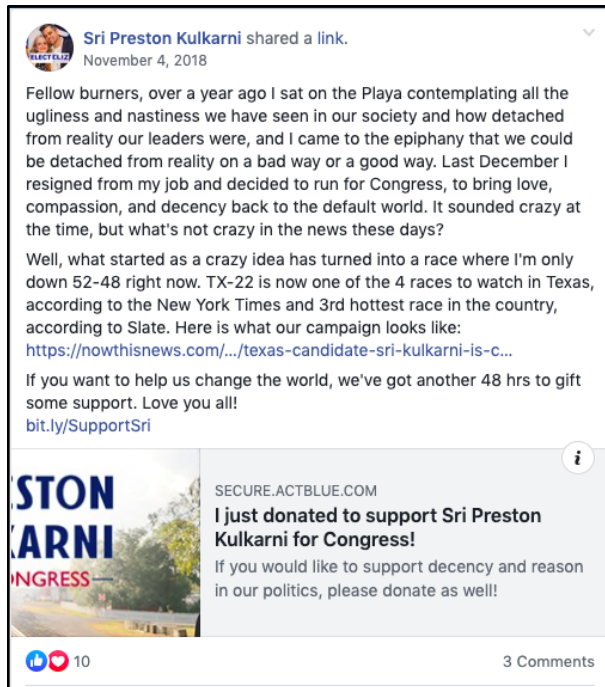


(“DC Burners - Burning Man In And Around Washington, DC,” [Facebook](#), 9/1/18)

- The article Kulkarni linked to said he “is reportedly a member of the D.C. Burners Club, which celebrates Burning Man, the anything-goes, anarchic annual festival held in Nevada where free love and drug use are widespread.” “But Trump’s presidency has prompted a lot of people to get involved in politics, even if they had previously stayed out of the partisan fray. So the race to represent the 22nd District is livelier than usual. The Democratic nominee, Sri Preston Kulkarni, is a first-time candidate for office and my friend Matt Mackowiak, a Republican consultant based in Austin, considers him an example of a Democrat whose candidacy could use more scrutiny. ‘He argues the nation’s drug wars are racist and is reportedly a member of the D.C. Burners Club, which celebrates Burning Man, the anything-goes, anarchic annual festival held in Nevada where free love and drug use are widespread,’ Mackowiak wrote last month in a piece for the Washington Times.” (Erica Grieder, “Democrat Kulkarni is putting Tom DeLay’s old House seat in play,” [Houston Chronicle](#), 9/1/18)

Editor’s Note: Searches for “D.C. Burner’s Club” show that the group is actually called [“D.C. Burners.”](#)

- On November 4, 2018, Kulkarni made a fundraising post to the DC Burners group.



(“DC Burners - Burning Man In And Around Washington, DC,” [Facebook](#), 11/4/18)

- Kulkarni has posted to other Burning Man groups in the past, including an NYC-based Facebook group in September 2017.



(“Burning Man NYC,” [Facebook](#), Accessed 9/17/20)

Burning Man is an annual summer event held in Nevada that includes “artistic performances, installations, and music,” where drugs are “central to the festival’s reputation” and “are easier to find than candy on Halloween:”

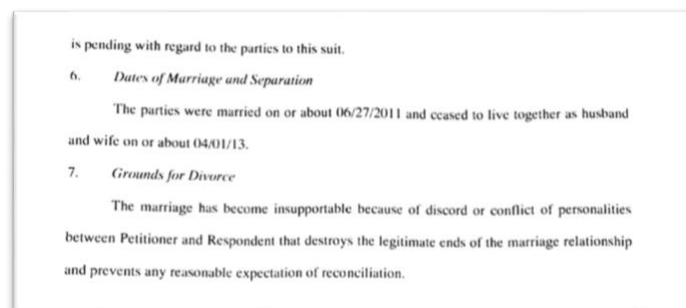
- Burning Man is an “annual summer event held in the middle of the Nevada desert” that includes “artistic performances, installations, and music.” “In order to truly understand Burning Man, the annual summer event held in the middle of the Nevada desert, you

probably just have to go... Burning Man is an annual, nine-day gathering in the desert that includes artistic performances, installations, and music – but don't call it a festival. 'Burning Man is not a festival. Burning Man is a community. A temporary city. A global cultural movement based on 10 practical principles,' the official website reads. A few of these principles include radical inclusion ('Anyone may be a part of Burning Man'), gifting, decommodification (no money passes hands at the festival), radical self-reliance and self-expression, leaving no trace ('We are committed to leaving no physical trace of our activities wherever we gather'), and participation. Burning Man is organized by a non-profit organization called the Burning Man Project." (Katie Warren, "Everything you've been wanting to know about Burning Man, the wild 9-day arts event in the Nevada desert frequented by celebs and tech moguls," [Business Insider](#), 8/15/19)

- **The *Los Angeles Times* reported that “drugs (particularly those of the powder, paper and pills variety) are central to the festival’s reputation as a 9½-day ‘anything goes’ escape from reality.”** “Sure, some people may attend Burning Man sober, but drugs (particularly those of the powder, paper and pills variety) are central to the festival’s reputation as a 9½-day ‘anything goes’ escape from reality. And ‘whatever reputational expectation anyone has, it’s not terribly inaccurate,’ says Burning Man expert Brian Doherty, a senior editor at Reason magazine and author of the 2004 book ‘This Is Burning Man.’” (Julia Wick, “Will There Be Drug Screening At Burning Man,” [Los Angeles Times](#), 6/20/19)
- ***The New York Times* reported that at Burning Man, “while drugs are technically illegal, they are easier to find than candy on Halloween.”** “Before I explain just how ridiculous the spending habits of these baby billionaires have become, let’s go over the rules of Burning Man: You bring your own place to sleep (often a tent), food to eat (often ramen noodles) and the strangest clothing possible for the week (often not much). There is no Internet or cell reception. While drugs are technically illegal, they are easier to find than candy on Halloween. And as for money, with the exception of coffee and ice, you cannot buy anything at the festival. Selling things to people is also a strict no-no. Instead, Burners (as they are called) simply give things away. What’s yours is mine. And that often means everything from a meal to saliva.” (Nick Bilton, “A Line is Drawn In The Desert,” [The New York Times](#), 8/20/14)

Kulkarni and his then-wife, Anca Uliu, attended a Burning Man-related “Kostume Kult” event in August 2013:

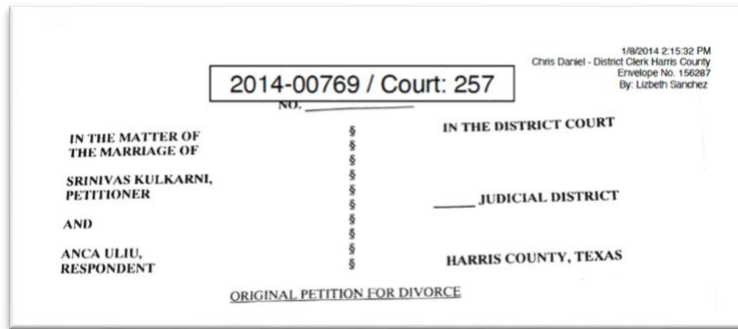
- Kulkarni and Anca Uliu married “on or about” June 27, 2011.



(Original Petition for Divorce 2014-00769, Harris County District Clerk, Accessed 8/9/20)

Editor’s Note: Please contact the NRCC for Kulkarni’s full divorce records.

- Kulkarni filed for divorce on January 8, 2014.



(Original Petition for Divorce 2014-00769, Harris County District Clerk, 1/8/14)

- Kulkarni and Uliu participated in a “Kostume Kult” event in August 2013.



([Kostume Kult](#), Accessed 9/17/20)

- Kostume Kult is a “costume art, theme event and street-theater club” based in New York City with international members. “Kostume Kult is a costume art, theme event and street-theater club that has HUGE fun! Based in New York City with members internationally, our “kult” is an open one inviting all to pursue costumed creativity year-around.” (“About Us,” [Kostume Kult](#), Accessed 9/17/20)
- Kostume Kult hosts a Burning Man fashion camp. “We are a growing community of multimedia artists and whimsical souls. We host many events including a Burning Man fashion camp, a wild NYC Halloween Parade float and numerous theme parties, street spectacles and crafting events. Participants range from 18-50+ including students, execs, parents and talented people of many ilks. We work together on costuming, interactive art, street spectacles and media projects all with an extra dose of irreverence.” (“About Us,” [Kostume Kult](#), Accessed 9/17/20)

Kulkarni has been photographed partying in elaborate costumes and make-up:

- In 2018, the Fort Bend County Republican Party sent an email that criticized Kulkarni for his “propensity to put on lots of make-up and dress like a woman” when he parties.

What the article didn't mention is that when Kulkarni goes to these kind of parties, he has a propensity to put on lots of make-up and dress like a woman:



Folks, when you couple the destructive policies embraced by this candidate along with his bizarre behavior celebrating of a drug-fueled counter-culture, we have an individual who should never represent us **at any level of government.**

("Cross Dressing Democrat Candidate," [Fort Bend County Republican Party](#), 8/1/18)

- Kulkarni is seen dressed up in makeup and costume with an unidentified woman.



(Sam Sanchez, "Republicans Slam Texas Congressional Candidate Saying He Wears Dresses and Makeup," [San Antonio Current](#), 8/21/18)

- Kulkarni is seen dressed up in makeup and costume with an unidentified man.



(Cristan Williams, "Texas Republicans Are So Desperate They're Insinuating Some Democrat Candidates Are 'Crossdressers,'" [LGBTQ Nation](#),
9/1/18)