



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

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To: Chair Ravel and Commissioners Eskovitz, Garrett, Montgomery and Wasserman
From: Tina Z. Bass, Interim Executive Director
Subject: **Executive Director/Administration Division Report**
Date: February 12, 2013

I. Special Presentation of Open Data Application

In November, the Commission partnered with the non-profit organization Code for America for a two day event called DataDeathmatch. The goal of this civic “hackathon” was to improve transparency and revolutionize the way citizens interact with government. The Commission provided datasets for use by the participants including a download from the Secretary of State and the Form 700 Statement of Economic Interest data filed by many judges in 2012. Participants had two days to develop and present an application using this data. The winning team was Team Open Judge, a group of five developers and two designers, who developed an application using the Form 700 data. The application provides better access to the publicly available data on gifts disclosed by judges in the State of California. The purpose is to provide easy access to the data to improve transparency. Representatives from the team will make a presentation at the February meeting.

II. New legislation impacting workload effective January 1, 2013 includes:

- Chapter 500, Statutes of 2012, requires the Commission to certify electronic filing systems for agencies who are implementing systems to allow online submission of Form 700s. Agencies must meet the requirements of Commission Regulation 18756 which includes both IT security requirements and that system reporting guidance meets FPPC standards. Procedures are in place and the approval process is going smoothly.
- Chapter 1659, Statutes of 2012, authorizes the County of San Bernardino to contract with the Commission to enforce its local campaign finance ordinance. The contract has been executed and pending final review by the Department of General Services.
- Chapter 496, Statutes of 2012, requires committees making independent expenditures to file a form with the Commission. A principal officer of the committee must verify that the committee’s expenditures are not coordinated with the candidate or measure committees and that all contributions will be disclosed as required by law. This is the

first campaign form to be filed with the Commission in several years and committees active in the elections in Los Angeles have filed reports.

- Chapter 126, Statutes of 2012, authorizes local agencies to require online or electronic reporting of campaign statements within the agency.
- Chapter 502, Statutes of 2012, exempts an elected member of, or a candidate for election to, a county central committee of a qualified political party who receives contributions of less than \$1,000 and who makes expenditures of less than \$1,000 in a calendar year from the requirements to file specified campaign statements.

III. Additional items of note since the December meeting:

- Approval of request to reopen the committee “Bob Hertzberg for a Great LA” (ID #1265178), pursuant to Commission Regulation 18404.1. Approval granted to reopen the committee for 30 days solely for the purposes of accepting the check in the amount of \$15,222.21 from the County of Los Angeles for misappropriated campaign funds as ordered by the Los Angeles Superior Court donating \$14,000 of the funds to non-profit organizations, and expending the balance of the funds for professional services required to reopen the committee.
- Reworked the monthly commission agenda format to structure content into categories with the intent of making the agenda easier to use and more interactive.
- Working with the Legislative Analyst’s Office and legislative staff members to resolve inquiries regarding the 2012-13 and 2013-14 budget.

NEW EMPLOYEES SINCE THE PREVIOUS REPORT

Executive / Administration Division

Tam Do	12/10/2012	Programmer Analyst
Adam Silver	12/10/2012	Executive Fellow

Legal Division

Whitney Prout	01/03/2013	Intern
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Enforcement Division

Ann Flaherty	02/19/2013	Special Investigator
Ali Noonan	02/01/2013	Intern
Heather Woo	12/26/2012	Intern
Daniel Pickolick	01/07/2013	Intern
Amandeep Kaur	01/07/2013	Intern
Robert Cosgrove	01/09/2013	Intern
Jeffrey Kamigaki	02/05/2013	Intern
Eric Klimper	02/05/2013	Intern
Matthew Roque	02/06/2013	Intern