

Letter to Austin DA Ron Earle re: Campaign Expense Violations

Below is a copy of the letter mailed to Travis County DA (Austin, Texas) Ronald Earle on Feb. 22, 2008 alerting him to what appears to be criminal conduct by various judges and/or State legislators. Accompanying the letter was 47-pages detailing the conduct complained of.

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February 22, 2008

Mr. Ronnie Earl
Travis County District Attorney
509 W. 11th Street
Austin, TX 78701

Re: Criminal Misdemeanor violations of Title 15-Election Code

Dear Mr. Earl:

First and foremost, I must admit that I found your conduct in regards to the unfortunate barbs tossed your way by enablers acting on behalf of Mr. Tom Delay to be quite enlightening. The fact that you've pursued corrupt politicians regardless of their party affiliation speaks volumes for your ethics and integrity.

On this date I submitted twenty-four (24) sworn complaints with the Texas Ethics Commission regarding violations of Title 15 of the Election Code by various Judges, Justices, State Senators and State Legislators.

It appears from the evidence I obtained via a review of campaign expenditures by these folks on the Commission's website that many of them have committed criminal misdemeanors. Several may well have engaged in felonious conduct.

In an effort at brevity, I have attached copies of the specific misconduct that I provided to the Ethics Commission (See Composite Ex. A attached hereto). The Judges and/or Justices that have engaged in illegal, criminal and/or felonious conduct are listed alphabetically below.

- ◆ Judge Adolph Canales – 29th District – Dallas
- ◆ Judge Kenneth Curry – 153rd District Court – Colleyville
- ◆ Judge Ben Hardin – 23rd District – Angleton, Texas
- ◆ Wallace Jefferson – Chief Justice Texas Supreme Court
- ◆ Judge Russell Kerry – 7th District – Tyler
- ◆ Judge Douglas Lang – 5th COA – Dallas
- ◆ Judge Bob McGrath – 342nd District – Fort Worth
- ◆ Judge Mario Ramirez – 332nd District – Edinburg
- ◆ Justice Jesse Wainwright – Texas Supreme Court

The misconduct includes the illegal use of campaign funds to pay for:

- ◆ Personal use of a BMW
- ◆ Lodging expenses incurred in Austin
- ◆ Personal use of a cell phone including possible fraudulent billings
- ◆ Expenses regarding a religious pilgrimage to Turkey
- ◆ Costs to pay for reunion party
- ◆ Purchases of campaign pens/coffee mugs for jurors
- ◆ Purchase of suits, shirts and ties
- ◆ Payment of attorney licensing fees in Missouri
- ◆ Personal fitness fees
- ◆ Costs to visit a physician
- ◆ Lodging/living costs in Austin

The State Legislators listed below have illegally used campaign funds to pay for (a) cleaning supplies, (b) food, (c) beverages, (d) groceries, (e) cooking supplies, (f) Satellite Radio, (g) meals in Austin, and (h) misc. supplies for their Austin apartments. In addition, some of the illegally used campaign funds to pay for the cost of dry cleaning while in Austin.

Attached hereto is Composite Ex. B, which details the specific conduct in regards to each legislator and is provided in the order that they are listed below.

- ◆ Dennis Bonnen – State Rep. – 25th District – Angleton
- ◆ Walter Christian – State Rep. 9th District – Center

- Bob Deuell – State Senator 2nd District – Greenville
- Joe Driver – State Rep. 113th District – Garland
- Stephen Frost – State Rep. 1st District – Atlanta
- Linda Brown-Harper – State Rep. 135th District – Irving
- Chris Harris – State Senator 9th District – Arlington
- Robert Hunter – State Rep. 71st District – Abilene
- Michael Jackson (Mike) – State Senator 11th District – Pasadena
- Phillip King – State Rep. 61st District – Weatherford
- Eduardo Lucio – State Senator 27th District – Brownsville
- Rene Oliveira – State Rep. 37th District – Brownsville
- Todd Smith – State Rep. 92nd District – Euless
- Burt Solomons – State Rep. 65th District – Carrollton
- Sylvester Turner – State Rep. 139th District
- Royce West – State Senator 23rd District – Dallas

As I suspect you know, Sec. 254.004 of Title 15 denotes that any person who knowingly makes or authorizes the improper expenditure of campaign funds is guilty of committing a Class A misdemeanor. I'm not aware of the specific tolling of the statute of limitations regarding these matters; however, in Ohio the statute for criminal conduct (theft-in-office, etc.) does not begin to toll until two years after the miscreant has left public office.

There are many, many more judges and/or legislators who I believe have engaged in the same type of conduct. I began investigating these matters about 2 years ago. In fact, as it relates to the improper conduct involving Justices Green, Hecht and Medina, I had already downloaded these illegal commuting expenses and detailed them in several Word documents.

It is indeed a rather sad commentary on the state of the judiciary and the legislative process in Texas that this type of aberrant/illegal behavior is rampant. I trust that you will give this complaint a thorough vetting and if appropriate under the particular circumstances will take the appropriate legal action against these miscreants.

If there is anything that I can do to expedite this matter and/or to assist you in these matters, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely yours,

David Palmer

The Watchdawg