

Ethics Complaints Filed v Texas Judges - 2nd Edition

Original complaints against nine (9) judges were filed with the Texas Ethics Commission on February 26, 2008. The only difference between the complaints below and the ones filed with the Texas Ethics Commission are the inclusion of appropriate images/photos or editorializing by the Dawg, which editorializing is done in a “blue font.” The complaints range from violations as follows:

- ➡ \$1800 for Vegas lodging/airfare – Renewed Wedding Vows – Anne Ashby
- ➡ \$1500 for attire to attend banquet – Jeanne Meurer
- ➡ \$525 paid to juror for financial assistance during trial – Jay Patterson

The Judicial Misfits are listed in alphabetical order as follows:



- ➡ Ashby, Anne – 134th District Judge – Dallas – Page 2
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Violations of Title 15 – Election Code – Sec. 253.035



Renewed Wedding Vows = \$1,830.89

It would be difficult to imagine a more egregious example of illegally using campaign funds for personal use. Here we have Anne spending nearly \$2,000 to preside over the renewed wedding vows of some undisclosed couple.

Anne's bill for the Bellagio shows a date of April 3, 2006, which was a Monday. At \$1437 for lodging, one can assume that she stayed for at least 3-4 days. Therefore, if in fact she appeared in Vegas on a Monday, she hosed the Texas and Dallas taxpayers by receiving at least 3-days pay if not more for not performing any judicial services on their behalf.

- American Airlines - 20060106,393.55, Preside over renewed wedding vows
- Bellagio Hotel, Las Vegas,20060403,1437.34 - Preside over renewed wedding vows

Courthouse Cleaning and Renovation Expenses = \$2,752.92

Since when was it the official officeholder duty of a judge to pay to have the courthouse cleaned; to purchase cleaning supplies for the courthouse and/or to pay for renovations to the courthouse?

- Lechon,Maria,20060427,165.00,Office holder expense - courthouse cleaning
- Restoration Hardware,20041202,16.18,Office holder expense - courthouse cleaning supplies
- Home Decorators Collection,20060725,277.75,courthouse renovation supplies
- Lowe's,20060701,231.71,courthouse remodeling
- Nob Hill,20060906,148.89, courthouse remodeling fixtures
- Nob Hill,20061019,238.14, courthouse remodeling fixtures
- Nob Hill,20061101,54.13, courthouse remodeling fixtures
- Royal Touch,20060701,201.72,Office holder expense - courthouse fixtures
- S. J. Designs,20061013,1100.00,Office holders expense - courthouse renovation
- Samplehouse,20060817,88.22,Office holder expense - courthouse fixtures
- Target,20060812,251.13,Office holder expense - courthouse renovation supplies
- Texas Paint & Wallpaper,20060701,80.85,Office holder expense - courthouse renovation supplies

Baker, Caroline – 151st District Judge – Houston

Violations of Title 15 – Election Code – Sec. 253.035



Not to worry.
Parking is
on me! I mean
them.

Below we have Caroline using campaign funds to pay for parking costs for court staff. Clearly, this is not a lawful officeholder expense. To suggest otherwise, would be to argue that a judge could use campaign funds to pay the monthly lease on a car for court staff or pay his/her home utility bills? Also I fail to see how it is lawful to use campaign funds for parking costs to attend work. At a minimum I believe such payments by Caroline's campaign would be classified as "personal income," which she would have to report to the IRS.

Ampco System Parking

- 20050701,97.43,Officeholder:Parking
- 20051001,97.43,Officeholder:Parking
- 20051101,97.43,Officeholder:Parking
- 20051201,97.43,Officeholder:Parking
- 20050801,97.43,Officeholder:Parking
- 20050901,97.43,Officeholder:Parking
- 20060102,97.43,Parking
- 20060126,97.43,Parking
- 20060224,97.43,Parking
- **20071031,170.31,Office Holder:Staff Parking**
- **20071203,135.31,Office Holder:Staff Parking**
- **20071226,135.31,Office Holder:Parking**

Central Parking Systems of Texas

- 20060320,88.50,Parking
- 20060420,155.00,Parking
- 20060522,155.00,Parking
- 20060621,155.00,Parking
- 20060822,310.00,Parking
- 20060918,155.00,Parking
- **20070119,155.00,Office Holder:Staff Parking**
- **20070222,155.00,Office Holder:Staff Parking**
- **20070419,155.00,Office Holder:Staff Parking**
- **20070427,320.00,Office Holder:Staff Parking**
- **20070612,155.00,Office Holder:Staff Parking**
- **20070614,155.00,Office Holder:Staff Parking**
- **20070723,155.00,Office Holder:Staff Parking**
- **155.00,Office Holder:Staff Parking**
- **20070920,155.00,Office Holder:Staff Parking**
- **20071022,155.00,Office Holder:Staff Parking**

Court artwork/lamps and plants- \$5,250.02

If Caroline was dissatisfied with the courtroom décor paid for by the hardworking taxpayers of Harris County, then that's tough cookies as we used to say in Toledo. If Queen Caroline determined she was entitled to more, then that was a personal decision and I do not believe she could use campaign funds to satisfy her aristocratic tastes.

- ◆ Kirkland's,20060331,602.78,Artwork & Plants
- ◆ Kirkland's,20060402,263.27,art and decorative pieces etc for court offices
- ◆ Kirkland's,20060405,631.76,Sconces & Plants
- ◆ Kirkland's,20060405,617.93,Lamp & Iron Pieces
- ◆ Kirkland's,20060407,394.59,Tables & Clock
- ◆ Kirkland's,20060614,242.16,Plants & Wall Décor
- ◆ Pier 1 Imports,20060324,448.91,Artwork & Storage
- ◆ Pier 1 Imports,20060331,378.31,Plants & Decorative Pieces
- ◆ Pier 1 Imports,20060402,216.84,Print & Lamp
- ◆ Pier 1 Imports,,,,, ,20060406,369.82,Artwork
- ◆ Pier 1 Imports,20060406,592.64,Artwork & Frames
- ◆ Pier 1 Imports,20060613,306.54,Lamps & Wall Décor
- ◆ Pier 1 Imports,20060613,184.47,Plants & Wall Décor

Jury meals = \$2,009.86

It would stretch credulity to its outer limits for anyone to argue that a judge's official duties include paying for jury meals and supplies with campaign funds. The responsibility for the payment of juror lunches lies with each individual juror. Moreover, a judge is prohibited from having any contact with jurors. It would be difficult to believe that the jurors were unaware that Caroline was actually paying for their lunches. In effect, Caroline was speaking to the jurors via the use of campaign funds, and obviously did so to curry favor (their future votes) with them.

- ◆ Caroline Baker - 20041116,94.50,Officeholder:Jury Lunch
 - ◆ Standard Coffee,20051013,147.49,Officeholder:Office Supplies/Jury Room
 - ◆ Frank's Pizza,20051013,118.61,Jury Lunch
 - ◆ Frank's Pizza,20050920,48.19,Jury Lunch
 - ◆ Frank's Pizza,20051004,94.27,Jury Lunch
 - ◆ Ninfas,20050729,77.13,Jury Lunch
 - ◆ Standard Coffee,20050901,234.98,Officeholder:Office Supplies/Jury Room
 - ◆ Frank's Pizza,20060104,272.09,Jury and staff appreciation lunch
 - ◆ Frank's Pizza, 20060203,103.73,Jury Lunch
 - ◆ Frank's Pizza,20060214,96.37,Jury Lunch
 - ◆ Frank's Pizza,20060504,98.41,Jury Lunch
 - ◆ Frank's Pizza,20060519,118.76,Jury Lunch
 - ◆ Frank's Pizza,20060608,97.96,Jury Lunch
 - ◆ Sam's Club,20070717,46.64,Coffee for Jury Room
 - ◆ Sam's Club,20070717,40.21,Coffee for Jury Room
 - ◆ Sam's Club,20070925,83.56,Coffee for Jury Room
 - ◆ Sam's Club,20070925,57.19,Coffee for Jury Room
 - ◆ Sam's Club,20070717,179.77,Coffee for Jury Room
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Davis, Leonard – 12th COA – Tyler

Violations of Title 15 – Election Code – Sec. 253.035

Prior to being sworn in as a Federal District Judge on May 15, 2002, Lenny sat on the 12th District Court of Appeals in Tyler, Texas. Therefore, the following expenditure of campaign funds took place after he ascended to the federal throne.



Gun purchase – Security costs = \$2,154.71

The purchase of weapons (guns) is clearly a personal choice and therefore violates Texas Ethics laws. On July 27, 2005, Lenny spent \$1,189.13 to purchase some kind of weapon at Mac's Gun Shop in Tyler, Texas.

He then went back to Mac's Gun Shop on Sept 26, 1996 and spent another \$509.90, and then on July 12, 2006 spent \$22.68 (for bullets?).

The \$433 spent for judicial security with East Texas Alarm must have been for Lenny's home,

therefore, this is also a personal expenditure.

- ◆ East Texas Alarm Inc,20070619,433.00,Judicial Security
- ◆ Mac's Gun Shop,20060926,509.90,Judicial Security
- ◆ Lock and Load,20050712,22.68,Judicial Security
- ◆ Mac's Gun Shop,20050727,1189.13,Judicial Security

Cable TV service for Court Chambers = \$2,498.71

If Kenny wants to watch ESPN or reruns of All in the Family on Cox Cable in his chambers, then such expenditures are clearly personal.

- ◆ Suddenlink Cable,20061128,650.65,Chambers Cable Service
- ◆ Cox Communications,20051221,631.81,Chambers Cable
- ◆ Cox Communications,20041130,636.06,Chambers Cable Service
- ◆ Cox Communications,20030225,580.19,Installation & Pre-pay Cable Service

Chambers Equipment/Furnishings/Decorations = \$21,044.29

Here we have Kenny spending campaign funds to refurbish the break room in his chambers at the federal courthouse by purchasing a dishwasher, and electric range and miscellaneous equipment to the tune of \$2,044.66. If Kenny desires to have a full kitchen setup in his chambers, then that's his personal choice and problem. He certainly cannot be allowed to use campaign funds to do so!

Although Kenny is from Texas, he appears to be a born-again Flower Child in that he spent over \$9,000 on plants and/or artificial flowers. Again, this was a personal choice for the Flower Child and is therefore improper.

- ◆ Beck Plumbing Company,20061201,55.00,Chamber's Dishwasher Repair
- ◆ Lowe's,20060222,321.50,Chamber's Breakroom Dishwasher
- ◆ Walmart,,,,,20051208,148.24,Chambers Christmas Decorations
- ◆ Barris,Jim,20040712,315.00,Refinish Breakroom Table
- ◆ Paul's Custom Framing,20041214,680.70,Re-framing Chambers Postage Stamp Display
- ◆ Stein Mart Inc,20040227,158.19,Chambers Furnishings

- ◆ Hughes,Lorie,20030928,250.00,Reimburse Office / Kitchen Supplies
- ◆ Art and Frame Source,20030322,4324.89,Court Furnishings
- ◆ Best Buy,20030321,941.74,TV/VCRs for Court
- ◆ Crandale Galleries,20030327,1086.56,Court Furnishings
- ◆ Designers Resource Center,20030320,716.07,Courtroom Furnishings
- ◆ Front Street Antique Mall,20030222,362.64,Office Furnishings
- ◆ Paul's Custom Framing,20030422,150.30,Office Furnishings
- ◆ Shelton Brothers Hardware,20030208,56.99,Space Heater
- ◆ Brookshires Grocery Company,20020818,55.74,Chambers Breakroom Supplies
- ◆ KMart Stores,20021203,351.63,Christmas Decorations for Chambers
- ◆ Karl's Cameras Inc,20020913,108.24,Photo Frames for Chambers
- ◆ Karl's Cameras Inc,20021008,116.88,Frames for Chambers
- ◆ Lowes Home Centers Inc,20021004,445.36,Electric Range for Chambers Breakroom
- ◆ Radioshack,20021008,232.64,Intercom for Chambers
- ◆ Republic of Tea,20021004,269.95,Chambers Furnishings
- ◆ Target Stores,20021008,712.80,Chambers Break room Equipment

Chambers plants/furnishings

- ◆ Greenleaves,20050202,321.50,Chambers Plant Rental / Maintenance
 - ◆ L'Amour Des Fleurs,20050523,1781.80,Replace Chambers' live plants with artificial plants
 - ◆ All About delivery Service,20050523,350.00,Delivery and set-up of chambers plants
 - ◆ Greenleaves,20040712,320.76,Chambers Plant Maintenance
 - ◆ Greenleaves,20041130,320.76,Plant Maintenance
 - ◆ L'Amour Des Fleurs,20041028,40.16,Chambers Supplies
 - ◆ Greenleaves,20040211,301.32,Chambers Plant Rental / Maintenance
 - ◆ Greenleaves,20040429,301.32,Chambers Plant Maintenance / Rental
 - ◆ L'Amour Des Fleurs,20040407,483.87,Chambers Furnishings
 - ◆ L'Amour Des Fleurs,20040615,749.09,Chambers Furnishings
 - ◆ Greenleaves,20030730,302.02,Chambers Plants Rental/Maintenance
 - ◆ Greenleaves,20031126,513.00,Chambers Plant Rental / Maintenance - 6 months
 - ◆ Greenleaves,20030127,302.02,Chambers Furnishings
 - ◆ Greenleaves,20030422,303.02,Court Plant Maintenance
 - ◆ Greenleaves,20030527,302.02,Court Plant Maintenance
 - ◆ L'Amour Des Fleurs,20030320,1726.58,Courtroom Furnishings
 - ◆ Greenleaves,20020720,113.40,Chambers Plant Maintenance
 - ◆ Greenleaves,20021016,650.59,Chambers Furnishings
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Donovan, John – 61st District Judge – Houston

Violations of Title 15 – Election Code – Sec. 253.035

XM Satellite Radio

Using campaign funds to pay for XM radio services for one's personal use is clearly prohibited conduct.

- ▶ XM Radio,20060325,165.01,Dues & Subscriptions

Exercise equipment for Houston courthouse = \$5,992.12



John apparently felt it was appropriate to collect \$4,750 from 19 fellow judges to purchase exercise equipment for their personal use. John's campaign records indicate that he spent \$1,757.88 of his own campaign funds to purchase said exercise equipment. If the judges in Houston are concerned about their physical appearances, then it behooves them to spend their own money to purchase exercise equipment.

- ▶ Promaxima,20060701,5781.03,Equipment purchase for new courthouse - to be reimbursed by Judges
- ▶ Promaxima,20060712,211.09,Equipment purchase for new courthouse - to be reimbursed by Judges

Johnnie collected \$250 from the following named Houston judges as their alleged pro rate share of the cost of the exercise equipment:

1. Jeff Brown Campaign,20060906,250,pro rata share of exercise equipment
2. Judge Brent Gamble,20060901,250,pro-rata share of exercise equipment
3. Judge David Bernal,20060906,250,pro-rata share of exercise equipment
4. Judge Grant Dorfman,20060816,250,pro-rata share of exercise equipment
5. Judge Jack Cagle,20061213,250,pro-rata share of exercise equipment
6. Judge Jennifer Elrod,20061214,250,pro-rata share of exercise equipment
7. Judge John Coselli,20061214,250,pro-rata share of exercise equipment
8. Judge John Wooldridge,20060816,250,pro-rata share of exercise equipment
9. Judge Joseph Halbach,20060819,250,pro-rata share of exercise equipment
10. Judge Lamar McCorkle,20060816,250,pro-rata share of exercise equipment
11. Judge Levi Benton,20060823,250,pro-rata share of exercise equipment
12. Judge Mark Davidson,20060818,250,pro-rata share of exercise equipment
13. Judge Martha Hill Jamison,20060817,250,pro-rata share of exercise
14. Judge Randy Wilson,20061221,250,pro-rata share of exercise equipment
15. Judge Reece Rondon,20060906,250,pro-rata share of exercise equipment
16. Judge Roberta Lloyd,20061213,250,pro-rata share of exercise equipment
17. Judge Tony Lindsay,20060905,250,pro-rata share of exercise equipment
18. Judge Tracy Christopher,20061113,250,pro-rata share of exercise equipment
19. Judge William Burke,20061114,250,pro-rata share of exercise equipment

Newspaper Subscription Costs = \$1,520.59

Johnny also found it acceptable to use campaign funds to pay annual subscription costs to purchase the NY Times, Wall Street Journal, Dow Jones Newsletter and Houston Chronicle for his personal enjoyment.

Houston Chronicle Subscription Costs

- 2004 - $\$15 \times 12 = \180.00
- 2005 - $\$15 \times 12 = \180
- 2006 - $\$15 \times 12 = \180
- 2007 - $\$15 \times 11 = \165

NY Times Subscription Costs

- 2004 - \$402.15
- 2005 - $\$27.40 \times 12 = \328.80

Wall Street Journal Subscription Costs

- 2005 - $\$53.04 \times 1$

Dow Jones Newsletter Fees

- 2004 - $\$3.95 \times 7 = \27.65
 - 2005 - $\$3.95 \times 1$
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Dorfman, Grant – 129th District – Houston

Violations of Title 15 – Election Code – Sec. 253.035

Grant apparently was and is unaware of the law that requires a public official to disclose the “purpose” for expenditures, especially when it relates to credit card purchases. Maybe ol’ Grant was just ignorant of the law, which may be a valid defense.

Chase Card Services – no purpose stated = \$10,432.27

- ▶ 20050418,1473.79,credit card expenses
- ▶ 20050516,873.67,credit card expenses
- ▶ 20050317,1055.98,credit card expenses
- ▶ 20050715,419.10,Credit card expenses
- ▶ 20050818,1646.55,Credit card expenses
- ▶ 20050913,3075.65,Credit card expenses
- ▶ 20051012,719.38,Credit card expenses
- ▶ 20051114,1168.15,Credit card expenses

Dorfman – Cash Expenses – no purpose stated = \$1,803.86

- ▶ 20040224,99.64,Cash expenses Reimbursement
- ▶ 20040309,111.64,Cash Expenses Reimbursement
- ▶ 20040514,166.53,Cash Expenses Reimbursement
- ▶ 20040607,129.50,Cash Expenses Reimbursement
- ▶ 20031229,120.77,Reimb. Misc. expenses
- ▶ 20050308,202.70,expense reimbursement
- ▶ 20050819,50.00,reimburse cash expenses
- ▶ 20060112,793.08,reimburse payment of credit card expenses 11/05
- ▶ 20060114,130.00,reimburse payment of credit card expenses 9/05

Bank One Visa Charges – no purpose stated = \$20,625.53

- ▶ 20040713,809.83,Visa Charges
- ▶ 20040817,493.20,Visa Charges
- ▶ 20041015,3461.45,Visa Charges
- ▶ 20041118,1301.69,Visa Charges
- ▶ 20041218,1950.82,Visa Charges
- ▶ 20040116,1873.50,Visa Charges
- ▶ 20040212,1179.25,Visa Charges
- ▶ 20040309,1916.13,Visa Charges
- ▶ 20040409,408.58,Visa Charges
- ▶ 20040409,1050.71,Visa Charges,
- ▶ 20040601,1384.62,Visa Charges
- ▶ 20040609,1712.34,Visa Charges
- ▶ 20050223,949.22,Credit Card Expenses
- ▶ 20050110,1496.18,Credit Card Expenses
- ▶ 20050616,637.91,credit card expenses

Personal pledges to various organizations

It cannot possibly be legitimate for Grant to pay for personal pledges to Yale, the Houston and Texas Bar Foundations and/or St. Mark’s School of Texas with campaign funds. If this were deemed lawful, then I suppose Grant could do the same by pledging annual payments to the Jeffrey Dahmer School of Culinary Arts.

- ▶ Houston Bar Foundation,20051201,150.00,Annual pledge payment
- ▶ Houston Bar Foundation,20060307,150.00,2006 pledge
- ▶ Houston Bar Foundation,20040309,150.00,Annual Pledge Payment

- ▶ Houston Bar Foundation,20040628,150.00,Annual Pledge Payment
- ▶ Houston Bar Foundation,20070306,300.00,Annual Pledge
- ▶ St. Mark's School of Texas,20061215,100.00,Annual donation payment
- ▶ St. Mark's School of Texas,20051216,100.00,Annual pledge payment
- ▶ St. Mark's School of Texas,20060110,100.00,Annual pledge payment
- ▶ Texas Bar Foundation,20060214,625.00,pledge contribution
- ▶ Texas Bar Foundation,20061219,625.00,pledge contribution
- ▶ Texas Bar Foundation,20071203,625.00,pledge payment contribution
- ▶ Yale Alumni Affairs,20071129,250.00,Law School Pledge payment

Direct TV Service = \$805.08

Seemingly, Grant believes it is lawful to use campaign funds so that he can watch TV in his Chambers.

- ▶ Avidcom/Atricom Group,20060928,56.18,Annual payment Direct TV service for court
- ▶ Avidcom/Atricom Group,20060928,245.00,Installation Direct TV equipment for court
- ▶ Best Buy,20061213,136.33,17th floor TV purchase and installation (partial payment
- ▶ Sam's Club,20070504,307.88,Office TV set
- ▶ Direct TV,20071026,59.69,Direct TV annual bill

Meals/Supplies for Jurors = \$4,980.99

Grant's conduct in repeatedly paying for juror lunches and other supplies is improper in that it has absolutely nothing to do with his official officeholder duties. More egregious is Grant's use of campaign funds to purchase a birthday present for a juror and/or to pay for birthday party supplies for jurors (see bolded entries below)

1. Domino's,20030723,65.00,Jury Pizza
2. Domino's Pizza,20041022,120.00,jury pizza
3. **Treebeard's,20041105,28.15,Robles jury birthday present**
4. Domino's,20040325,117.93,Jury Pizza
5. Domino's,20040505,93.21,Jury Pizza
6. Domino's Pizza,20040109,80.43,Jury Pizza
7. Domino's Pizza,20040116,80.00,Jury Pizza
8. Domino's Pizza,20040123,75.19,Jury Pizza
9. Ninfa's,20040128,259.58,Jury Lunch
10. Everything Home,20050604,190.98,Coffee Machine for Jury Room
11. Domino's Pizza,20050419,91.04,Jury pizza -- Hance case
12. **Party City,20050517,59.94,birthday party supplies for jury**
13. Domino's,20050311,88.00,pizza for Rygielski jury
14. Maggiano's,20050109,117.48,jury lunch expense
15. Domino's Pizza,20051019,71.11,Jury lunch pizza
16. Domino's Pizza,20051028,121.39,Jury pizza
17. Dorfman,Grant,20060516,143.49,reimbursement - office & jury supplies
18. Frank's Pizza,20060113,84.76,jury pizza
19. Frank's Pizza,20060209,128.18,jury pizza
20. Frank's Pizza,20060428,134.48,jury pizza
21. Frank's Pizza,20060602,146.28,jury pizza
22. Dorfman ,20060803,169.19,reimbursement - office & jury supplies
23. Frank's Pizza,20060825,163.46,jury pizza
24. Frank's Pizza,20060918,162.92,jury pizza,
25. Frank's Pizza,20060929,86.15,jury pizza
26. Frank's Pizza,20061114,175.83,jury pizza
27. Frank's Pizza,20061208,156.10,jury pizza
28. Pappas B-B-Q,20061114,142.29,jury dinner

29. Randalls Stores,20060711,51.03,Office jury supplies/coffee
 30. Sam's Club,20061107,170.87,purchase jury supplies
 31. Domino's Pizza,20070123,91.77,Jury pizza
 32. Domino's Pizza,20070525,108.79,Jury pizza
 33. Domino's Pizza,20070601,119.97,Jury
 34. Ninfa's,20070209,220.65,Jury Lunch
 35. Pappas B-B-Q,20070126,138.34,Jury Lunch
 36. Randalls,20070307,121.98,office and jury supplies/ coffee
 37. Sam's Club,20070504,174.64,purchase office/jury supplies
 38. New York Pizzeria,20070817,191.52,Jury Pizza
 39. New York Pizzeria,20071024,171.16,Jury Pizza
 40. Randalls,20071022,67.71,office and jury supplies/ coffee
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Gray, Thomas, Tom, 10th Court of Appeals – Crawford

Violations of Title 15 – Election Code – Sec. 253.035

Apparently Tom lacks the intellectual acumen to understand what the term “personal” means in regards to using campaign funds to pay for “personal protection.” Clearly, there is no gray area (pun intended) as it relates to Tom’s violation of Sec. 253.035.

Expenses for “Personal Protection” = \$1,990.91

- ◆ Cash America #401, 20071017,173.20,Personal Protection
- ◆ Texas Department of Public Safety, 20071127,70.00,Personal Protection
- ◆ Jesse's Gun Shop, 20051202,487.94,Personal security and supplies
- ◆ Martin, David, 20040822,350.00,Attend a specialized gun safety/training course
- ◆ Korn,Andy,4221 Avondale Ave.,Dallas,20070110,450.00,Personal Protection
- ◆ Texas Department of Public Safety,20070612,25.00,Personal Protection
- ◆ z Cash America Pawn of Waco,20060308,312.50,personal security for travel
- ◆ Jesse's Gun Shop,20051228,122.27,Personal security and related supplies

Expenses for Personal Items

- Target,20041104,92.00,Travel electric razor for campaign trips/events



Again, we have Tom illegally using campaign funds to purchase something that by its nature is for “personal use.” In my search of the Internet I could not find any company that sold an electric razor that was only operational when used on campaign trips or events.

Lopez, Migdalia – 197th District Court – Harlingen

Violations of Title 15 – Election Code – Sec. 253.035

Failure to disclose occupation/employment of contributors = \$61,600

Pursuant to Chapter § 254.0612 of the Election Code, for all contributions of \$500 or more, a candidate is required to disclose (a) the individual's principal occupation or job title and (b) the full name of the individual's employer. This requirement went into effect in September 2003.

1. Cardenas, Mary Rose, Brownsville, TX, 78520, ,, 20060309, 500.00, Contribution
2. Carrigan McCloskey & Roberson 20060428, 500.00, Contribution
3. Chaney, Mitchell C, Mr, 20060306, 1000.00, Contribution
4. Cox Smith Matthews, 20060428, 1000.00, Contribution
5. Garcia, Alberto, 20060306, 1000.00, Contribution
6. Oliveira, David George, 20060227, 500.00, Contribution
7. Rodriguez, Orlando, 20060707, 2100.00, Contribution
8. Sterni, Jeffrey M., 20060428, 600.00, Contribution
9. Zamir, Asim, 20060227, 500.00, Contribution
10. Cantu, Mark, Mr., , 20060715, 2500.00, Pledged Contribution
11. Crane, Randall, Mr., , 20060715, 500.00, Pledged Contribution
12. Dale, Evelon, Mr, 20060715, 2500.00, Pledged Contribution
13. Disg, Jaime, Mr. 20060415, 1000.00, Pledged Contribution
14. Garcia, Alberto, Mr., 20060715, 1500.00, Pledged Contribution
15. Garcia, Cindy, Ms., , 20060715, 2500.00, Pledged Contribution
16. Garcia, Jose, Mr., 20060715, 2500.00, Pledged Contribution
17. Gault, William, Mr., , 20060715, 1500.00, Pledged Contribution
18. Hernandez, Joseph, 20060715, 1500.00, Pledged Contribution
19. James, Tony, 20060715, 500.00, Pledged Contribution
20. Kim, Lillian, 20060715, 1000.00, Pledged Contribution
21. Lopez, Jose Luis, 20060715, 500.00, Pledged Contribution
22. Navarro, Ric, 20060715, 1000.00, Pledged Contribution
23. Perez, Frank, 20060715, 1000.00, Pledged Contribution
24. Pierreda, Adlofo, 20060715, 500.00, Pledged Contribution
25. Saldana, Mike, 20060715, 1000.00, Pledged Contribution
26. Salinas, Miguel, 20060715, 1000.00, Pledged Contribution
27. Vogel, David, 20060715, 500.00, Pledged Contribution
28. Kim, Lillian, Ms., , , Harlingen, TX, 78550, N,, 20060215, 1000.00, Contribution
29. Parra, Jaime, Mr., , , Brownsville, TX, 78521, N,, 20060202, 500.00, Contribution
30. Thomas, Ray Lawrence, Mr., , , McAllen, TX, 78502, N,, 20060216, 1000.00, Contribution
31. Pickard, Billie, Mr., , , Raymondville, TX, 78580, N,, 20060221, 100.00, Contribution
32. Collins, Robert, Mr., , , South Padre Island, TX, 78597, N,, 20060221, 1000.00, Contribution
33. Pallares, Jerry X, Mr., , , Harlingen, TX, 78550, N,, 20060130, 500.00, Contribution
34. Shepard, R. W., Mr., , , Harlingen, TX, 78552, N,, 20060109, 500.00, Contribution
35. Villarreal, Juan, Mr., , , Harlingen, TX, 78552, N,, 20060109, 1000.00, Contribution
36. Schell, Rick, Mr., , , McAllen, TX, 78503, N,, 20060109, 500.00, Contribution
37. Allison, Douglas, Mr., , , Corpus Christi, TX, 78471, N,, 20060130, 2500.00, Contribution
38. Wahid, Nurul A, Mr., , , McAllen, TX, 78504, N,, 20060130, 2500.00, Contribution
39. Leal, Jose M, Mr., , , La Feria, TX, 78559, N,, 20060130, 500.00, Contribution
40. Frey, K. F., Mr., , , Harlingen, TX, 78550-2886, N,, 20060130, 500.00, Contribution
41. Serafy, Nicholas T, Mr., Jr., , Brownsville, TX, 78520, N,, 20060130, 500.00, Contribution
42. Koppel, Rollins M, Mr., , , Harlingen, TX, 78551, N,, 20051014, 500.00, Contribution
43. Green, Jorge A, Mr., , , Brownsville, TX, 78521, N,, 20050923, 1000.00, Contribution
44. Garcia, Ramon, Mr., , , Edinburg, TX, 78539-3301, N,, 20050818, 1000.00, Contribution
45. Dennis M. Sanchez P.C., , , , Brownsville, TX, 78521-2284, N,, 20050830, 2500.00, Contribution
46. Clark, Bliss W, Dr., , , Rancho Viejo, TX, 78575, N,, 20050817, 500.00, Contribution

47. Dillon,R. D.,Mr.,,,,Harlingen,TX,78552,N,,20051013,500.00,Contribution
 48. Abraham Cano M.D.,,,,,,Harlingen,TX,78550,N,,20051014,500.00,Contribution
 49. Trevino,Jerry J,Mr.,,,,Corpus Christi,TX,78414,N,,20051006,1000.00,Contribution
 50. Davila,Guadalupe,Mr.,,,,Harlingen,TX,78550-7836,N,,20051013,500.00,Contribution
 51. Cano,Yvette,Ms.,,,,Harlingen,TX,78550,N,,20051014,500.00,Contribution
 52. Padilla,Alfredo,Mr.,,,,Brownsville,TX,78520,N,,20051026,500.00,Contribution
 53. Hunter,Susan D,Ms.,,,,Harlingen,TX,78550,N,,20051015,500.00,Contribution
 54. Rodriguez,Homero,Mr.,,,,Raymondville,TX,78580,N,,20051202,1000.00,Contribution
 55. Haywood,John,Mr.,,,,Port Isabel,TX,78578,N,,20051031,1000.00,Contribution
 56. Adams,Howard,Mr.,,,,Harlingen,TX,78550-0413,N,,20051014,500.00,Contribution
 57. Gonzalez,Rina R,Ms.,,,,Edinburg,TX,78539,N,,20051017,1000.00,Contribution
 58. Posada,Rolando,Mr.,,,,Harlingen,TX,78550,N,,20051014,500.00,Contribution
 59. Hunter,James H,Mr.,Jr.,,,,Rancho Viejo,TX,78575,N,,20051010,1000.00,Fundraiser
 60. Villarreal Alba,Alejandro,Mr.,,,,Brownsville,TX,78521,N,,20051101,1000.00,Fundraiser
 61. Dr. Jose Heberto Teran,,,,,,Brownsville,TX,78523,N,,20051101,1000.00,Fundraiser
 62. Martinez,Lydia,Ms.,,,,La Feria,TX,78558,N,,20051028,1000.00,Fundraiser
 63. Zamir,Asim,Mr.,,,,Brownsville,TX,78521,N,,20051102,1000.00,Fundraiser
 64. Torre,Raul Egidio,Mr.,,,,Brownsville,TX,78521,N,,20051028,1000.00,Fundraiser
 65. Padilla,Alfredo,Mr.,,,,Brownsville,TX,78520,N,,20050721,500.00,Contribution
 66. Pessego,,,,,,Brownsville,TX,78526-4129,N,,20051102,500.00,Fundraiser
 67. Luico,Eddie,Mr.,III,,,Rancho Viejo,TX,78575,N,,20051102,500.00,Fundraiser
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Violations of Title 15 – Election Code – Sec. 253.035

Court enhancement/improvements/decorations/open house = \$10,394.47

Using campaign funds to pay for building improvements to the courthouse in Houston is not an approved officeholder duty. Spending over \$10,000 for such purpose is a blatant violation of the ethics laws. Apparently Lamar intellectually dyslexic not to mention that he is also ethically insolvent.

- ▶ Baker,Caroline,20060509,319.94,Enhancement for court suite common area
 - ▶ Sumang,Annie,20060527,1500.00,Advance design enhancement for court suite common area
 - ▶ Sumang,Annie,20060623,1000.00,Advance design enhancement for court suite common area
 - ▶ Donovan,John,20060816,250.00,reimburse new building improvements (exercise equipment)
 - ▶ Sumang,Annie,20060712,2589.15,design & enhancement work court suite common area
 - ▶ Sumang,Annie,20060804,2000.00,design & enhancement work court suite common area
 - ▶ Sumang,Annie,20060929,313.15,Balance due enhancements common court area
 - ▶ Sumang,Annie,20061218,843.01,Holiday decorations for court common areas
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Meurer, W. Jeanne – 98th District Court – Austin

Violations of Title 15 – Election Code – Sec. 253.035

Attire (clothing) for Award Banquet - \$1,449.75

Jeanne obviously suffers from some intellectual infirmity wherein she actually believes that an evening gown and accessories bought at Dillards for almost \$1500 was not “dual purpose” attire. Unless Jeanne purchased a “clown suit,” then this expense is a total sham.

- ▶ Dillards,20051006,600.00,Attire for Award Banquet Presentation scheduled 2006 Presentations
- ▶ Dillards,20051005,728.52,Attire for Award Banquet Presentation scheduled 2006 presentations
- ▶ Dillards,20051005,121.23,Attire for Award Banquet Presentation scheduled 2006 Presentations



Security Lessons/equipment/supplies

These so-called security lessons, etc. are clearly of a personal nature and in violation of the ethics laws.

- ▶ Red's Indoor Range,20060305,197.78,Security Lesson
 - ▶ Red's Indoor Range,20060306,45.77,Instructor fee
 - ▶ McBrides,20060308,545.31,Security equipment/supplies
-

Violations of Title 15 – Election Code – Sec. 253.035

License plates for personal auto = \$621.12

Spending campaign funds to pay for license plates for one's personal vehicle is clearly prohibited, especially when Margaret isn't an elected public official. Claiming this expense under the guise that they are "official" license plates is irrelevant since it is the equivalent of obtaining "vanity plates," meaning Margaret was able to defray the total cost of licensing her personal vehicle every year by using campaign funds.

- ◆ Harris County Tax Assessor,20071213,188.09,Official License Plates
- ◆ Harris County Tax,20070109,118.60,Official License Plates
- ◆ Harris County Tax Assessor,20051222,118.60,State Judge License Plates
- ◆ Harris County Tax Assessor,20041230,126.60,State Judge License Plates
- ◆ Harris County Tax Assessor,20030331,69.23,State Judge License Plates

Mediation/ADR expenses = \$4,205.47

Margaret is a senior justice (visiting retired judge) who also works the rent-a-judge circuit by offering mediation/arbitration services. Margaret's term on the 1st District Court of Appeals in Houston ended on Dec 31, 2002. Margaret seems to feel it's legit to use campaign funds to further her personal Mediation/ADR business by paying for legal publications and for attending conferences/seminars. Clearly, this is a blatant violation of the ethics laws when one takes into account that Margaret is paid hundreds of dollars an hour in her private mediation business.

Margaret operates her own website at <http://www.judgemargaretmirabal.com/> wherein she promotes herself by saying "I am available for Arbitrations, Mediation, Trial by Special Judge and Consultation at a location of your choosing or at: The Resolution Center, 333 T.C. Jester (seems apropos) Blvd. at 1-10 West, Houston.

- ◆ Jones McClure Publishing,20070930,150.04,Legal Publications
- ◆ Jones McClure Publishing,20071205,150.04,Legal Publications
- ◆ Legal Directories Publishing,20070115,82.81,2007 Legal Directory
- ◆ Jones McClure Publishing,20070327,285.50,Legal Publications
- ◆ State Bar of Texas,20070327,237.02,Legal Publications
- ◆ Jones McClure Publishing,20070603,75.02,Legal Publication
- ◆ State Bar of Texas,20070611,112.61,Legal Publication
- ◆ Jones McClure Publishing,20060829,156.49,Law books
- ◆ State Bar of Texas,20061010,182.33,Legal Publications
- ◆ Jones McClure Publishing,20061101,75.03,Legal Publication
- ◆ State Bar of Texas,20061202,213.43,Legal Publication
- ◆ Jones McClure Publishing,20061202,150.04,Legal publications
- ◆ Jones McClure Publishing,20060302,139.33,Legal Publications
- ◆ American Arbitration Association,20060323,150.00,Legal Publication
- ◆ Jones McClure Publishing,20060404,434.15,Legal Publications
- ◆ Jones McClure Publishing,20060615,64.30,Legal Publication
- ◆ National Association of Women Judges,20050910,175.00,Dues
- ◆ Jones McClure Publishing,20051005,390.62,Legal publications
- ◆ Legal Directories Publishing,20051118,82.05,Purchase of 2006 Legal Directory
- ◆ Jones McClure Publishing,20051222,239.30,Legal publications
- ◆ State Bar of Texas,20041104,160.88,Texas Real Estate Forms Manual
- ◆ American Arbitration Association,20041206,125.00,Subscription Dispute Resolution Journal
- ◆ Jones McClure Publishing,20040330,135.31,Legal publication
- ◆ Jones McClure Publishing,20040525,50.95,Legal publication

- ◆ State Bar of Texas,20040402,190.00,Continuing Legal Education
 - ◆ Imprimatur Press,20031125,57.32,Purchase 2003 ADR Handbook
 - ◆ American Bar Association,20030127,115.9,Legal Publication purchase
 - ◆ National Association of Women Judges,20051103,400.00,Judicial conference
 - ◆ **Association of Attorney-Mediators,20051202,225.00,Seminar**
 - ◆ **ACR -Houston Chapter,20041111,110.00,Seminar registration**
 - ◆ American Bar Association,20040210,125.00,Seminar
 - ◆ **American Arbitration Association,20040413,275.00,Seminar**
 - ◆ Hilton Hotels,,,,1 Riverwalk,,San Antonio,TX,,20030129,152,Judicial Conference
 - ◆ American Bar Association,Section of Litigation,20030325,250,Legal Seminar
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Violations of Title 15 – Election Code – Sec. 253.035

XM Radio and Satellite Services

Bill's use of campaign funds to pay the costs for an XM radio and satellite services is a clear violation of the ethics laws because the expense was for his own personal use. Now, if Bill desires to listen to Mood music while traversing the highways and byways in the El Paso area and/or some rap music that's his problem. He certainly cannot use campaign purposes for such purposes. Of that there is no dispute!

- XM Satellite,20061023,14.01, XM Satellite Service
- Best Buy,20060726,497.91, XM Radio
- XM Satellite,20060724,24.82, XM Satellite Service
- XM Satellite,20060823,14.01, XM satellite service
- XM Satellite,20060925,14.01, XM Satellite Service

Paying son Joseph for Campaign Work

- Moody, Joseph, 2805 Fir, El Paso, 20061030, 250.00, Campaign Work
- Moody, Joseph, 2805 Fir, El Paso, 20061108, 1000.00, Campaign Work
- Moody, Joseph, 2805 Fir, El Paso, 20061116, 500.00, Campaign Work
- Moody, Joseph, 2805 Fir, El Paso, 20061127, 400.00, Campaign Work
- Moody, Joseph, 2805 Fir, El Paso, 20061206, 200.00, Campaign Work

Paying wife Maggie for van rental/travel expenses

- Moody, Maggie, 285 Puesta Del Sol, El Paso, 20061117, 368.60, Travel Expense
- Moody, Maggie, 285 Puesta Del Sol, El Paso, 20061213, 1250.00, Rental Van Campaign Aug to Nov 2006

Paying repairs on Van rented from wife Maggie

- Benny's Body Shop, 20071002, 500.00, Vehicle Repairs
- Firestone, 128.98, Replace tire on van

Moody – Miscellaneous/Etcetera expenses

Here we have Billy providing detail for expenses with the terms “miscellaneous” and/or “etcetera,” which clearly violates the law requiring full disclosure.

- 20060930, 101.75, Travel Expense/gas meals parking miscellaneous
- 20061006, 101.75, Travel Expense/meals gas parking miscellaneous
- 20061010, 203.25, Travel Expense/gas meals parking miscellaneous
- 20061012, 103.00, Travel Expense/meals gas parking miscellaneous
- 20061016, 102.75, Travel Expense/meals gas parking miscellaneous
- 20061017, 103.00, Travel Expense/meals gas parking miscellaneous
- 20061019, 102.50, Travel Expense/meals gas parking miscellaneous
- 20061020, 104.75, Travel Expense/meals gas parking miscellaneous
- 20061023, 185.75, Travel Expense/meals gas parking miscellaneous
- 20061026, 104.00, Travel Expense/meals gas parking miscellaneous
- 20060720, 61.50, Travel Expense/Parking gas meals miscellaneous expenses
- 20060802, 81.50, Travel Expense/meals gas parking miscellaneous
- 20060810, 101.75, Travel Expense/meals gas parking miscellaneous
- 20060811, 102.00, Travel Expense/meals gas parking miscellaneous
- 20060817, 81.75, Travel Expense/meals gas miscellaneous

- 20060820,82.75,Travel Expense/meals gas miscellaneous
 - 20060905,102.50,Travel Expense/meals gas miscellaneous
 - 20060912,201.95,Travel Expense/Meals gas etc.
 - 20060918,101.75,Travel expense/Meals gas etc
 - 20060922,102.00,Travel Expense/parking/meals/gas/miscellaneous
 - 20060924,82.75,Travel Expense/parking/gas/meals/miscellaneous
 - 20060928,102.50,Travel Expense/meals gas parking miscellaneous
 - 20060102,83.00,Travel Expense/Parking Meals etc.
 - 20060113,63.00,Travel Expense/Parking Meals etc.
 - 20060131,43.50,Travel Expense/Parking meals etc.
 - 20060206,103.00,Travel Expense/Parking meals etc.
 - 20060208,43.00,Travel Expense/Parking Meals etc
 - 20060213,103.00,Travel Expense/Parking Meals etc.
 - 20060215,63.00,Travel Expense/Parking Meals etc.
 - 20060225,61.50,Travel Expense/Parking Meals etc.
 - 20060303,61.50,Travel Expense/Parking meals etc.
 - 20060329,63.00,Travel Expense/Parking meals etc.
 - 20060407,61.50,Travel Expense/Campaigning - Meals Gas Parking etc.
 - 20060412,61.50,Travel Expense/Campaigning - Meals Gas Parking etc.,
 - 20060427,41.50,Travel Expense/Campaigning - Meals Gas Parking etc.
 - 20060609,81.50,Travel Expense/Parking meals etc.
 - 20060612,101.50,Travel Expense/Parking meals etc.
 - 20060616,82.50,Travel Expense/Parking meals etc
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Radack, Sherry - 1st COA – Houston

Violations of Title 15 – Election Code – Sec. 253.035

District of Columbia Bar Dues

Ethics Advisory Opinion No. 245 – Allows for a judge to use campaign expenses to pay state (that'd be Texas) bar dues; however, Sherry is not permitted to pay bar dues for the District of Columbia.

- ▶ District of Columbia Bar, 20005,20070523,95.00,Dues
- ▶ District of Columbia Bar,Washington,DC,,20060522,90.00,Dues
- ▶ District of Columbia Bar,Washington,DC,,20050701,89.00,Dues
- ▶ District of Columbia Bar,Washington,DC,,20040601,87.00,Dues

Gifts for Court staff = \$7,500

- ▶ Kroger,20071219,1900.00,Gift cards for staff
 - ▶ Kroger,20061214,1650.00,Christmas gift cards
 - ▶ Kroger,,20051216,2200.00,Christmas gift certificates
 - ▶ Kroger,20041221,1850.00,Gift certificates for employees
 - ▶ Carrabba's,20070822,54.82,Lunch meeting
 - ▶ Carrabba's,20070908,55.09,Lunch meeting
 - ▶ Carrabba's,20070915,91.67,Lunch meeting
 - ▶ Polo's Restaurant,20070827,68.78,Lunch meeting
 - ▶ **McCullough,Karinne,20070729,732.29,Reimb. for staff training and luncheons**
 - ▶ McCullough,Karinne,20071226,373.50,Reimb. for staff luncheon at Monsoon Restaurant
 - ▶ First Court Cheer Fund,20070417,200.00,Staff appreciation lunch
 - ▶ First Court Cheer Fund,20060801,200.00,Staff appreciation lunch
 - ▶ McCullough,Karinne,,20060104,219.11,Reimb. for court luncheon
 - ▶ Cheer Fund,,20050706,200.00,Office refreshments
 - ▶ Cheer Fund,,20051109,200.00,Office refreshments
 - ▶ Brennan's,,20051212,186.38,Staff luncheon
 - ▶ Brennan's,,20051213,148.49,Court luncheon
 - ▶ Cheer Fund,Houston,TX,,20040701,200.00,Refreshments
 - ▶ Cheer Fund,Houston,TX,,20041028,300.00,Refreshments
 - ▶ Cheer Fund,Houston,TX,,20031215,275.00,Refreshments
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Patterson, Jay – 101st District Court – Dallas

Violations of Title 15 – Election Code – Sec. 253.035

Gifts to Juror

Gifts to a juror \$525 in campaign funds to avoid an alleged financial hardship is clearly illegal. If sitting on a jury would create a “financial hardship,” then a judge has the option of disqualifying such a person, but he certainly cannot pay him/her because of some alleged hardship.

- ▶ Patterson, 20010709,525.00, Gift to juror to avoid financial hardship

Christmas/Holiday luncheons for Court Staff = \$3,702.04

If Jay wants to wine and dine court staff at Neiman Marcus, then that’s his problem. These expenditures have absolutely nothing to do with Jay’s officeholder duties.

I wonder if court staff is aware that Jay ain’t spent one measly dollar of his own money to wine and dine them like some ol’ big shot on Christmas

- ▶ NEIMAN MARCUS,20060126,872.69,CHRISTMAS LUNCH COURT STAFF/PERSONNEL
 - ▶ NEIMAN MARCUS,20041220,649.25,HOLIDAY LUNCHEON FOR COURT STAFF
 - ▶ NEIMAN MARCUS,20031219,769.50,HOLIDAY LUNCHEON FOR COURT STAFF
 - ▶ NEIMAN MARCUS,20021219,583.13,COURTHOUSE PERSONNEL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON
 - ▶ NEIMAN MARCUS,20020110,320.79,HOLIDAY LUNCHEON FOR COURT STAFF
 - ▶ NEIMAN MARCUS,20001212,233.85,HOLIDAY LUNCHEON FOR COURT STAFF
 - ▶ Neiman Marcus,20000109,272.83,Christmas Luncheon for Court Staff
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Shelton, Pat – 313th District Judge – Houston

Violations of Title 15 – Election Code – Sec. 253.035

Courtroom decorations = \$29,712.03

Pat's expenditure of nearly \$30,000 from Sept 8 to Dec 29, 2006 to decorate his office/chambers clearly violates the letter and spirit of the campaign laws. Such expenses have absolutely no relationship to official officeholder duties of any kind! In fact, the expenditures evidence a mindset of imperialistic-omnipotence. I

- ▶ Gallery of the Republic,20060908,9650.00,Courtroom flags and Texana
- ▶ Dennis Rae Art,20061007,2600.00,3 pictures – office
- ▶ Lahaina Galleries,20061014,10525.00,3 pictures
- ▶ Shelton,Pat, ,20061115,880.00,4 US Mint pictures for office
- ▶ Shelton,Pat, ,20061115,420.00,Pictures frames/artifacts/office
- ▶ October,20061206,400.00,Christmas decorations
- ▶ Grace Point Book Store,20061210,537.00,Christmas decorations
- ▶ Shelton,Pat, ,20061229,4700.00,Jaing pictures for office

During the timeframe stated above, Pat received \$34,789 in total contributions. Therefore, he spent 87% of all contributions on indulging herself with fancy decorations for her office/chambers.
