



# California Fair Political Practices Commission

October 7, 1985

Joseph Remcho  
Remcho, Johansen & Purcell  
2200 Montgomery Street, Suite 800  
San Francisco, CA 94104

RE: Request for Advice  
FPPC No. A-85-205

Dear Mr. Remcho:

This is in reply to your letter dated September 25, 1985, in which you requested advice pursuant to Gov. Code Section 83114. This letter constitutes advice pursuant to 2 Cal. Adm. Code Section 83114(c).

You asked whether certain personal travel expenses and certain expenses incurred for home or office events are excluded from the definition of "independent expenditure."

The definition of "contribution" in Gov. Code Section 82015 provides exceptions for the costs of certain activities which occur at the behest of a candidate or committee, which result in those costs not being required to be reported by a candidate or committee.

The staff has concluded that the term "independent expenditure" (Gov. Code Section 82031) does not include the following:

- (1) A payment made by an occupant of a home or office for costs related to any meeting or fundraising event held in the occupant's home or office if the costs for the meeting or fundraising event are five hundred dollars (\$500) or less.
- (2) Volunteer personal services or payments made by any individual for his or her own travel expenses if such payments are made voluntarily without any understanding or agreement that they shall be, directly or indirectly, repaid to him or her.

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Therefore, a person who incurs such costs is not required to count them toward qualifying as a committee under Gov. Code Section 82013(b), and is not required to report such costs should he or she qualify as a committee by virtue of other activities which are reportable.

Thank you for your inquiry. Please contact me if you have nay questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeanne Pritchard".

Jeanne Pritchard  
Chief, Technical Assistance  
and Analysis Division

JP:bb

A-85-205

REMCHO, JOHANSEN & PURCELL  
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September 25, 1985

Jeanne Pritchard, Chief  
Technical Assistance Division  
Fair Political Practices Commission  
P. O. Box 807  
Sacramento, California 95804

Re: Request for Advice,  
Government Code §83114

Dear Ms. Pritchard:

I write, pursuant to Government Code §83114, to request a formal advice letter from the Commission regarding the following question.

Government Code §82015 excludes certain personal travel expenses and certain expenses incurred for home or office events from the definition of "contribution". As a result, when such expenses are incurred at the behest of a committee and not reimbursed, they are not reportable as contributions. Do those exceptions apply as well when an individual engages in exactly the same activity, but does so independently and not at the behest of a candidate or committee? That is, does an individual who independently spends \$500 on his or her own travel expenses become an expenditure committee with a reporting obligation, even though neither the individual nor a candidate would have had to report had the expenses been incurred at the express request of a candidate?

Sincerely,



Joseph Remcho

JR:NR