



FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

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April 16, 2013

Kathryn E. Donovan, Esq.
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP
o/b/o Geoffrey Brown

REDACTED

**Re: Warning Letter
FPPC No. 11/707; Geoffrey Brown**

Dear Ms. Donovan:

The Fair Political Practices Commission (the "FPPC") enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act (the "Act")¹ found in Government Code section 81000, et seq. This letter is in response to a referral from the Commission's Technical Assistance Division that your client, Geoffrey Brown, accepted a gift in excess of the gift limits imposed by the Act.

The Commission has completed its investigation of the facts in this case. Specifically, your client reported on his 2008 Annual Statement of Economic Interests receiving gifts of events, lodging and meals from SunAmerica Financial Group, valued at \$2,500, and from Union Bank, valued at \$2,500. For calendar year 2008, the applicable gift limit was \$390 from a single source in a calendar year. Additionally, your client reported on his 2010 Annual Statement of Economic Interests receiving gifts of event tickets, lodging and meals from Union Bank, valued at \$600. For calendar year 2010, the applicable gift limit was \$420 from a single source in a calendar year.

Your client's acceptance of gifts over the limit is a violation of the Act. (Section 89503.) By accepting the gifts from SunAmerica Financial Group and from Union Bank, your client was in excess of the applicable gift limits by \$4,400. However, based on the specific facts of this case we are closing this matter with a warning letter. These include the fact that your client had a long-standing professional relationship with the donors which pre-dated and post-dated his term as a public official, your client timely reported the gifts at issue, your client ultimately paid

¹ The Political Reform Act is contained in Government Code Sections 81000 through 91014. All statutory references are to the Government Code, unless otherwise indicated. The regulations of the Fair Political Practices Commission are contained in Sections 18110 through 18997 of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations. All regulatory references are to Title 2, Division 6 of the California Code of Regulations, unless otherwise indicated.

down the difference between the value of the gifts and the Act's applicable gift limits, and your client has no prior history of violating the Act.

This letter serves as a written warning to your client. The information in this matter will be retained and may be considered should an enforcement action become necessary based on future conduct or newly discovered information. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Act in the future will result in monetary penalties of up to \$5,000 for each violation.

A warning letter is an FPPC case resolution without administrative prosecution or fine. However, the warning letter resolution does not provide you with the opportunity for a probable cause hearing or hearing before an Administrative Law Judge or the Commission. If you wish to avail yourself of these proceedings by requesting that your case proceed with prosecution rather than a warning, please notify us within ten (10) days from the date of this letter. Upon this notification, the FPPC will rescind this warning letter and proceed with administrative prosecution of this case. If we do not receive such notification, this warning letter will be posted on the FPPC's website ten (10) days from the date of this letter.

Thank you for your courtesy and cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

REDACTED

Angela J. Brereton
Senior Commission Counsel
Enforcement Division