FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION
428 J Street • Suite 620 • Sacramento, CA 95814-2329
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March 1, 2010

The Honorable Kevin Culhane
Mr. Brian Hildreth
Bell, McAndrews and Hiltachk

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**Advisory Letter Re: FPPC No. 09/225, Kevin Culhane, et. al**

Dear Judge Culhane and Mr. Hildreth:

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 an investigation begun against you by the FPPC in response to a voluminous complaint that alleged more than 100 separate reporting and other violations involving numerous individuals and committees, including Kevin Culhane, a Judicial Candidate; Culhane for Superior Court Judge Committee (the Committee) and Thomas Hiltachk and Brian Hildreth, as Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, respectively, of the Culhane for Superior Court Judge Committee.

The FPPC has completed its investigation of the facts in this case. Specifically, the FPPC found that of the over 100 violations alleged there was a single allegation that was substantiated as to Judge Culhane, the Committee, and Thomas Hiltachk and Brian Hildreth. The violation was the failure to include the committee bank account number on the initial statement of organization (Form 410) of the Committee. We have determined that the public harm from this violation is de minimus, and are therefore closing the case with this Advisory Letter.

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[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.

The Act provides that statements of organization for committees controlled by a candidate for his or her election shall contain the name and address of the financial institution where the committee has established an account and the account number. (Section 84102) You are advised that, as a candidate for superior court judge in Sacramento County with a candidate controlled committee for that office, your statement of organization did not contain the required information with regard to the committee's bank account. Due to the mitigating circumstances previously identified, we have decided to close this case with an Advisory Letter.

The Commission publishes forms and manuals to facilitate compliance with the provisions of the Act and provides guidance regarding filing obligations over the telephone and through written advice. Please call the Commission's Technical Assistance Division at 1-866-275-3772 or visit our website at www.fppc.ca.gov.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

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GARY S. WINUK
Chief, Enforcement Division