

**STATE OF MINNESOTA  
CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD**

**Findings In The Matter of the Acceptance of  
Prohibited Contributions During the 2010 Legislative Session  
by the Marty Seifert for Governor Committee**

**Summary of the Facts**

Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1(a), prohibits a candidate for a legislative or constitutional office or the candidate's principal campaign committee from soliciting or accepting a contribution from a dissolving principal campaign committee during a regular legislative session. A candidate that violates this section is subject to a civil penalty of up to \$1,000.

The 2010 Year-end Report of Receipts and Expenditures filed with the Board by the Marty Seifert for Governor Committee ("the Committee") disclosed contributions received on April 5, 2010 from two principal campaign committees. The Michael Bredeck for Representative Committee contributed \$2,164 and the Citizens for Brad Kadue Committee contributed \$405.84. The legislative session was held from February 4 through May 17, 2010.

By letter dated February 10, 2011, the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board notified Diane Johnson, treasurer, of the statutory provision that appeared to be violated. Ms. Johnson's response dated February 21, 2011, states that she entered all contributions into the Campaign Finance Reporter software before depositing the contributions. The only compliance flag she received was to obtain a termination statement from the contributing principal campaign committees. Staff confirms that a compliance warning regarding receipt of a contribution from a terminating principal campaign committee during the legislative session was not functional in the software.

This matter was considered by the Board in executive session on March 1, 2011. The Board's decision is based on the response filed by Diane Johnson and Board records.

**Based on the above Summary of the Facts and Relevant Statutes, the Board makes the following:**

**Finding Concerning Probable Cause**

1. There is probable cause to believe that the Marty Seifert for Governor Committee accepted contributions from dissolving principal campaign committees during the 2010 regular legislative session in violation of Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1(a).
2. There is probable cause to believe that the Campaign Finance Reporter software did not prompt Ms. Johnson that acceptance of the contributions were prohibited during the legislative session.

