

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

**Findings and Order In The Matter of a Contribution
During the Regular 2009 Legislative Session
By Lee Anderson**

Summary of the Facts

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

In a letter received June 9, 2009, Elizabeth Harens, on behalf of the Minnesotans for Matt (Entenza) Committee ("the Committee"), voluntarily notified the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board ("the Board") that the Committee accepted a \$500 contribution from a registered lobbyist on February 9, 2009, during the 2009 Legislative Session, which was held from January 6 through May 18, 2009.

By letter dated June 10, 2009, the Board notified Lee Anderson of the statutory provision that appeared to be violated. Mr. Anderson has been registered as a lobbyist with the Board since October 1997.

In a response dated June 15, 2009, Mr. Anderson states "At the time I made the contribution, I was aware that the law prohibited contributions during the legislative session to sitting legislators and the incumbent governor, but was not aware that the law also prohibited contributions to candidates for governor...Had I been aware of the full scope of the statute, I would not have made the contribution. It was an inadvertent error solely on my part...." Mr. Anderson made a personal appearance at the July 7, 2009, Board meeting.

This matter was considered by the Board in executive session on July 7, 2009. The Findings are based on the correspondence from Ms. Harens, Mr. Anderson, and Board records.

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

Findings Concerning Probable Cause

1. There is probable cause to believe that Lee Anderson violated Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1(b) by contributing \$500 to the Minnesotans for Matt (Entenza) Committee during the 2009 regular legislative session.
2. There is no probable cause to believe that this violation was intentional or done with the intent to circumvent the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 10A.

Based on the above Findings, the Board issues the following:

Order

1. The Board imposes a civil penalty of \$500, which is one times the amount of the contribution, on Lee Anderson, for contributing to principal campaign committees during the 2009 legislative session in violation of Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1(b).
2. Lee Anderson is directed to forward to the Board payment of the civil penalty, by check or money order payable to the State of Minnesota, within 30 days of receipt of this order
3. If Lee Anderson does not comply with the provisions of this order, the Board's Executive Director may request that the Attorney General bring an action for the remedies available under Minnesota Statute, section 10A.34.
4. The Board investigation of this matter is entered into the public record in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.02, subdivision 11, and upon payment by Lee Anderson of the civil penalties imposed herein, the matter is concluded.

Dated: July 7, 2009



A. Hilda Betterman, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Relevant Statutes

Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1, clause b. **Contributions during legislative session.** A registered lobbyist, political committee, political fund, or dissolving principal campaign committee, or a party unit established by the party organization within a house of the legislature, must not make a contribution to a candidate for the legislature or for constitutional office, the candidate's principal campaign committee, or a political committee or party unit established by all or a part of the party organization within a house of the legislature during a regular session of the legislature.