

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

**Findings In The Matter of the Acceptance of
a Prohibited Contribution During the 2010 Legislative Session
By Barrett Chrissis for House**

Summary of the Facts

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

In a memo dated August 5, 2010, Patrick Haubner, treasurer of the Barrett Chrissis for House Committee (the Committee), voluntarily notified the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board ("the Board") that the Committee received a \$100 contribution from Nikki Carlson, a registered lobbyist, on April 24, 2010. The 2010 Legislative Session was held from February 4 through May 17, 2010. Neither the candidate nor the treasurer was aware that Ms. Carlson was registered as a lobbyist. Mr. Haubner provided a copy of the check received from Nikki Carlson. The lobbyist registration number was not included on the check used to make the contribution.

The Committee has returned \$100 to Ms. Carlson and provided a copy of the check and letter used to return the contribution.

This matter was considered by the Board in executive session on October 5, 2010. The Board's decision is based on the correspondence received from Patrick Haubner 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 Committee accepted a contribution from a registered lobbyist during the 2010 regular legislative session.
2. There is probable cause to believe that the donation accepted by the Committee did not contain the required lobbyist registration number and that the Committee accepted the contribution from the registered lobbyist because there was no registration number to identify the donor as a lobbyist.
3. There is no probable cause to believe that the acceptance of the subject contribution was intentional or done with the intent to violate Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1.

4. The Committee voluntarily notified the Board of the violation and returned the contribution received from Nikki Carlson. The Board finds that the Committee returned the contribution as soon as it became aware of the violation.

Based on the above Finding Concerning Probable Cause, the Board issues the following:

ORDER

1. The Board imposes no penalty on the Barrett Chrissis for House Committee for acceptance of a contribution from a lobbyist during the regular 2010 legislative session.
2. The Board investigation of this matter is entered into the public record in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.02, subdivision 11. The matter is concluded.

Dated: October 5, 2010



Bob Milbert, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Relevant Statutes

1. Minnesota Statutes section 10A.15, subdivision 5. **Registration number on checks.** A contribution made to a candidate by a lobbyist, political committee, political fund, or party unit must show the name of the lobbyist, political committee, political fund, or party unit and the number under which it is registered with the board.
2. Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1. **Contributions during legislative session.** (a) 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, must not solicit or accept a contribution from a registered lobbyist, political committee, political fund, or dissolving principal campaign committee, or from a party unit established by the party organization within a house of the legislature, during a regular session of the legislature.