

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
JULY 25, 1996

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FEC RELEASES FIVE COMPLIANCE CASES

WASHINGTON -- The Federal Election Commission has made public its final action on five matters previously under review (MURs). This release contains only summary information. Closed files should be thoroughly read for details, including the FEC's legal analysis of the case. (Please see footnote at the end of this release.) Closed MUR files are available in the Public Records Office.

1. MUR 3750

RESPONDENTS: (a) Friends of Corrine Brown (1992), Gloria Simmons, treasurer (FL)
(b) Elias Ronnie Simmons (DC)
COMPLAINANTS: Liberty and Justice for All, Susan M. Lamb, President (FL)
SUBJECT: Disclosure reports submitted to the Commission signed by persons other than the treasurer
DISPOSITION: (a-b) Reason to believe, but took no further action*
Sent admonishment letters.

2. MUR 3751

RESPONDENTS: (a) Friends of Corrine Brown (1992), Gloria Simmons, treasurer (FL)
(b) Elias Ronnie Simmons (DC)
COMPLAINANT: Winston R. Wood (FL)
SUBJECT: Disclosure reports submitted to the Commission signed by persons other than the treasurer
DISPOSITION: (a-b) Reason to believe, but took no further action*
Sent admonishment letters.

3. MUR 3771

RESPONDENTS: (a) Friends of Corrine Brown (1992), Gloria Simmons, treasurer (FL)
(b) One Stop Economic Development Center, Inc. (FL)
(c) Austin - Sheinkopf, Ltd. (DC)
COMPLAINANT: Edward Holmer (FL)
SUBJECT: Excessive contributions; corporate contributions
DISPOSITION: (a) No reason to believe*
[re: excessive contributions; corporate contributions]
(b) No reason to believe* [re: excessive contributions]
(c) No reason to believe* [re: corporate contributions]

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4. MUR 4233

RESPONDENTS: Californians for Huffington, Dana W. Reed, treasurer (CA)
COMPLAINANT: FEC Initiated (RAD)
SUBJECT: Failure to file 48-hour report (in the form of an in-kind contribution by the candidate totaling \$72,599.65)
DISPOSITION: Conciliation Agreement: \$7,500 civil penalty*

5. MUR 4331

RESPONDENTS: (a) James Howard Lake (DC)
(b) Michael B. Lake (DC)
(c) James C. Lake, Jr. (DC)
(d) Robinson, Lake, Lerer, & Montgomery, d/b/a Robinson Lake Sawyer Miller (NY)
(e) Mark Charles Helmke (DC)
(f) Bozell Worldwide, Inc. (NY)
COMPLAINANT: Referral by Office of Independent Counsel, In re Secretary of Agriculture Espy (VA)
SUBJECT: Contributions in the names of others
DISPOSITION: (a-c) Conciliation Agreement: \$9,000 civil penalty*
[Agreement cites that James Howard Lake knowingly and willfully violated the law by assisting in making of contributions in the names of others and permitting his name to be used to effect a contribution.]
(d) Conciliation Agreement: \$8,000 civil penalty*
(e) Conciliation Agreement: \$1,700 civil penalty*
[Agreement cites that respondent knowingly and willfully violated the law by permitting his name to be used to effect a contribution.]
(f) Reason to believe, but took no further action*

*There are four administrative stages to the FEC enforcement process:
1. Receipt of proper complaint
2. "Reason to believe" stage
3. "Probable cause" stage
4. Conciliation stage
It takes the votes of at least four of the six Commissioners to take any action. The FEC can close a case at any point after reviewing a complaint. If a violation is found and conciliation cannot be reached, then the FEC can institute a civil court action against a respondent.

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