



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

JUN 17 2003

Benjamin L. Ginsberg, Esq.
Patton Boggs LLP
2550 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037-1350

RE: MUR 5197
1997 Republican Senate-House
Dinner Committee and Trudy
Matthes Barksdale, as treasurer
1998 Republican House-Senate
Dinner Committee and Trudy
Matthes Barksdale, as treasurer
1999 Republican Senate-House
Dinner Committee and
Christopher J. Ward, as treasurer
2000 Republican House-Senate
Dinner Committee and
Christopher J. Ward, as treasurer

Dear Mr. Ginsberg:

On April 23, 2001, the Federal Election Commission notified your clients, the 1997 Republican Senate-House Dinner Committee and Trudy Matthes Barksdale, as treasurer; the 1998 Republican House-Senate Dinner Committee and Trudy Matthes Barksdale, as treasurer; the 1999 Republican Senate-House Dinner Committee and Christopher J. Ward, as treasurer; and the 2000 Republican House-Senate Dinner Committee and Christopher J. Ward, as treasurer, of a complaint alleging violations of certain sections of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended.

On June 10, 2003, the Commission found, on the basis of the information in the complaint, and information provided by you, that there is no reason to believe the 1997 Republican Senate-House Dinner Committee and Trudy Matthes Barksdale, as treasurer; the 1998 Republican House-Senate Dinner Committee and Trudy Matthes Barksdale, as treasurer; the 1999 Republican Senate-House Dinner Committee and Christopher J. Ward, as treasurer; and the 2000 Republican House-Senate Dinner Committee and Christopher J. Ward, as treasurer, violated 2 U.S.C. § 441b(a). Accordingly, the Commission closed its file in this matter as it pertains to them.

24-04-407-0258

The Commission reminds you that the confidentiality provisions of 2 U.S.C. § 437g(a)(12)(A) remain in effect, and that this matter is still open with respect to other respondents. The Commission will notify you when the entire file has been closed, at which time you will be sent a copy of the dispositive General Counsel's Report.

If you have any questions, please contact Michael E. Scurry, the attorney assigned to this matter at (202) 694-1650.

Sincerely,

Lawrence H. Norton
General Counsel

By: *Rhonda J. Vosdingh (by UCC)*
Rhonda J. Vosdingh
Associate General Counsel
for Enforcement

24-04-407-0259