# FEC Regional Conference – Tampa, FL

for House & Senate Campaigns, Political Party Committees and Corporate/Trade/Labor PACs

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## Campaign Terminology

**Act –** The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 as amended (2 U.S.C. §§431-455).

**ADRO –** Alternative Dispute Resolution Office. ADRO provides parties in enforcement actions with an alternative method for resolving complaints that have been filed against them and for addressing issues identified by the Reports Analysis Division or an FEC audit. The program is designed to promote compliance with the Act and Commission regulations and to reduce the cost of processing complaints by encouraging settlements outside the agency's normal enforcement track.

**Agent –** Any person who has actual authority, either express or implied, to engage in certain campaign activities on behalf of a federal candidate or officeholder.

**AO –** Advisory Opinion. A formal ruling from the Commission regarding legality of a specific activity proposed in an advisory opinion request (AOR).

**Authorized Committee –** Any political committee, including the principal campaign committee, authorized in writing by a federal candidate to receive contributions and make expenditures on his or her behalf. Authorized committees are often called "candidate committees" or "campaign committees."

**Bundled Contribution –** Under HLOGA, the term "bundled contribution" means a contribution (subject to the applicable threshold) which is - "(i) forwarded from the contributor or contributors to the recipient by a lobbyist/registrant; or (ii) received by the committee from a contributor or contributors, but credited by the committee or candidate involved (or, in the case of a leadership PAC, by the candidate associated with the PAC) to the person through records, designations, or other means of recognizing that a certain amount of money has been raised by the person."

**Campaign Committee –** Popular term for an authorized committee.

**Campaign Traveler –** Any individual traveling in connection with an election for federal office on behalf of a candidate or political committee; or any member of the news media traveling with a candidate.

**Candidate –** An individual seeking nomination for election, or election, to a federal office becomes a candidate when he or she (or agents working on his or her behalf) raises contributions or makes expenditures that exceed $5,000.

***Carey* Committee** (also known as a **Hybrid PAC**) -- A political committee that maintains one bank account for making contributions in connection with federal elections and a separate "non-contribution account" for making independent expenditures. The first account is subject to all of the limits and prohibitions of the Act, but the non-contribution account may accept unlimited contributions from individuals, corporations, labor organizations and other political committees. The committee must register with the FEC and report all receipts and disbursements for both accounts.

**CFR –** Code of Federal Regulations. A codification of the current general and permanent regulations of the various federal agencies. The sections of the CFR pertaining to federal elections are available on the FEC's website or as a free publication from the FEC.

**Contribution –** A payment, service or anything of value given to influence a federal election.

**Coordinated –** Made in cooperation, consultation or concert with, or at the request or suggestion of, a candidate, a candidate's authorized committee, or their agents, or a political party committee or its agents.

**Coordinated Party Expenditure –** Also known as a 441a(d) expenditure. Certain expenditures under specific limits that are made by a national or state party committee in connection with the general election campaign of its candidates.

**Date Made –** The date the contributor relinquishes control over a contribution. This date determines the election against which a contribution will count. A contribution that is mailed is "made" on the date of the postmark. Contributions made via the Internet are "made" on the date the contributor electronically confirms making the transaction. In-kind contributions are "made" on the date the goods or services are provided by the contributor.

**Date Received –** The date the committee (or committee agent) takes possession of (actually receives) the contribution. This date is used for FEC reporting. Contributions charged to credit cards are received on the date the committee receives the contributor's signed authorization to charge the contribution.

**Disclaimer Notice –** As used by the FEC, notices that are put on public communications to identify who paid for and authorized the communication.

**Earmarked Contribution –** A contribution that the contributor directs (either orally or in writing) to a clearly identified candidate or authorized committee through an intermediary or conduit. Earmarking may take the form of a designation, instruction or encumbrance, and it may be direct or indirect, express or implied.

**Election –** Any one of several processes by which an individual seeks nomination for election, or election, to federal office. They include: a primary election, including a caucus or convention that has authority to select a nominee; a general election; a runoff election; and a special election held to fill a vacant seat.

**Election Cycle –** The period beginning the day after the previous general election (for federal office) and ending on the day of the next general election.

**FEC Identification Number –** Number assigned to a committee upon registration with the FEC. Used for identification purposes with the FEC only, this number is not a taxpayer identification number.

**Federal Funds –** Funds that comply with the limits, prohibitions and reporting requirements of federal law. Also called "permissible funds."

**Federal Government Contractor –** A person who enters into a contract, or is bidding on such a contract, with any agency or department of the US government and is paid, or to be paid, for services, material, equipment, supplies, land or buildings with funds appropriated by Congress.

**Foreign National –** An individual who is not a citizen of the United States or a national of the United States and has not been lawfully admitted to the U.S. for permanent residence, as defined in 8 U.S.C.§1101(a)(20); or (2) a foreign principal, as defined in 22 U.S.C.§611(b).

**HLOGA –** Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007. Includes two major provisions for political committees: restrictions on the use of campaign funds for noncommercial air travel and disclosure of bundled contributions.

**Hybrid PAC –** See "***Carey* Committee**" above.

**IEOPC – Independent Expenditure-Only Political Committee** (also known as a **Super PAC)**. A political committee that makes independent expenditures, but does not make contributions. These committees may solicit and accept unlimited contributions from individuals, corporations, labor organizations and other political committees. They may not accept contributions from foreign nationals, federal government contractors, national banks or federally chartered corporations. Such committees must register with the FEC and comply with all applicable reporting requirements under the Act.

**In-Kind Contribution –** A contribution of goods, services or property offered free or at less than the usual and normal charge. The term also includes payments made on behalf of, but not directly to, candidates and political committees.

**Joint Contribution –** A contribution made by more than one person on a single check or other written instrument.

**Joint Fundraising –** Fundraising conducted jointly by a political committee and one or more other committees.

**Leadership PAC –** "A political committee that is directly or indirectly established, financed, maintained or controlled by [a] candidate [for Federal office] or [an] individual [holding Federal office] but which is not an authorized committee of the candidate or individual and which is not affiliated with an authorized committee of the candidate or individual, except that such term does not include a political committee of a political party."

**Lobbyist/Registrant –** A person who is a current registrant under the Lobbyist Disclosure Act, or who is named on a current registration or report filed under the Lobbyist Disclosure Act.

**Lobbyist/Registrant PAC –** Any political committee that a lobbyist/registrant "established or controls" as defined in 11 CFR 104.22.

**Local or District Party Committee –** A political party committee responsible for the day-to-day operation of a political party at a level lower than the state level.

**Local Party Organization –** Same as Local Party Committee except that a local party organization is not a federally-registered political committee.

**Memo Entry –** Supplemental information on a reporting schedule. The dollar amount in a memo entry is not incorporated into the total figure.

**Multicandidate Committee –** A political committee that has been registered with the FEC for at least 6 months, has more than 50 contributors and, with the exception of state party committees, has made contributions to at least 5 candidates for federal office.

**MUR –** Matter Under Review. MURs are FEC enforcement cases that concern potential violations of the Act (FECA) which come to the attention of the Commission through complaints originating outside the Commission or through internal monitoring.

**Net Debts Outstanding –** The total of a campaign's unpaid debts incurred with respect to an election plus estimated costs to liquidate the debts plus costs of terminating political activity (if appropriate) minus cash on hand and receivables.

**Nonconnected Committee –** A political committee that is not a party committee, a separate segregated fund or an authorized committee of a candidate.

**Nonfederal Funds –** Funds that are not subject to the limitations or prohibitions of the Act.

**OGC** – Office of General Counsel. The Office of General Counsel consists of five organizational units: (1) the Policy Division; (2) the Enforcement Division; (3) the Litigation Division; (4) the Law Division; and (5) the Administration Division.

**PAC –** Political Action Committee. A term which does not appear in the Act or regulations, but is generally used to refer to separate segregated funds established by corporations and labor organizations and nonconnected committees.

**Personal Use –** Any use of funds in a campaign account of a candidate (or former candidate) to pay for a commitment, obligation or expense (of any person) that would exist irrespective of the candidate's campaign or duties as a federal officeholder.

**Principal Campaign Committee –** An authorized committee designated by a candidate as the principal committee to raise contributions and make expenditures for his or her campaign for a federal office.

**Prohibited Sources –** Those entities that are banned from making contributions or, in some cases, expenditures, in connection with, or for the purpose of influencing, a federal election.

**Public Communication –** A communication by means of any broadcast, cable or satellite communication, newspaper, magazine, outdoor advertising facility, mass mailing or telephone bank, or communications placed for a fee on another person's website.

**RAD –** Reports Analysis Division. The FEC division that reviews campaign finance reports.

**Reattributed Contribution –** The portion of an excessive contribution that has been attributed in writing to another contributor and signed by both contributors.

**Redesignated Contribution –** The portion of a contribution (usually excessive) that has been designated by the contributor, in writing, to an election other than the one for which the funds were originally given.

**RFAI –** Request for Additional Information. Sent by RAD to committees when reports contain apparent discrepancies, errors or surface violations.

**Solicit –** To ask, request or recommend, explicitly or implicitly, that another person make a contribution, donation, transfer of funds or otherwise provide anything of value.

**SSF –** Separate Segregated Fund. A political committee established and/or financially supported by a corporation or labor organization; popularly called a PAC.

**State Party Committee –** A political committee which, by the bylaws of a political party, is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the party at the state level, as determined by the Commission

**Super PAC –** See "**IEOPC – Independent Expenditure Only Political Committee**" above.