

# FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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## FEC DEVELOPS NEW LEGAL RESEARCH SYSTEM

WASHINGTON -- The Federal Election Commission has announced the development of a new computerized system which will aid in legal research of campaign finance compliance issues.

The new system, entitled, the FEC MUR Index, is a compendium of all FEC compliance cases which are available for public inspection.

By law, all information regarding compliance cases must be kept confidential until the Commission reaches a final resolution. Once this final resolution is determined, the file is placed on the public record.

The FEC has used the acronym "MUR" in referring to all compliance cases handled by the agency. The term stands for "Matter Under Review", and each MUR is identified by a number. All MUR files may be read from microfilm.

The FEC MUR Index is the first attempt to compile all compliance-related information in one summary document. Cross-reference indexes also provide valuable assistance for researchers wishing to find all cases relating to a given subject, statute cite, or to a particular person or group.

The Index is in four parts. The first, "MUR Summary Reports", contains a short report on each MUR and is organized by MUR number. Included is information on when the case was opened, the date the FEC took final action, where the file is located on microfilm, the name(s) of complainant(s) and respondent(s), legal citations and subject references. Cases which are currently pending will be made available as updates once they become a matter of public record.

The second part, the "Complainant/Respondent Index", is a listing of each person, group, political committee, etc., who either filed a complaint with the FEC or was the subject of an FEC compliance action.

A third part, the "Citation Index", references all compliance cases pertaining to particular sections of the U.S. Code and/or FEC Regulations.

The final section, the "Subject Index", is an outline of key words or phrases which provides the researcher with all cases involved in any given subject area.

A copy of the FEC MUR Index is available for review and use in the FEC Public Records Office, 1325 K St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20463. Orders are now being accepted to purchase copies of the Index. The entire Index sells for \$115. Should anyone wish to purchase sections separately, the "MUR Summary Reports" is available for \$100. The combined price for the three cross-reference indexes is \$15 (Complainant/Respondent Index - \$5, the Citation Index - \$7.50, the Subject Index - \$2.50.) Payment in advance is required and delivery is expected in approximately thirty days.