



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20463

May 5, 2006

Nina Ritchie, Treasurer
Democratic Party of Oklahoma
4100 North Lincoln Boulevard
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Re: ADR 321 (RR 05L-57)
Democratic Party of Oklahoma and Nina Ritchie, Treasurer

Dear Ms. Ritchie:

The Reports Analysis Division of the Federal Election Commission ("FEC" or "Commission") determined that matters arising from its recent review of the RAD reports filed by the Democratic Party of Oklahoma warranted further examination for possible violation of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended. The Commission, thereafter, reviewed the file and voted on May 4, 2006 to assign this matter to the FEC's Alternative Dispute Resolution Office ("ADRO") for processing.

The FEC established the ADR Program to provide an informal means for resolving matters that come before the Commission and to facilitate negotiations directly with Respondents. The ADR Program provides Respondents with an opportunity to negotiate, and if necessary, mediate settlement of a matter that is mutually agreeable. The negotiations occur prior to any Commission consideration of whether there is reason to believe a violation has occurred. If negotiations and/or mediation are successful, the resulting settlement would conclude the matter.

The Commission, in referring the matter to the ADR office, determined that the case is eligible for processing in the ADR program. If Respondents decide to participate in the Program, i.e., negotiation and/or mediation, you must: 1) indicate in writing a willingness to have your case submitted to the ADR process; 2) agree to participate in the bilateral negotiations and if necessary, mediation; and 3) waive the statute of limitations while the matter is being processed under the FEC's ADR program.

The issues referred to the ADRO and the focus of our subsequent negotiations are summarized as follows:

RAD referred the Democratic Party of Oklahoma and Nina Ritchie, Treasurer, ("Respondents" or the "Committee") for failing to file four (4) 24-Hour Notices for independent expenditures, totaling \$231,000. The expenditures were made after the 20th

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION, ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION OFFICE
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day, but more than 24 hours, before the 2002 General Election. On September 30, 2002, RAD sent the Committee a Prior Notice containing a section titled *24 Hour Report on Independent Expenditures*. In an amended 2002 30 Day Post-General Report, filed on March 26, 2003, Respondents included a Schedule E disclosing four (4) independent expenditures, totaling \$231,000, all made on behalf of one (1) federal candidate. In response to two (2) RFAI's sent to the Committee on April 24, 2003, and May 15, 2003, Respondents filed a miscellaneous text submission to the Commission apologizing for failing to file the 24-Hour Notices. They stated "[w]e have reviewed our procedures for handling these situations and feel that we have a much better procedure in place now."

If after reviewing this letter and the enclosed brochure, which describes the ADR program, Respondents would like this case selected for ADR processing, you need to affirmatively indicate that on the enclosed Commitment to Submit Matter to ADR Program form. **Failure to respond affirmatively within fifteen (15) business days of receipt of this letter will be taken as a notice of disinterest in the program and your case will be dropped from further consideration for ADR.** In that event, your case will be sent to the FEC's Office of General Counsel and the likelihood that the Committee will be audited during the next election cycle will increase.

This matter has been designated as ADR 321. Please refer to this number in future correspondence with the FEC. If you have questions about the ADR Program, please contact the ADRO at my direct dial as indicated below

Sincerely,

Lynn M. Fraser, Assistant Director
Alternative Dispute Resolution Office
202-694-1665

Enclosures: Brochure
Commitment to Submit Matter to ADR
Designation of Representative/Counsel