



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

MEMORANDUM

TO: Brad Litchfield
Associate General Counsel

FROM: Mary W. Dove/Lisa R. Davis
Acting Commission Secretary

DATE: September 29, 1999

SUBJECT: *Ex Parte Communication*
from Democracy Network.

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10-1-99
File: AOK 1999-25

Attached is a Memorandum we have received from Chairman Scott E. Thomas, Commissioner Lee Ann Elliott, Commissioner David M. Mason, Jeffrey Bowman, Anton Reel, Karen Johnson, Frances Glendening, Glenn Willard, Charles Spies, and Karen Cence regarding the above subject matter.

Attachment

cc: Commissioners
Staff Director
General Counsel
Press Office
Public Records



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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20463

September 28, 1999

MEMORANDUM

TO: Office of the Commission Secretary

FROM: Chairman Scott E. Thomas, *SET J.B.*
Commissioner Lee Ann Elliott *LAE/KUS*
Commissioner David M. Mason *DM*
Jeffrey Bowman *JB*
Anton Reel *AR*
Karen Johnson *KUS*
Frances Glendening *FG*
Glenn Willard, *GW*
Charles Spies *CS*
Karen Cence *KC*

SUBJECT: *Ex Parte* Communication from Democracy Network

The subject of this memorandum is a demonstration of the website of Democracy Net ("DNet") that its president, Tracy Westen, held for the benefit of members of the Commission and their staff. DNet is the requester in AOR 1999-25. In view of the fact that this demonstration, along with responses to questions about the website, occurred at a nonpublic briefing for the Commissioners and their staff concerning an advisory opinion request, it constituted an *ex parte* communication covered by 11 CFR 201.4, and those persons must submit a written summary to the Office of the Commission Secretary. This joint summary, which was prepared initially by the Office of General Counsel, is submitted by the Commissioners and their staff members who attended. They are: Chairman Scott E. Thomas, Commissioner Lee Ann Elliott, and Commissioner David M. Mason; Executive Assistants Jeffrey Bowman, Anton Reel, Karen Johnson, Frances Glendening, Glenn Willard, and Charles Spies; and Special Assistant Karen Cence.

The following persons from the other Commission offices also attended: N. Bradley Litchfield, Rosemary Smith, and Jonathan Levin from the Office of General Counsel; Staff Director James A. Pehrkon; and Congressional Liaison Christina H. VanBrakle. The persons attending from DNet were as follows: Tracy Westen from the Center for Governmental Studies ("CGS") who is President of DNet; Jacqueline Mildner

from the League of Women Voters; Area Madaras from CGS; and Trevor Potter, counsel for DNet.

The website demonstration began shortly after 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 23, 1999, in the Commission's hearing room. Mr. Potter opened with a brief introduction. After that, with Ms. Madaras operating a laptop computer, the website was projected on a large screen while Mr. Westen described the site, its capabilities, and the plans for its use in the 2000 elections. During the presentation, Mr. Westen also answered questions from Commissioners, their staff, and OGC staff. Mr. Potter occasionally assisted Mr. Westen and provided clarification, and Ms. Madaras provided some technical explanation. The demonstration ended shortly after 4:00 p.m. A few members of the audience spoke briefly afterward with the persons attending from DNet.