



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

RECEIVED
FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION
SECRETARIAT

2003 JUL 23 P 3:49

MEMORANDUM

TO: MARY DOVE, COMMISSION SECRETARY

FROM: EVAN RIKHYE, EXEC. ASST. TO COMMISSIONER SMITH

**SUBJECT: *EX PARTE* COMMUNICATION REGARDING THE MAJETTE
AOR (2003-15)**

I wanted to inform you of an *ex parte* communication that I received with regard to AOR 2003-15, submitted on behalf of Congresswoman Denise Majette (D-GA).

On Friday, July 18, I spoke on the telephone with Brian Lewis, Counsel to Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY), about the Commission's recent vote on AOR 2003-12. Our conversation subsequently turned to the AOR 2003-15, in which Congresswoman Majette has requested guidance about establishing a legal defense fund.

According to Mr. Lewis, a decision by the Commission denying Congresswoman Majette the ability to raise non-federal funds for her legal defense fund (which is permitted by Congressional rules) could be viewed, by some Senators and staff, as trampling on the House and Senate Ethics Committees' sole jurisdiction in this area.

I told Mr. Lewis that Senators and Members of Congress who are interested in this matter should be encouraged to file comments for the public record.