



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20463

**VIA FAX (202-543-7686) AND FIRST CLASS MAIL**

April 16, 2001

Joseph Sandler,  
Sandler & Reiff, P.C.  
6 E Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20003

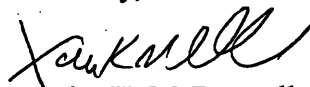
RE: MUR 4818  
The Honorable Gene Stipe  
The Stipe Law Firm

Dear Mr. Sandler:

As we discussed earlier today by phone, on April 6, 2001, the Commission denied your clients' request to enter into conciliation prior to a finding of probable cause to believe. Instead, this Office will prepare a probable cause brief in this matter.

If you have any questions, please call me or Margaret Toalson at (202) 694-1650.

Sincerely,

  
Xavier K. McDonnell  
Attorney