

# **FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION** Washington, DC 20463

ington, DC 20103

February 4, 2021

## **VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Brian Svoboda, Esq.
Shanna Reulbach, Esq.
Perkins Coie, LLP
700 13th Street, NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20005-3960
BSvoboda@perkinscoie.com
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Re: MUR 7284

Correct the Record

Dear Mr. Svoboda & Ms. Reulbach:

On December 23, 2020, the Office of General Counsel mailed to you a brief ("General Counsel's Brief") setting forth the factual and legal basis upon which the Office of General Counsel was prepared to recommend that the Commission find probable cause to believe that Correct the Record and Elizabeth Cohen in her official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(b). Pursuant to the Commission's *Agency Procedure Following the Submission of Probable Cause Briefs by the Office of General Counsel*, 76 Fed. Reg. 63,570 (October 13, 2011), the Office of General Counsel is notifying the Commission that it intends to proceed with the recommendation to find probable cause to believe that Correct the Record and Elizabeth Cohen in her official capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(b) based on the factual and legal analysis set forth in the General Counsel's Brief. A copy of this Notice is being provided to you contemporaneously.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (202) 694-1618.

Sincerely,

Kimberly D. Hart

Kimberly D. Hart

Attorney

Enclosure

Office of General Counsel Notice to the Commission



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1 February 3, 2021 2 3 TO: The Commission 4 5 Lisa J. Stevenson LJS /by CK **FROM:** 6 **Acting General Counsel** 7 Charles Kitcher CK 8 9 Acting Associate General Counsel 10 for Enforcement 11 12 Mark Shonkwiler 13 **Assistant General Counsel** 14 Kimberly Hart KDA 15 16 Attorney 17 18 **SUBJECT:** MUR 7284 (Correct the Record) 19 20 RE: Office of General Counsel's Notice to the Commission 21 Following the Submission of Probable Cause Brief 22 23

#### I. INTRODUCTION

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On December 23, 2020, the Office of General Counsel ("OGC") notified counsel for Correct the Record and Elizabeth Cohen in her official capacity as treasurer ("CTR" or "Respondent") that it was prepared to recommend that the Commission find probable cause to believe that CTR violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(b) by misreporting the nature of a \$400,000 transfer to AB PAC (f/k/a American Bridge 21st Century) ("AB PAC") in its 2015 Year-End Report.<sup>2</sup> OGC's notification included a General's Counsel's Brief setting forth the factual and

Ltr. to Respondents encl. General Counsel's Brief, MUR 7284 (Correct the Record, et al.) (Dec. 23, 2020).

CTR filed the disclosure report with the Commission on January 15, 2016. Respondents tolled the applicable five year statute of limitations for a total of 90 days for additional time to respond to the Commission's reason-to-believe findings and discovery requests in this matter. Therefore, taking into account the tolling, the statute of limitations for the underlying violations will expire on April 15, 2021.

MUR 7284 (Correct the Record) Probable Cause Notice Page 2 of 2

legal basis for the recommendation. Respondent filed a response to the General Counsel's brief on January 7, 2020 ("Response").<sup>3</sup>

Pursuant to the *Agency Procedure Following the Submission of Probable Cause Briefs* by the Office of General Counsel, 76 Fed. Reg. 63,570 (Oct. 13, 2011), OGC is notifying the Commission that it intends to proceed with the recommendation to find probable cause to believe that Respondents violated the Federal Election Act of 1971, as amended (the "Act") based on the factual and legal analysis set forth in the General Counsel's Brief. A copy of this Notice is being provided to Respondent at the same time that it is circulated to the Commission.

For the reasons set forth in the General Counsel's Brief, the Commission can and should proceed with finding probable cause to believe that CTR misreported the purpose of a portion of the \$400,000 transfer made to AB PAC in December 2015.

### II. RECOMMENDATIONS

 Find probable cause to believe that Correct the Record and Elizabeth Cohen in her official capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. §30104(b) by misreporting the purpose of a \$400,000 transfer to AB PAC (f/k/a American Bridge 21st Century).

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Joint Response to General Counsel's Brief ("Resp.") (Jan. 7, 2021), MUR 7284 (AB PAC and Correct the Record) (Jan. 7, 2021).