

RECORD

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INFORMATION

NEW FEC BROCHURE SERIES EXPLAINS ELECTION LAW

In January, the Commission published a new series of small brochures discussing specific aspects of the federal election law. Each brochure deals with a topic which has attracted the interest of the general public or of groups which are involved with election law.

Designed for readability and clarity, the brochures parallel and expand upon other Commission publications. Several brochures aim to help the general public better understand FEC functions and federal election laws. Others seek to reach out to individuals and groups involved in political activities, such as candidates, party committees, and political action committees.

The brochures cover the following ten topics: volunteer activity; local party activity; candidate registration; using FEC campaign finance information; contributions; independent expenditures; corporate and labor communications; corporate and labor facilities; political ads and solicitations; and advisory opinions.

Copies of the brochures may be obtained from the Commission's Office of Public Communications, 202/523-4068 or toll free 800/424-9530.

FEC REISSUES CAMPAIGN GUIDE FOR CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES AND COMMITTEES

The Commission has reissued its Campaign Guide for Congressional Candidates and Committees. Part One of the Guide, essentially the same as the earlier edition, focuses exclusively on those requirements of the Act and FEC Regulations affecting candidates for the U.S. House and Senate, their principal campaign committees and other authorized committees. Part Two, a new addition to the Guide, reproduces FEC reporting forms and shows how to fill them out.

Based on the Act and Commission Regulations, the Guide includes citations to regulations, selected advisory opinions and FEC directives. Copies of the Guide are available free of charge by contacting: Office of Public Communications,

FEC, 1325 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20643; or call 202/523-4068 or toll free 800/424-9530.

FEC RECORD ON MICROFILM

During January, the Public Records Office made the Commission's monthly newsletter, the FEC Record, available on microfilm. The microfilm reel contains all issues, supplements and indexes to the Record from September 1975 through the most recent issue. Paper copies of this microfilmed information are available at 10 cents per page. The microfilm reel is also available at \$10. Checks should be made payable to the FEC. For more information, contact the Public Records Office, FEC, 1325 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20463; or call 202/523-4181 or toll-free 800/424-9530.

REPORTS

SPECIAL ELECTIONS

During February and March, special elections will be held in three states to fill vacant House seats. On **February 12**, **Texas** will hold a special election in its 6th Congressional District to fill the seat formerly held by Representative William Philip Gramm. **New York** has scheduled a special election for **March 1**, to fill the 7th Congressional District seat formerly held by the late Benjamin S. Rosenthal. On **March 29**, **Colorado** will hold a special election in its 6th Congressional District to fill the seat left vacant by the death of John L. Swigert, Jr.

The principal campaign committees of candidates participating in these special elections must file the appropriate pre- and post-election reports. All other political committees which support candidates in the special elections (and which do not report on a monthly basis) must also follow this reporting schedule.

The FEC will send notices on reporting requirements and filing dates to individuals known to be actively pursuing election to these House seats. All other committees supporting candidates in the special elections should contact the Commission for more information on required reports. Call 202/523-4068 or toll free 800/424-9530.



ADVISORY OPINIONS: SUMMARIES

An Advisory Opinion (AO) issued by the Commission provides guidance with regard to the specific situation described in the AOR. Any qualified person who has requested an AO and acts in accordance with the opinion will not be subject to any sanctions under the Act. Other persons may rely on the opinion if they are involved in a specific activity which is indistinguishable in all material aspects from the activity discussed in the AO. Those seeking guidance for their own activity, however, should consult the full text of an AO and not rely only on the summary given here.

AO 1982-57: Raising Funds to Defray Transition Activities

The Buddy MacKay for Congress Campaign (the Committee), the principal campaign committee for Mr. MacKay's 1982 Congressional campaign, could use several methods to defray transition expenses incurred by Mr. MacKay during the period between the general election and his swearing-in ceremony as a federal officeholder. For example, the Committee could use excess funds remaining from Mr. MacKay's campaign because, under the Act and Commission Regulations, a federal officeholder may use these funds to defray any expenses incurred in connection with his duties, including expenses incurred for transition activities. (Mr. MacKay was considered a federal officeholder even before he was sworn in because the Act defines federal officeholder as someone "elected to or serving in" federal office. 2 U.S.C. §439a; 11 CFR 113.)

Mr. MacKay could also establish a 1984 reelection committee and use contributions to the 1984 committee to defray the transition expenses. (Once Mr. MacKay received in excess of \$5,000 in contributions, he would become a candidate for the 1984 election and would have to register by filing a new Statement of Candidacy on FEC Form 2 or by letter. 2 U.S.C. §431(2) and 11 CFR 100.3, 101.1 and 102.12.) Expenses would be reported as disbursements of the 1984 reelection committee and contributions, also reportable, would count toward donors' limits for Mr. MacKay's 1984 reelection campaign.

As another alternative, under the Act and Commission Regulations, an office account could be established to defray the transition expenses. Donations to, and expenditures from, the account would not be subject to the requirements of the Act, provided the funds were not used for federal election-influencing activities. See 2 U.S.C. §§439a and 441a; 11 CFR 110, 113.1(b), 113.3 and 113.4(a). An office account would, however, be subject to House rules and income tax laws, both of which are outside the Commission's jurisdiction. (Date issued: December 10, 1982; Length: 3 pages)

ADVISORY OPINION REQUESTS

The following chart lists recent requests for advisory opinions (AORs). The full text of each AOR is available to the public in the Commission's Office of Public Records.

AOR	Subject
1982-61	Association's combined dues collection/PAC solicitation plan; disposition of corporate donations. (Date made public: December 17, 1982; Length: 5 pages, plus supplement)
1982-62	Eligibility of 1980 new party Presidential candidate for general election public funding prior to the 1984 general election. (Date made public: December 17, 1982; Length: 4 pages)
1982-63	Check-off system used by law partnership to solicit noncorporate partners and employees of corporate partners. (Date made public: December 21, 1982; Length: 2 pages)
1982-64	Donations to repay bank loan received by Congressional candidate for personal living expenses. (Date made public: December 23, 1982; Length: 2 pages)
1982-65	PAC information provided in corporation's annual report; definition of solicitation. (Date made public: December 23, 1982; Length: 3 pages, plus supplement)

The Record is published by the Federal Election Commission, 1325 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20463. Commissioners are: Danny Lee McDonald, Chairman; Lee Ann Elliott, Vice Chairman; Joan D. Aikens; Thomas E. Harris; John Warren McGarry; Frank P. Reiche; William F. Hildenbrand, Secretary of the Senate, Ex Officio; Benjamin J. Guthrie, Clerk of the House of Representatives, Ex Officio. For more information, call 202/523-4068 or toll-free 800/424-9530.

- 1982-66 Act's jurisdiction over merchandising program to promote fictitious 1984 Presidential candidate. (Date made public: December 27, 1982; Length: 3 pages)
- 1983-1 Campaign funds used to defray portion of Congressman's rent for district residence. (Date made public: January 14, 1983; Length: 1 page)
- 1983-2 Computer services leased by campaign to raise funds to retire debts. (Date made public: January 14, 1983; Length: 1 page)

COURT CASES

FEC v. NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK COMMITTEE

On December 13, 1982, the Supreme Court issued a unanimous decision reversing a decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in FEC v. National Right to Work Committee (NRWC) (U.S. Supreme Court No. 81-1506). In its opinion, the Court held that some 267,000 individuals solicited by NRWC for contributions to its separate segregated fund during 1976 did not qualify as solicitable "members" of NRWC under Section 441b(b)(4)(C) of the election law. (NRWC is a nonprofit corporation without capital stock, which advocates voluntary unionism.)

Complaint

The Commission initially filed suit against NRWC in November 1977, claiming that NRWC had violated Section 441b(b)(4)(A) of the Act by soliciting funds to its separate segregated fund from persons who were neither stockholders nor executive or administrative personnel. NRWC contended that its solicitations were permissible since those solicited were "members" of NRWC, within the meaning of the Act and Regulations,* and that, under Section 441b(b)(4)(C) of the Act, corporations without capital stock may pay the costs of soliciting contributions from their members. The Commission argued, however, that those solicited by NRWC were not members since both the bylaws of NRWC and its articles of incorpora-

*As defined by 11 CFR 114.1(e), "members" mean all persons who are currently satisfying the requirements for membership....A person is not considered a member...if the only requirement for membership is a contribution to a separate segregated fund."

tion (filed with Virginia) stated that NRWC had no members.

After receiving notice of the FEC's intent to file a civil action, NRWC filed suit in October 1977 (NRWC v. FEC), seeking injunctive and declaratory relief and challenging the constitutionality of Sections 441b(b)(4)(A) and (C) of the Act, which together prohibit nonstock corporations from soliciting persons other than their "members." Among its constitutional claims, NRWC asserted that Section 441b(b)(4)(C) was unconstitutionally vague and infringed upon the First Amendment rights of free speech and association of those persons solicited by NRWC. In February 1978, the cases were consolidated for argument before the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

Lower Court Rulings

Referring to NRWC's articles of incorporation and bylaws, the district court found that NRWC was organized without members. The court therefore held that NRWC had violated Section 441b(b)(4)(C) by soliciting contributions to its separate segregated fund from persons who were not members of NRWC.

Reversing the district court's ruling in a September 1981 decision, the appeals court held that the term "member" "embraces at least those individuals whom NRWC describes as its active and supporting members...." which included all "those individuals solicited by NRWC...." The court also found that NRWC's operation "accurately identifies and solicits only those individuals who share a similar political philosophy and who have evidenced a willingness to promote that philosophy through support of the committee." The appeals court concluded that the district court's definition of "members" was "so narrow that it infringes on associational rights." The court noted that two identifiable public interests served by the Act (i.e., to eliminate the appearance or actuality of corruption in federal elections and to prevent coercive contributions) were not "served by restricting the solicitation activities of a nonstock corporation organized solely for political purposes."

Supreme Court's Ruling

In rejecting the appeals court's reasoning, the Supreme Court held that the "persons solicited by NRWC were insufficiently attached to the corporation to qualify as members under Section 441b(b)(4)(C) of the Act." In this regard, the Court noted that the legislative history of Section 441b(b)(4)(C) indicated that "'members' of nonstock corporations were to be defined, at least in part, by analogy to stockholders of business corporations and members of labor unions. The analogy to stockholders and union members suggests that

continued

some relatively enduring and independently significant financial or organizational attachment is required to be a 'member' under §441b(b)(4)(C)." The Court found that those individuals solicited by NRWC through "random mass mailings" failed to meet this membership requirement: "Among other things, NRWC's solicitation letters did not mention membership, its articles of incorporation disclaim the existence of members, and members play no part in the operations or administration of the corporation." Consequently, the Court found that the respondent's arguments would "virtually excise from the statute the restriction of solicitation to 'members'...." and would "open the door to all but unlimited corporate solicitation."

The Court found that the Act's restrictions on solicitations by nonstock corporations did not raise "any unsurmountable constitutional difficulties." The First Amendment "associational rights asserted by respondent...are overborne by the interests Congress has sought to protect in enacting Section 441b." In this regard, "the statute reflects a legislative judgment that the special characteristics of the corporate structure require particularly careful regulation." Moreover, the Court noted that "the governmental interest in preventing both actual corruption and the appearance of corruption of elected representatives has long been recognized [by the Court], First National Bank of Boston v. Bellotti, 435 U.S. at 787, n.26, and there is no reason why it may not in this case be accomplished by treating unions, corporations, and similar organizations differently from individuals. California Medical Association v. FEC, 435 U.S. 182, 201 (1981)."

As to the defendants' claim that Section 441b(b)(4)(C) was unconstitutionally vague, the Court maintained that "there may be more than one way under the statute to go about determining who are 'members' of a nonprofit corporation, and the statute may leave room for uncertainty at the periphery of its exception for solicitation of 'members.' However, on this record we are satisfied that NRWC's activities extended in large part, if not in toto, to people who would not be members under any reasonable interpretation of the statute. See Broadrick v. Oklahoma, 413 U.S. 601 (1973)."

COMPLIANCE

SUMMARY OF MURs

The Act gives the FEC exclusive jurisdiction for its civil enforcement. Potential violations are assigned case numbers by the Office of General Counsel and become "Matters Under Review" (MURs). All MUR investigations are kept confidential by the Commission, as required by the Act. (For a summary of compliance procedures, see 2 U.S.C. §§437g and 437(d)(a) and 11 CFR Part 111.)

This article does not summarize every stage in the compliance process. Rather, the summary provides only enough background to make clear the Commission's final determination. Note that the Commission's actions are not necessarily based on, or in agreement with, the General Counsel's analysis. The full text of this MUR is available for review and purchase in the Commission's Public Records Office.

MURs 1439/1442: Labor Union's Failure to Report Internal Communication Costs

On October 5, 1982, the Commission entered into a conciliation agreement with the Utah affiliate of an international labor organization, which had failed to disclose internal partisan communication costs exceeding \$2,000, in violation of 2 U.S.C. §431(9)(B)(iii) and 11 CFR 100.8(b)(4). The state affiliate (the union) had incurred the communication costs (amounting to \$4,347.73) as the result of a letter sent to union members which expressly advocated the defeat of a U.S. Senator seeking reelection in 1982. The letter, mailed on January 7, 1982, and again on March 10, 1982, also solicited contributions to the union's voter education fund.

Complaint: This compliance matter arose as the result of two separate complaints filed against the union by an individual and a state party committee on April 28, 1982, and May 10, 1982, respectively. Since the violations of the Act alleged by the two complainants overlapped, the General Counsel's Office combined the complaints for purposes of its investigation. The allegations concerned the reprinting of portions of the union's letter in a labor newspaper on March 12, 1982. (The labor newspaper is published weekly in Wisconsin and distributed to members of Wisconsin unions and some out-of-state subscribers.) The complainants alleged that the union had violated the following provisions of the Act:

- §§441b(a) and 441(b)(2)(A) by using its treasury funds (and those of other labor councils) to finance a partisan communication distributed outside its restricted class;*
- §§441b(a), (b)(2), (b)(3) and (b)(4)(A)(ii) by soliciting and accepting contributions from individuals outside its restricted class;
- §441b(b)(2)(C) by depositing solicited contributions in its voter education fund rather than in a separate segregated fund;
- §§441b(a) and 441b(a)(3)(A) by financing an opinion survey;
- §441d by failing to identify itself as the sponsor of public political advertising; and
- §433 or §434 by failing to register and report as a political committee.

General Counsel's Report: In responding to these allegations, the union claimed that it had not sponsored the reprinting of its letter in the labor newspaper. In support of its claim, the union submitted an affidavit stating that it had distributed the letter **only** to its restricted class, that is, to members of labor organizations affiliated with the same international labor organization with which the union is affiliated. (See 11 CFR 114.1(e).) The General Counsel found no evidence to refute the union's claim.

Therefore, since the union had limited the distribution of the letter to its restricted class, and since costs for such communications are specifically exempt from the Act's definitions of "contribution" and "expenditure," the General Counsel recommended that the Commission find no reason to believe that the union had violated those provisions of the Act alleged by the complainants. Moreover, the General Counsel concluded that the labor newspaper should not be made a respondent in the complaint because its publication of portions of the letter constituted a news editorial, also exempt from the Act's definitions of "contribution" and "expenditure." (See 2 U.S.C. §431(9)(B)(i).)

However, the General Counsel recommended that the Commission find reason to believe that the union had violated §431(9)(B)(iii) by failing to report the costs of preparing and mailing the letter. (A labor organization or corporation must use FEC Form 7 to report expenditures for inter-

nal partisan communications when they aggregate over \$2,000 per election.**)

On July 14, 1982, the Commission found reason to believe that the union had violated 2 U.S.C. §431(9)(B)(iii) and 11 CFR 100.8(B)(4). At the same time, the Commission found no reason to believe the union had violated those provisions of the Act alleged by the complainants (see above).

Responding to the Commission's determination, the union claimed that its letter was not a partisan "communication but rather constituted a communication primarily devoted to subjects other than the express advocacy of the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate."

The General Counsel concluded that, although the union had voluntarily complied with the Act by filing a report disclosing information on the mailings, the union had nevertheless failed to disclose the information on time. The Office of General Counsel therefore recommended that the Commission find probable cause to believe the union and violated §431(9)(B)(iii).

Commission Determination: On October 5, 1982, before reaching a "probable cause" determination, the Commission entered into a conciliation agreement with the respondent in which the union admitted that it had violated 2 U.S.C. §431(9)(B)(iii) and 11 CFR 100.8(b)(4) and agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$150.00.

FEDERAL REGISTER

FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE

The item below identifies an FEC document that appeared in the Federal Register during January. Copies of the notice are available in the Public Records Office.

Notice	Title
1983-1	Filing Dates for Texas Special Election (48 <u>Fed. Reg.</u> 2067, January 17, 1983)
1983-2	Filing Dates for Colorado Special Election (48 <u>Fed. Reg.</u> 3047, January 24, 1983)

*A labor organization's restricted class comprises its members and their families, who are the only persons who may be solicited at any time by the labor organization or receive partisan communications from it. 11 CFR 114.3(a) and 114.5(g)(2).

**The \$2,000 threshold for reporting applies separately to each election process within a calendar year (i.e., all primary elections, the general election or any special or run-off election).



PAC ACTIVITY INCREASES DURING 1981-82 ELECTION CYCLE

From January 1, 1981, through October 13, 1982, PAC* contributions to all federal candidates totaled \$74.2 million (representing 45.4 percent of the \$163.3 million spent by PACs during the period). Of this amount, \$70.4 million went to 1982 House and Senate candidates, a 39 percent increase over the \$50.7 million PACs contributed to Congressional candidates during the same period in the 1980 election cycle.

Information on PAC activity, which was released by the FEC on January 7, 1983, also shows that incumbents received 69 percent of all PAC contributions--four times the amount received by challengers. PACs made more contributions to Democrats than to Republicans. Of the total PACs contributed to 1982 Congressional candidates, 54.2 percent went to Democrats and 45.8 percent to Republicans.

Charts I and II below list those PACs which raised the most money and made the most contributions to federal candidates through mid-October of 1982. More extensive information on PAC activity for the entire 1981-82 election cycle is expected in the Spring of 1983.

*PAC is a popular term used to define all political committees that have not been authorized by candidates or political parties. The term includes separate segregated funds connected to corporations and labor organizations as well as political committees without any connected organization (i.e., corporate or labor sponsor).

CHART I TOP 10 MONEY RAISERS

Political Action Committee	Amount Raised 1/1/81 - 10/13/82
National Congressional Club	\$9,053,645
National Conservative Political Action Committee	8,923,438
Realtors Political Action Committee (National Association of Realtors)*	2,772,281
Fund for a Conservative Majority	2,490,141
American Medical Political Action Committee (American Medical Association)	2,375,774
Citizens for the Republic	2,292,363
Committee for the Survival of a Free Congress	2,134,562
National Committee for an Effective Congress	2,131,563
Fund for a Democratic Majority	2,126,180
Committee for the Future of America, Inc.	1,971,135

CHART II TOP 10 CONTRIBUTORS TO FEDERAL CANDIDATES

Political Action Committee	Amount Contributed 1/1/81 - 10/13/82
Realtors Political Action Committee (National Association of Realtors)*	\$2,045,092
American Medical Political Action Committee (American Medical Association)	1,638,795
UAW Voluntary Community Action Program (United Auto Workers)	1,470,354
Machinists Non-Partisan Political League (International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers)	1,252,209
National Education Association PAC (National Education Association)	1,073,896
American Bankers Association BANKPAC (American Bankers Association)	870,110
Build Political Action Committee of the National Association of Home Builders	852,745
Committee for Thorough Agricultural Political Education (Associated Milk Producers, Inc.)	842,450
Automobile and Truck Dealers Election Action Committee	829,945
AFL-CIO COPE Political Contributions Committee (AFL-CIO)	823,125

*The connected organizations (i.e., sponsors) of separate segregated funds are indicated in parentheses.



Several different offices at the Commission serve the public by providing information and materials. The article below describes the type of information services offered by these offices.

PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICE

- Who is running for federal office in my Congressional district or state?
- How may I obtain a candidate's full name and address, as well as the name and address of his/her campaign committee?
- How much money has a PAC raised and spent?

These are the types of questions fielded by the FEC's Public Records Office, which provides information on the campaign finance activities of political committees and candidates involved in federal elections. Located on the street floor of the Federal Election Commission, the Public Records Office is open for public use weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and evenings and weekends during heavy reporting periods. The office is a library facility with ample work space and a knowledgeable staff to help locate documents. The FEC encourages the public to review the many documents which are available:

- Campaign finance reports (1972-present) filed by candidates for federal office (Presidency, Senate and House of Representatives) and political committees which support them;
- Statistical summaries of campaign finance reports;
- Computer indexes on campaign finance information (and cross indexes to locate documents);
- Advisory Opinion Requests and Advisory Opinions;
- Completed compliance cases;
- Audit reports;
- Press releases;
- Commission memoranda, agendas of all Commission meetings, agenda items and minutes.

Those outside the Washington area may request documents by phone or mail. When identifying the documents you want, indicate the full name of the political committee reporting, the date or type of report or document desired, and your address and telephone number. The Commission charges five cents per page for copies from paper files and 10 cents per page for copies made from microfilm. Sometimes a preliminary phone call can help you pinpoint your request and thereby expedite the Commission's response. Call the Public Records Office at 202/523-4181 or toll free 800/424-9530.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

- How much money may a PAC contribute to a federal candidate?
- Should a political committee, authorized by a Congressional candidate, file its termination report with the Clerk of the House of Representatives or with the candidate's principal campaign committee?
- When does our committee have to file its next report?
- May an employee's immediate supervisor solicit the employee for political contributions to the company's PAC?
- Has the Commission issued an advisory opinion on topic x during the last six months?

These questions are among the many the Commission receives daily on its toll free (800) phone line. Five information specialists, located in the Public Communications Office, respond to such questions immediately. The information specialists are not attorneys and cannot, by law, give opinions of an advisory nature.* They can, however, help candidates and political committees understand, and voluntarily comply with, the federal election law. They also assist others who are interested or involved in federal elections. For example, information specialists will:

- Explain and clarify FEC advisory opinions, Regulations and procedures (e.g., procedures for filing a complaint with the FEC or for registering a political committee);
- Recommend appropriate publications and reporting forms;
- Research advisory opinions and statutory and regulatory provisions relevant to a specific question; and
- Refer callers to the appropriate agency when the requests pertain to topics outside the Commission's jurisdiction (e.g., tax issues, ballot questions or vote issues).

Information specialists also supply this same kind of information in letters responding to written inquiries. In addition, they accept public speaking engagements; participate in seminars on campaign finance and the election law that are sponsored by the FEC and other organizations; and speak informally to groups visiting the Commission.

The Public Communications Office is open to the public weekdays from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. The office may be contacted by writing the FEC at 1325 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20463; or by calling 202/523-4068 or toll-free 800/424-9530.

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*NOTE: Commission staff may not grant approval or disapproval of a specific campaign activity. Individuals seeking FEC sanction for a specific activity must request an advisory opinion from the Commission. See 11 CFR Part 112.

REPORTS ANALYSIS DIVISION

The Reports Analysis Division (RAD) reviews the campaign finance reports filed by political committees and assists filers in complying with the election law's disclosure requirements. If a committee receives a letter from the Federal Election Commission concerning its report, the committee should contact RAD. Call 202/523-4048 or toll-free 800/424-9530. Committees should ask to speak to RAD or to a specific reports analyst.

PUBLICATIONS OFFICE

The FEC's Publications Office produces materials to help candidates, political committees and other interested individuals understand and comply with the election law. The monthly newsletter, the FEC Record, summarizes Commission litigation, advisory opinions, policies and procedures. Three campaign guides prepared respectively for political party committees, candidates and PACs explain how the law affects the activities of each committee and provides examples of completed FEC forms. Free copies of these publications may be obtained by contacting the Public Communications Office at 202/523-4068 or toll free 800/424-9530. Please do not contact the Publications Office.

CLEARINGHOUSE

In addition to the information services described above, the FEC's National Clearinghouse on Election Administration provides information to the public on the electoral process. The Clearinghouse also conducts regional seminars and publishes studies on election administration. Clearinghouse reports on election administration are available to the public at cost. For further information, or to obtain a list of publications and their prices, contact the Clearinghouse at 202/523-4181 or toll free 800/424-9530.

PRESS OFFICE

Staff of the Press Office are the Commission's official media spokespersons. In addition to publicizing Commission decisions, policies and actions, they respond to all inquiries from representatives of print and broadcast media. More specifically, a staff of three:

- Answer questions on all aspects of the federal election law and Commission actions;
- Answer questions about campaign finances, providing data taken from reports filed with the FEC by political committees;
- Prepare statistics on campaign finance activity for public release;
- Generate press releases on FEC-related activities;
- Arrange interviews between the media and the Commissioners; and
- Handle all requests under the Freedom of Information Act.

Media representatives should direct their inquiries to the Press Office. The office, located on the street floor of the Commission, is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Press may contact the office at 202/523-4065 or toll-free 800/424-9530. When calling the toll-free number, please ask specifically for the Press Office.

COMMISSION LIBRARY

The Commission law library, part of the Office of General Counsel, is also open to the public. The library's collection includes basic legal research tools plus materials dealing with political campaign finance, corporate and labor political activity and campaign finance reform. The library staff prepares an Index to Advisory Opinions and a Campaign Finance and Federal Election Bibliography, both available from the Public Records Office.

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
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