

CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ETHICS COMMISSION



Fourth Quarter Report Oct - Dec 2022

Oct—Dec 2022

Project	Status
<p>Ethics (AB 1234) Monitoring</p>	<p>ON GOING — 2022 was a renewal year with a new in-house training program. About 130 people took the in-house training and the reviews were overwhelming positive. The in-house program will be offered to new appointees each quarter in 2023.</p> <p>The 2022 compliance rate by December 31 was 98%.</p>
<p>Newly Elected and Appointed Official and Staff training program</p>	<p>ON GOING — No trainings for new staff were needed. However, a revised training program will be brought to the Commission in April due to the newly elected officials and staff who will be coming on board in 2023.</p>
<p>Campaign Disclosure Review /Audits</p>	<p>ON GOING — Post-Election audits were completed in less than 2 weeks to ensure candidates could close out committees.</p>
<p>Education Outreach</p>	<p>ON GOING — Education outreach continues to be limited to in-house audiences. A new course for Ethical Practices in Procurement was presented.</p>

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<p>Lobbyist Registration</p>	<p>ON GOING —Renewal notices for 2023 were sent out with reminders about lobbying information needed to updated within 10 days of any change. It appears we need to send out multiple reminders for payment to occur regardless of the legal obligation. Multiple reminder emails were sent regarding outstanding renewals. Current status is 74 renewals invoices, 4 lobbyists responded that s/he no longer were lobbying and 6 are outstanding. They have until February 1.</p>
<p>Finance and Budget</p>	<p>ON GOING —The budget situation appears to be stable through 2023. Additional funds will be sought in future years to cover increased costs being experienced by the office.</p>
<p>Complaint/Advice Program</p>	<p>ON GOING — Advice is only logged if the calling party requests advice on a legal issue that requires interpretation of facts and laws. A total of 40 requests have been made through the third quarter.</p> <p>A total of 16 complaint were received in 2022 but as usual most were outside of the Office’s jurisdiction. One compliant received involved issues that had already been resolved via the office’s regular audit process. (Please see page 4-5 for discussion.)</p>

Summary of 2022 Complaints:

22-01: Complaint received on January 6, 2022, related to Fullerton Heights activity. No jurisdiction, no action taken. Closed.

22-02: Complaint received on January 5, 2022, related to private attorney malpractice. Provided contact information to file complaint with State Bar. No jurisdiction. Closed.

22-03: Complaint received on January 20, 2022, related to annexation and cessation notice. No jurisdiction, no action taken. Closed.

22-04: Complaint received on January 27, 2022, demanding reversal of toll road violation. Complainant had already contacted Toll Road agency. No jurisdiction, no action taken. Closed.

22-05: Complaint received on February 7, 2022, identified potential excess contribution. Issue had been identified in office audit and corrected. Informed complaining party and provided notice of refund. Closed.

22-06: Complaint received on February 22, 2022, related to activity of Irvine City Council member. No jurisdiction, no action taken. Closed.

22-07: Complaint received on March 8, 2022, related to candidate advertising. Contacted complaining party to let them know the matter was not within the Office's jurisdiction but that investigation revealed potential issues with reporting. Contacted candidate and closed case.

22-08: Complaint received on April 20, 2022, identified potential excess contribution. Issue had been identified in office audit and corrected. Informed complaining party and provided notice of refund. Closed.

22-09: Complaint received on April 26, 2022, related to failure to receive sufficient voter materials. Forwarded complaint to Registrar of Voters. Closed.

22-10: Complaint received on May 19, 2022, related to candidate failing to receive notice of independent expenditure. Notice of Violation issued, party provided evidence of attempted notice thus NV retracted, Letter sent informing PAC of email addresses to use for notices to each of the candidates. Case closed.

22-11: Complaint received on May 31, 2022, related to candidate failing to file timely 460 and failing to report payments of filing fees. Contacted Registrar of Voters and FPPC and determined 460 was paper filed on time but not uploaded for public viewing by ROV. FPPC confirmed that candidate in question did not need to report filing fee payment as used personal funds. Contacted complaining party with investigation results. Case closed.

22-12: Complaint received on October 12, 2022 regarding corrupt public school suicide hot line. Not within jurisdiction and no action taken.

22-13: Complaint received on October 5, 2022 regarding multiple excessive contributions made to candidate for supervisor. Each issue complained of had been identified in an OCEthics audit and the candidate had already refunded the excess contributions. Letter was written to complaining party to identify the contributions had been voluntarily refunded or clerical errors had occurred. Matter closed without further action.

22-14: Complaint received on October 11, 2022 alleging fraud in the federal government. No action taken and matter closed.

22-15: Complaint received on December 19, 2022 alleging a Costa Mesa resident was committing fraud and had property in other states. No action taken and close closed.

22-16: Complaint dated December 28, 2022 alleging conflicts of interests between United Way, their Board members and OC Mental Health as members sat on each Board. No action taken, case closed.