



Desiree Sullivan
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>

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Please respond to
Desiree Sullivan
<desiree.sullivan@gmail.com>

To darr@gwu.edu
cc sthomas@fec.gov

bcc

Subject DailyKos email

Dear Ms. Darr,

I was perusing the IPDI's website when I came across the letter you addressed to Chairman Thomas which included a private email from Markos Moulitsas Zuniga. I was wondering how you deemed it appropriate to post a private email which was not addressed to you, especially since it seems that his email concerned a conference, which, according to news reports, was to address limiting the same freedom of speech and ability to fundraise of which you write in your letter to Chairman Thomas.

There is a bit of irony in your posted response, in that your outrage seems to mirror that of which you accuse Mr. Zuniga of having, for precisely the same reason -i.e. the threat of limiting one's ability to fundraise while expressing one's ideas as protected by the First Amendment. Is not the conference serving to promote the idea that bloggers' abilities to fundraise for a person or a cause should be limited on the premise that such an exemption to campaign finance regulations will degrade the quality of factual reporting free of hidden bias? Indeed, members of the news media are able to donate to candidates, and the amounts of such donations are readily available online. Is this very different from accepting money from a specific party or candidate? Who is to say that those media figures and their coverage of public events are not influenced by their financial support, and therefore personal interest, in the success of one individual over another? Perhaps the answer is not limitation, but full disclosure of such ties, as Mr. Zuniga did during the 2004 election cycle.

Needless to say, your public letter does a disservice to your Institute's standing. I cannot understand what your desired outcome was of forwarding someone else's private correspondence to the FEC chairman, in addition to posting it online for public viewing.

Respectfully yours,

Desiree Sullivan