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PETER WELCH, VERMONT
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COUNSEL TO THE CHAIR
R. BLAKE CHISAM,
CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF
OFFICIAL CONDUCT

Washington, DC 20515-6328

JO BONNER, ALABAMA
RANKING REPUBLICAN MEMBER
MICHAEL CONAWAY, TEXAS
CHARLES W. BENT, PENNSYLVANIA
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MICHAEL T. McCAUL, TEXAS
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COUNSEL TO THE RANKING
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March 18, 2010

The Honorable Robert Brady
Chairman
Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with the regulations of the Committee on House Administration, I am submitting herewith three copies of the monthly report for February including:

1. Summary of Progress and projected programs;
2. Statement of Expense under H.R. 279B (111th Congress, 2nd Session); and Statement of Expense under H.R. 279 (111th Congress, 1st Session); and
3. A listing of Committee employees showing addresses, duties, and gross monthly salaries.

This letter certifies that copies of this report are available to each Member of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

Sincerely,



Zoe Lofgren
Chair

Enclosures

COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT

February 2010

The Committee continued to fulfill its responsibilities to advise and educate Members and staff on the laws, rules and standards of official conduct. (An enumeration of those laws and rules is found in H. Rep. 110-938, *Summary of Activities, One Hundred Tenth Congress, A Report of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct*, 110th Cong., 2d Sess. (Jan. 3, 2009).) As a general matter, the Committee's activities in receiving and responding to requests for advice from House Members and staff are conducted on a confidential basis. The Committee received 25 requests for advisory opinions in February of 2010.

In accordance with the Rules of the House of Representatives of the 111th Congress, the Committee continued to review and approve privately sponsored, officially connected travel. The Committee received 101 such requests in February of 2010.

In addition, the Committee is required under the House rules to offer annual ethics training to each Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, officer, and employee of the House. Such training is mandatory for all House officers and employees, and new officers or employees must receive training not later than 60 days after beginning service to the House. The Committee continued to provide such training in February of 2010. The Committee provided training sessions attended by 119 individuals in February of 2010.

The Committee continued to fulfill its investigatory responsibilities, and publicly announced action with respect to two investigations.

Carib News. Pursuant to Committee Rule 18, in 2009 the Committee, on its own initiative, began investigating officially-connected travel in 2007 and 2008 that was sponsored, funded, or organized by organizations known as Carib News or Carib News Foundation. The travel involved in the investigation concerned the Carib News Foundation Multi-National Business Conferences, which were held in Antigua and Barbuda in November 2007 and St. Maarten in November 2008. During the course of the Committee's independent investigation, the Committee received referrals naming particular Members from the Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE) regarding this matter. On June 24, 2009, in accordance with clause 3 of House Rule XI and Committee Rules 14(a)(3) and 18, the Committee voted unanimously to establish an Investigative Subcommittee to conduct an inquiry regarding allegations that have arisen regarding sponsorship of travel relating to six Members.

The Investigative Subcommittee conducted a thorough eight-month investigation. The Investigative Subcommittee authorized the issuance of six subpoenas; interviewed 29 witnesses; reviewed and analyzed over 3,000 pages of documents; and held over 19

Investigative Subcommittee meetings. The members of the Subcommittee voted unanimously to adopt the report which was presented to the Committee.

Following the conclusion of the Subcommittee's investigation and report to the full Committee, the Committee announced on February 26, 2010 that it had unanimously voted to release a public Report finding that Representatives Bennie Thompson, Yvette Clarke, Donald Payne, Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick, and Delegate Donna Christensen did not knowingly violate any provision of the Code of Official Conduct or any law, rule, regulation, or other standard of conduct applicable to each individual's conduct in the performance of his or her duties or the discharge of his or her responsibilities with respect to the acceptance of payment or reimbursement for travel to either or both of the Carib News Foundation Multi-National Business conferences held in 2007 and 2008. These Members properly relied on the information provided to them by the officers and employees of Carib News and the Carib News Foundation, in seeking and receiving pre-trip approval from the Committee to accept these trips.

The Investigative Subcommittee found that these Members did not violate any House rule, regulation, law, or other standard of conduct. Only after the initiation of the Subcommittee's investigation was it learned that payments were made for their travel that were impermissible. Unfortunately, because false and misleading information was provided to the Committee, the Members inadvertently received impermissible gifts of travel that require repayment for the costs of their trips.

Although the Committee had approved the Members' travel, that approval was conditional upon the information provided to the Committee being true and correct. That was not the case. Since the Members were provided false information by others, and relied upon that information in seeking approval to accept the trips, the Committee concludes that the Members committed no wrongdoing. Nevertheless, since the Members did, in fact, receive impermissible gifts of travel, they must repay the costs of their trips to the respective entities that paid for their travel. Because some portions of transportation costs were paid by Carib News out of funds the actual source of which could not be determined, the Committee will require those funds to be paid to the U.S. Treasury.

The Report further finds that Representative Charles B. Rangel violated the House gift rule by accepting payment or reimbursement for travel to the 2007 and 2008 conferences. The evidence shows that Representative Rangel had delegated to his staff the submission, attestation and signing of requests to the Standards Committee for approval of the travel in question. The evidence further shows that these same members of Representative Rangel's staff knew that corporations had contributed funds to the sponsor and that, therefore, the submissions for the 2007 and 2008 conferences made in the name of Representative Rangel were false. In addition, Representative Rangel's staff wrote memoranda addressed to him discussing details of corporations' contributions to the sponsor. The Committee does not find sufficient evidence to conclude, nor does it believe that it would discover additional evidence to alter its conclusion, that Representative Rangel had actual knowledge of the memoranda written by his staff. In

light of these facts, and consistent with prior Committee precedent, the report finds that Representative Rangel was responsible for the knowledge and actions of his staff in the performance of their official duties given that he had fully delegated the approval process to his staff, who knew of information that made the trips impermissible. It is the intention of the Committee that publication of this Report will serve as a public admonishment by the Committee of Representative Rangel. The Committee will also require Representative Rangel to repay the costs of the trips to the respective entities that paid for his travel. Because some portions of his transportation costs were paid by Carib News out of funds the actual source of which could not be determined, the Committee will require those funds to be paid to the U.S. Treasury.

The Report further finds that Dawn Kelly Mobley, then designated counsel to the former Chair of the Committee, improperly communicated confidential internal Committee information to officers and employees of Carib News, Karl Rodney and Patricia Louis, and that she improperly influenced the information provided by Karl Rodney and Patricia Louis to Committee staff during the Committee's review of the 2007 Multi-National Business Conference. It is the intention of the Committee that publication of this Report will serve as a public admonishment by the Committee of Ms. Mobley.

Finally, the Report finds that officers and employees of Carib News and the Carib News Foundation – Karl Rodney, Faye Rodney, and Patricia Louis – submitted false or misleading information to the Committee during its pre-travel review of the 2007 and 2008 conferences and again when providing sworn testimony to the Investigative Subcommittee. The Committee unanimously voted to refer the conduct of these officers and employees of Carib News and the Carib News Foundation to the United States Department of Justice for further action as it deems appropriate.

In accordance with clauses 3(a)(2) and 3(b) of House Rule XI, and Standards Committee Rule 10(a)(7), the Committee unanimously agreed to issue a Report to the House. The Report follows the receipt of materials forwarded to the Committee by the Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE) and addresses the findings and conclusions of the Committee with regard to the conduct of Representatives Thompson, Payne, Kilpatrick, Clarke, Rangel, and Delegate Christensen. OCE's Report and Findings for each member are contained within the Committee's Report. The Report is available on the Committee's Web site, at <http://ethics.house.gov/>.

The Committee thanks the members of the Investigative Subcommittee for their hard work, dedication, and service to the Committee and to the House. Representative G.K. Butterfield served as Chair of the Investigative Subcommittee. Representative Charles W. Dent served as Ranking Republican Member. Representatives Brad Miller and Michael K. Simpson also served on the Subcommittee. In addition, Representative J. Gresham Barrett initially served as Ranking Republican Member before resigning his position on the Standards Committee, at which time Representative Dent was selected as Ranking Republican Member. Each of these members devoted substantial time and effort to this investigation, and the Committee thanks each of them for their service.

Lobbying Activities of Paul Magliocchetti and Associates Group, Inc. (PMA). On February 26, 2010, the Committee announced that it had unanimously voted to release a public Report finding that, based upon the totality of current information gathered during the past nine months, no House Member or employee violated any provision of the Code of Official Conduct or any law, rule, regulation, or other standard of conduct applicable to his or her conduct in the performance of his or her duties or the discharge of his or her responsibilities relating to proposed appropriations requests and activities of the former lobbying group, Paul Magliocchetti and Associates Group, Inc., known as PMA.

The Committee's staff reviewed close to one-quarter of a million pages of documents. The investigation covered more than 40 companies with ties to PMA and more than 25 Member offices. It involved interviews with CEOs of companies, and chiefs of staff and military legislative aides to Members, among other staffers.

Accordingly, the Committee closed its investigation in the above-captioned matter, which includes the dismissal of seven separate matters that the Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE) forwarded to the Committee. Each of those matters concerned allegations related to the activities of PMA. OCE's Board recommended dismissal in five matters. Those matters involved Representatives Norman Dicks, Marcy Kaptur, James Moran, John Murtha, and C.W. Bill Young. In the other two matters, which concerned Representatives Todd Tiahrt and Peter Visclosky, OCE's Board recommended that the Committee further review OCE's allegations.

In accordance with clauses 3(a)(2) and 3(b) of House Rule XI, and Standards Committee Rule 10(a)(7), the Committee unanimously agreed to issue a Report to the House. The Report addresses the findings and conclusions of the Committee with regard to the conduct of Members and their staff based upon the current information before the Committee. OCE's reports and findings for each of the seven separate matters are contained within the Committee's Report. The Report is available on the Committee's Web site, at <http://ethics.house.gov/>.

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Committee on Standards of Official Conduct

H. Res. Resolution: 279B

Statement of expenses from 2/1/2010 to 2/28/2010

Whole Committee - Funding Limit

Report Done: Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Category	February 2010	Cumulative For Funding Resolution: 279B	2/28/2010
Staff Salaries	\$221,721.46	\$431,772.75	
Overtime	\$650.83	\$650.83	
Consultant Contracts	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Equipment	\$284.61	\$750.96	
Travel	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Rent, Communications and Utilities	\$3,014.39	\$3,014.39	
Printing and Reproduction	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Miscellaneous Other Services	\$3,675.66	\$3,675.66	
Specialized Training	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Training Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Representational Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Supplies and Materials	\$1,904.77	\$2,039.98	
Grand Total	\$231,251.72	\$441,904.57	

United States House of Representatives

Committee on Standards of Official Conduct
Fund Balance Statement as of 2/28/2010

All BOC codes

Resolution: 279B

Report Done: 3/16/2010

Whole Committee - Funding Limit

Less Expenses

Total Authorization \$3,441,922.00

Year	Month
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2010 January

\$210,652.85

2010 February

\$231,251.72

Total Committee Expenses to Date

\$441,904.57

Unexpended Authorization

\$3,000,017.43

United States House of Representatives
Committee on Standards of Official Conduct
Fund Balance Statement as of 2/28/2010

All BOC codes

Resolution: 279BF

Report Done: 3/16/2010

Whole Committee - Funding Limit

Less Expenses

Total Authorization \$5,000.00

Year	Month
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2010	January	\$19.60
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2010	February	\$22.76
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Total Committee Expenses to Date		\$42.36
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Unexpended Authorization		\$4,957.64
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Committee on Standards of Official Conduct

H. Res. Resolution: 279BF

Statement of expenses from 2/1/2010 to 2/28/2010

Whole Committee - Funding Limit

Report Done: Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Category	February 2010	Cumulative For Funding Resolution: 279BF	2/28/2010
Staff Salaries	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Overtime	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Consultant Contracts	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Travel	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Rent, Communications and Utilities	\$22.76	\$42.36	\$42.36
Printing and Reproduction	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Miscellaneous Other Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Specialized Training	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Training Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Representational Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Supplies and Materials	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Grand Total	\$22.76	\$42.36	\$42.36

Committee on Standards of Official Conduct

H. Res. Resolution: 279

Statement of expenses from 2/1/2010 to 2/28/2010

Whole Committee - Funding Limit

Report Done: Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Category	February 2010	Cumulative For Funding Resolution: 279	2/28/2010
Staff Salaries	\$0.00	\$2,078,056.13	
Overtime	\$0.00	\$1,504.32	
Transit Benefits	\$0.00	\$2,028.61	
Consultant Contracts	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Equipment	\$28,902.39	\$68,229.64	
Travel	\$0.00	\$576.72	
Rent, Communications and Utilities	\$1,400.00	\$29,442.33	
Printing and Reproduction	\$31.90	\$2,350.10	
Miscellaneous Other Services	\$0.00	\$41,181.79	
Specialized Training	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Training Expenses	\$0.00	\$3,910.00	
Representational Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Supplies and Materials	\$9,092.60	\$78,222.36	
Grand Total	\$39,426.89	\$2,305,502.00	

United States House of Representatives
Committee on Standards of Official Conduct
Fund Balance Statement as of 2/28/2010

All BOC codes

Resolution: 279

Report Done: 3/16/2010

Whole Committee - Funding Limit

Less Expenses

Total Authorization \$2,735,247.00

<u>Year</u>	<u>Month</u>	
2009	January	\$133,847.97
2009	February	\$145,514.71
2009	March	\$166,502.65
2009	April	\$166,458.23
2009	May	\$159,343.73
2009	June	\$163,857.19
2009	July	\$169,680.38
2009	August	\$180,341.03
2009	September	\$219,977.45
2009	October	\$229,272.81
2009	November	\$248,570.87
2009	December	\$236,976.28
2010	January	\$45,731.81
2010	February	\$39,426.89
Total Committee Expenses to Date		\$2,305,502.00
Unexpended Authorization		\$429,745.00

COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT

February 2010

STANDING COMMITTEE STAFF

<u>NAMES</u>	<u>ADDRESSES</u>	<u>DUTIES</u>	<u>MONTHLY SALARIES</u>
Marc Borodin	Fairfax, VA	Counsel	11,833.33
Blake Chisam	Arlington, VA	Chief Counsel/Staff Director	14,375.00
Sheria Clarke	Woodbridge, VA	Counsel	6,666.67
Frank Davies	McLean, VA	Senior Investigator	8,755.00
Carol Dixon	Washington, DC	Counsel	12,482.32
Samuel Harvey	Washington, DC	Staff Assistant	2,708.33
Donna Hayes	Hyattsville, MD	Staff Assistant	2,753.63
John V. Jesaitis	Washington, DC	Committee Investigative Staff	833.33
Amelia Johnson	Arlington, VA	Investigative Clerk	2,916.67
Peter L. Johnson	Alexandria, VA	System & Financial Disclosure Admin.	7,275.89
Morgan Kim	Arlington, VA	Deputy Chief Counsel	13,977.79
Deborah M. Morris	Alexandria, VA	Counsel	11,833.33
Susan Olson	Arlington, VA	Counsel	12,482.32
Deborah Peay	Washington, DC	Senior Financial Disclosure Manager	9,876.98
Margaret Perl	Falls Church, VA	Counsel	8,219.40

<u>NAMES</u>	<u>ADDRESSES</u>	<u>DUTIES</u>	<u>SALARIES</u>
Thomas A. Rust	Arlington, VA	Counsel	8,750.00
Donald Sherman	Washington, DC	Counsel	6,666.67
Stan Simpson	Takoma Park, MD	Director of Financial Disclosure Review	11,172.00
Tonia Smith	Baltimore, MD	Counsel	11,172.00
Stacey Sovereign	McLean, VA	Counsel	12,291.67
Clifford Stoddard, Jr.	Clinton, MD	Counsel	10,000.00
Kelle Strickland	Arlington, VA	Counsel to the Ranking Republican Member	11,951.67
Daniel Taylor	Arlington, VA	Counsel to the Chair	11,951.67
Todd Ungerecht	Herndon, VA	Committee Investigative	833.33
Joanne White	Ft. Wash., MD	Administrative Staff Director	9,942.46

Overtime

Samuel Harvey	398.43
Amelia Johnson	252.40