



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

RQ-2

Dan Cohen, Treasurer
Association of Trial Lawyers of America
Political Action Committee
1050 31st Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20007

MAY 1 5 2002

Identification Number: C00024521

Reference: 30 Day Special Post-General Report (11/1/01-12/10/01)

Dear Mr. Cohen:

This letter is prompted by the Commission's preliminary review of the report(s) referenced above. The review raised questions concerning certain information contained in the report(s). An itemization follows:

-Schedule A of your report discloses aggregate year-to-date totals for contributions received from individuals which appear to be incorrect. Please be advised that federal regulations require aggregate year-to-date totals to include only those contributions which are received during the calendar year. In the event that the aggregate year-to-date total is correct, please note that federal regulations also require the disclosure of all contributions received from individuals who have contributed over \$200. 11 CFR §104.3(a)(4) Please amend your report to provide the correct aggregate year-to-date totals.

-You have received contributions from numerous entities, which appear to be unincorporated proprietorships or partnerships. Generally, these types of contributions are to be attributed to each person based on their percentage of ownership in the firm. Each person who has contributed in excess of \$200 since January 1 should be identified by name, address, occupation, name of employer, amount of contribution, and aggregate total on Schedule A. 11 CFR §110.1(k) Please amend your report by providing the omitted information.

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-Commission Regulations require that a committee disclose the identification of all individuals who contribute in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. (11 CFR §104.3(a)(4)(i)) Identification for an individual is defined as the full name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer. (11 CFR §100.12) Your report discloses contributions from individuals for which the identification is not complete.

You must provide the missing information, or if you are unable to do so, you must demonstrate that "best efforts" have been used to obtain the information. To establish "best efforts," you must provide the Commission with a detailed description of your procedures for requesting the information. Establishing "best efforts" is a three-fold process.

First, your original solicitation must include a clear and conspicuous request for the contributor information and must inform the contributor of the requirements of federal law for the reporting of such information. (11 CFR §104.7(b)(1))

Second, if the information is not provided, you must make one follow-up, stand alone effort to obtain this information, regardless of whether the contribution(s) was solicited or not. This effort must occur no later than 30 days after receipt of the contribution and may be in the form of a written request or an oral request documented in writing. (11 CFR § 104.7(b)(2)) The request must:

- clearly ask for the missing information, without soliciting a contribution;
- inform the contributor of the requirements of federal law for the reporting of such information, and
- if the request is written, include a pre-addressed post card or return envelope.

Third, if you receive contributor information after the contribution(s) has been reported, you shall either a) file with your next regularly scheduled report, an amended memo Schedule A listing all the contributions for which additional information was received; or b) file on or before your next regularly scheduled reporting date, amendments to the report(s) originally disclosing the contribution(s). (11 CFR §104.7(b)(4))

Please provide the missing information or a detailed description of your procedures for requesting the information. For more information on demonstrating "best efforts," please refer to the Campaign Guide.

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A response or amendment to your original report(s) correcting the above problem(s) should be filed with the Federal Election Commission within fifteen (15) days of the date of this letter. Electronic filers must file amendments (to include statements, designations and reports) in an electronic format and must submit an amended report in its entirety, rather than just those portions of the report that are being amended. If you need assistance, please feel free to contact me on our toll-free number, (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 1, then press 2 to reach the Reports Analysis Division). My local number is (202) 694-1130.

Sincerely,



Alice Kang
Reports Analyst
Report Analysis Division

