

RQ-2



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

September 29, 2004

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

Response Due Date:
October 29, 2004

Identification Number: C00024521

Reference: September Monthly Report (8/1/04-8/31/04)

Dear Mr. Cohen:

This letter is prompted by the Commission's preliminary review of the report(s) referenced above. This notice requests information essential to full public disclosure of your federal election campaign finances. **An adequate response must be received at the Commission by the response date noted above.** An itemization of the information needed follows:

-Schedule A of your report discloses the receipt of funds from your connected organization totaling \$13,725.41. 2 U.S.C. §441b prohibits the receipt of funds from national banks, corporations, and labor organizations. Under 11 CFR §114.5(b)(3), however, a separate segregated fund may be reimbursed for any solicitation or other administrative expense provided that the reimbursement is made no later than thirty days after the expense was paid by the separate segregated fund.

If the contribution(s) in question was incompletely or incorrectly disclosed, you should amend your original report with the clarifying information. Please provide further clarifying information regarding the date(s) on which the committee made payments for any solicitation or other administrative expenses.

To the extent that the reimbursement was made beyond thirty days after the expense was paid, you may have to make a refund. If within 30 days of receipt you (1) transferred the prohibited amount to an account not used to

ASSOCIATION OF TRIAL LAWYERS OF AMERICA POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Page 2

influence federal elections, and (2) provided written notice to your connected organization of the option of receiving a refund, you may retain the contribution in an account not used to influence federal elections. Any request from your connected organization for a refund must be honored.

If the foregoing conditions for transfers to a non-federal account were not met within 30 days of receipt, the prohibited amount must be refunded. See 11 CFR §103.3(b)(1).

Please inform the Commission of your corrective action immediately in writing and provide a copy of your check for any transfer-out or refund. In addition, any transfer-out or refund made should be disclosed on Schedule B supporting Line 22 or 28 of the report covering the date on which the transaction was made.

Although the Commission may take further legal action concerning the acceptance of a prohibited contribution, prompt action by your committee to refund or transfer-out the amount will be taken into consideration.

-Schedule B of your report (see attached) discloses one or more contributions which appear to exceed the limits set forth in the Act. 2 U.S.C. §441a(a) prohibits a multicandidate committee and its affiliates from making a contribution to a candidate for federal office in excess of \$5,000 per election.

If any apparently excessive contribution in question was incompletely or incorrectly disclosed, you should amend your original report with clarifying information.

If any contribution you made exceeds the limits, you must request a refund of the excessive amount or provide a written authorization for a redesignation of the contribution pursuant to 11 CFR §110.2(b) within 60 days of the treasurer's receipt.

If the foregoing conditions for redesignations were not met within 60 days of the treasurer's receipt, your committee must obtain a refund of the excessive amount.

Please inform the Commission of your corrective action immediately in writing and provide a photocopy of the refund or redesignation request sent to the recipient committee(s). In addition, any refunds should be disclosed

ASSOCIATION OF TRIAL LAWYERS OF AMERICA POLITICAL ACTION
COMMITTEE

Page 3

on Schedule A supporting Line 16 of the report covering the period during which they are received. Any redesignations should be disclosed as memo entries on Schedule B supporting Line 23 of the report covering the period during which the redesignation is made. 11 CFR §110.1(b) Although the Commission may take further legal action regarding the excessive contribution(s), your prompt action in obtaining a refund and/or redesignating the contribution(s) will be taken into consideration.

-The totals listed on Lines 7, 23, 31, and 32, Column B of the Summary and Detailed Summary Pages appear to be incorrect. Please be advised that you should add the "Calendar Year-to-Date" total from your previous report to the current "Total This Period" figure from Column A to derive the correct Column B totals. Please amend your report and any subsequent reports that may be affected by this correction.

-Your calculations for Line 8 appear to be incorrect. Cash-on-hand at the close of the current reporting period should always equal the closing calendar year-to-date cash-on-hand amount. Please provide the corrected total on the Summary Page.

Unlike previous election cycles, you will not receive an additional notice from the Commission on this matter. Adequate responses received on or before this date will be taken into consideration in determining whether audit action will be initiated. **Requests for extensions of time in which to respond will not be considered.** Failure to provide an adequate response by this date may result in an audit of the committee. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Act may also result in an enforcement action against the committee. Any response submitted by your committee will be placed on the public record and will be considered by the Commission prior to taking enforcement action.

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 should have any questions regarding this matter or wish to verify the adequacy of your response, please contact me on our toll-free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 5 to reach the Reports Analysis Division) or my local number (202) 694-1137.

Sincerely,

Katrina Senger

Katrina Senger

Campaign Finance Analyst

Reports Analysis Division

ASSOCIATION OF TRIAL LAWYERS OF AMERICA POLITICAL ACTION
COMMITTEE

Page 4

Recipient Name	Date	Amount	Election	Report
Pallone for Congress	3/16/04	\$1,000	2004 General	2004 April Monthly
Pallone for Congress	7/19/04	\$2,000	2004 General	2004 August Monthly
Pallone for Congress	8/25/04	\$4,000	2004 General	2004 September Monthly

