

Case Number: K06-087

Re: Miami Dade County Commissioner Natacha Seijas contacted the COE and expressed her concern that the Committee for Recall of Miami-Dade Commissioners may have improperly accepted campaign contributions from Attorney Michael Pizzi. Commissioner Seijas advised she was concerned with the transparency of the contribution.

She explained that Betwell Oil & Gas had contributed \$6,600 to the committee. The committee returned the contribution. She noted that Mr. Pizzi had also contributed \$1000.00 to the committee which, like the Betwell contribution, the committee returned. She also noted that Mr. Pizzi then contributed \$7,600.00 to the committee. The Commissioner believed that the Mr. Pizzi may have accepted the \$ 6,600.00 from Betwell, combined it with the \$1000.00 refund he received from the campaign, and the re deposited the \$7,600 as a contribution to the committee. The Commissioner provided copies of Campaign Treasurer's reports to substantiate these observations.

The Commissioner noted FSS Chapter 106 (5)(a) A person may not make any contribution through or in the name of another, directly or indirectly, in any election.

Betwell Oil and Gas

State of Florida, Secretary of State (Corporations) indicates that Betwell Oil and Gas is owned by Lowell Dunn S. II. The Commissioner noted that Mr. Pizzi was affiliated with Reiner and Reiner P.A., who have represented Mr. Lowell Dunn II on various occasions.

The Committee for Recall of Miami-Dade Commissioners

The Committee is registered as a Political Action Committee (PAC) in Miami Dade County. The Committee for Recall of Miami-Dade Commissioners submitted the Miami-Dade County Statement of Organization of Political Committee on February 2, 2006.

The Campaign Treasurer Reports for The Committee for Recall of Miami-Dade Commissioners reflect that,

1. On February 2, 2006 Betwell Oil & Gas contributed \$3,300 to the Committee
2. On March 3, 2006 Betwell Oil & Gas contributed \$3,300 to the Committee.
3. On March 17, 2006, Michael Pizzi contributed \$ 1,000 to the Committee.
4. On April 8, 2006, the Committee refunded \$6,600 to Betwell Oil & Gas.
5. On April 8, 2006, the Committee refunded \$1,000 to Michael Pizzi.
6. On April 10, 2006, Michael Pizzi donated \$ 7,600 to the Committee.
7. On April 20, 2006, Michael Pizzi donated \$ 2,000 to the Committee.
8. On April 22, 2006, Michael Pizzi donated \$ 1,000 to the Committee.

Name & Signature:	Manuel W. Diaz, Investigator	Date: Item #:
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Investigators met with Commissioner Seijas to determine if she has additional information. The Commissioner did not have any additional information. Investigators advised the Commissioner that violations of Florida Statutes were outside the jurisdiction of the Ethics Commission to investigate. Commissioner Seijas advised that she would consider filing a complaint with the State Elections Commission.

The case was closed with no further investigation.

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