

OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT ADVOCATE  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST  
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

K #: 09-187 Waldman

Date Opened: December 28, 2009                      Date Closed: May 12, 2010

Name of investigator: Arthur D. Skinner  
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**Allegation:**

This matter was predicated upon the receipt of information from Mr. Patrick A. . Pascuzzo 507 S.E. 23 Drive, Homestead, FL 33033 (305) 230-1988 that Councilwoman Judy Waldman was the recipient of free legal services from The Legal Aid Society of Miami Dade County. Pascuzzo alleged that Waldman was represented by The Legal Aid Society of Miami Dade County.

Section 2-11.1 of the Code of Miami-Dade County, the County's Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance. (e) Gifts—definition, prohibitions, exceptions, and disclosure requirements. (4) *Disclosure*. Any person included in the term defined in Subsection (b)(1) through (6) shall disclose as provided herein any gift, or series of gifts from any one person or entity, having a value in excess of one hundred dollars (\$100.00). Said disclosure shall be made by filing a copy of the disclosure form required by Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, for “local officers” with the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners simultaneously with the filing of the form with the Secretary of State.

**Investigation:**

On March 12, 2010 COE Investigators Art Skinner and Breno Penichet interviewed Council Woman Judy Waldman in the Homestead City Hall. Waldman gave the following information:

Waldman stated that she received free legal services from The Legal Aid Society of Miami Dade County as a victim of domestic violence. Waldman said she went to the The Legal Aid

Society of Miami Dade County because she couldn't afford to pay an attorney to defend her as a domestic violence victim.

On May 12, 2010 Investigator Art Skinner interviewed Dade County Bar Association Legal Aid Society Director Brenda Rivera by telephone (305-579-1004). Rivera was informed of the purpose of the interview and gave the following information: Rivera said the "Domestic Violence Project" is not limited to assisting indigent victims of domestic violence. Anyone who is in need of a permanent injunction to stop domestic violence may apply for free legal aid.

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