

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
COUNTY OF RICHLAND )

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF: )  
COMPLAINT C2014-115 )

Michael A. Wilson, )  
Respondent. )

**DECISION AND ORDER**

Krista Thom, )  
Complainant. )

STATE ETHICS  
COMMISSION

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Pursuant to S. C. Code Ann. § 8-13-320(10)(i)(Supp. 2014), the State Ethics Commission reviewed the above captioned complaint on November 19, 2014 charging the Respondent, Michael A. Wilson, with violation a of Section 8-13-1314(A)(1) and Section 8-13-1320(1). Present at the meeting were Commission Members James I. Warren, III, Chair, Sandy Templeton, Frank Grimball, Julie S. Jeffords-Moose, Twana N. Burris-Alcide, Regina H. Lewis, and Sherri A. Lydon. Thomas M. Galardi recused. The following allegation was considered:

**ALLEGATION**

On March 11, 2014 the State Ethics Commission received a complaint filed by Krista Thom of Kansasville, WI against Attorney General Michael A Wilson. The complaint alleged that the Respondent received contributions from a single donor, Williams Skipper, which exceeded the \$3,500.00 per election cycle contribution limit.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

Having carefully reviewed the evidence presented, the Commission finds as fact:

1. The Respondent, Michael A. Wilson, is and at all times relevant was the South Carolina Attorney General. He was re-elected in November 2014.

2. A review of Respondent's 2010 April CD filed on April 15, 2010 for the June 8, 2010 primary election, revealed that on March 22, 2010 Respondent disclosed a campaign contribution from William Skipper in the amount of \$3,500.00.

3. A review of Respondent's 2010 July 10th CD filed on July 15, 2010 for the June 8, 2010 primary election, revealed that on May 25, 2010 Respondent disclosed a campaign contribution from William Skipper in the amount of \$3,500.00.

4. A review of Respondent's CDs revealed that between March 22, 2010 and June 11, 2010 Respondent received contributions from William Skipper in the amount of \$7,000.00.

5. According to Respondent's written response, the contribution Respondent received from William Skipper on June 11, 2010 was incorrect, and the amended date is outside the seven day window as provided in Section 1320(1).

6. According to staff Respondent's attorney was personally served with the complaint on March 18, 2014. A review of Respondent's 2010 July 10th amendment 4, CD filed on March 16, 2014 for the June 8, 2010 primary election revealed that on June 16, 2010 Respondent disclosed a campaign contribution from William Skipper in the amount of \$3,500.00.

7. A review of the Respondent's First Community Bank deposit slip, number 209, dated June 16, 2010 revealed that check number 140 drafted from William Skipper's Cardinal bank account in the amount of \$3,500.00 was deposited into Respondent's campaign account.



8. As early as March 7, 2014 the media began asking questions regarding contributions received by Respondent and others, and several articles began appearing days after receipt of the complaint.

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. The Respondent was a candidate, as defined by Section 8-13-1300(4).
2. The State Ethics Commission has personal and subject matter jurisdiction.
3. Section 8-13-1314(A)(1) limits campaign contributions to a statewide candidate to \$3,500 per election cycle.
4. Section 8-13-1320(1) provides that a contribution made on or before the seventh day after a primary or primary runoff is attributed to the primary or primary runoff, respectively.

**DECISION**

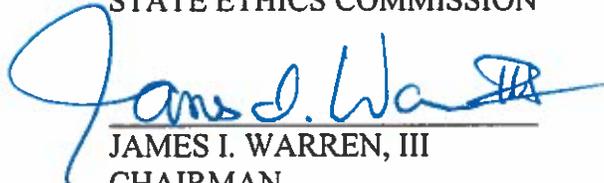
THEREFORE, based upon evidence presented, the State Ethics Commission has determined that there is not probable cause to indicate that the Respondent, Michael A. Wilson, violated Section 8-13-1313(A)(1) or Section 8-13-1320(1). Further the complaint is dismissed due to the Complainant, Krista Thom's, failure to cooperate at all in the investigation, which gives rise to the belief that she did not have personal knowledge of the allegations in the complaint. The Commission has therefore dismissed the charges in accordance with Section 8-13-320(10)(i), and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder.



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IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 24<sup>th</sup> DAY OF December, 2014.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

  
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JAMES I. WARREN, III  
CHAIRMAN

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

