

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
COUNTY OF RICHLAND )

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF: )  
COMPLAINT C2014-132 )

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(2). Present at the meeting were Commission Members James I. Warren, III, Chair, Sandy Templeton, Frank Grimbball, 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, William Biggs, 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 2011 April 10th CD filed on April 11, 2011 for the November 2, 2010 primary election, revealed that Respondent did not receive a campaign contribution from William Biggs residing at 104 Wild Vine Path in Anderson, SC 29621.

3. A review of Respondent's 2013 April 10th CD filed on April 10, 2014 for the June 10, 2014 primary election, revealed that Respondent did not receive a campaign contribution from William Biggs.

4. Staff searched campaign contributions that were received by Respondent from the dates listed on the complaint. Respondent's 2011 April 10th CD filed on April 11, 2011 for the November 2, 2010 general election, revealed that on January 18, 2011 Respondent disclosed a campaign contribution from Francie Biggs residing at 1001 Plum Lane in Anderson, SC 29621 in the amount of \$1000.00. In addition, Respondent's 2013 April 10th CD filed on April 10, 2013 for the June 10, 2014 primary election, revealed that on February 6, 2013 Respondent disclosed a campaign contribution from Francie Biggs in the amount of \$3,500.00.

5. According to Respondent's written response, Respondent denies any violation due to the fact that the contributor named in the complaint is incorrect.

6. Based on the review of Respondent's CDs, on March 21, 2014, and March 27, 2014 staff left a voice mail messages for the Complainant in order to obtain the bases of the complaint or any additional information. On April 2, 2014 staff received an e-mail from the Complainant that acknowledged that she received the messages. The e-mail stated that she thought that the best course of action was to refer questions and other



inquires to legal counsel. The Complainant reported that in the next couple of days she would provide her counsel's contact information or they would contact staff.

8. As of the writing of this report neither the Complainant nor her attorney has provided additional information as requested.

### 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(2) provides that a contribution made on or before the end of the quarter immediately following the general is attributed to the general election.

### 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(2). 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.



IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 29<sup>th</sup> DAY OF December, 2014.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

  
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JAMES I. WARREN, III  
CHAIRMAN

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

