

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF:)
COMPLAINT C2014-133)

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 a violation of Section 8-13-1314(A)(1). 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 H. Goodwin, Jr., 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 2013 July 10th CD filed on July 10, 2013 for the June 10, 2014 primary election, revealed that on June 13, 2013 Respondent disclosed two campaign contributions from William H. Goodwin, Jr. in the amount of \$3,500.00, and \$1,500.00.

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

4. Respondent's attorney was personally served with the complaint on March 18, 2014. A review of Respondent's 2013 July 10th amendment 2 CD filed on March 17, 2014 for the June 10, 2014 primary election, revealed that on June 3, 2013 Respondent received one campaign contribution from William H. Goodwin, Jr. in the amount of \$3,500.00 and one contribution from Alice T. Goodwin in the amount of \$1,500.00.

5. Respondent's attorney submitted copies of two checks written from William H. Goodwin, Jr.'s Wells Fargo Bank account to Respondent's campaign on June 3, 2013. A review of check number 13846 in the amount of \$3,500.00 revealed that William H. Goodwin, Jr.'s name is written on the memo line. A review of check number 13847 in the amount of \$1,500.00 revealed that Alice T. Goodwin's name is written on the memo line. The checks appear to be signed by William H. Goodwin, Jr.

6. Respondent's attorney submitted a sworn affidavit from Mrs. Alice T. Goodwin of Richmond Virginia. Mrs. Goodwin stated that she owns the funds noted in the



checking account. Mrs. Goodwin reported that she contributed check number 13847 in the amount of \$1,500.00 to Respondent's campaign.

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.

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 29th DAY OF December, 2014.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



JAMES I. WARREN, III
CHAIRMAN

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

