

**STATE OF MINNESOTA  
CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD**

**Findings and Order In The Matter of a Contribution  
During the Regular 2010 Legislative Session  
By Nikki Carlson**

**Summary of the Facts**

Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1(b), prohibits a registered lobbyist from making a contribution to a candidate for legislature or for constitutional office, or the candidate's principal campaign committee during a regular legislative session. A lobbyist that violates this section is subject to a civil penalty imposed by the board of up to \$1,000.

Minnesota Statutes, Section 10A.15, subdivision 5, prohibits a registered lobbyist from making a contribution without providing the lobbyist's name and registration number. A lobbyist that violates this section is subject to a civil penalty imposed by the Board of up to \$1,000.

On August 5, 2010, Patrick Haubner, treasurer of the Barrett Chrissis for House Committee, voluntarily notified the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board ("the Board") that the Committee accepted a \$100 contribution from Nikki Carlson, a registered lobbyist, on April 24, 2010. The 2010 Legislative Session was held from February 4 through May 17, 2010.

Mr. Haubner stated that the lobbyist registration number was not included with the contribution. A copy of the check received by the Committee from Ms. Carlson was provided. Neither the candidate nor the treasurer was aware that Ms. Carlson was registered as a lobbyist. Ms. Carlson was registered as a lobbyist with the Board from January 21, 2009, until May 31, 2010.

By letter dated September 9, 2010, the Board notified Nikki Carlson of the statutory provisions that appeared to be violated. Ms. Carlson responded on October 4, 2010. Ms. Carlson stated that she did not believe that Barrett Chrissis knew that she was registered lobbyist, and that she accepted responsibility for not knowing the rules for identifying lobbyist contributions.

This matter was considered by the Board in executive session on October 5, 2010. The Board's decision is based on the correspondence received from Patrick Haubner, Nikki Carlson and Board records.

**Based on the above Summary of the Facts and Relevant Statutes, the Board makes the following:**

**Findings Concerning Probable Cause**

1. There is probable cause to believe that Nikki Carlson violated Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1(b) by contributing to the Barrett Chrissis for House Committee during the 2010 regular legislative session.
2. There is evidence that Nikki Carlson failed to indicate her lobbyist registration number on a contribution to the Barrett Chrissis for House Committee. The Board finds that there is probable cause to believe that Ms. Carlson inadvertently violated Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.15, subdivision 5.

3. There is no probable cause to believe that the violations were intentional or done with the intent to circumvent the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 10A.

**Based on the above Findings, the Board issues the following:**

**Order**

1. The Board imposes a civil penalty of \$100, which is one times the amount of the contribution, on Nikki Carlson, for contributing to a principal campaign committee during the 2010 legislative session in violation of Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1(b).
2. For failure to provide a lobbyist registration number on or with the contribution the Board orders Nikki Carlson to pay a civil penalty of \$100, which is one times the amount of the contribution.
3. Nikki Carlson is directed to forward to the Board payment of the \$200 civil penalty, by check or money order payable to the State of Minnesota, within 30 days of receipt of this order.
4. If Nikki Carlson does not comply with the provisions of this order, the Board's Executive Director may request that the Attorney General bring an action for the remedies available under Minnesota Statute, section 10A.34.
5. The Board investigation of this matter is entered into the public record in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.02, subdivision 11, and upon payment by Nikki Carlson of the civil penalties imposed herein, the matter is concluded.

Dated: October 5, 2010



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bob Milbert", is written over a horizontal line.

Bob Milbert, Chair  
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

## Relevant Statutes

Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.15, subdivision 5. **Registration number on checks.** A contribution made to a candidate by a lobbyist, political committee, political fund, or party unit must show the name of the lobbyist, political committee, political fund, or party unit and the number under which it is registered with the board.

Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1, clause b. **Contributions during legislative session.** A registered lobbyist, political committee, political fund, or dissolving principal campaign committee, or a party unit established by the party organization within a house of the legislature, must not make a contribution to a candidate for the legislature or for constitutional office, the candidate's principal campaign committee, or a political committee or party unit established by all or a part of the party organization within a house of the legislature during a regular session of the legislature.