

IOWA ETHICS AND CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:

Case No. 2012 IECDB 17

Danielson for Senate, a
legislative candidate's committee

ORDER

On this 16th day of November, 2012, a complaint filed against Senator Jeff Danielson and Danielson for Senate came before the Iowa Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board. The Ethics Board elects to handle this matter by administrative resolution. See Iowa Admin. Code r. 9.4(2). For the reasons that follow, the Ethics Board hereby accepts the remedial actions already taken by Senator Danielson and his committee and admonishes the committee to exercise care in the future so as not to violate Iowa Code section 68A.503 or any other provision of chapter 68A.

BACKGROUND

Senator Danielson recently ran for re-election. On October 22, 2012, Matt Reisetter and his campaign committee, Matt Reisetter for Iowa, filed a complaint alleging Senator Danielson's campaign committee, Danielson for Senate, accepted a campaign contribution from a corporation in violation of Iowa Code section 68A.503. The complainant attached to the complaint the Danielson for Senate committee's July 19, 2012 report showing a \$100 contribution from KJ's Ventures, Inc. as well as a copy of KJ's Ventures Articles of Incorporation.

After receiving a copy of the complaint, Senator Danielson acknowledged receiving the contribution and promptly returned the contribution. According to Senator Danielson, the contribution was supposed to be from the corporation's owner who mistakenly wrote the check from his corporate checking account.

ANALYSIS

The Ethics Board must first determine whether the complaint is legally sufficient. A legally sufficient complaint must allege all of the following:

- a. Facts that would establish a violation of a provision of chapter 68A, chapter 68B, section 8.7, or rules adopted by the Ethics Board.

b. Facts that would establish that the conduct providing the basis for the complaint occurred within three years of the complaint.

c. Facts that would establish that the subject of the complaint is a party subject to the jurisdiction of the board.

Iowa Code § 68B.32B(4). If the Ethics Board determines the complaint is legally sufficient, it shall order an investigation. *Id.* § 68B.32B(6). If the Ethics Board determines none of the allegations contained in the complaint are legally sufficient, the complaint shall be dismissed. *Id.*

The complaint alleges conduct that occurred this year. Senator Danielson and the Danielson for Senate committee are subject to the Ethics Board's jurisdiction as a candidate and candidate's committee. *Id.* § 68B.32(1). The only remaining question is whether the complaint alleges facts that would establish a violation of chapter 68A.

Iowa Code section 68A.503 prohibits a corporation from making monetary or in-kind contribution to a candidate or committee except for a ballot issue committee. The complaint alleges and Senator Danielson acknowledges accepting the corporate contribution. Therefore, because the complaint alleges facts that would establish a violation of section 68A.503, the Board finds the complaint is legally sufficient.

The Board finds it is unnecessary to order a further investigation given the fact Senator Danielson's committee disclosed the contribution and acknowledged receiving the contribution from the corporation.

The Board is satisfied with the remedial actions the Danielson for Senate committee has taken and admonishes the committee to exercise care in the future so as not to violate section 68A.503 or any other provision of chapter 68A.

By direction of the Ethics Board



James Albert, Chair
John Walsh, Vice Chair
Saima Zafar
Carole Tillotson
Jonathan Roos
Mary Rueter

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies this order was sent by first class mail, address service requested, on November 28, 2012, to:

Danielson for Senate
Attention Senator Danielson
3906 Monterey Drive
Waterloo, IA 50701

Matt Reisetter for Iowa
Attention Mr. Matt Reisetter
1925 Main Street
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

By: 
Megan Tooker, Executive Director for the Board