

REPORT ON INFORMATION COLLECTED CONCERNING APPLICANT

Under section 60835 of title 2 of the California Code of Regulations, the Bureau of State Audits is responsible for collecting information concerning applicants for the Citizens Redistricting Commission that is needed by the Applicant Review Panel to perform its responsibilities. This is a report by Bureau staff in compliance with that responsibility.

Name of Applicant: Maria Blanco, # 08543

Information: Research conducted by Bureau staff revealed no relevant information concerning Applicant that was not already disclosed in her application materials or the August 9, 2010 report previously submitted by Bureau staff. Bureau staff found no information related to activities (e.g., political appointments or contributions, lobbying, etc.) indicating that the Applicant would not be eligible to serve on the Citizens Redistricting Commission.

Bureau staff contacted Antonia Hernández, author of one of Applicant's letters of recommendation, to confirm the information provided in the letter and to receive any additional information that may be relevant. Ms. Hernández confirmed that she wrote the letter of recommendation. She stated that she hired the Applicant as senior counsel when she was President at the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) and thinks very highly of her. Ms. Hernández recruited the Applicant to open the Atlanta, Georgia office for MALDEF. The Applicant was responsible for hiring staff and meeting with all the civil rights leaders in the Atlanta area. Regarding the Applicant's ability to be impartial, Ms. Hernández letter she states that the Applicant is a leading expert on the demographics of California's ever-evolving population. Ms. Hernández stated that the Applicant currently is the Executive Director, Chief Justice Earl Warren Institute on Race, Ethnicity and Diversity. In her position at the Warren Institute, the Applicant addresses issues of social justice and the demographics of California. She also stated that the Applicant's work has included looking at Latinos in the content of everyone else and how the Latino population impacts California. Ms. Hernández also stated that the Applicant has a "unique ability to look at issues from a different perspective and can put herself in someone else's shoes."

Recommendation: None.

Name and Title of Person Submitting Report: Sharon Reilly, Chief Counsel.

Report Date: September 20, 2010