



March 25, 2021

Dear Mr. Scolnick,

We are pleased to inform you that our Legal Affairs Committee voted to recommend your firm as co-counsel. We will present this recommendation to the full Commission at its March 29, 2021 meeting for possible action.

As you know we have received public comments regarding disclosure matters, some of them echoing concerns raised in 2011 with the prior Commission. These matters concern your response to the following portion of the original RFI:

With respect to the attorneys who are expected to work in connection with this representation, please disclose any financial, business, professional, lobbying or other relationship that presents a potential conflict as described in California Government Code Section 8252. In addition: (1) identify any lobbying work the firm has performed in California during the past 10 years; and (2) identify any political contributions, including contributions made by a firm political action committee, to candidates as described in California Government Code Section 8252, during the past ten years.

We know there is some room for interpretation here. However, as a public commission, we value a wider interpretation and therefore more disclosure rather than less.

In our verification report (which we provided to you last week and is also available at www.wedrawthelinesca.org/3_22_21_handouts) we note the items you disclosed as well as lobbying activity and political donations you did not disclose. We realize most of the undisclosed items did not meet the reporting threshold of \$2,000 (inflation adjusted, now c.\$2,500) or were for presidential candidates and therefore not requiring disclosure.

However, this still leaves the two lobbying items on p.1 (Victims of Terrorism, King's Casino) and one reportable donation on p.2 (\$2,700x2 for Kamala Harris). Please provide an explanation why these items were not reported.

If you wish, you may also provide a description of your firm's overall lobbying and PAC activity. We are sympathetic to public (mis)perceptions that all items appearing at, e.g., www.opensecrets.org, should have been reported.

Please respond in writing in time to publicly discuss these matters at the Commission's March 29 meeting. Without a written response it will be difficult for us to retain the public trust and confidence that are so vital to our work.

Yours truly,

Russell Yee,
Rotating Chair, Legal Affairs Committee



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