

From: [Christopher Skinnell](#)
To: [CEO Redistricting RES](#)
Subject: Preliminary response to letter from Philip A. Seymour
Date: Monday, February 1, 2021 3:59:37 PM

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Dear Commissioners:

We have just become aware of the letter to you from Philip A. Seymour, Attorney-at-Law, dated yesterday, January 31, 2021. Given the lateness of the comment, we believe it appropriate to provide a very brief response so that the Commission is aware of our position before this evening's interview.

First of all, we think it appropriate to note that Mr. Seymour was co-counsel with Mr. Woocher, of Strumwasser & Woocher, in litigation between 2008-2013 representing former Santa Barbara County Supervisor Doreen Farr. <https://ballot-access.org/2013/woocher-brief.pdf>. While we can understand his loyalty to a colleague, we ask the Commission to take that into consideration in evaluating his comment.

Beyond that we are prepared to address the issues that Mr. Seymour erroneously believes disqualify this firm from representing you in the 2021 redistricting process:

1. Our representation of a major client that made two political contributions to Santa Barbara County Supervisors is not a disqualification within the terms of the County's own ordinance, because unlike a PAC, a major donor is not "a political committee required to register with the California Secretary of State." See *Smutny-Jones Advice Letter*, No. A-16-081, [2016 Cal. Fair-Pract. LEXIS 89, *7](#) (FPPC June 21, 2016) ("In contrast to other committees, *major donor committees are not required to register with the Secretary of State.*") (emphasis added).

Our firm should not be disqualified for activities that are outside the terms of the ordinance any more than Mr. Woocher's firm should be disqualified for serving as the attorney for the Democratic National Committee (<https://www.strumwooch.com/About-the-Firm.aspx>), or Mr. Rafferty for serving as a member of the California Democratic Party's Organizing Committee (<https://www.cadem.org/our-party/standing-committees/organizational-development-committee/>). (Our firm, by contrast, does not represent any national, state, or local political party or organization, nor do we generally represent candidates.)

2. As mentioned in our prior public comment, the firm will comply fully with the Commission's new conflict of interest code. The Commission should know this, and Mr. Seymour acknowledges that this is only a problem if we are asking for an exemption, which we are not.
3. Mr. Seymour misunderstands our additional disclosures to the Commission of the firm's representation of clients across a broad range of governmental and political interests (from the humane society to the horse racing industry). These do not qualify as, and we are not asking for waivers of, ethical conflicts of interest under the statutes and regulations governing the practice of law. These disclosures are simply language from our standard engagement contract that we provide to all clients, consistent with our philosophy of "no surprises" in our client representations.

We look forward to meeting you this evening, and we look forward to your questions.

Chris Skinnell, Partner

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From: Lollie Katz
Date: Tue, Feb 2, 2021 at 7:35 PM
Subject: Resignation

Dear Chairman Morris, Commissioners, Mr. Churchwell, Dr. Johnson and Shalice,

After considerable worry and angst about my role as a commissioner I've come to the realization that I don't have the endurance or strength of belief to continue.

The random drawing that placed me as one of the first of 5 was a double-edged sword for me in that I was an interviewer but not interviewed and will never know if I would have made the cut!

I have decided to resign my position effective now and hope this will result in finding a replacement who will meet the requirements of measure G.

It really was an honor to work with each and every one of you. Thank you all very much. I will miss the camaraderie and amazing, incisive thinking you each brought to the commission...actually I am blown away by how smart you are.

Finally, Glenn, thank you for managing the chair role with wisdom, humor and ease. You are a role model.

All the best,

Laura (Lollie) Katz