

File a Formal Complaint - Glen Morgan

[Glen Morgan](#) reported (Tue, 27 Mar at 12:35 AM) via Portal [Meta](#)
To Whom it May Concern -

It has come to my attention that the De-Escalate Washington I-940 Committee has committed violations of RCW 42.17A. This violation is very unusual.

1) Failure to amend C1-pc form to reflect new position on I-940 (Violation of RCW 42.17A.205)

1. On June 20, 2017, the De-Escalate Washington I-940 committee filed its initial C1-pc form and indicated that the committee was "FOR" Ballot Measure 940. They have also amended their C1-pc form most recently on February 7, 2018 (**See PDC Tracking # 100811046**). They raised significant sums of money (almost \$1.5 million) from hundreds and hundreds of donors in favor of the committee's stated position. The committee was for I-940 during most of the legislative session. But on March 8, 2018, the committee stopped supporting Initiative 940, supporting instead the Legislature's alternative amended version of I-940: Engrossed Substitute House Bill 3003, which introduced significant changes to the language of I-940 and produced, in fact, a different piece of legislation. The committee was required to amend their C1-pc form no later than 10 days after their new position to be in compliance of **RCW 42.17A.205**. On March 23, 2018, the committee recently intervened in a lawsuit regarding Initiative 940 and their position is now opposed to I-940 in favor of the Legislature's alternative bill ESHB 3003. Again, no amended C1-pc form was filed within the 10 day time requirement which is a serious violation of law.

On information and belief, the committee hired and paid Pacific Law Group to intervene in the lawsuit over I-940 on behalf of the committee. The remaining \$44,037 (**See PDC Tracking #100811046**) funds were donated by supporters who were "FOR" Ballot Measure 940. De-Escalate Washington no longer supports Initiative 940, they instead support the Legislature's alternative bill ESHB 3003. Once the committee amends its C1-pc form, they may begin raising money to pay Pacific Law Group for their services on behalf of ESHB 3003, but there are some ethical questions raised by the use of funds that were originally donated to this committee to be in favor of the initiative. The committee might need to refund those leftover funds to the donors who still support I-940 and oppose the Legislature's alternative bill ESHB 3003. However, there may be an argument to be made that the statute allows "bait and switch" tactics like this which would otherwise be considered unethical.

This complaint highlights a serious violation of the law. For a little eight months, this committee put itself forward as advocates for Initiative 940, raising almost \$1.5 million. But after receiving those monies, in the last few days of the legislative session, the committee abandoned Initiative 940 and instead switched their support to the Legislature's alternative bill ESHB 3003. Were the hundreds and hundreds of financial supporters give their authorization to

dump I-940 and adopt ESHB 3003? This may be outside the scope of RCW 42.17A, but the failure to change the C1PC form clearly is well within the purview of the PDC

Best Regards,

Glen Morgan

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