

Complaint Description

[Glen Morgan](#) (Thu, 7 Feb 2019 at 3:30 AM)

To whom it may concern,

It has come to my attention that Representative Laurie Dolan has violated RCW 42.17A in a particularly troubling manner.

1) Attempting to conceal the true source of a corporate campaign contribution (Violation of RCW 42.17A.435)

Based on a recent reminder letter provided by the PDC to Chris Marr (see PDC letter attached dated February 6, 2019 – **PDC Case#25893**), an \$800 contribution from the “Chris Marr for State Senate” PAC which had been illegally donated to Laurie Dolan for her successful campaign for State Representative 22nd Legislative District on July 22, 2016 was not actually from the “Chris Marr for State Senate” PAC as the original source of the money.

In fact, by Chris Marr’s own testimony to the PDC, these funds were actually from Regence, a major corporation which lobbies the legislature (including Representative Dolan) on a regular basis. Chris Marr has been a registered lobbyist since 2011, and he is fully aware of the campaign finance laws and the importance of transparency and not attempting to conceal the true source of campaign contributions. However, it appears that he did just this and colluded with Representative Dolan to conceal the true corporate source of this \$800 contribution. This is far more egregious than just the original illegal donation from this campaign fund which **PDC Case #25893** addressed.

While the original complaint filed by this complainant in 2017 was focused on the illegal nature of the contribution from one candidate’s campaign fund to another (See **PDC Case #25893 & #25901 & note also #25123**), however, it wasn’t until receiving a copy of the PDC reminder letter written to Chris Marr that the scope of the collusion and the true nature of the violation of this statute became clear.

Effectively, the nature of this violation is identical in violation to the AG’s lawsuit against the Grocery Manufacturers Association, which has made many headlines and AG press releases over the past few years. While this violation is smaller in size, the collusion and attempt to conceal the true source of these funds is usually considered a major violation of the Fair Campaign Practices Act.

Please note, just because Dolan returned the illegal \$800 contribution on October 30, 2017 - after this complainant filed a complaint (**PDC Case #25893 & #24901**), does not excuse this effort to conceal the true source of a major corporate donation to the Dolan campaign.

Also, please note, just because the Department of Revenue illegally instructed Chris Marr to violate the Fair Campaign Practices Act and send this \$800 corporate contribution from Regence to Dolan, this doesn’t mean the Department of Revenue instructed him to to disguise the true source of this major corporate

contribution. This also doesn't mean the Department of Revenue instructed Marr to collude with Dolan to hide the corporate nature of this contribution. While the Department of Revenue may very well have violated their own policy and instructed Marr to do something illegal, this is not uncommon for that agency, and they can't be blamed for the additional violations of the law which were committed in this case by Marr and Dolan.

As both Marr and Dolan are experienced political operatives with many years of experience, their collusion is particularly troubling as this very likely was a willful attempt to deceive the public.

While this type of behavior may be more common than any of us would like to imagine amongst the dark money crowd in Olympia, the unique set of circumstances which allowed a ray of sunshine to expose this nefarious scheme to conceal the true source of this major corporate contribution, provides the PDC a rare opportunity to confront this problem right now and nip it in the bud before it blooms into a full threat to the system.

As always, feel free to contact me if you need further clarification on this matter.

Best Regards,

Glen Morgan

What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?

The public has a right to know who is actually funding these campaigns, and attempts by Dolan to conceal the true corporate source of this contribution and colluding with a former State Senator and registered lobbyist to conceal these facts is particularly troubling. The public has a right to know, and just because Marr and Dolan were caught with an illegal contribution and were forced to refund it, that doesn't mean that they should not be held accountable to the public for attempting to conceal the true source of these corporate funds.

List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found.

PDC investigation attached

List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them.

Laurie Dolan
Any treasurers involved in these transactions
Chris Marr

Complaint Certification:

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that information provided with this complaint is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.



**State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

711 Capitol Way Rm. 206, PO Box 40908 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0908

(360) 753-1111 • FAX (360) 753-1112

Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdcc.wa.gov

Feb. 6, 2019

Delivered electronically to "chris@chrismarr.us"

Subject: PDC Case 25893

Dear: Chris Marr

Enclosed is a copy of a letter sent to Glen Morgan concerning a complaint he filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) on Sept. 28, 2017 against you.

As noted in the letter to Mr. Morgan, the PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1) and will not conduct a more formal investigation into these allegations or take further enforcement action in this matter.

PDC staff reminds you about the importance of contacting the PDC for accurate information about the financing of political campaigns, lobbyist expenditures, and the financial affairs of public officials and candidates. This will ensure compliance with Washington's disclosure and campaign finance laws.

If you have questions, you may contact Alice Fiman at 1-360-586-4746 or toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s _____

Alice Fiman
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

/s _____

Barbara Sandahl
Deputy Director
For Peter Lavalley
Executive Director



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Feb. 6, 2019

Delivered electronically to “glen@wethegoverned.com”

Subject: Complaint regarding Chris Marr, PDC Case 25893

Dear Glen Morgan:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed against Chris Marr, a State Senator representing Washington's 6th Legislative District from 2007 – 2010. The complaint alleged Chris Marr violated RCW 42.17A.430 for an unauthorized transfer of funds between candidate committees and RCW 42.17A.235 by failing to timely file complete and accurate Summary Full Campaign Contributions and Expenditure reports (C-4 reports). You alleged Marr donated \$800 to Laurie Dolan in July 2006 and did not report this donation on a C-4 report.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations listed in the complaint, PDC laws, rules and reporting requirements, C-4 reports filed by Chris Marr, the response from Chris Marr and a response from the Washington State Department of Revenue (DOR).

Based on staff's review, we found the following:

- Chris Marr served in the State Senate from 2007 – 2010, then was appointed by Gov. Christine Gregoire to what was then known as the Washington State Liquor Control Board. He served in this position from 2010 – 2015.
- Since 2011, Chris Marr has been a Lobbyist registered with the PDC.
- In his response, Marr stated he became aware in July 2016 the DOR Unclaimed Property site listed an unclaimed check with “Chris Marr for State Senate” as payee. He stated he then “contacted DOR by phone and learned that the check in question was an \$800 campaign contribution check from Regence. The check had apparently been sent to our former campaign mailbox and was forwarded as unclaimed property to DOR when the mailbox was discontinued.”

- Marr stated he contacted DOR to inquire about his options. "They told me that they could not return the funds to me personally, but that I could elect to transfer those funds to another legislative campaign. I contacted the Laurie Dolan campaign. They never solicited these funds from me and were acting solely on my recounting of the advice I was given by a state agency. I was informed by the Washington State Department of Revenue that my only available option was to direct those funds (which apparently were not my personal funds) to another legislative campaign, or to leave those funds in the state Unclaimed Property account."
- In response, DOR provided the following information:
 - On July 8, 2016, former State Senator Chris Marr contacted the DOR Unclaimed Property Program concerning \$800 held as unclaimed property in the name of his re-election campaign.
 - A Department employee in the DOR Unclaimed Property Program advised him that he could not personally claim the funds of his former election campaign committee, but that he could donate them to another campaign.
 - In response, he directed the \$800 go to Friends of Laurie Dolan. A check was issued, and the funds were mailed as directed on July 22, 2016.
 - The advice that he could donate the funds to another campaign contravened DOR policy.
- DOR also stated a DOR representative contacted Representative Dolan to inform her that DOR would send her a letter with instructions on how to return the funds. On October 30, 2017, DOR received \$800 from Friends of Laurie Dolan.

Based on this information, the PDC dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1) and will not conduct a more formal investigation into your complaint or pursue further enforcement action in this case.

The PDC reminded Chris Marr about the importance of contacting the PDC for accurate information about the financing of political campaigns, lobbyist expenditures, and the financial affairs of public officials and candidates.

If you have questions, you may contact Alice Fiman at 1-360-586-4746 toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at alice.fiman@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s _____

Alice Fiman
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

/s _____

Barbara Sandahl
Deputy Director
For Peter Lavalley
Executive Director