FILED
STATE OF LOUISIANA
MAY 15 2015
DIVISION OF ADMINSTRATIVE LAW

STATE OF LOUISIANA
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS	*	**DOCKET NO.**
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	*	
IN THE MATTER OF	*	
	*	
	*	
SHANTE WELLS	*	**AGENCY TRACKING NO. 2014-504**

CHARGES

The Louisiana Board of Ethics voted on May 14, 2015, to and does hereby file the following charge:

I.

Shante Wells was an unsuccessful candidate for the office of City Court Judge, District 2, Division D, City of Shreveport in the Parishes of Bossier and Caddo, State of Louisiana, in the October 22, 2011 election.

II.

The office of City Court Judge, District 2, Division D, City of Shreveport in the Parishes of Bossier and Caddo, State of Louisiana is a "district" level office[1]. La. R.S.18:1484(1) requires each candidate for a "district" level office to file certain campaign finance disclosure reports.

III.

La. R.S. 18:1495.4A provides that the candidate is responsible for the filing of reports of all information required by the Supervisory Committee at the times required by the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act (CFDA).

[1] La. R.S. 18:1483(7)(b) defines "district office" to include all public offices elected parish wide.

IV.

La. R.S. 18:1495.4D(3) provides that that if the candidate is not an elected public official and his deficit or surplus is equal to or greater than two thousand five hundred dollars, the candidate shall file supplemental reports with the supervisory committee of all information required in R.S. 18:1495.5. Such report shall be filed annually no later than February 15th and shall be complete through the preceding December 31st. Such report shall be filed each year for five years or until a report has been filed which shows no deficit or surplus.

V.

Mr. Wells was not elected to the office of City Court Judge, District 2, Division D, City of Shreveport in the Parishes of Bossier and Caddo, State of Louisiana, in the October 22, 2011 election.

VI.

Mr. Wells filed a 40 day prior to the general election report (40-G) on December 16, 2011 in connection with the October 22, 2011 election, indicating a deficit balance of $2,673.13. No reports have been filed with the supervisory committee by Mr. Wells since the 40-G report.

VII.

La. R.S. 18:1505.1(A) provides that failure to submit the reports required by the CFDA shall constitute a violation of the CFDA. Failure to submit any such report within three days after the final date for filing shall be presumptive evidence of intent not to file the report. La. R.S. 18:1505.1(B) provides that failure to submit the reports required by the CFDA at the time required shall constitute a violation of the CFDA.

VIII.

As a "district" level office candidate who reported a surplus greater than $2,500 on his 40-G campaign finance disclosure report, Mr. Wells was required to file a supplemental campaign finance reports in accordance with La. R.S. 18:1495.4D(3) covering the 2013 calendar year by February 15, 2014.

IX.

La. R.S. 18:1505.4A(2)(a)(iii) provides that an automatic late fee of $60 per day, up to a maximum of $2,000 be assessed for each day the report is not timely filed.

X.

On August 14, 2014 the Board's staff issued Mr. Wells a *Late Fee Assessment Order,* ordering him to pay a late fee of $2,000 for the failure to timely file his 2013 supplemental campaign finance disclosure report.

XI.

La. R.S. 18:1505.4(4)(b) provides that in addition to any penalties that may be imposed by this Section or any other law, the supervisory committee may impose on any person required to file such a report who has not filed such report by the eleventh day after such report is due, after an adjudicatory hearing by an adjudicatory panel of the Ethics Adjudicatory Board conducted in accordance with the Code of Governmental Ethics, with notice to the party who is the subject of the hearing, an additional civil penalty not to exceed ten thousand dollars.

XII.

Based on the foregoing facts, the Ethics Adjudicatory Board may conduct a hearing to determine if Mr. Wells filed his 2013 supplemental campaign finance disclosure report over 11

days late which would subject Mr. Wells to additional penalties up to $10,000 as provided for in La. R.S. 18:1505.4(4)(b).

XIII.

In accordance with La. R.S. 42:1141C(3)(b)(iv), the Board designates Jennifer Land and Michael Dupree as the Board's trial attorneys in this matter.

WHEREFORE, the Louisiana Board of Ethics requests that the Ethics Adjudicatory Board conduct a hearing to determine if Mr. Wells filed his 2013 supplemental campaign finance disclosure report over 11 days late which would subject Mr. Wells to additional penalties up to $10,000 as provided for in La. R.S. 18:1505.4(4)(b).

[SIGNATURE INFORMATION CONTAINED ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE]

Blake Monrose
Chairman, Louisiana Board of Ethics
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CERTIFICATE:

I hereby certify that a copy of this document has been forwarded to the Respondent by registered/certified mail in accordance with La. R.S. 42:1141E(1)(a), on this 15th day of May, 2015.

Jennifer T. Land
Trial Attorney

SERVICE INFORMATION:
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