

## CAMPAIGN FINANCE DIVISION

☒ WAIVER REQUEST

☐ RECONSIDERATION REQUEST

DATE: 10/21/2020

DOCKET #:

### FILER INFORMATION

Name: Trina Trinhthi Chu

Office: Judge, Court of Appeal, 2nd Circuit, 3rd Dist., Elec. Sec. 1A

Parish: CADD0

Election Date: 3/5/2016

Level of Office: Major

### REPORT INFORMATION

Name of Report: SUPP 2019

Original Due Date: 2/18/2020

Date Filed: 2/26/2020

Activity Receipts: \$-0

Expenditures: \$-0

Funds at Close of Reporting Period: \$-0

### LATE FEE INFORMATION

Amount of Late Fee: \$800

Days Late: 8

Late Fee Order Received: 8/14/2020

Payment/Waiver Request Due Date: 9/3/2020

Waiver Request Received: 9/17/2020

Additional Information Requested:

- Medical
- Financial
- Other

COMMENTS: Trina Chu states: Back in February 2019, with Ethics staff on the phone, they closed out her account with forgiving her debts to the campaign. Therefore, she didn't file the annual filing in February 2020. Then a new person helped her closed out the account with some technical filing assistance from her. This lady did tell her to expect some mail from your office about Late fees within 10 days of March 2020. She had not received any notice about late filing fees and penalties for the period from February 15, 2020 until now, so she assumed that the fees were waived by our office and had no fines pending. She did not receive anything from your office until today, about 2 weeks after she qualified to run for judge again.

### OTHER LATE FEE INFORMATION

Campaign Finance:

Other Outstanding Reports: No

Other Outstanding Late Fees: No

Prior Late Fees: Yes

Reassessed Late Fees: Yes

Disclosure Statements:

Other Outstanding Late Fees: No

Prior Late Fees: No

State of Louisiana  
Department of State Civil Service  
Louisiana Board of Ethics  
P.O. Box 4368  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821  
Tel. 225-219-5600  
800-842-6630  
Fax. 225-381-7271

Via Certified Mail and Fax above

August 17, 2020

**RE: Committee to Elect Trina Chu  
Late Fee Dispute/Appeal**

Dear Ms. Angela Newsom:

I was late one time in filing the annual report in February 2016 and paid about \$500 for the lateness. From then on, I always filed an annual report by the February deadlines every year. I didn't file an annual report in February 2020 because Ms. Sherry and I filed a final, closing report in February 2019.

You see, back in February 2019, with Ms. Sherry on the phone, we closed out my account with forgiving my debts to the campaign. Therefore, I didn't file the annual filing in February 2020. Then a new person helped me closed out the account with some technical filing assistance from her. I think her name is Sarah. This lady did tell me to expect some mail from your office about late fees within 10 days of March 2020. I have not received any notice about late filing fees and penalties for the period from February 15, 2020 until now, so I assumed that the fees were waived by your office and I have no fines pending. I did not receive anything from your office until today, about 2 weeks after I qualified to run for judge again.

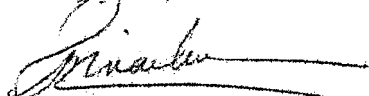
Your letter, specifically the one herein marked as Exhibit A, page 1 of 5, is quite confusing. It seems to say that since I was late in filing the annual report in February 2020, I now must pay \$2000 as mandated by the Order dated September 21, 2016, herein marked as Exhibit A, pages 3-4. However, said order says I must pay \$2000 extra if I didn't pay the \$500 by October 24, 2016, which I paid. The order does not allow you to fine me \$2000 for late filing of the annual report in February 2020. Therefore, the fees assessed in Exhibit A herein must be dismissed as wrongly applied or assessed.

I am enclosing your 3 letters herein marked as Exhibit A, Exhibit B, and Exhibit C.

Please allow this letter to serve as my request for waiver and my dispute of the assessment by you. Fees assessed in Exhibit B and Exhibit C should be waived because your technical people assisted me and assured that me that my account was closed back in February 2019. And again in February 2020, I was assured that no late fees were assessed against me if no notice was sent out to me with 10 days of February 26, 2020 when the account was finally closed properly.

Again, I ask that you review your records and see that I should not be assessed these fees as I was not aware of being charged for late filing fees since your office didn't send me a notice after your technical person assisted me to properly close out the account on or around February/March 2020. I only received the attached in the mail a few days ago, on Friday, August 14, 2020.

Sincerely yours,



Trina T. Chu  
Committee to Elect Trina Chu (2014-2019)  
P.O. Box 53364  
Shreveport, LA 71135  
Tel. 318-734-1923  
Cel. 318-518-6492  
Chu\_trina@hotmail.com



STATE OF LOUISIANA  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE CIVIL SERVICE  
**LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS**

P. O. BOX 4368  
BATON ROUGE, LA 70821  
(225) 219-5600  
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1-800-842-6630  
www.ethics.la.gov

Exhibit A  
P. 1 of 5

August 10, 2020

VANDANA CHATURVEDI  
COMMITTEE TO ELECT TRINA CHU  
P.O. BOX 53364  
SHREVEPORT, LA 71135

CERTIFIED MAIL

NO. 70191640000203573239

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

RE: 10-G Campaign Finance Disclosure Report - March 5, 2016 Election  
Docket ID: 2016-789  
SUSPENDED LATE FEE

Dear Vandana Chaturvedi:

Because you failed to timely file the 2019 Supplemental campaign finance report for the November 6, 2018 election, the \$2,000 suspended amount related to the 10-G campaign finance disclosure report for the March 5, 2016 election is now due and owing. You do not have the right to request a waiver or an appeal.

Please submit a check or money order in the amount of \$2,000 payable to the *Louisiana State Treasurer, Post Office Box 4368, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821* no later than 20 days from receipt of this notice. **Please note that late fees can only be paid by the candidate or by his campaign.**

If you do not pay the \$2,000 suspended portion, it will be forwarded to the Attorney General's Office for collection. If the matter is forwarded to the Attorney General, you may be responsible for all additional costs incurred.

Note that any unpaid fines, fees, or penalties may have an adverse effect on your ability to run for public office, as the *Board of Ethics* will object to your candidacy in future elections pursuant to La. R.S. 18:491 and 18:492.

Sincerely,

  
Angela Newsom, Director  
Campaign Finance & Lobbying Division



STATE OF LOUISIANA  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE CIVIL SERVICE  
**LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS**  
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Exhibit A, p. 2 of 5  
**COPY**

August 10, 2020.

Vandana Chaturvedi  
Committee to Elect Trina Chu  
P.O. Box 53364  
Shreveport, LA 71135

**CERTIFIED MAIL**

NO. 70191640000203573239

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

RE: Late fee assessment for March 5, 2016 Election  
2019 Supplemental Campaign Finance Disclosure Report filed 8 days late

Dear Vandana Chaturvedi:

Enclosed is an assessment of a late fee pursuant to La. R.S. 18:1505.4 and La. R.S. 18:1511.4.1. Please submit a check or money order in the amount of \$800 payable to the Treasurer of the State of Louisiana to P.O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821. Please note that late fees can only be paid by the candidate or by his campaign.

You have 20 days from receipt of this letter to dispute this assessment. You may elect to do either or both of the following:

1. You may submit your request for a waiver to the attention of the Louisiana Board of Ethics.

Waivers are handled by the Ethics Board. The Board of Ethics may reduce, suspend, or decline to waive a late fee assessment based on the cause shown by the person, candidate, or political committee. If you submit a request for a waiver of the late fee to the Board of Ethics, your request should contain details as to why, in your opinion, you have good cause why your report was not timely filed. Also, if you would like to appear before the Board of Ethics in connection with your request, you should state that in your letter. The request should be submitted to the attention of the Board of Ethics at the following address: P. O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821 or fax at (225) 381-7271.

2. You may appeal the assessment directly to the Ethics Adjudicatory Board (EAB).

Appeals to the EAB are proceedings before a three judge panel. The determination is made regarding whether the person, candidate, or political committee was required to file the report and whether the report was filed late. Mitigating factors are not considered during an EAB proceeding. The EAB does not have the authority to reduce, suspend, or waive a late fee assessment. If you choose to appeal the assessment to the EAB, you should submit your request for an appeal to the attention of the Executive Secretary of the Louisiana Board of Ethics at P. O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821 or fax at (225) 381-7271.

If you timely submit a waiver request or appeal, your name will not be posted on the website pending the result of your appeal. Furthermore, if you request an appearance, you will be notified of the place and time prior to the meeting.

If you do not pay or dispute the assessment of the late fee within 20 days from the receipt of this letter, the matter will be forwarded to the Attorney General's Office to pursue collection. If the matter is forwarded to the Attorney General's Office for collection, you may be responsible for all additional costs incurred. Additionally, late fees not paid by the due date will be posted on the agency website.

*You should be aware that unpaid campaign finance fines, fees or penalties may have an adverse effect on your ability to run for public office in the future, as the Board of Ethics will object to your future qualifications for candidacy for public office pursuant to La. R.S. 18:491 and R.S. 18:492.*

Sincerely,

*Melissa Horn*

Melissa Horn

Exhibit A  
p. 3 of 5

**STATE OF LOUISIANA LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS**  
acting in its capacity as the  
**SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE DISCLOSURE**

**In Re: Trina Trinhthi Chu**  
**March 5, 2016 Election**

**LATE FEE ASSESSMENT ORDER**

**WHEREAS**, Trina Trinhthi Chu, in her capacity as a candidate for Judge, Court of Appeal, 2nd Circuit, 3rd Dist., Elec. Sec. 1A in the March 5, 2016 election, her committee's chairperson, Vandana Chaturvedi and treasurer, Reshma Paralikal were required to file campaign finance reports pursuant to La. R.S. 18:1484.

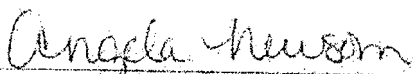
**WHEREAS**, La. R.S. 18:1505.1 provides that it is a violation of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act to fail to timely file campaign finance reports.

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with La. R.S. 18:1495.4D, Trina Trinhthi Chu was required to file a Supplemental Report by February 18, 2020. Trina Trinhthi Chu filed the report on February 26, 2020 and was 8 days late.

**WHEREAS**, La. R.S. 18:1505.4A(2)(a)(i) provides that an automatic late fee of \$100 per day (not to exceed \$2,500) be assessed against Trina Trinhthi Chu, her committee's chairperson, Vandana Chaturvedi and treasurer, Reshma Paralikal for this late filing.

**ACCORDINGLY, IT IS ORDERED** that a late fee of \$800 is assessed against Trina Trinhthi Chu, her committee's chairperson, Vandana Chaturvedi and treasurer, Reshma Paralikal for failure to timely file a 2019 Supplemental campaign finance disclosure report.

**ORDER** signed on the 10th day of August 2020 at Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

  
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Angela Newsom, Director  
Campaign Finance & Lobbying Division



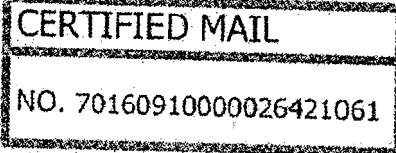
STATE OF LOUISIANA  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE CIVIL SERVICE  
**LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS**

P.O. BOX 4368  
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1-800-842-6630  
www.ethics.la.gov

Exhibit A  
p. 4 of 5  
**COPY**

September 21, 2016

COMMITTEE TO ELECT TRINA CHU  
P.O. BOX 53364  
SHREVEPORT, LA 71135



RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

RE: 10-G Campaign Finance Disclosure Report - March 5, 2016 Election  
Docket ID: 2016-789

Dear Committee to Elect Trina Chu:

At its September 2016 meeting, the *Board of Ethics*, in its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, (by majority vote) suspended a portion of the original late fee based on payment being made by October 24, 2016 and compliance with the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act in the future. Please submit a check or money order in the amount of \$500, payable to *Louisiana State Treasurer*, P. O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821 by October 24, 2016. **Please note that late fees can only be paid by the candidate or by his campaign.**

You have 30 days from the mailing of this notice to submit payment or dispute the assessment. To dispute this assessment, you may elect to do either or both of the following:

1. You may **request reconsideration** of the reduced amount to the *Board of Ethics*. If you choose to request reconsideration, your request should include additional information not previously provided. If you would like to appear before the *Board of Ethics* in connection with your request, you should state that in your letter. If you request an appearance, you will be notified of the place and time prior to the meeting. The request should be submitted to: *Louisiana Board of Ethics* Post Office Box 4368, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70821. You may also fax the request to 225/381-7271. If the *Board of Ethics* denies your request, you may appeal the reduced amount to the *Ethics Adjudicatory Board*.
2. You may **request an appeal** of the assessment to the *Ethics Adjudicatory Board*. If you choose to request an appeal, your request should be submitted to: *Louisiana Board of Ethics* Post Office Box 4368, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821. You may also fax the request to 225/381-7271.

If you do not pay or dispute the reduced amount of \$500 by October 24, 2016, then the original late fee becomes *immediately* due and owing. If payment is not received, the matter will be forwarded to the Attorney General's Office for collection. If the matter is forwarded to the Attorney General's Office for collection, you may be responsible for all additional costs incurred.

Additionally, the suspension is based on future compliance with the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act. Therefore, if you fail to comply with the CFDA in the future, the suspended portion of the late fee (in the amount of \$2000) shall be immediately due and owing.

Late fees not paid by the due date will be posted on the agency website. If you timely submit a request for reconsideration or appeal, your name will not be posted on the agency website pending the result. Lastly, it should be noted that any unpaid fines, fees, or penalties may have an adverse effect on your ability to run for public office, as the *Board of Ethics* will object to your candidacy in future elections pursuant to La. R.S. 18:491 and 18:492.

Sincerely,

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS.

*Jennifer J. Land*  
Jennifer T. Land

Exhibit A  
p. 5 of 5

STATE OF LOUISIANA LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS  
acting in its capacity as the  
SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE DISCLOSURE

In Re: Trina Chu  
10-G Report - March 5, 2016 Election

**LATE FEE ASSESSMENT ORDER**

WHEREAS, Trina Chu, as a candidate for Judge, Court of Appeal / 2nd Circuit, 3rd Dist., Elec. Sec. 1A in the March 5, 2016 election, her committee's chairperson, Jackie Dozier, were required to file campaign finance reports pursuant to La. R.S. 18:1484.

WHEREAS, La. R.S. 18:1505.1 provides that it is a violation of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act to fail to timely file campaign finance reports.

WHEREAS, in accordance with La. R.S. 18:1495.4B(5), the 10-G campaign finance disclosure report was due by March 30, 2016. Trina Chu filed the 10-G campaign finance disclosure report on July 20, 2016, 112 days late.

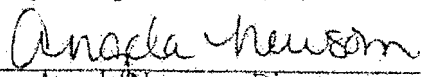
WHEREAS, La. R.S. 18:1505.4A(2)(a)(i) of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act provides that an automatic late fee of \$100 per day (not to exceed \$2,500) be assessed against Trina Chu, her committee's chairperson, Jackie Dozier for this late filing. On August 26, 2016, a \$2500 late fee was assessed against Trina Chu, her committee's chairperson, Jackie Dozier.

WHEREAS, on July 25, 2016, Trina Chu filed a request to waive the late fee. At its September 16, 2016 meeting, the Board of Ethics suspended the \$2000 of the \$2500 original late fee based on future compliance with the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that if Trina Chu does not pay the \$500 reduced late fee or dispute the assessment by October 24, 2016, the \$2500 becomes immediately due and owing.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that if Trina Chu fails to comply with the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act in the future, the \$2000 suspended late fee shall be immediately due and owing.

ORDER signed on the 21st day of September 2016 at Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

  
Angela Newsom, Director  
Campaign Finance & Lobbying Division



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*Exhibit B*  
*P. 1 of 2*

August 10, 2020

Vandana Chaturvedi  
Committee to Elect Trina Chu  
P.O. Box 53364  
Shreveport, LA 71135

**CERTIFIED MAIL**

NO. 70191640000203573239

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

RE: Late fee assessment for November 8, 2016 Election  
2019 Supplemental Campaign Finance Disclosure Report *filed 8 days late*

Dear Vandana Chaturvedi:

Enclosed is an assessment of a late fee pursuant to La. R.S. 18:1505.4 and La. R.S. 18:1511.4.1. Please submit a check or money order in the amount of \$480 payable to the Treasurer of the State of Louisiana to P.O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821. Please note that late fees can only be paid by the candidate or by his campaign.

You have 20 days from receipt of this letter to dispute this assessment. You may elect to do either or both of the following:

1. You may submit your request for a waiver to the attention of the Louisiana Board of Ethics.

Waivers are handled by the Ethics Board. The Board of Ethics may reduce, suspend, or decline to waive a late fee assessment based on the cause shown by the person, candidate, or political committee. If you submit a request for a waiver of the late fee to the Board of Ethics, your request should contain details as to why, in your opinion, you have good cause why your report was not timely filed. Also, if you would like to appear before the Board of Ethics in connection with your request, you should state that in your letter. The request should be submitted to the attention of the Board of Ethics at the following address: P.O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821 or fax at (225) 381-7271.

2. You may appeal the assessment directly to the Ethics Adjudicatory Board (EAB).

Appeals to the EAB are proceedings before a three judge panel. The determination is made regarding whether the person, candidate, or political committee was required to file the report and whether the report was filed late. Mitigating factors are not considered during an EAB proceeding. The EAB does not have the authority to reduce, suspend, or waive a late fee assessment. If you choose to appeal the assessment to the EAB, you should submit your request for an appeal to the attention of the Executive Secretary of the Louisiana Board of Ethics at P.O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821 or fax at (225) 381-7271.

If you timely submit a waiver request or appeal, your name will not be posted on the website pending the result of your appeal. Furthermore, if you request an appearance, you will be notified of the place and time prior to the meeting.

If you do not pay or dispute the assessment of the late fee within 20 days from the receipt of this letter, the matter will be forwarded to the Attorney General's Office to pursue collection. If the matter is forwarded to the Attorney General's Office for collection, you may be responsible for all additional costs incurred. Additionally, late fees not paid by the due date will be posted on the agency website.

*You should be aware that unpaid campaign finance fines, fees, or penalties may have an adverse effect on your ability to run for public office in the future, as the Board of Ethics will object to your future qualifications for candidacy for public office pursuant to La. R.S. 18:491 and R.S. 18:492.*

Sincerely,

*Melissa Horn*

Melissa Horn

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Fax Received 18:16:10 2020-08-17

Exhibit B  
p. 2 of 2

**STATE OF LOUISIANA LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS**  
acting in its capacity as the  
**SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE DISCLOSURE**

**In Re: Trina Trinhthi Chu**  
**November 8, 2016 Election**

**LATE FEE ASSESSMENT ORDER**

**WHEREAS**, Trina Trinhthi Chu, in her capacity as a candidate for Judge, Juvenile Court, Elec. Sect. 1C in the November 8, 2016 election, her committee's chairperson, Vandana Chaturvedi and treasurer, Reshma Paralikal were required to file campaign finance reports pursuant to La. R.S. 18:1484.


**WHEREAS**, La. R.S. 18:1505.1 provides that it is a violation of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act to fail to timely file campaign finance reports.

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with La. R.S. 18:1495.4D, Trina Trinhthi Chu was required to file a Supplemental Report by February 18, 2020. Trina Trinhthi Chu filed the report on February 26, 2020 and was 8 days late.

**WHEREAS**, La. R.S. 18:1505.4A(2)(a)(ii) provides that an automatic late fee of \$60 per day (not to exceed \$2,000) be assessed against Trina Trinhthi Chu, her committee's chairperson, Vandana Chaturvedi and treasurer, Reshma Paralikal for this late filing.

**ACCORDINGLY, IT IS ORDERED** that a late fee of \$480 is assessed against Trina Trinhthi Chu, her committee's chairperson, Vandana Chaturvedi and treasurer, Reshma Paralikal for failure to timely file a 2019 Supplemental campaign finance disclosure report.

**ORDER** signed on the 10th day of August 2020 at Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Angela Newsom, Director  
Campaign Finance & Lobbying Division



STATE OF LOUISIANA  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE CIVIL SERVICE  
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*Exhibit C*  
*P.1 of 2*

**CERTIFIED MAIL**

NO. 70191640000203573239

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

August 10, 2020

Vandana Chaturvedi  
Committee to Elect Trina Chu  
P.O. Box 53364  
Shreveport, LA 71135

RE: Late fee assessment for March 5, 2016 Election  
2019 Supplemental Campaign Finance Disclosure Report filed 8 days late

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Sincerely,

*Melissa Horn*

Melissa Horn

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Fax Received 18:16:10 2020-08-17

Exhibit C  
p. 2 of 2

**STATE OF LOUISIANA LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS**  
acting in its capacity as the  
**SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE DISCLOSURE**

**In Re: Trina Trinhthi Chu**  
**March 5, 2016 Election**

**LATE FEE ASSESSMENT ORDER**

**WHEREAS**, Trina Trinhthi Chu, in her capacity as a candidate for Judge, Court of Appeal, 2nd Circuit, 3rd Dist., Elec. Sec. 1A in the March 5, 2016 election, her committee's chairperson, Vandana Chaturvedi and treasurer, Reshma Paralikar were required to file campaign finance reports pursuant to La. R.S. 18:1484.


**WHEREAS**, La. R.S. 18:1503.1 provides that it is a violation of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act to fail to timely file campaign finance reports.

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with La. R.S. 18:1495.4D, Trina Trinhthi Chu was required to file a Supplemental Report by February 18, 2020. Trina Trinhthi Chu filed the report on February 26, 2020 and was 8 days late.

**WHEREAS**, La. R.S. 18:1505.4A(2)(a)(i) provides that an automatic late fee of \$100 per day (not to exceed \$2,500) be assessed against Trina Trinhthi Chu, her committee's chairperson, Vandana Chaturvedi and treasurer, Reshma Paralikar for this late filing.

**ACCORDINGLY, IT IS ORDERED** that a late fee of \$800 is assessed against Trina Trinhthi Chu, her committee's chairperson, Vandana Chaturvedi and treasurer, Reshma Paralikar for failure to timely file a 2019 Supplemental campaign finance disclosure report.

**ORDER** signed on the 10th day of August 2020 at Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Angela Newsom, Director  
Campaign Finance & Lobbying Division



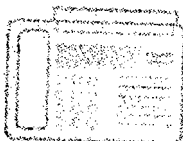
# FAX

**Trina T. Chu**

P. O. Box 53364

Shreveport, LA 71135

318-518-6492



To:

State of Louisiana

Department of State Civil Service

Louisiana Board of Ethics

P.O. Box 4368

Baton Rouge, LA 70821

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Regarding:

Dispute of late filing fees assessment

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Comments: 12 pages total, including this cover pages.



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