

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Attorney General
Office of Campaign and Political Finance

**State Senator Wilkerson Sued for
Campaign Finance Violations**

Alleged Violations Include More Than \$26,000 in Unreported Contributions and More Than \$18,000 in Unexplained Personal Reimbursements

September 28, 2005

BOSTON - State Senator Dianne Wilkerson (D-Boston) has been sued for numerous campaign finance violations, including more than \$26,000 in unreported contributions and more than \$18,000 in unexplained personal reimbursements, according to a lawsuit filed today by Attorney General Tom Reilly and Office of Campaign and Political Finance (OCPF) Director Michael J. Sullivan.

The complaint, filed today in Suffolk Superior Court, alleges that Wilkerson, her political committee, and her former campaign treasurer Ajibola Osinubi, violated campaign finance laws in seven separate ways between 2000-2001. Among the violations alleged in the complaint are:

- \$26,935 in contributions that were never reported to OCPF;
- \$13,503 in expenditures that were unreported or under-reported to OCPF;
- \$20,264 in reimbursements, including \$18,277 in personal reimbursements, for which Wilkerson has been unable to provide a legitimate campaign-related purpose;
- \$15,550 in "consulting fees" to four individuals, including Wilkerson's sons Cornell and Kendall Mills, for which Wilkerson has been unable to provide a legitimate campaign-related purpose;
- \$3,200 in contributions from six Political Action Committees (PAC) that were not reported to OCPF.

In August 2002, OCPF notified Wilkerson of the discrepancies in her campaign finance reports and of its intention to refer the matter to AG Reilly's Office. She was offered an opportunity to explain the discrepancies in a hearing, but chose not to do so. According to the complaint, once the matter was referred to the Attorney General's Office, Wilkerson was repeatedly asked to provide evidence to explain the alleged violations, but was "unable or unwilling to provide such information."

The complaint details seven specific counts that Wilkerson is charged with:

- Count I - Unreported or under-reported contributions and expenditures and balance discrepancies
- Count II - Unexplained reimbursements
- Count III - Unexplained expenditures
- Count IV - Unreported PAC contributions
- Count V - Illegal corporate contributions
- Count VI - Illegal PAC contribution
- Count VII - Improperly reported loans, improperly reported contributions from unincorporated businesses, and balance discrepancies.

The complaint seeks a court order forcing Wilkerson to amend her 2000 and 2001 OCPF reports to accurately account for all alleged discrepancies. It also seeks an order requiring Wilkerson to personally pay the Commonwealth for all contributions for which she is unable to properly disclose the contributor, and all reimbursements and expenditures for which she is unable to identify a legitimate campaign- related purpose, to pay civil penalties and investigative costs, and to be enjoined from taking further reimbursements from her campaign account.

This is not the first time Wilkerson has been sued for campaign finance violations. In 1998, Wilkerson entered into an agreement with OCPF and the Attorney General resolving allegations of unexplained expenditures and undisclosed PAC contributions. She and her committee agreed to pay back all unaccounted for expenditures and to pay civil penalties totaling \$11,500.

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