



Larry Shook <lwshook@gmail.com>

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1 message

Larry Shook <lwshook@gmail.com>

Sun, Aug 8, 2010 at 5:06 PM

To: Larry Shook <lwshook@gmail.com>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Donna McKereghan** <lady.socrates@comcast.net>

Date: Sat, Aug 7, 2010 at 7:19 PM

Subject: Re: ID question

To: Larry Shook <lwshook@gmail.com>

I'd appreciate it if you can find a place/way to refer to the online Legislative Ethics Manual. I don't think people are generally aware of the fact that there is a way and/or the process to file an ethics complaint against a legislator. However, complaints against candidates should be registered with the PDC, as that's not within the Legislative Ethics Board's jurisdiction unless the candidate is an incumbent State Legislator (Senator or Representative) or related legislative staff. Here's the link: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/docs/EthicsManual.pdf> It has a TON of information about what's allowed, what's not allowed, how to address it, some rules from our opinions and more. Many of these rules apply to all candidates for public office, though some of them do not. Further, my membership on the board is listed on page 3 of this manual, however, I would also appreciate it if you would make mention of the fact that my comments were as an ethicist and a private citizen and not as a member or in any way representing the Legislative Ethics Board - so there's no confusion about that. As a state officer, I am not allowed under law to be involved in any issue that involves state legislators or their staff, including elections, but I am allowed to be involved at the local and Federal levels, as long as the issue or public servant does not have a "legislative nexus" to the Washington State Legislature, i.e., is involved in writing or proposing bills or lobbying the State Legislator.

I was nominated for my position to the State Legislative Ethics Board by the Senate's Democratic Caucus and the nomination was vetted through then Gov. Gary Locke, who appointed me to the position in November, 2004. The Board is comprised of nine members - two Representatives and two Senators (one from each party, in both cases), four citizen members (also in an even distribution of political party alliance) and the ninth member is chosen by the four citizen members of the Board. The legislators are appointed by their respective houses (House of Representatives and the Senate), the citizen members apply or are recruited for those positions after hearing of an opening, in various ways. In my case, I was asked if I would be interested by a Senator, after one of Gov. Locke's legislative assistants suggested my name and other than that, I have no idea how the process went from the Governor's Office to the Senate, and back to the Governor's office. His office contacted me to assure that I was, in fact, open to the appointment and to interview me, after which time the Governor appointed me. I have always thought - though I may be in error - that the process went forward in such a way that I was investigated long before I was asked and interviewed and there was even more to the process, on their end, before I was appointed. I suppose it just makes good sense to be extra careful with an appointment such as this one. A Governor would not want an appointee to be an embarrassment to his or her office, later. And, as you know, Gary Locke is now a member of President Obama's cabinet.

Members commit to serve for five years or until they are replaced. Many serve for much longer than the five

year minimum commitment because they are not replaced, for whatever reason. I haven't a clue what those reasons might be, but people like former Washington State Supreme Court Chief Justice Jim Anderson was the Chair of the Board when I began and had been on the Board since it's inception. At this point, I think Sen. Debbie Regala is the only member who's been on the Board longer than I have and I'm certainly the longest serving citizen member on the Board.

That's assuredly more information than you wanted, but I think it covers it all pretty well and you can take what you want out of it and reword it, etc. The short answer is that, yes, I am a member of the Washington State Legislative Ethics Board. The Board hears and decides on complaints brought against legislators, their staff and employees of legislative agencies. Nominations come from a variety of sources, but we are appointed by the Governor and commit to serve a five year term or until we are replaced, which may be much longer.

I might also add that Former City Council Member Al French and I were the authors of the City of Spokane's Ethics Ordinance and we both worked diligent long hours to assure it's passage, since every other council that had entertained an Ethics Committee for the City had failed to be able to come up with one, much less pass it. Spokane was honored, together with other entities from throughout the State, at a reception at the University of Washington for the passage of this ordinance. I do not serve, nor have I applied to serve on that committee because, originally, some of the Council seemed to be of the opinion that there was a personal agenda behind the ordinance so I committed to them that I would never serve on that committee for as long as any members of the Council that was sitting at the time continued to be on the Council. I believe Bob Apple is the last of them and he will be termed out at the end of next year. Also, Mary Verner claimed credit for the ordinance with the SR's editorial board, but when we objected, we produced the emails proving that it had been the two of us and she wasn't able to produce any of her emails to prove her claim.

Hope that helps. If you have any further questions, just let me know.

Donna

----- Original Message -----

From: [Larry Shook](#)

To: [Donna McKereghan](#)

Sent: Saturday, August 07, 2010 12:51 PM

Subject: ID question

Hi, Donna: I'll soon post the blog I promised responding to the email you sent me regarding judicial ethics and the Siddoway/Dunham campaign. How should I identify you? You are a member of the State Legislative Ethics Board, correct? How should I describe that, its purpose, how members are appointed, length of service, etc.? Thanks, Larry
