



## UPDATE REGARDING SAN DIEGO'S CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS

This bulletin supplements previous Ethics Commission bulletins concerning the impact of the *Thalheimer v. City of San Diego* lawsuit on the City's Election Campaign Control Ordinance, and clarifies information provided in the bulletin issued on July 12, 2010. All previous bulletins are available on the Commission's website: [www.sandiego.gov/ethics](http://www.sandiego.gov/ethics).

### **Attribution Rules for Political Party Committee Contributions to City Candidates**

- ❖ Historically, the City's Election Campaign Control Ordinance has required general purpose recipient committees to attribute their City candidate campaign expenditures to individuals in amounts not exceeding \$500 per election, and to show compliance with attribution rules by re-reporting the individual contributions used to fund such expenditures.
- ❖ As a result of the *Thalheimer* litigation, the Ethics Commission decided that it will not be enforcing the re-reporting provisions of SDMC sections 27.2930(b) and (c), and 27.2936(d) for any contributions made by political party committees to City candidates during the time that the \$1,000 limit on contributions from political party committees is in effect. For additional information regarding this decision, please refer to the Commission's July 12, 2010, bulletin.
- ❖ At its meeting on September 9, 2010, the Commission clarified that it will also not be enforcing the attribution rules in SDMC section 27.2936(b) for any contributions made by political party committees to City candidates during the time that the \$1,000 limit on contributions from political party committees is in effect.
- ❖ The Commission's action on September 9, 2010, clarifies that a political party committee may use funds from any individual or non-individual in any amount so long as it does not exceed the \$1,000 limit when making a contribution to a City candidate.

The *Thalheimer* litigation is still pending and may result in additional changes to San Diego's campaign finance laws. Please contact the Ethics Commission at [ethicscommission@sandiego.gov](mailto:ethicscommission@sandiego.gov) or 619-533-3476 if you have questions regarding this matter.