



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
RUTH JOHNSON, SECRETARY OF STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
LANSING

November 7, 2012

Fieger & Fieger, P.C.  
Attn: Geoffrey Fieger  
19390 West 10 Mile Road  
Southfield, Michigan 48075

Dear Mr. Fieger:

The Department of State (Department) has received a complaint against Fieger & Fieger, P.C., alleging that the firm violated the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA or Act), 1976 PA 388, MCL 169.201 *et seq.*, which was filed by Greg McNeilly on October 31, 2012. The investigation and resolution of this complaint is governed by section 15 of the Act and the corresponding administrative rules, R 169.51 *et seq.* Copies of Mr. McNeilly's complaint and supporting documentation are enclosed with this letter.

Mr. McNeilly alleges that the firm violated the registration and disclosure requirements of the MCFA in relation to a television advertisement that advocated passage of Proposal 12-2. MCL 169.224(1), 169.234(1), and 169.247(4). Mr. McNeilly's allegations are described more fully in his complaint.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the Department's examination of this matter and your right to respond to this allegation before the Department proceeds further. It is important to understand that the Department is neither making this complaint nor accepting the allegations as true.

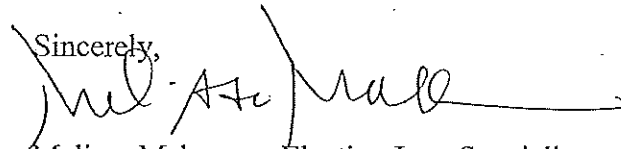
**If the firm wishes to file a written response to Mr. McNeilly's complaint, it must do so within 15 business days of this letter.** The firm's response may include any written statement or additional documentary evidence that is pertinent to the disposition of the complaint. All materials must be sent to the Department of State, Bureau of Elections, Richard H. Austin Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 430 West Allegan Street, Lansing, Michigan 48918 and must be received within 15 business days of the date of this notice. Due to the Thanksgiving holiday and the closure of state offices on November 22-23, the firm's response is due on or before November 30, 2012.

A copy of the firm's reply will be provided to the complainant, who will have an opportunity to submit a rebuttal statement to the Department. After reviewing all of the statements and materials provided by the parties in this matter, the Department will determine whether "there may be reason to believe that a violation of [the MCFA] has occurred [.]". MCL 169.215(10). Note that the Department's enforcement powers include the possibility of entering a conciliation agreement, conducting an administrative hearing, or referring this matter to the Attorney General for enforcement of the criminal penalties provided under the Act.

Finally, please note that Mr. McNeilly submitted a DVD recording of the television ad that is the subject of his complaint. A copy of this recording is not enclosed with this letter as it is assumed that the firm already possesses this record. However, a copy will be made available to you at your request.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, you may contact me at (517) 335-5456.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa Malerman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Melissa Malerman, Election Law Specialist  
Bureau of Elections  
Michigan Department of State

c: Greg McNeilly

2012 OCT 31 PM 2:34

***Complaint Against:***

*Fieger & Fieger, P.C.  
19390 West 10 Mile Road  
Southfield, MI 48075  
Telephone Number: (248) 355-5555  
Geoffrey N. Fieger, Registered Agent*

***Complainant:***

*Greg McNeilly  
P.O. Box 14162  
Lansing, Michigan 48901  
Telephone Number: (517) 679-2727*

Dated: October 31, 2012

---

Filed pursuant to MCL 169.215(5)  
and The Administrative Rules of the  
Michigan Department of State

Filed with:  
Michigan Department of State  
Legal and Regulatory Services Administration  
Richard H. Austin Building, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
430 West Allegan Street  
Lansing, Michigan 48918

## COMPLAINT

Complainant, Greg McNeilly, whose address is P.O. Box 14162, Lansing, Michigan 48901, Telephone: (517) 679-2727, declares to the Michigan Secretary of State the following:

### STATEMENT OF FACTS

1. Respondent Fieger & Fieger, P.C., is a Michigan Professional Service Corporation. Respondent Fieger & Fieger, P.C. is a "person" for the purposes of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act ("MCFA"). MCL 169.211(1). Geoffrey N. Fieger is the Resident Agent of Fieger & Fieger, P.C. See **Exhibit 1** attached.

2. Proposal 2 is a "ballot question" as defined in the MCFA. MCL 169.202(2). According to the official ballot language, Proposal 12-2 is: "A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION REGARDING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING". See **Exhibit 2** attached.

3. Beginning on or about October 9, 2012, the Respondent made "expenditures" as defined in Section 6(1) of the MCFA. MCL 169.206(1). Specifically, the Respondent financed a television advertisement (the "Advertisement") expressly advocating the passage of Proposal 2. The Advertisement provides in relevant part as follows:

PROPOSAL 2

☒ YES

☐

The text of the Advertisement is attached to this Complaint as **Exhibit 3**. A video of the Advertisement is attached to this Complaint as **Exhibit 4**.

4. The Advertisement indicates: "Paid for by Fieger & Fieger, P.C.".

5. The broadcast expenditures associated with the Advertisement are at least \$33,600. See **Exhibit 5** attached.

6. Protect Working Families (committee identification number is 515766) is a “ballot question committee” as defined in the MCFA. MCL 169.202(3). Protect Working Families is the ballot question committee supporting Proposal 2. Protect Working Families must report the fair market value of all in-contributions in support of Proposal 2 made as of October 21, 2012 on its pre-general campaign statement due on October 26, 2012. MCL 169.226(1)(b); MCL 169.234(1).

#### FAILURE TO REGISTER AS A COMMITTEE

7. Section 3(4) of the MCFA defines a “committee” as a “person who receives contributions or makes expenditures for the purpose of influencing or attempting to influence the action of the voters for or against the nomination or election of a candidate, or the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question, if contributions received total \$500.00 or more in a calendar year or expenditures made total \$500.00 or more in a calendar year.” MCL 169.203(4).

8. Once the person achieves “committee” status, Section 24(1) of the MCFA requires the committee to file a Statement of Organization and register as a “committee” within ten (10) days. MCL 169.224(1)

9. According to the page 6 of the Ballot Question Committee Manual published by the Michigan Department of State:

**I am the CEO of a corporation that will be affected adversely if an upcoming ballot proposal passes. My company wants to run some ads in the local newspaper, put up several billboards and circulate some brochures in opposition to this proposal. We would be using approximately \$95,000 of the company's money. Does my company have to form and register a Ballot Question Committee if we pay for these ads?**

Yes, because the expenditures would be independent expenditures and exceed the \$500 registration threshold.

10. Accordingly, if the Advertisement is an “independent expenditure”, then the Respondent was required to have registered as a “committee” by no later than October 19, 2012, which is 10 days after crossing the \$500 registration threshold.

11. Upon information and belief, the expenditures associated with the Advertisement are “independent expenditures” as defined in the MCFA. MCL 169.209(2). Because the Advertisement was paid for by the Respondent, the expenditures associated with the Advertisement are either “independent expenditures” or an “in-kind contribution”. If the Advertisement were an “in-kind contribution” to Protect Working Families, then Protect Working Families would have been required to report the Respondent’s in-kind contribution on its October 26, 2012 pre-general campaign statement, or be in violation of Section 34(7) of the MCFA for filing an inaccurate or incomplete campaign finance statement. MCL 169.234(7). Therefore, because Protect Working Families did not report the Advertisement as an in-kind contribution, the expenditures associated with the Advertisement are “independent expenditures” as defined in the MCFA.

12. Upon information and belief, Respondent Fieger & Fieger, P.C. has not registered as a “committee” under the MCFA.

#### **FAILURE TO FILE REQUIRED CAMPAIGN FINANCE STATEMENT**

13. Section 34 of the MCFA requires Respondent Fieger & Fieger, P.C. to file a pre-general campaign statement, since the Respondent achieved “committee” status prior to October 21, 2012 and participated in the election by making expenditures in support of Proposal 2. MCL 169.234(1).

14. Section 34 of the MCFA indicates that the pre-general campaign statement required to be filed by the Respondent was due October 26, 2012; however, to date, the

Respondent has failed to file a pre-general campaign statement as required by the MCFA. MCL 169.234(1).

**FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH IDENTIFICATION  
AND/OR DISCLAIMER REQUIREMENTS**

15. Section 47(4) of the MCFA requires the Advertisement to indicate that this television paid advertisement is paid for "with regulated funds". MCL 169.247(4).

16. Although the Advertisement expressly advocates the adoption of Proposal 2, it fails to bear upon it the required "with regulated funds" statement in violation of Section 47(4) of the MCFA.

**CONCLUSION**

Based on the foregoing:

17. The Respondent has violated Section 24 of the MCFA by failing to file a Statement of Organization with the Michigan Department of State; and

18. The Respondent has violated Section 34 of the MCFA by failing to file the pre-general campaign statement due October 26, 2012; and

19. The Respondent has violated Section 47(4) of the MCFA by failing to indicate that the Advertisement is paid for by "with regulated funds."

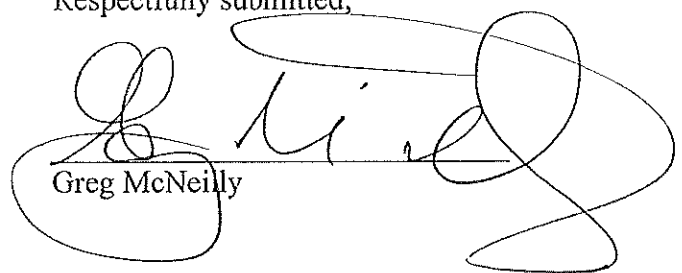
**REQUEST OF ACTION BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

Accordingly, the Complainant respectfully requests that the Secretary of State immediately investigate these violations and determine as a matter of law that Respondent Fieger & Fieger, P.C. has violated the MCFA, and assess all appropriate penalties for each violation.

I certify that to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, formed after a reasonable inquiry under the circumstances, each factual contention of this complaint is supported by evidence.

Dated: October 31, 2012

Respectfully submitted,

A stylized, cursive handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is written over a horizontal line. Below the line, the name "Greg McNeilly" is printed in a simple, sans-serif font. The signature itself is composed of several loops and flourishes, with the first part being a large, rounded 'G' and the last part being a long, sweeping tail that loops back under the main body of the signature.

Greg McNeilly



# EXHIBIT 1

DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
PROFIT CORPORATION INFORMATION UPDATE

2012

Due May 15, 2012 File Online at [www.michigan.gov/fileonline](http://www.michigan.gov/fileonline)

Identification Number <b>062109</b>	Corporation name <b>FIEGER &amp; FIEGER, P.C.</b>
Resident agent name and mailing address of the registered office  <b>GEOFFREY N. FIEGER 19390 W. 10 MILE SOUTHFIELD MI 480752463</b>	
The address of the registered office <b>19390 W. 10 MILE SOUTHFIELD MI 480752463</b>	

 Tran Info: 2 17447100-1 02/08/12  
 Chk#: 34173 Amt: \$25.00  
 ID: 062109
**FILED****MAR 08 2012**

by Department

Bureau of Commercial Services



To certify there are no changes from your previous filing check this box and proceed to Item 6. If the resident agent and/or registered office has changed complete Items 1-6 and attached list of shareholders. If only officer and director and/or shareholder information has changed complete Items 4-6 and shareholder list.

1. Mailing address of registered office in Michigan (may be a P.O. Box)		2. Resident Agent	
3. The address of the registered office in Michigan (a P.O. Box may not be designated as the address of the registered office)			
4. Describe the general nature and kind of business in which the corporation is engaged:			
5.			
	NAME	BUSINESS OR RESIDENCE ADDRESS	
If different than President	President (Required)		
	Secretary (Required)		
	Treasurer (Required)		
	Vice - President		
If different than Officers	Director		
	Director		
	Director		
6. Signature of authorized officer or agent <i>Harry H. Fieger</i>		Title <i>Office Manager</i>	Date <i>2-6-2012</i> Phone (Optional) <i>248-355-5555</i>

Please make your check or money order payable to the State of Michigan.  
Include payment with completed report in the same envelope.

Return to : Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs  
Bureau of Commercial Services, Corporation Division  
P.O. Box 30702  
Lansing, MI 48909  
(517) 241-6470

**Filing fee \$25****Report due May 15, 2012.****If received after May 15, penalty fees will be assessed.**

If more space is needed additional pages may be included. Do not staple any items to report. This report is required by Section 911, Act 284, Public Acts of 1972, as amended. Failure to file this report may result in the dissolution of the corporation. Late filing will result in penalty fees.

# EXHIBIT 2

## PROPOSAL 12-2

### A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION REGARDING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

This proposal would:

- Grant public and private employees the constitutional right to organize and bargain collectively through labor unions.
- Invalidate existing or future state or local laws that limit the ability to join unions and bargain collectively, and to negotiate and enforce collective bargaining agreements, including employees' financial support of their labor unions. Laws may be enacted to prohibit public employees from striking.
- Override state laws that regulate hours and conditions of employment to the extent that those laws conflict with collective bargaining agreements.
- Define "employer" as a person or entity employing one or more employees.

Should this proposal be approved?

YES \_\_  
NO \_\_

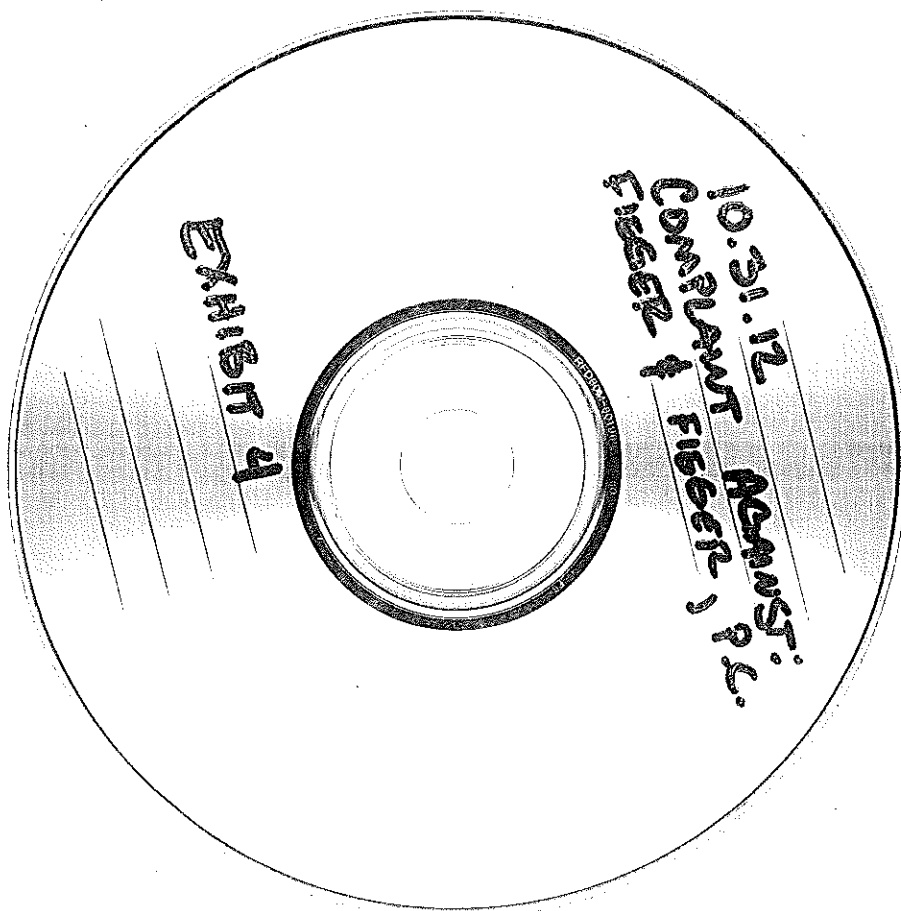
# EXHIBIT 3

**TELEVISION ADVERTISEMENT IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSAL 12-2  
PAID FOR BY FEIGER AND FEIGER, PLLC**

AUDIO:               *Verse of Joe Hill by Joan Baez:*  
I dreamed I saw Joe Hill last night,  
alive as you and me.  
Says I "But Joe, you're ten years dead"  
"I never died," said he,  
"I never died," said he.

ON SCREEN:       Various stock photos of workers in hardhats.  
*Superimposed text:*  
In Michigan  
Unions built our way of life  
And the middle class  
Proposal 2 ☒ Yes  
Paid for by Feiger and Feiger PC

EXHIBIT 4



# EXHIBIT 5



composive ps of 10/11/2012 4:00:30 PM

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MediaType AdSec

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<b>Flieger and Flieger</b>	Other	<b>DETROIT</b>	Broadcast	30	78	\$33,600	78	\$33,600
			<b>Total</b>		78	\$33,600	78	\$33,600



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
RUTH JOHNSON, SECRETARY OF STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
LANSING

January 10, 2013

Greg McNeilly  
P.O. Box 27503  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

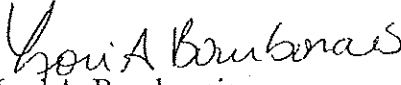
Dear Mr. McNeilly:

The Department of State (Department) received a response to the complaint you filed against Fieger & Fieger, P.C., which concerns an alleged violation of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act, 1976 P.A. 388, MCL 169.201 *et seq.* A copy of the response is provided as an enclosure with this letter.

Please note that this response was received by the Department on November 19, 2012. We attempted to forward a copy of the response to you via first-class mail on November 29, 2012, in an envelope addressed to Greg McNeilly, P.O. Box 14162, Lansing, Michigan 48901. This is the address that you provided to the Department when you filed your complaint. The envelope was not delivered by the U.S. Postal Service, and it was returned to the Department on January 7, 2012. The notation on the envelope indicates that it was returned to sender due to the addressee being unknown. I have enclosed a copy of the envelope with the notation and our original notice of the response.

If you elect to file a rebuttal statement, you are required to send it within 10 business days of the date of this letter to the Bureau of Elections, Richard H. Austin Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 430 West Allegan Street, Lansing, Michigan 48918.

Sincerely,

  
Lori A. Bourbonais  
Bureau of Elections  
Michigan Department of State

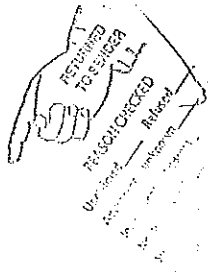
c: Geoffrey Fieger



Secretary of State  
Ruth Johnson  
[www.Michigan.gov/sec](http://www.Michigan.gov/sec)

LANSING, MICHIGAN 48918-0001

MS-ENR-13 (01/11)



Greg McNeilly  
P.O. Box 14162  
Lansing, Michigan 48901

25 01/02/13

2020 7

NIXIE

RETURN TO SENDER  
UNABLE TO FORWARD  
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RETURN TO SENDER

NO POSTAGE  
NECESSARY  
IF MAILED  
IN THE  
UNITED STATES



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
RUTH JOHNSON, SECRETARY OF STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
LANSING

November 29, 2012

Greg McNeilly  
P.O. Box 14162  
Lansing, Michigan 48901

Dear Mr. McNeilly:

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If you elect to file a rebuttal statement, you are required to send it within 10 business days of the date of this letter to the Bureau of Elections, Richard H. Austin Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 430 West Allegan Street, Lansing, Michigan 48918.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori A. Bourbonais".

Lori A. Bourbonais  
Bureau of Elections  
Michigan Department of State

c: Geoffrey Fieger

# FIEGER, FIEGER, KENNEY, GIROUX & DANZIG

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BERNARD J. FIEGER (1922-1988)  
MI AND NY BAR

GEOFFREY NELS FIEGER  
MI, FL AND AZ BAR

JEREMIAH JOSEPH KENNEY  
MI AND OH BAR (1949-2005)

ROBERT M. GIROUX  
JEFFREY A. DANZIG

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW SINCE 1950

19390 WEST TEN MILE ROAD  
SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN 48075-2463

TELEPHONE (248) 355-5555

FAX (248) 355-5148

WEBSITE: [www.fiegerlaw.com](http://www.fiegerlaw.com)

e-mail: [info@fiagerlaw.com](mailto:info@fiagerlaw.com)

JAMES J. HARRINGTON, IV

HELEN K. JOYNER

LEON J. WEISS  
MI AND FL BAR

MICHAEL T. RATTON

THOMAS R. WARNICKE

E. JASON BLANKENSHIP

BRIAN R. GARVES

CAROLINE M. WHITEMORE

JAMES S. CRAIG

MARTIN T. SHEPHERD

TERRY A. DAWES

*Appellate Department*

HEATHER A. GLAZER

SIMA G. PATEL

MI AND CO BAR

MATTHEW D. KLAKULAK

*Of Counsel*

BARRY FAYNE

JACK BEAM

November 14, 2012

Melissa Malerman, Election Law Specialists  
Bureau of Elections  
Richard H. Austin Building  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
430 W. Allegan  
Lansing, Michigan 48918

Re: Complaint against Fieger & Fieger, P.C.

Dear Ms. Malerman:

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding the complaint filed by Greg McNeilly against my firm for exercising its 1st Amendment Rights.

It appears that Mr. McNeilly fancies himself as a "Republican Strategist", who claims to have served as campaign manager for Dick DeVos. In the past, he has accused Michael Moore of breaking Michigan election laws by bribing college students to vote (Moore was apparently offering noodles and clean underwear during get-out-the-vote drives). See attached.

He has also previously sued your office over campaign contributions. See attached.

Mr. McNeilly has far too much time on his hands. Perhaps he also has some screws loose. See attached picture. I wouldn't be surprised to see him at a Star Wars convention.

You should henceforth establish a policy of quickly relegating his complaints to the circular file in your office. Because of the closing of most state psychiatric facilities, people like Mr. McNeilly are walking around unsupervised, without adequate medications.

BUREAU OF ELECTIONS  
MICHIGAN DEPT OF STATE

We rely upon the United States Supreme Court decision in the Citizens United case in terms of our exercise of 1st Amendment (protected political speech) rights; notwithstanding the meanderings of pseudolawyer Mr. McNeilly.

Good luck. This guy is unlikely to go away until he is appropriately diagnosed and treated.

Sincerely,  
DICTATED  
BUT NOT  
READ  
Geoffrey Fieger

GNF/vjk

P.S. Maybe he will next petition for Michigan to secede from the union.

IN YOUR COMMUNITY: JOBS AUTOS REAL ESTATE RENTALS CLASSIFIEDS OBITUARIES FIND N SAVE LOCAL BUSINESS AD



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NEWS BUSINESS SPORTS H.S. SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT LOCAL

# Republican strategist Greg McNeilly ends lawsuit against Michigan Secretary of State over campaign contributions



(<http://connect.mlive.com/user/jagargr/index.html>) By John Agar | [jagar@mlive.com](mailto:jagar@mlive.com)  
(<http://connect.mlive.com/user/jagargr/posts.html>)  
on September 21, 2012 at 3:26 PM, updated September 21, 2012 at 7:49 PM

Email () | Print

GRAND RAPIDS, MI –  
Republican strategist  
Greg McNeilly has  
dropped his lawsuit  
seeking to lift a state cap  
on campaign  
contributions.



Greg McNeilly

McNeilly sued the state in 2010, claiming that political donation limits set in 1976 haven't kept pace with inflation and weakened his voice in the election process. He believed that the limit gives an advantage to incumbents.

The state countered that studies have shown having lower financial maximum donations, \$500 to a candidate for state House, and \$1,000 to a Senate candidate, helps challengers take on sitting politicians. Other states have lower limits, too.

After McNeilly filed the suit, U.S. District Judge Janet Neff **rejected his request for a preliminary injunction** ([http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2010/08/judge\\_rejects\\_republican\\_strat.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2010/08/judge_rejects_republican_strat.html)) to prevent Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land from enforcing campaign finance laws limiting individuals contributions to state House of Representatives and Senate candidates.

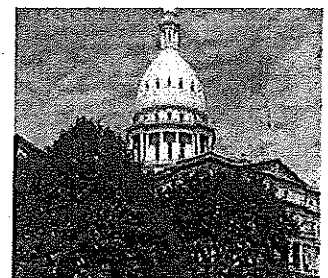
The case was put on hold while McNeilly appealed to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, and a panel recently affirmed Neff's ruling.

McNeilly said the parties have agreed to dismissal of the case, with no costs assigned to either side.

McNeilly was campaign manager in Dick DeVos' 2006 bid for governor, and served as executive director of the state Republican Party. He works for the DeVos family at The Windcrest Group but said he was acting on his own in filing lawsuit.

E-mail John Agar: [jagar@mlive.com](mailto:jagar@mlive.com) (<mailto:jagar@mlive.com>) and follow

## POST-ELECTION 2012



What's next for Michigan  
(<http://topics.mlive.com/topic/election-2012/posts.html>)

How the 2012 election results will at state's future **Read the latest »**  
(<http://topics.mlive.com/tag/post-2012/posts.html>)

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NEWS BUSINESS SPORTS H.S. SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT LOCAL

# DeVos associate Greg McNeilly sues state over campaign donor limits



(<http://connect.mlive.com/user/jagargr/index.html>) By John Agar | [jagar@mlive.com](mailto:jagar@mlive.com)  
(<http://connect.mlive.com/user/jagargr/posts.html>)

on June 29, 2010 at 10:14 AM, updated June 29, 2010 at 1:19 PM

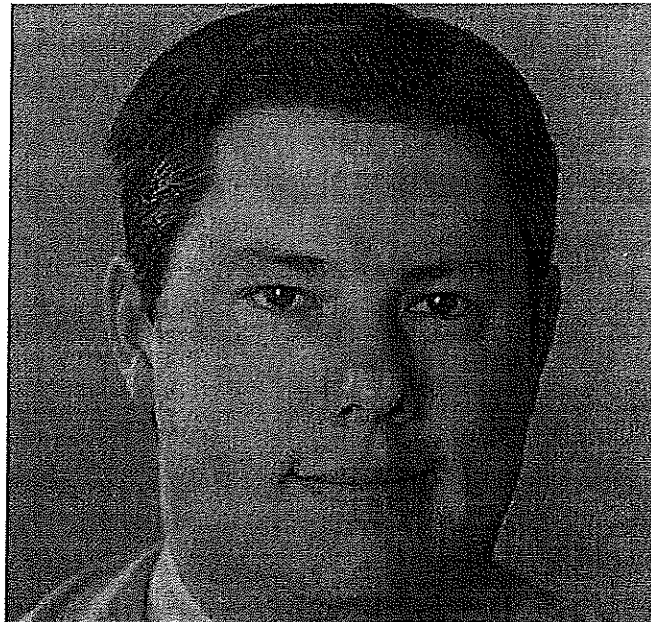
Email () | Print

## GRAND RAPIDS --

Republican strategist Greg McNeilly thinks he should have a greater say in his support of candidates.

He filed a federal lawsuit Monday, arguing, in part, that limiting individuals' spending in state races is unconstitutional.

Beyond that, the limits, set in 1976, ignore inflation that has turned a \$500 contribution back then into \$132 in today's dollars, he said.



Greg McNeilly

"The frustration with the process has been long-standing," McNeilly, once the campaign manager for Dick DeVos' bid for governor, said from his Lansing home. "This opportunity to (file suit) now arises from a very wide number of candidates that are out this election cycle."

He filed the lawsuit against Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land in her official capacity. He also requested a temporary injunction to prevent her from enforcing limits, and

## POST-ELEC



What's next  
(<http://topic/election-20>)

How the 2012 e  
state's future Re  
(<http://topics.m>)



asked the case be heard quickly with the Aug. 3 primary looming.

2012/posts.htm

Land's spokeswoman, Kelly Chesney, said she could not comment because Land has not been served with papers, and state attorneys had not been able to review the filing. The lawsuit was filed late Monday afternoon.

McNeilly, who has served as executive director of the state Republican Party, and works for The Windcrest Group, led by Betsy and Dick DeVos, said he was acting solely on his own in filing suit.

"Mr. McNeilly is ready, willing and able to contribute more than the maximum amount allowed ... to the campaign committees of persons running for election to the state House and state Senate," attorney Norman Witte said in the lawsuit.

"In order to freely associate with certain candidates, Mr. McNeilly wishes to make contributions of his own money to those candidates' campaign committees for the purpose of influencing the election of those candidates in Michigan's Aug. 3, 2010, primary," the attorney wrote.

Under election law, individuals cannot contribute more than \$500 to the campaign committee for a House of Representatives candidate, or \$1,000 for a Senate candidate.

McNeilly said he simply wants the public to better engage with the election process. He backed disclosure of donors, but said the limits are "disconcerting."

He also wants to change a 1989 amendment that limits contributions per "election cycle," rather than election, which in effect places additional limits on campaign donations when candidates are in contested primary elections.

"The amendment ... represents the only time in more than 33 years that Michigan has changed contribution limits imposed on individuals, and even then by increasing limits only on state Senate campaign committees by \$100. All other races (House, secretary of state, attorney general and governor) were unchanged," Witte wrote.

*E-mail John Agar: [jagar@grpress.com](mailto:jagar@grpress.com) (<mailto:jagar@grpress.com>)*

Tweet < 8

Like < 29

Share 0

## Add Your Comment

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# Greg McNeilly

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Greg McNeilly** is a Republican political strategist in the United States, is the owner of Fighthard.com which is an online source of information for "social entrepreneurs."

McNeilly is a regular host of WWJ (AM) talk-radio's Eye on Michigan Politics.<sup>[1]</sup>

McNeilly was one of AOL-Time Warner's Political Machine bloggers<sup>[2]</sup> during the 2008 Presidential campaign. Political Machine has since become Politics Daily.

In 2006, McNeilly served as campaign manager for Michigan gubernatorial candidate Dick DeVos. While unsuccessful at the ballot box, National Journal cited the DeVos campaign as the best run Republican challenger campaign of 2006. That cycle, no Republican challenger won election from the state house level to U.S. Senate; and only, in Wisconsin did a Republican win an open seat for Attorney General.

In 2005, he served as Recruiting & Strategy Director for the National Republican Senatorial Committee under the leadership of then U.S. Senator Elizabeth Dole (R-NC).

During the reelection campaign of President George W. Bush (R), McNeilly served as Executive Director of the Michigan Republican Party, then under the chairmanship of Betsy DeVos.

In 2002, McNeilly served as communications consultant to Don Carcieri's winning gubernatorial campaign against Myrth Yorkin Rhode Island.

In 2000, he served as Communications Director for the Michigan statewide ballot proposal "Kid's First Yes!" which sought to legalize k-12 school vouchers for children in underperforming school districts. In 2001, he was the Executive Director of Choices for Children a Michigan-based education reform advocacy group supporting greater taxpayer accountability in state-run k12 schools. He currently serves as Executive Director of the Great Lakes Education Project.<sup>[3]</sup>

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## Early years

McNeilly, according to the St. Johns Reminder,<sup>[4]</sup> got involved in politics early in life at age 8; volunteering for State Representative candidate, a neighbor, Alan Cropsey.

McNeilly graduated from Michigan State University with a B.S. in Social Studies, Politics and Economics. During his undergraduate tenure he won placement in an essay contest for doctoral students in the Mont Perlerin Society's Fredrick Hayek Essay Contest.

## Career

McNeilly managed his first campaign, an unsuccessful congressional effort by West Point graduate and retired U.S. Army Colonel, John Pappageorge in 1992. Congressman Sander Levin (D-MI) won by 7%.

In 1994, in a re-match the same outcome was experienced. This race saw Pappageorge outnumbered by a 3-to-1 ratio and in the end Pappageorge narrowed the loss to a 2.5% swing of the vote. The 1994<sup>[5]</sup> race earned national attention when then Congressman Newt Gingrich called the core of volunteers that helped the campaign "the Pappageorge Army...the best application of grassroots volunteers in America."

Beating out three others, McNeilly was elected to the state GOP's post of Youth Vice Chairman from 1993-1994. He was first employed at the central Republican Party's office in 1988, while still in high school, by then Chairman E. Spencer Abraham.

Later, in 1997, he returned to serve as the Communication's Director for the Michigan Republican Party and then in 1998-2000 as its Political Director. In 1998, Michigan Republicans had the most successful political year capturing all statewide offices, except Attorney General, including the state Supreme Court.

In 2003, he returned to the Michigan Republican Party to serve as Executive Director under Chairman Betsy DeVos. The duo inherited an organization \$1.2 million dollars in debt, the debt was overcome and the party was a key player in the 2004 electoral map.

In 2009, McNeilly served as a consultant to Michigan Republican Party Chairman Ron Weiser.

McNeilly, a product of both public and private schools, has been a key player in Michigan education reform battles. In 2000, he was Communication's Director for the Kids First Yes! ballot proposal that would have legalized k12 school vouchers and merit pay for teachers. In 2001, he was the Executive Director of a start-up school reform advocacy organization, Choices for Children. Since 2007, he has been Executive Director of the Great Lakes Education Project(GLEP) under its Chairman E. James Barrett.<sup>[6]</sup>

In late 2009, McNeilly announced he would be serving as Vice President of Administration for The Windquest Group, a company led by Betsy and Dick DeVos.

## Controversy

During the 2004 election cycle, McNeilly admitted to leading the charge to put independent Presidential candidate Ralph Nader on the ballot. McNeilly defended the move by claiming it was simply a matter of providing choice to the voters. Local Democrats filed legal action against him but ultimately failed and he was cleared of any wrongdoing.<sup>[7]</sup>

Later in the same election, McNeilly accused filmmaker Michael Moore of breaking Michigan election

law by bribing college students to vote.<sup>[8]</sup> Moore was offering noodles and clean underwear during Democrat get-out-the-vote drives.

The state capitol's insider publication *MIRS*,<sup>[9]</sup> wrote in a 2006 piece about McNeilly, he has "few undecideds. You know whether you like him or not."

## References

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Categories: American political consultants | American talk radio hosts | Living people

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STATE OF MICHIGAN  
RUTH JOHNSON, SECRETARY OF STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
LANSING

January 31, 2013

Fieger & Fieger, P.C.  
Attn: Geoffrey Fieger  
19390 West 10 Mile Road  
Southfield, Michigan 48075

Dear Mr. Fieger:

This letter concerns the complaint that was recently filed against Fieger & Fieger, P.C. by Greg McNeilly, which relates to purported violations of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA or Act), 1976 PA 388, MCL 169.201 *et seq.* The Department of State has received a rebuttal statement from the complainant, a copy of which is enclosed with this letter.

Section 15(10) of the MCFA, MCL 169.215(10), requires the Department to determine within 60 business days from the receipt of the rebuttal statement whether there is a reason to believe that a violation of the Act has occurred. Mr. McNeilly's complaint remains under investigation at this time. At the conclusion of the review, all parties will receive written notice of the outcome of the complaint.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lori A. Bourbonais".

Lori A. Bourbonais  
Bureau of Elections  
Michigan Department of State

c: Greg McNeilly

January 21, 2013

Melissa Malerman, Election Law Specialist  
Bureau of Elections  
Richard H. Austin Building  
430 W. Allegan, 1st Floor  
Lansing, MI 48918

BUREAU OF ELECTIONS  
IN DEPT OF STATE

2013 JAN 24 PM 3:17

Dear Ms. Malerman:

**Re: Complaint against Fieger & Fieger, P.C.: Rebuttal Statement to Nonresponsive Response**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in the above-referenced matter. While Mr. Fieger's Response is pithy and amusing, Mr. Fieger's personal attacks represent an attempt to distract the Michigan Department of State from enforcing clear violations of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act.

The Complaint in this matter alleged that Respondent Fieger & Fieger, P.C. failed to comply with the registration, reporting, and identification requirements of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act. Specifically, the Complaint in this matter demonstrates the following:

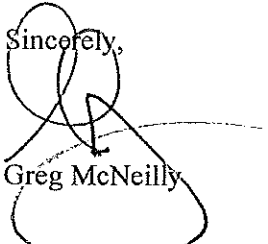
17. The Respondent has violated Section 24 of the MCFA by failing to file a Statement of Organization with the Michigan Department of State; and
18. The Respondent has violated Section 34 of the MCFA by failing to file the pre-general campaign statement due October 26, 2012; and
19. The Respondent has violated Section 47(4) of the MCFA by failing to indicate that the Advertisement is paid for by "with regulated funds."

Mr. Fieger's only substantive response is that he relies upon the United States Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United v Federal Election Commission*, 130 S. Ct 876 (2010). However, *Citizens United* expressly upheld the ability of the campaign finance laws to impose disclaimer and reporting requirements, such as the registration, disclosure, and identification requirements referenced in the Complaint. 130 S. Ct. 915-916.

Accordingly, Mr. Fieger's silence on the merits of the Complaint represents a deafening admission that the Michigan Campaign Finance Act has been violated, as set forth in the Complaint. Given respondent's flippant reply that fails to address any of the issues raised, we respectfully ask the Department to impose any and all penalties permitted under law and to further refer this matter to the Attorney General for enforcement of all criminal penalties pursuant to Section 15(10)(a) of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act.

Thank you for your assistance in this serious matter.

Sincerely,



Greg McNeilly

30760:00001:1532240-1



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
RUTH JOHNSON, SECRETARY OF STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
LANSING

April 22, 2013

Fieger & Fieger, P.C.  
Attn: Geoffrey Fieger  
19390 West 10 Mile Road  
Southfield, Michigan 48075

Dear Mr. Fieger:

The Department of State (Department) has concluded its review of the complaint filed against Fieger and Fieger, P.C. by Greg McNeilly, alleging that the firm violated the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA), 1976 PA 388, MCL 169.201 *et seq.*

Mr. McNeilly alleged that Fieger and Fieger, P.C. violated the registration and disclosure requirements of the MCFA in relation to a television ad that advocated the passage of Proposal 12-2, in failing to file a statement of organization as a ballot question committee within 10 days of its formation, failing to file a campaign statement, and omitting the phrase, "with regulated funds" from the ad's identification statement. MCL 169.224(1), 169.234(1), and 169.247(4). You submitted a letter in response dated November 14, 2012, and Mr. McNeilly filed a rebuttal statement dated January 21, 2013.

A statement of organization must be filed within 10 days of the formation of a committee. MCL 169.224(1). On December 17, 2012, the Department received a statement of organization for Fieger and Fieger, P.C., an independent expenditure political committee, executed on November 29, 2012. According to the statement of organization, the Fieger and Fieger, P.C. committee formed on September 1, 2012.

Mr. McNeilly provided evidence tending to establish that the television ad sponsored by Fieger and Fieger, P.C. was broadcast on or about October 9, 2012 and cost at least \$33,600.00 to air. This evidence is consistent with the committee's statement of organization, which indicated that the "[c]ommittee spent or received or expects to spend or receive in excess of \$20,000 and is required to file electronically."

An independent expenditure political committee is required to file campaign statements in February, April, July, and October of each year.<sup>1</sup> MCL 169.233(3). At a minimum, Fieger and

<sup>1</sup> 2012 PA 273, effective December 30, 2012, simplified the filing schedule for independent and political committees by establishing an annual, quarterly reporting schedule with statements due in February, April, July, and October. Under the law that was in effect during the 2012 general election campaign, Fieger and Fieger, P.C. was required to file a campaign statement on October 25, 2012.

Fieger, P.C. was required to file a campaign statement on October 25, 2012, covering the period September 1, 2012 (the date of the committee's formation) through October 20, 2012.<sup>2</sup> Contributions made and expenditures received during the reporting period, including at least \$33,600.00 of contributions received and expenditures made for the Proposal 12-2 television ad, were required to be disclosed on the October 2012 campaign statement. In addition, if Fieger and Fieger, P.C. received any contributions or made any expenditures between October 21, 2012 and February 10, 2013, it may owe the campaign statement that was due on February 15, 2013 and associated late filing fees. MCL 169.233(3)(a), (7). As of this writing, Fieger and Fieger, P.C. has not filed any campaign statements other than a single-page dissolution campaign statement dated March 13, 2013.

Mr. McNeilly also alleged that Fieger and Fieger, P.C. omitted the phrase, "with regulated funds" from the ad's identification statement. Under MCL 169.247(4), print or broadcast advertisements (other than those sponsored by candidate committees) must include this phrase. The television ad that prompted Mr. McNeilly's complaint indicates that it is, "Paid for by Fieger and Fieger PC."

Based on the foregoing, the Department finds that there may be reason to believe that Fieger and Fieger, P.C. violated the MCFA. MCL 169.215(10). Having made this determination, the Department is required by law to attempt to resolve this matter informally. *Id.* The Department now offers you this opportunity to informally resolve Mr. McNeilly's complaint by executing the enclosed conciliation agreement, which requires Fieger and Fieger, P.C. to file a campaign statement disclosing all contributions received and expenditures made between September 1, 2012 and October 20, 2012, and pay late filing fees totaling \$1,300.00 for the belated filing of the statement of organization and October 2012 campaign statement.

If Fieger and Fieger, P.C. accepts this settlement, it must submit the executed conciliation agreement, copy of the campaign statement filed with the Bureau of Elections, and payment in full to this office on or before May 8, 2013. Payment must be made by check or money order payable to the State of Michigan; please include the notation, "Conciliation Agreement, Attn: Bureau of Elections" on your check or money order.

Please be advised that if the Department is unable to resolve Mr. McNeilly's complaint informally, it is required by MCL 169.215(10)-(11) to:

- (1) Refer the Fieger and Fieger, P.C. committee to the Attorney General with a request that his office prosecute it for the crime of failing to file a statement of organization for more than 30 days, a misdemeanor violation of MCL 169.224(1), and if applicable, for the crime of failing to file two or more campaign statements, a misdemeanor violation of MCL 169.233(8); and/or
- (2) Conduct an administrative hearing to enforce the civil penalty provided in MCL 169.233(7) for failing to timely file a single campaign statement. If the Department prevails at the hearing, an order may be issued requiring Fieger and Fieger, P.C. to pay a

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<sup>2</sup> See former MCL 169.233(3)(b)(iii).



civil fine equal to triple the amount of its undisclosed, and therefore improper, contributions and expenditures, plus up to \$1,000.00.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mel. A. Malerman", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Melissa Malerman, Election Law Specialist  
Bureau of Elections  
Michigan Department of State

Enclosure



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
RUTH JOHNSON, SECRETARY OF STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
LANSING

**In the Matter of:**

**Fieger and Fieger, P.C.  
Geoffrey Fieger, Treasurer  
19390 West 10 Mile Road  
Southfield, Michigan 48075**

**Committee Id. No. 516302-7**

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**CONCILIATION AGREEMENT**

Pursuant MCL §169.215(10) of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (the Act), MCL §169.201 *et seq.*, the Secretary of State and Fieger and Fieger, P.C. (Respondent) hereby enter into a conciliation agreement with respect to certain acts, omissions, methods, or practices prohibited by the Act.

The Secretary of State alleges that there may be reason to believe that the Respondent violated MCL §169.224(1) by failing to file a statement of organization with the Secretary of State within 10 days of the committee's formation.

The Secretary of State further alleges that there may be reason to believe that the Respondent violated MCL §169.233(3) by failing to file a campaign statement with the Secretary of State covering the period September 1, 2012 through October 20, 2012, on or before October 25, 2012.

The Secretary of State further alleges that there may be reason to believe that the Respondent violated MCL §169.247(4) by omitting the phrase, "with regulated funds" from the identification statement of a television ad having reference to a ballot question.

Therefore, the Respondent, without admitting any issue of law or fact, except as stated herein, hereby voluntarily enters into this conciliation agreement and assures the Secretary of State that it will comply with the Act and the Rules promulgated to implement the Act.

By executing this conciliation agreement, the Respondent certifies that it has done all of the following:

(1) Filed a complete and accurate campaign statement with the Secretary of State, disclosing all contributions received and expenditures made during the relevant reporting period.

(2) Paid in full all late filing fees owed on account of the Respondent's belated filing of the statement of organization (\$300.00) and October 2012 campaign statement (\$1,000.00), by check or money order payable to the State of Michigan.

The Secretary of State and the Respondent further agree that this agreement is in effect and enforceable for four years from the date it is signed by the Secretary of State or her duly authorized representative.

The Secretary of State and the Respondent further agree that this agreement, unless violated, shall constitute a complete bar to any further action by the Secretary of State with respect to the alleged violation that resulted in the execution of this agreement.

The Secretary of State and the Respondent further agree that the complaint and investigation that resulted in this agreement are disposed of and will not be the basis for further proceedings, except pursuant to this agreement.


The Secretary of State and the Respondent further agree that this agreement will not prevent the Secretary of State from taking action for violations of this agreement.

The Secretary of State and the Respondent further agree that the Respondent's performance under this agreement shall be given due consideration in any subsequent proceedings.

The Secretary of State and the Respondent further agree that this agreement, when signed, shall become a part of the permanent public records of the Department of State.

The Secretary of State and the Respondent finally agree that the signatories below are authorized to enter into and bind the parties to this agreement, and have done so by signing this agreement on the date below.

**RUTH JOHNSON  
SECRETARY OF STATE**



**Christopher M. Thomas, Director  
Bureau of Elections**

**Date:**

November 6, 2013

**RESPONDENT**



**Geoffrey Fieger, Treasurer  
Fieger and Fieger, P.C.**

**Date:**

MAY 4, 2013