MAR - 1 2011
STATE ETHICS
COMMISSION

LOBBYIST FILING AGREEMENT

This Agreement, made this 1st day of March, 2011, by and between William A. Castelli, lobbyist for the Maryland Association of Realtors, Inc., and William J. Colquhoun, Staff Counsel to the Maryland State Ethics Commission (hereinafter "Staff Counsel").

RECITALS

- 1. The State Ethics Commission ("the Commission") is the executive agency of the State of Maryland established by Chapter 513, Acts of 1979 for the purpose of enforcing the Maryland Public Ethics Law (State Government Article, Title 15, Annotated Code of Maryland) (hereinafter the "Public Ethics Law") including the provisions of Subtitle 7, the lobbying disclosure program.
- The Public Ethics Law allows members of a "legislative unit" to be provided food and beverages as part of a reception or meal. Md. Code Ann., State Gov't Art. § 15-708 (Supp. 2010). A "legislative unit" is defined as the entire General Assembly, either house of the General Assembly, a standing committee, a county or regional delegation of members of the General Assembly recognized by a presiding officer. Md. Code Ann., State Gov't Art. §15-102(w)(1-4). Presently there are 12 recognized county or regional delegations (Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County, Harford County, Howard County, Lower Eastern Shore, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Southern Maryland, Upper Eastern Shore and Western Maryland). A list the county or regional delegations deemed to be "legislative units" is published by the Commission and available by request and on its website. A regulated lobbyist must extend a written invitation to all members of the legislative unit that are invited to the meal or reception and complete the Commission's Form # 13E ("Five Day Notice") at least 5 days before the date of the meal or reception. Md. Code Ann., State Gov't Art. § 15-708(a). Thereafter, the regulated lobbyist must file Form #13F ("Fourteen Day Report") 14 days after the meal or reception disclosing its total cost and any other sponsors and their contributions to the meal or reception. Md. Code Ann., State Gov't Art. § 15-708(d).
- 3. William A. Castelli (the "filer") is a regulated lobbyist registered on behalf of the Maryland Association of Realtors, Inc. (the "Association").
- 4. In December 2007, the filer filed a Five Day Notice on behalf of the Association which indicated that it was holding a legislative event on December 11, 2007 for the Cecil County Delegation (the "Event"). The Cecil County Delegation is part of the Upper Eastern Shore Delegation. As such, the Association did not invite an entire legislative unit to the Event as required by the Public Ethics Law.

- 5. The filer timely filed a Fourteen Day Report for the Event, but incorrectly listed the legislative unit as the invitee in the report.
- 6. The filer has filed amended Five Day Report and Fourteen Day Report for the Event. The amended reports correctly list the actual invitees to the Event.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the submission of amended reports by the filer, and the admissions and agreements herein contained, the filer and Staff Counsel stipulate and agree as follows:

- A. The filer did not invite a legislative unit as defined by Md. Code Ann., State Gov't Art. §15-102(w)(1-4) to the Event.
- B. The filer subsequently amended the filings with the Commission to reflect the actual invitees to the Event (copies of which have been attached hereto and made a part thereof).
- C. The filer understands that failure to comply with the lobbying disclosure provisions of the Ethics Law may subject him to a formal complaint by the Commission and, upon finding of a violation, late fees and the possibility of civil fines.
- D. Based on the facts stated in this agreement the filer agrees to pay as settlement of the late filing matter, the amount of TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY and no/100 Dollars (\$250.00) at the time of the execution of this agreement in lieu of potential late fees and civil fines for the failure to properly invite an entire legislative unit.
- E. The Staff Counsel will, upon execution of this Agreement by the filer, recommends that the Commission not institute any proceedings on the filer's failure to invite a "legislative unit" to the Event. The filer understands that the Commission is under no obligation to accept this agreement and may decide to take other action, including issuing a complaint.
- F. The filer waives a formal hearing on this matter (if the agreement is accepted by the Commission) to which it would be entitled if a complaint were issued, and it understands that this Agreement and materials relating to this matter are not subject to the confidentiality provisions of the Ethics law, and will be public information unless otherwise protected.
 - G. The filer understands a copy of this agreement will be mailed to the employer.
- H. The filer and the Staff Counsel have entered into this Agreement for the sole purpose of resolving the failure to invite an entire legislative unit and for the payment of a fee in lieu of a fine and for no other purpose.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, William A. Castelli and William J. Colquhoun, Staff Counsel to the State Ethics Commission, have hereunto set their hands.

SIGNATURE APPEARS ON ORIGINAL AGREEMENT

William J. Colquhoun, Staff Counsel State Ethics Commission 45 Calvert Street, 3rd Floor Annapolis, MD 21401 (410) 260-7770

SIGNATURE APPEARS ON ORIGINAL AGREEMENT

William A. Castelli Lobbyist for Maryland Association of Realtors, Inc.

State of Maryland County of:, to wit:
Before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for the State and County aforesain personally appeared William A. Castelli, who made oath on this day of, 2011 in due form of law that the matters and facts hereinabove set for are true to the best of his knowledge, information and belief, and are his voluntary act and that he executed this document for the purpose set forth herein.
SIGNATURE APPEARS ON
SIGNATURE APPEARS ON ORIGINAL AGREEMENT
Notary Public 7
My Commission Expires: June 18 2014 Kimberry D. Dansker

ORIGINAL AGREEMENT

Robert F. Scholz, Chair for the Commission