

2017 Lobbyist Registration Audit of Gif Thornton

FINDING(S)

Gif Thornton failed to timely register for one of his employers (See Registrations section).

EMPLOYER(S)

- 50CAN INC dba StudentsFirst Tennessee
- Aegis Sciences Corporation
- BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. d/b/a AT&T Tennessee
- Employers Holding Inc.
- Fresenius Medicare Care
- Metro Nashville Government
- Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority
- NAIFA
- Tennessee Bar Association
- The Auto Club Group
- The Daily News Publishing Co.
- The Phoenix Sciences Group LLC

REGISTRATION(S)

Mr. Thornton registered as a lobbyist for twelve employers during 2017. Based on the audit documentation, Mr. Thornton timely registered his lobbying relationship with eleven employers. The remaining relationship appears to have been registered late. The detail of this registration is in the subsequent paragraph.

Mr. Thornton works for a firm which contracts with several clients for lobbying services. The firm which employs Mr. Thornton contracted with Metro Nashville Government for lobbying services. The client appears to be a new client for the firm in 2017. Based on the contract provided for the client, a lobbying relationship requiring registration appears to commence on January 1, 2017. Therefore, the audit determined Mr. Thornton was required to register within seven days of the agreement, January 8, 2017. The lobbyist did not register until January 9, 1 day late.

Based on review of the Bureau of Ethics and Campaign Finance's lobbyist records, Mr. Thornton paid all registration fees.

LOBBYING AGREEMENT(S)

Based on a review of the audit documentation provided by Mr. Thornton, he was a contracted lobbyist employed by a firm. The firm had written contracts or letters of understanding with each employer. The terms of these documents appear to be within the statutes for lobbying activities including having no terms for contingency payments based on lobbying success.

FAMILY OR BUSINESS ARRANGEMENTS WITH PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Mr. Thornton reported the following concerning business relationships with persons who were officials in the legislative branch or officials in the executive branch:

“As disclosed originally by letter, dated May 1, 2016 from myself to Mr. Drew Rawlins, Mark Norris joined Adams and Reese in 2006 as part of a group of 15 lawyers from the firm of Armstrong Allen. Mr. Norris is an attorney assigned principally to our litigation practice.”

Mr. Thornton’s disclosure meets the statutory requirements of business relationships with persons who were officials in the legislative branch or officials in the executive branch.

TRAINING

Based on review of the Bureau of Ethics and Campaign Finance’s lobbyist records, Mr. Thornton completed his required lobbyist training for the 2017 registration year and paid all training fees.