

2020 Lobbyist Registration Audit of Susan Ritter

FINDING(S)

- 1. Susan Ritter failed to timely register for one employer.**
- 2. Susan Ritter failed to complete the required lobbyist training.**

EMPLOYER(S)

- Home Builders Association of TN

REGISTRATION(S)

Susan Ritter registered as a lobbyist for one employer during 2020. Based on the audit documentation, Susan Ritter failed to timely register the lobbying relationship with the employer. Based on the records provided, Susan Ritter contracted with Home Builders Association of TN. The contract terms established the relationship at the beginning of the year, January 1, 2020. Therefore, Susan Ritter was required to register by January 8, 2020 to be within the seven days as required by statute. The lobbyist did not register until January 16, 2020, 8 days late.

Based on review of the Bureau of Ethics and Campaign Finance's lobbyist records, Susan Ritter paid all registration fees

LOBBYING AGREEMENT(S)

Based on a review of the audit documentation provided, Susan Ritter was a contracted lobbyist who had a written contract with the Home Builders Association of TN. The terms of the contracts 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

Susan Ritter reported no business or familial relationships with persons who were officials in the legislative branch or officials in the executive branch.

TRAINING

According to the Bureau of Ethics and Campaign Finance's lobbyist records, Susan Ritter did not complete the required lobbyist training for the 2020 registration year. T.C.A. § 3-6-114(b) requires each registered lobbyist to complete an annual training course. When a lobbyist completes the training online, the system records the training on the web-based system. If the lobbyist attends the legislative ethics training, their name is recorded at the training event and then administratively entered into the system records. Based on the review of the system records, Susan Ritter did not complete the training online or by attendance during 2020. The Bureau of Ethics and Campaign Finance's lobbyist records indicate Susan Ritter paid all training fees.