

# SOUTHEAST LAW INSTITUTE™

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Dear Friends and Supporters,

We are just now coming to grips with the recent mid-term primary elections. Both the Republican and Democratic parties in Alabama had candidates for most offices. We may or may not be personally satisfied with all of the results. There will be several run-offs on June 16.

One thing that troubled us leading up to the election was the amount of gambling money coming into the elections. Millions of dollars were funded through both federal and state political action committees ("PACs"). One of the problems is that the PACs did not report where all of the money was coming from, but research showed it was coming from gambling interests. This causes a great deal of concern for those groups who work on gambling issues in Alabama.

This month's educational update is a letter written on behalf of some of those groups. The letter will be self-explanatory. At this time, we have had no response from the Attorney General's office. The Secretary of State's office responded and is aware of the problem. Law enforcement mechanisms do not tell you if or who they are investigating. The Secretary of State's office does not bring criminal charges but would refer those to the appropriate law enforcement agencies. However, both the Secretary of State's office and the Attorney General's office would have authority to investigate.

Federal PACs which were funneling money into Alabama filed their reports with the Federal Election Commission. Some believe that is sufficient and not required to be filed under the Alabama Fair Campaign Practices Act, which requires more detail. There is an inconsistency in the FCPA about whether a federal PAC must file with the state and with the federal. The only reference in the FCPA is that a "separate, segregated political fund," that is a fund set up by a corporation for its employees to make political contributions, must only file only with the FEC. Otherwise, the law is silent, and we believe these federal PACs should have been complying with Alabama law reporting.

We are concerned about the influence of these millions of dollars on legislators in a special session or the next regular session for support of passing gambling laws in Alabama. We hope law enforcement agencies will do their investigation, prosecute if necessary, and otherwise inform us as to who is behind all of the gambling money.

Thank you for your continuing support. With personal regards, I am,

Yours very truly,



A. Eric Johnston

AEJ/mm

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