

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This agreement made and entered into between the Executive Branch Ethics Commission (hereinafter the "Commission") and Rhonda Monroe.

WHEREAS, this agreement involves the matter styled *Executive Branch Ethics Commission v. Rhonda Monroe*, Case No. 13-008;

WHEREAS, the Commission is designated by statute as the agency responsible for enforcing the Executive Branch Code of Ethics, KRS Chapter 11A;

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2013, the Commission alleged facts in an Initiating Order that Rhonda Monroe violated the Executive Branch Code of Ethics codified at KRS 11A.020(1)(a), (b), (c), and (d);

WHEREAS, Rhonda Monroe was at all relevant times mentioned in the Initiating Order a "public servant" as defined in KRS 11A.010(9) and thus subject to the Executive Branch Code of Ethics; and

WHEREAS, Rhonda Monroe indicates her desire to resolve all issues in this action by the execution of a Settlement Agreement.

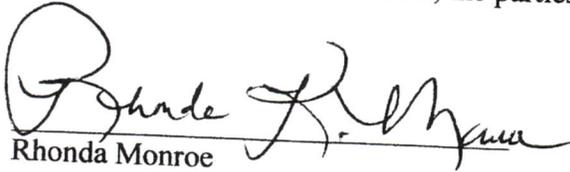
NOW, THEREFORE, in settlement of the above allegations, the Commission and Rhonda Monroe agree, pursuant to KRS 11A.100, as follows:

1. Rhonda Monroe admits that she committed violations of the Executive Branch Code of Ethics codified at KRS 11A.020(1)(a), (b), (c), and (d), as stated in Appendix A to the Commission's Initiating Order of March 18, 2013, attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein.
2. Rhonda Monroe agrees to pay the Commission a civil penalty of six thousand dollars (\$6,000.00) on or before September 8, 2014.
3. Rhonda Monroe agrees to cooperate fully with the Commission in any further investigations and will submit complete, accurate, and truthful interviews and provide complete, accurate, and truthful testimony in any Commission proceedings in which she may be called as a witness.
4. Rhonda Monroe agrees that upon an Agreed Final Order being issued by the Commission that she waives all rights to any further administrative process or appeal pursuant to KRS 13B.140 thereon.
5. The parties further agree that the acceptance of this Settlement Agreement by both parties, and the fulfillment of its express terms, is in full accord and satisfaction of

the herein referenced *Executive Branch Ethics Commission v. Rhonda Monroe*, Agency Case No. 13-008.

6. This Settlement Agreement constitutes a public reprimand to Rhonda Monroe, a copy of which will be provided to her former appointing authority, pursuant to KRS 11A.100(3)(c).

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the parties have caused this agreement to be executed:

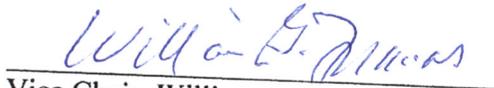

Rhonda Monroe

09/08/2013
Date

EXECUTIVE BRANCH ETHICS COMMISSION:


Chair, William David Denton

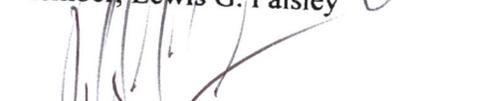
9/9/2013
Date


Vice Chair, William G. Francis

9/9/2013
Date


Member, Lewis G. Paisley

9/9/2013
Date


Member, Richard L. Masters

9/9/2013
Date

Absent
Member, Martin E. Johnstone

9/9/2013
Date

**APPENDIX A
CASE NO. 13-08
INITIATING ORDER**

ALLEGATION OF VIOLATIONS

The Respondent, Rhonda Monroe, was at all relevant times an employee of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, serving in the Kentucky Registry of Election Finance. As such, the Respondent was subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission. KRS 11A.010(9)(h).

During the course of its preliminary investigation, the Commission found probable cause to believe that Rhonda Monroe committed the following violations:

COUNT I

Rhonda Monroe, during her course of employment as the Assistant Executive Director, Kentucky Registry of Election Finance, used or attempted to use her influence in matters that involved a substantial conflict between her personal or private interest and her duties in the public interest; used or attempted to use any means to influence a public agency in derogation of the state at large; used her official position to obtain financial gain for her family member; and used or attempted to use her official position to secure or create privileges, exemptions, advantages, or treatment for others in derogation of the public interest.

Specifically, during 2007, Monroe used or attempted to use her knowledge of election finance laws, practices and procedures to assist her brother, who was running for a second term as the Commissioner of Agriculture, to fraudulently claim campaign-related expenses in order for him to obtain reimbursement from his campaign fund account for his personal financial gain. Early in 2007, Monroe advised her brother and his then current spouse to claim mileage and expenses for reimbursement from his campaign account for trips that he did not actually make and for trips that were actually made by his then current spouse for her private direct sales business.

These facts constitute violations of KRS 11A.020(1)(a), (b), (c), and (d).

KRS 11A.020(1)(a), (b), (c), and (d) provide:

- (1) No public servant, by himself or through others, shall knowingly:
 - (a) Use or attempt to use his influence in any matter which involves a substantial conflict between his personal or private interest and his duties in the public interest;
 - (b) Use or attempt to use any means to influence a public agency in derogation of the state at large;
 - (c) Use his official position or office to obtain financial gain for himself or any members of the public servant's family; or
 - (d) Use or attempt to use his official position to secure or create privileges, exemptions, advantages, or treatment for himself or others in derogation of the public interest at large.

COUNT II

Rhonda Monroe, during her course of employment as the Assistant Executive Director, Kentucky Registry of Election Finance, used or attempted to use her influence in matters that involved a substantial conflict between her personal or private interest and her duties in the public interest; used or attempted to use any means to influence a public agency in derogation of the state at large; used her official position to obtain financial gain for her family member; and used or attempted to use her official position to secure or create privileges, exemptions, advantages, or treatment for others in derogation of the public interest.

Specifically, during 2007 and 2008, Monroe used or attempted to use her knowledge of election finance laws, practices and procedures to assist her brother, who was running for a second term as the Commissioner of Agriculture, to fraudulently claim campaign-related expenses in order for him to obtain reimbursement from his campaign fund account for his personal financial gain. Monroe provided her brother with receipts that she had incurred for her own personal expenses that she then guided him to submit for reimbursement from his campaign account for his own financial gain and in derogation of the state interest.

These facts constitute violations of KRS 11A.020(1)(a), (b), (c), and (d).

KRS 11A.020(1)(a), (b), (c), and (d) provide:

- (1) No public servant, by himself or through others, shall knowingly:
 - (a) Use or attempt to use his influence in any matter which involves a substantial conflict between his personal or private interest and his duties in the public interest;
 - (b) Use or attempt to use any means to influence a public agency in derogation of the state at large;
 - (c) Use his official position or office to obtain financial gain for himself or any members of the public servant's family; or
 - (d) Use or attempt to use his official position to secure or create privileges, exemptions, advantages, or treatment for himself or others in derogation of the public interest at large.

COUNT III

Rhonda Monroe, during her course of employment as the Assistant Executive Director, Kentucky Registry of Election Finance, used or attempted to use her influence in matters that involved a substantial conflict between her personal or private interest and her duties in the public interest; used or attempted to use any means to influence a public agency in derogation of the state at large; used her official position to obtain financial gain for her family member; and used or attempted to use her official position to secure or create privileges, exemptions, advantages, or treatment for others in derogation of the public interest.

Specifically, in 2009, Monroe used or attempted to use her knowledge of election finance laws, practices, and procedures to assist her brother, who was re-elected to his second term as the Commissioner of Agriculture, to respond to an audit being performed by her own agency. Monroe drafted for her brother a letter, upon which her brother relied under her guidance, to respond to the Registry's audit. This letter drafted by Monroe was misleading in its contents and was intended to deceive the Registry about the expenses submitted for reimbursement from the

campaign account, some of which included the receipts Monroe had provided to her brother for reimbursement from the campaign account that she had incurred.

These facts constitute violations of KRS 11A.020(1)(a), (b), (c), and (d).

KRS 11A.020(1)(a), (b), (c), and (d) provide:

- (1) No public servant, by himself or through others, shall knowingly:
 - (a) Use or attempt to use his influence in any matter which involves a substantial conflict between his personal or private interest and his duties in the public interest;
 - (b) Use or attempt to use any means to influence a public agency in derogation of the state at large;
 - (c) Use his official position or office to obtain financial gain for himself or any members of the public servant's family;
or
 - (d) Use or attempt to use his official position to secure or create privileges, exemptions, advantages, or treatment for himself or others in derogation of the public interest at large.

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