

Subject: BIAW Creates New Shell Game

PRESS RELEASE

BUILDING INDUSTRY'S CAMPAIGN SHELL GAME REVEALED

Sept. 7, 2006 - The recent blitz of ads attacking Washington Supreme Court Chief Justice Gerry Alexander should say, "Brought to you by the Building Industry Association of Washington." But the BIAW doesn't want voters to know who is paying for the television and radio assaults aimed at replacing Chief Justice Alexander with the industry's handpicked challenger, John Groen.

The latest campaign finance reports filed with the state Public Disclosure Commission show a shell game obviously designed to hide the funding source for the ads. Piece the reports together, and you will find:

*On Sept. 5, the vaguely named ChangePac reported receiving a staggering \$400,000 contribution from the BIAW, dwarfing contributions it had received from individual builders. Conveniently, that enormous BIAW check did not have to travel far. The BIAW and ChangePac are located at the same post office box in Olympia. "Shell PAC" would be a more accurate name.

*Also on Sept. 5, another political action committee called It's Time For a Change revealed that it had received an aggregate total of \$600,000 from ChangePac, including a \$40,000 contribution on Sept. 1. Not coincidentally, It's Time for a Change shares the same post office box as the BIAW and ChangePac. Perhaps a better name would be "It's Time for More BIAW Tricks."

*As of Sept. 1, It's Time for a Change already had spent \$263,793 on media ads and mailings promoting Groen's candidacy for the Supreme Court.

State law requires PACS to name their top four contributors in all campaign advertising. It's a way of

helping voters understand the possible motives behind attack ads. By creating a shell PAC, It's Time for a Change, the BIAW is able to skirt this requirement and avoid coming clean with the voters. The only contributor to It's Time for a Change is - guess what? - ChangePac.

"This is a clear attempt by the BIAW to hide the fact that it is the primary financial supporter of Mr. Groen," said Alexander's Campaign Chairman Stuart Morgan. "It is dangerous when virtually all money that is spent for a candidate comes from a single narrow interest group dedicated to controlling the Supreme Court. It is even more insidious when that interest group tries to hide its involvement through clever subversion," added Alexander's campaign manager, Bob Alexander.

"We know that the PAC placing these ads contacted the Public Disclosure Commission and obtained the correct information to meet the PDC disclosure requirements." stated Bob Alexander. "When the builders determined they would have to make public the real donors, they found a way to avoid compliance. It may be legal, but it is entirely unethical and consistent with Mr. Groen's attempts to avoid compliance with any law he does not like."

In the weeks before new campaign contribution limits took effect, Groen and the BIAW worked together to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars that would have been illegal after the June 7 effective date. All other judicial candidates in the State of Washington recognized the intent of the law and abided by it. "It is sleazy behavior, inappropriate to a candidate for the Supreme Court of Washington," stated Bob Alexander.

Morgan added: "Another example of the Groen campaign's attempt to hide the BIAW involvement appears in electronic billboards in Fife and Spokane. While the BIAW is shown as a supporter, the disclosure appears for about one half second and is virtually impossible to read. State law requires a 4-second exposure for such identification in electronic media."

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