

MBA STUDENT RESEARCH PROJECT

BY: Bradford P. Anderson, J.D. (Law Lecturer, Graduate Business Programs)

UNITS: 4 units

QUARTER: Fall 2009, Winter 2010, or Spring 2010 (I am willing to "flex" and allow student to spread work over multiple quarters, with credit and courseload applied to an agreed upon quarter.)

ETHICS AND UNFAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES IN CALIFORNIA ADVISORY BODIES

SUMMARY: The State of California has a Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) which has enacted certain rules and regulations geared at "fairness" in government.

Despite this, an individual who is appointed (not elected) by local politicians to a governmental advisory body may simultaneously have a private enterprise which engages in contracts with the local government. Additionally, such an individual is not prohibited from making a favorable decision for a person/firm and then accepting that person/firm thereafter as a client.

This raises serious ethical issues, as well as aspects of substantive and procedural due process and fairness. If governmental decisions are to be based on the betterment of society as a public servant, then no reward should be reaped by those engaging in the decision making power.

END PRODUCT: The goal of this project is graduate level research resulting in either (A) completion of a graduate level research paper when undertakes a critical evaluation of this conflict of interest problem, OR (B) drafting a proposed revision to statutes or agency rules coupled with efforts to seek enactment of legislation/rules to improve fairness in the political process.

OTHER INFORMATION: If the student deliverables are of substantially excellent caliber, serious consideration will be given to a presentation or publication of an article on the topic, and inclusion of some student drafted portion(s) with an acknowledgement of assistance. If the student's work is of professional "law review" publishable quality, a co-authored article would be considered.

By undertaking this project, the student agrees that the GSB 500 advisor (Bradford Anderson) has exclusive control over content and submittal for publication of the resulting work product, and consents to grant copyright to the advisor's selected publication for any published works.