

SWORN COMPLAINT BEFORE THE TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION

An individual must be a resident of the state of Texas to be eligible to file a sworn complaint with the Texas Ethics Commission. The complainant is required to attach to the complaint a copy of one of the following documents:

- complainant's driver's license or personal identification certificate issued under Chapter 521 of the Transportation Code, or commercial driver's license issued under Chapter 522 of the Transportation Code; or
- a utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document that shows the name and address of the complainant and is dated not more than 30 days before the date on which the complaint is filed.

Effective September 1, 2009, an individual may also be eligible to file a sworn complaint with the Texas Ethics Commission if the individual owns real property in the state of Texas. Under this provision, the complainant will be required to attach to the complaint a copy of a property tax bill, notice of appraised value, or other government document that shows the name of the complainant, shows the address of the real property in Texas, and identifies the complainant as the owner of the real property.

OFFICE USE ONLY
Docket Number
Date Hand-delivered or Date Postmarked

I. IDENTITY OF COMPLAINANT

1 COMPLAINANT NAME	MS / MRS / MR MR. NICKNAME	FIRST CRAIG LAST	MI L. SUFFIX		
McDONALD					
2 COMPLAINANT PHYSICAL ADDRESS	ADDRESS 609 W. 18th ST.	APT / SUITE #: Ste. E	CITY: AUSTIN	STATE: TX	ZIP CODE 78701
<small>(Full home or business address, including street, city, state, and zip code)</small>					
3 COMPLAINANT MAILING ADDRESS	ADDRESS	APT / SUITE #:	CITY:	STATE:	ZIP CODE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (check if same as above)					
<small>(Full home or business address, including street, city, state, and zip code)</small>					
4 COMPLAINANT TELEPHONE NUMBER	AREA CODE 512	PHONE NUMBER 472-9770	EXT	5 COMPLAINANT E-MAIL ADDRESS	CRAIG@tpj.org

II. IDENTITY OF RESPONDENT

6 RESPONDENT NAME	MS / MRS / MR Mrs. NICKNAME	FIRST Melissa LAST	MI SUFFIX		
GOODWIN					
7 RESPONDENT POSITION OR TITLE	Candidate, Court of Appeals District 3				
8 RESPONDENT PHYSICAL ADDRESS	ADDRESS	APT / SUITE #:	CITY:	STATE:	ZIP CODE
<small>(Full home or business address, including street, city, state, and zip code)</small>					
9 RESPONDENT MAILING ADDRESS	ADDRESS 401 W. 15th ST.	APT / SUITE #: Ste. 850	CITY: Austin,	STATE: TX	ZIP CODE 78701
<small>(Full home or business address, including street, city, state, and zip code)</small>					
10 RESPONDENT TELEPHONE NUMBER	AREA CODE 512	PHONE NUMBER 469-7474	EXT	11 RESPONDENT E-MAIL ADDRESS (IF KNOWN)	?

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III. Nature of Alleged Violations

Respondent Melissa Goodwin, a candidate in the March 2, 2010 Republican Primary election for a seat on the 3rd Court of Appeals, appears to have accepted approximately \$20,275 in political contributions during January and February of 2010 that exceed the contribution limits for the office in violation of the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act Section 253.155 of the Texas Election Code.

According to Section 253.155 of the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act, the aggregate limit on political contributions from a person to a candidate for the March 2, 2010 primary election for this office is \$5,000 [Section 253.155 (b)(C)].

The only exception to the \$5,000 limit is found in Section 253.159, which states that the limit does not apply to an individual who is related to the candidate within the second degree by consanguinity, as defined in Subchapter B, Chapter 573, Government Code.

The respondent appears to have accepted a total of \$25,274.26 in political contributions from Bob & Paka Goodwin of Marble Falls, Texas. Respondent reported most of this money (\$25,000) as a campaign loan. Under Chapter 251 of the Election Code (Subchapter A, Section 251.001), such a loan (not made by a corporation that has legally lent money for at least one year) is defined as a "Contribution."

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IV. Statement of Facts

Respondent Melissa Goodwin was a candidate for the March 2, 2010 Republican Party election for Place 4 on the 3rd Court of Appeals. Goodwin's opponent, Scott Field, filed a sworn declaration of intent to comply with the expenditure limits prescribed by the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act.

Respondent Goodwin's Judicial Campaign Finance Report (Account # 00062281) covering the period 1/1/2010 through 1/21/2010 lists a \$25,000 campaign loan received on 1/21/2010 from Bob & Paka Goodwin of Marble Falls, TX . The report lists the lenders as "retired funeral directors and funeral home owners."

Respondent's subsequent campaign report covering the period 1/22/2010 through 2/20/2010 lists an in-kind contribution of \$274.26 on 2/12/2010 from Paka & Bob Goodwin of Marble Falls, TX.

During the primary election the respondent reported \$25,274.26 from Bob & Paka Goodwin. This appears to exceed the allowable contribution limit for the election (\$5,000) by more than \$20,000.

The only exception to this \$5,000 limit is for contributions from individuals related to the candidate within the second degree of consanguinity. From the personal and family information posted on the respondent's campaign website, it does not appear that Bob & Paka Goodwin meet this standard.

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V. LISTING OF DOCUMENTS AND OTHER MATERIALS

List all documents and other materials filed with this complaint. Additionally, list all other documents and other materials that are relevant to this complaint and that are within your knowledge, including their location, if known.

1.) Form JC/OH for period 1/01/2010 through 1/21/2010
filed by Melissa Goodwin, Acct. # 00062281

2) Form JC/OH for period 1/22/2010 through 2/20/2010
filed by Melissa Goodwin, Acct. # 00062281 (Partial.)

3. Printout from "About Judge Goodwin" website
which describes her family members.

(http://www.judgegoodwin.com/4691658_37898.htm)

ATTACH ADDITIONAL PAGES AS NEEDED

**VI. AFFIDAVIT
BASED ON PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE**

(Execute this affidavit if the acts alleged are within your direct personal knowledge.)

I, _____, complainant,
swear that I am a resident of the state of Texas. I swear that I have knowledge of the
facts alleged in this complaint and that the information contained in this complaint is
true and correct.

Signature of Complainant

AFFIX NOTARY STAMP / SEAL ABOVE

Sworn to and subscribed before me, by the said _____, this the _____ day of
_____, 20 _____, to certify which, witness my hand and seal of office.

Signature of officer administering oath Printed name of officer administering oath Title of officer administering oath

**VII. AFFIDAVIT
BASED ON INFORMATION AND BELIEF**

(Execute this affidavit if the acts alleged are not within your direct personal knowledge, but are based on reasonable belief.)

I, CRAIG L. McDONALD, complainant,
swear that I am a resident of the state of Texas. I swear that I have reason to believe
and do believe that the violation alleged in this complaint has occurred. The source
of my information and belief is

public documents.



Craig L. McDonald
Signature of Complainant

AFFIX NOTARY STAMP / SEAL ABOVE

Sworn to and subscribed before me, by the said _____, this the 22nd day of
March, 20 10, to certify which, witness my hand and seal of office.

[Signature] Janette Flores Notary Public
Signature of officer administering oath Printed name of officer administering oath Title of officer administering oath



About Melissa Goodwin

Professional Experience

Melissa Goodwin currently is a Partner at [Potts & Reilly, LLP](#) in Austin, Texas. Her practice areas include Appellate Law, Administrative Law, Civil and Criminal Law.

She presently serves as a [Commissioner for the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Education](#).

Melissa is a former Judge of the 427th District Court of Travis County, and former Justice of the Peace for Precinct 3 of Travis County, Texas. She served as an appellate attorney for the State's highest court in criminal cases, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, for more than 8 years. Melissa also worked in the General Counsel's Office for the State Bar of Texas in the field of attorney discipline.

Melissa received her law degree from St. Mary's School of Law and her undergraduate degree from the University of Texas. At St. Mary's Melissa was selected Senior Associate Editor of the St. Mary's Law Journal, and was the 1992, Olive Truehart Scholar. She also studied at the World Institute on Legal Problems in Innsbruck, Austria, under the late Chief Justice William Rehnquist.

Melissa's Proven History Promoting the Highest Standards for the Judiciary

Melissa has actively worked to promote and protect the integrity of the Judiciary, through service on the [Texas Judicial Council](#), and its Juvenile Justice Committee; Courthouse Security Committee; Committee on Public Access to Court Records; and the Supreme Court task for E-filing Rules. She has also served on the [Judicial Ethics Committee](#) for the Judicial Section of the State Bar of Texas and as an instructor for the [Texas Justice Court Training Center](#). She currently serves on the [Professional Ethics Committee](#), the entity charged with issuing opinions providing guidance to lawyers on ethical conduct within the practice of law.

Community Involvement

Melissa has also been active in local civic and professional associations, including the [South Austin Civic Club](#); the Travis County Women Lawyer's Association and is a Foundation member of the T.C.W.L.A. In 2009, Melissa was received the Pathfinder's Award from TCWLA. Melissa currently serves her community locally, on the Board of Directors for the [Oak Hill Business & Professional's Association](#), and is a former Advisory Board Member the [Austin Community College's Center for Public Policy and Political Studies](#).

Participation in Republican Party

Melissa isn't new to the Republican Party. She and her husband Grant have been active in the Travis County Republican Party for over a decade. Melissa has been active in TFRW Clubs for over 10 years. Her primary TFRW club is Hill Country Republican Women, though she is an associate member of numerous TFRW Clubs. She is a former President of Hill Country Republican Women (2001-2003). She has twice been honored at the State Convention Tribute to Women Luncheon for her efforts to promote Republican efforts within Travis County and the Region (2002 and 2008). Since 1999, she has regularly attended her Precinct Conventions, County Conventions (SD 14 as a Delegate, SD 25 as a guest) and State Conventions.



Melissa at Home

Melissa and her husband, Grant, are proud parents of twin sons, Max & Jake, age 13, and a daughter Nona, age 12. The Goodwin children attend school at Small Middle School in the Austin Independent School District. Grant and Melissa are blessed to have their support of their parents nearby, with Melissa's mother living just next door, and Grant's parents in nearby Marble Falls. Melissa and her children are avid readers, and the entire family spends its spare time working in their garden and tending to their extended family - their Great Dane, 3 cats and their chickens.