



MEC  
OPINION NO.

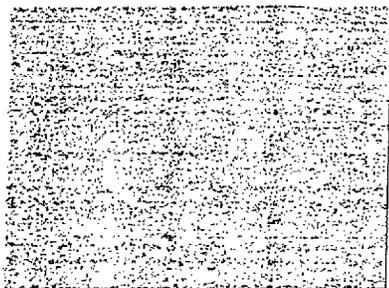
1997. 11. 107

**STATE OF MISSOURI**  
**MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION**  
P. O. BOX 1254  
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102

573/751-2020  
1-800/392-8660

December 10, 1997

COPY



At the November 18, 1997 meeting of the Missouri Ethics Commission, your request for an opinion was discussed. The following is in response to your question: *May legal fees be paid from my campaign account to defend a lawsuit concerning a recall petition?*

Contributions can only be used as described in section 130.034, RSMo, including for the ordinary and necessary expenses incurred in connection with the duties of the holder of an elective office. It is the opinion of the Missouri Ethics Commission that from the facts presented, defending against a recall petition would not be an ordinary and necessary expense incurred in connection with the duties of a holder of an elective office and therefore, is not a permitted use of a contribution. Please note that it is not a permissible use of contributions to a candidate or continuing committee.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Charles G. Lamb, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

MCR:bd

**NOTICE**

Anyone examining this advisory opinion should be careful to note that an opinion of the Missouri Ethics Commission deals only with the specific request to which the opinion responded and only as to the law as it existed at the date of the response and cannot be relied upon for any other purpose or in any other manner.