

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject to the Nondisclosure Provisions of H. Res. 895 of the 110th Congress as Amended

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT

Review No. 15-2070

The Board of the Office of Congressional Ethics (the “Board”), by a vote of no less than four members, on May 29, 2015, adopted the following report and ordered it to be transmitted to the Committee on Ethics of the United States House of Representatives.

SUBJECT: Representative Mike Honda

NATURE OF THE ALLEGED VIOLATION: Representative Honda and members of his congressional staff may have used official resources, including staff time, to benefit his campaigns. If Representative Honda used official resources for campaign purposes, then he may have violated federal law, House rules, and standards of conduct.

Representative Honda and members of his congressional staff may have improperly tied official activities, including a roundtable event with a State Department official, to past or potential campaign or political support. If Representative Honda improperly linked official activities to campaign or political support, then he may have violated House rules and standards of conduct.

Representative Honda may have used his congressional staff to assist with personal matters. If Representative Honda used congressional staff for personal errands or business, then he may have violated House rules and standards of conduct.

RECOMMENDATION: The Board recommends that the Committee on Ethics further review the allegation that Representative Honda used official resources for campaign purposes, as there is substantial reason to believe that Representative Honda and members of his congressional staff used official resources, including staff time, to benefit his campaign.

The Board recommends that the Committee on Ethics further review the allegation that Representative Honda improperly linked official activities to campaign or political support, as there is substantial reason to believe that Representative Honda improperly tied official events to past or potential campaign or political support.

The Board recommends that the Committee on Ethics dismiss the allegation that Representative Honda used congressional staff to assist with personal matters, as there is not substantial reason to believe that Representative Honda used congressional staff for personal errands or business.

VOTES IN THE AFFIRMATIVE: 6

VOTES IN THE NEGATIVE: 0

ABSTENTIONS: 0

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OR STAFF DESIGNATED TO PRESENT THIS REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS: Omar S. Ashmawy, Staff Director & Chief Counsel

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CITATIONS TO LAW

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FINDINGS OF FACT AND CITATIONS TO LAW

Review No. 15-2070

On May 29, 2015, the Board of the Office of Congressional Ethics (hereafter “the Board”) adopted the following findings of fact and accompanying citations to laws, regulations, rules, and standards of conduct (*in italics*).

The Board notes that these findings do not constitute a determination of whether or not a violation actually occurred.

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Summary of Allegations

1. During the 2012 and 2014 election cycles, Representative Honda and members of his congressional staff may have used official resources, including staff time, to benefit his campaigns. Congressional staff members appear to have researched a potential campaign opponent, prepared materials for the campaign, used information from the congressional office for campaign purposes, and discussed campaign matters during official meetings in the district office and during official staff retreats. Many of these activities appear to have taken place while staff were on official time, using official resources.
2. Representative Honda and members of his congressional staff may have improperly tied official activities to past or potential campaign support. For example, in preparing a list of invitees to a February 2013 official roundtable event with a State Department official, Representative Honda’s Chief of Staff asked a campaign staff member to prepare a list of individuals who had made campaign contributions in the past, but had not contributed to Representative Honda’s campaign. She appears to have suggested that the campaign seek campaign contributions from the official event invitees.
3. Representative Honda may have used his congressional staff to assist with personal matters, including setting up his personal technology at his home.
4. The Board recommends that the Committee on Ethics further review the allegation that Representative Honda and members of his congressional staff used official resources to benefit his campaign, as there is substantial reason to believe that Representative Honda and members of his congressional staff used official resources, including staff time, for campaign purposes.
5. The Board recommends that the Committee on Ethics further review the allegation that Representative Honda improperly linked official activities to campaign or political support, as there is substantial reason to believe that Representative Honda improperly tied official activities to past or potential political support.

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6. The Board recommends that the Committee on Ethics dismiss the allegation that Representative Honda used congressional staff to assist with personal matters, as there is not substantial reason to believe that Representative Honda used congressional staff for personal errands or business.

B. Jurisdictional Statement

7. The allegations that were the subject of this review concern Representative Mike Honda, a Member of the United States House of Representatives from the 17th District of California. The Resolution the United States House of Representatives adopted creating the Office of Congressional Ethics directs that, “[n]o review shall be undertaken . . . by the board of any alleged violation that occurred before the date of adoption of this resolution.”¹ The House adopted this Resolution on March 11, 2008. Because the conduct under review occurred after March 11, 2008, review by the Board is in accordance with the Resolution.

C. Procedural History

8. The OCE received a written request for a preliminary review in this matter signed by at least two members of the Board on January 28, 2015. The preliminary review commenced on January 29, 2015.² The preliminary review was scheduled to end on February 27, 2015.
9. On January 29, 2015, the OCE notified Representative Honda of the initiation of the preliminary review, provided him with a statement of the nature of the review, notified him of his right to be represented by counsel in this matter, and notified him that invoking his right to counsel would not be held negatively against him.³
10. At least three members of the Board voted to initiate a second-phase review in this matter on February 27, 2015. The second-phase review commenced on February 28, 2015.⁴ The second-phase review was scheduled to end on April 13, 2015.
11. On March 2, 2015, the OCE notified Representative Honda of the initiation of the second-phase review, again notified him of his right to be represented by counsel in this matter, and notified him that invoking that right would not be held negatively against him.⁵

¹ H. Res 895, 110th Cong. §1(e) (2008) (as amended).

² A preliminary review is “requested” in writing by members of the Board of the OCE. The request for a preliminary review is received by the OCE on a date certain. According to H. Res. 895 of the 110th Congress (hereafter “the Resolution”), the timeframe for conducting a preliminary review is 30 days from the date of receipt of the Board’s request.

³ Letter from OCE Staff Director and Chief Counsel to Representative Honda, January 29, 2015.

⁴ According to the Resolution, the Board must vote (as opposed to make a written authorization) on whether to conduct a second-phase review in a matter before the expiration of the 30-day preliminary review. If the Board votes for a second-phase, the second-phase commences the day after the preliminary review ends.

⁵ Letter from OCE Deputy Chief Counsel to Representative Honda, March 2, 2015.

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12. The Board voted to extend the second-phase review by an additional period of fourteen days on March 27, 2015. The additional period ended on April 27, 2015.
13. The Board voted to refer the matter to the Committee on Ethics and adopted these findings on May 29, 2015.
14. The report and its findings in this matter were transmitted to the Committee on Ethics on June 5, 2015.

D. Summary of Investigative Activity

15. The OCE requested documentary and, in some cases, testimonial information from the following sources:
 - (1) Representative Mike Honda;
 - (2) Representative Honda's Chief of Staff;
 - (3) Representative Honda's District Director;
 - (4) Representative Honda's Digital Strategy Director;
 - (5) Representative Honda's Former Campaign Coordinator;
 - (6) Representative Honda's Former Fundraising Consultant;
 - (7) Representative Honda's Former Deputy District Director;
 - (8) Representative Honda's Former Senior Congressional Aide;
 - (9) Representative Honda's Former Congressional Aide #1;
 - (10) Representative Honda's Former Congressional Aide #2;
 - (11) Representative Honda's Former Congressional Aide #3; and
 - (12) Representative Honda's Former Legislative Assistant.
16. Nadir Vissanjy, Representative Honda's former legislative correspondent and systems administrator, declined to be interviewed by the OCE. Mr. Vissanjy was determined to be a non-cooperating witness.
17. Doug Greven, Representative Honda's former campaign manager during the 2014 election cycle, declined to be interviewed by the OCE. Mr. Greven was determined to be a non-cooperating witness.

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**II. REPRESENTATIVE HONDA AND MEMBERS OF HIS CONGRESSIONAL STAFF
MAY HAVE USED OFFICIAL RESOURCES FOR CAMPAIGN PURPOSES**

A. Applicable Laws, Rules, and Standards of Conduct

18. 31 U.S.C. § 1301

Federal law provides that official funds may be used only for the purposes for which they were appropriated.

19. House Rules

Pursuant to House Rule 23, clause 1, Members “shall behave at all times in a manner that shall reflect creditably on the House.”

Under House Rule 23, clause 2, Members “shall adhere to the spirit and the letter of the Rules of the House”

20. House Ethics Manual

According to the House Ethics Manual, “official resources of the House must, as a general rule, be used for the performance of official business of the House, and hence those resources may not be used for campaign or political purposes Accordingly, among the resources that generally may not be used for campaign or political purposes are congressional office equipment (including the computers, telephones, and fax machines), office supplies (including official stationery and envelopes), and congressional staff time”⁶

*“Among the specific activities that clearly may **not** be undertaken in a congressional office or using House resources (including official staff time) are . . . the drafting of campaign speeches, statements, press releases or literature; . . . and the holding of a campaign meeting.”⁷*

“The misuse of the funds and other resources that the House of Representatives entrusts to Members for the conduct of official House business is a very serious matter. . . . Moreover, while any House employee who makes improper use of House resources is subject to disciplinary action by the Standards Committee, each Member should be aware that he or she may be held responsible for any improper use of resources that occurs in a Member’s office. The Standards Committee has long taken the position that each Member is responsible for assuring that the Member’s employees are aware of and adhere to the rules, and for assuring that House resources are used for proper purposes.”⁸

⁶ House Ethics Manual (2008) at 123-124.

⁷ *Id.* at 124 (emphasis in original).

⁸ *Id.* (citations omitted).

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“Once House employees have completed their official duties, they are free to engage in campaign activities on their own time, as volunteers or for pay, as long as they do not do so in congressional offices or facilities, or otherwise use official resources.”⁹

“Employees who do campaign work while remaining on the House payroll should keep careful records of the time they spend on official activities and, separately, on campaign activities, and demonstrate that campaign work was not done on official time. There is no set format for maintaining such time records.”¹⁰

“[A]lthough House employees are free to engage in campaign activities on their own time, in no event may a Member or office compel a House employee to do campaign work. To do so would result in an impermissible official subsidy of the Member’s campaign. The prohibition against coercing staff or requiring staff members to do campaign work is quite broad. It forbids members and senior staff from not only threatening or attempting to intimidate employees regarding doing campaign work, but also from directing or otherwise pressuring them to do such work.”¹¹

“Members must regularly certify that all official funds have been properly spent. A false certification may bring criminal penalties, and the government may recover any amount improperly paid.”¹² Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001, “[w]hoever . . . knowingly and willfully . . . makes or uses any false writing or documents knowing the same to contain any materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or entry [] shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 5 years or both.”¹³

“[I]nternal [congressional] office files, such as research files on legislation, may not be used for campaign or political purposes.”¹⁴

*“A congressional office may provide a campaign office with a copy of any materials that the congressional office has issued publicly, such as press releases, speeches, and newsletters. . . . Other materials in the congressional office files – including, for example, back-up memoranda on issues – are **not** to be shared with the campaign or otherwise used for campaign purposes. The materials are to be used for official purposes only. Congressional staff members should not do research on behalf of the campaign or write campaign speeches or other materials while on official time or using official resources.”¹⁵*

⁹ *Id.* at 135.

¹⁰ *Id.* at 137.

¹¹ *Id.* at 135-136.

¹² *Id.* at 126.

¹³ 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

¹⁴ House Ethics Manual at 128.

¹⁵ *Id.* at 133-34 (emphasis in original).

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21. Members' Congressional Handbook

The Members' Congressional Handbook provides that "[t]he MRA may not pay for campaign expenses."¹⁶

B. Representative Honda and His Congressional Staff May Have Used Official Resources, Including Staff Time, for Campaign Purposes

22. Evidence obtained by the OCE indicates that Representative Honda and members of his congressional staff used official resources for campaign purposes. Members of Representative Honda's congressional staff researched a potential campaign opponent, prepared materials for the campaign, used information from the congressional office for campaign purposes, and discussed campaign matters during official meetings in the district office and during official staff retreats. Many of these activities appear to have taken place while staff were on official time, using official resources.

Representative Honda's Chief of Staff Served as His Campaign Manager, and Members of His Congressional Staff Assisted with His Campaigns

23. Representative Honda's Chief of Staff was described by Representative Honda, and by his congressional and campaign staff members, as his "campaign manager."¹⁷ In addition, many members of Representative Honda's congressional staff were involved in his campaigns in the 2012 and 2014 election cycles.

24. Representative Honda explained that "over the years . . . we didn't have much of a campaign, [the Chief of Staff] would take that responsibility and be sure that she made a cut between responsibilities as the Chief of Staff and doing things for the campaign."¹⁸

25. The Chief of Staff described her role with the campaign as a "volunteer" and someone who provided historical input and ideas.¹⁹ She noted that Representative Honda had paid campaign managers in both the 2012 and 2014 election cycles.²⁰

26. The Chief of Staff told the OCE that she had regular and consistent contact with the campaign managers during the 2012 and 2014 election cycles.²¹ During the 2014 cycle, she had contact with the campaign manager "at least five of the seven days a week."²²

¹⁶ Comm. on House Admin., *Members' Congressional Handbook*, at 2.

¹⁷ Transcript of Interview of Rep. Mike Honda, April 23, 2015 (Exhibit 1 at 15-2070_0007) (hereafter "Rep. Honda Transcript"); Transcript of Interview of Former Senior Congressional Aide, March 20, 2015 (Exhibit 2 at 15-2070_0026) (hereafter "Former Senior Congressional Aide Transcript"); Transcript of Interview of Former Legislative Assistant, April 20, 2015 (Exhibit 3 at 15-2070_0074-0075) (hereafter "Former Legislative Assistant Transcript"); Transcript of Interview of Former Campaign Coordinator, March 26, 2015 (Exhibit 4 at 15-2070_0094) (hereafter "Former Campaign Coordinator Transcript"); Transcript of Former Congressional Aide #2, March 12, 2015 (Exhibit 5 at 15-2070_0133) (hereafter "Former Congressional Aide #2 Transcript").

¹⁸ Rep. Honda Transcript (Exhibit 1 at 15-2070_0007).

¹⁹ Transcript of Interview of Chief of Staff, April 23, 2015 (Exhibit 6 at 15-2070_0157) (hereafter "Chief of Staff Transcript").

²⁰ *Id.* (Exhibit 6 at 15-2070_0158).

²¹ *Id.*

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27. The Chief of Staff said that the substance of her communications with the campaign managers varied, but that they included “information about relationships that the Congressman had had historically. It could be information about what his policy positions are. It very often had to do with schedule. We discussed press. We discussed fundraising. We would discuss hiring of campaign staff. . . . We would discuss how the Congressman was doing, what his needs were, and how best to help him.”²³ These conversations occurred in person, over the telephone, and by email.²⁴
28. Members of the congressional district staff were paid by the campaign to perform work for the campaign while they were also employed in the congressional office.²⁵ For example, Former Congressional Aide #2 served as campaign coordinator from 2010 to 2012 and was paid on an hourly basis by the campaign.²⁶ The Former Senior Congressional Aide succeeded Former Congressional Aide #2 as campaign coordinator in 2012 and split his time working for both the congressional office and the campaign.²⁷
29. Both Former Congressional Aide #2 and the Former Senior Congressional Aide stated that, in their campaign roles, they reported to the Chief of Staff.²⁸
30. Representative’s Honda’s Former Campaign Coordinator, who worked for his campaigns during both the 2012 and 2014 election cycles, told the OCE, “The person on record as campaign manager in our campaign manual and the person I reported to as campaign manager was [the Chief of Staff].”²⁹ He added that he would “often” receive “direction” from the Chief of Staff.³⁰
31. The Former Campaign Coordinator said that he prepared weekly reports, and that he, the Chief of Staff, and the District Director had “weekly check-in calls” during which the Chief of Staff and District Director “would go over that report . . . basically taking it bullet-by-bullet and asking follow up on that.”³¹
32. The Former Campaign Coordinator described the District Director as “an advisor of the politics locally.”³² He explained, “It was told to me at the beginning that if it were a district related event or a district related issue then she would be the one to provide direction on how to deal with that situation”³³ He added, “She showed up to a lot of

²² *Id.*

²³ *Id.* (Exhibit 6 at 15-2070_0159).

²⁴ *Id.*

²⁵ *See, e.g.*, Former Congressional Aide #2 Transcript (Exhibit 5 at 15-2070_0129-0130); Former Senior Congressional Aide Transcript (Exhibit 2 at 15-2070_0022); Transcript of Interview of Digital Strategy Director, April 21, 2015 (Exhibit 7 at 15-2070_0205) (hereafter “Digital Strategy Director Transcript”); Former Campaign Coordinator Transcript (Exhibit 4 at 15-2070_0094) (noting that a congressional staff member was paid as a contractor to oversee the campaign website).

²⁶ Former Congressional Aide #2 Transcript (Exhibit 5 at 15-2070_0130-0131).

²⁷ Former Senior Congressional Aide Transcript (Exhibit 2 at 15-2070_0022-0023).

²⁸ *Id.* (Exhibit 2 at 15-2070_0027); Former Congressional Aide #2 Transcript (Exhibit 5 at 15-2070_0133).

²⁹ Former Campaign Coordinator Transcript (Exhibit 4 at 15-2070_0094).

³⁰ *Id.* (Exhibit 4 at 15-2070_0100).

³¹ *Id.*

³² *Id.*

³³ *Id.*

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things. She showed up to a lot of events and meetings and was on calls. It wasn't like a casual . . . It was pretty much that she was a link to the local district. I would say active."³⁴

33. Representative Honda's Former Fundraising Consultant told the OCE that she worked with both the Chief of Staff and the District Director during her relationship with Representative Honda's campaign.³⁵
34. The Employee Handbook for Representative Honda's congressional office includes a policy on "Political Activities."³⁶ The policy provides: "Employees of the Office may engage in campaign work only on their own time. The time shall be outside office hours, or during periods of bona fide vacation or leave time."³⁷ The policy further provides: "Official House property, equipment and resources may not be used for campaign activities. . . . No employee has an obligation to participate in political activity for Mike Honda or any other candidate running for political office."³⁸
35. The Chief of Staff told the OCE that, during the 2014 election cycle, "many of the [congressional] staff chose to volunteer their time on the campaign and, as a result, would have had interactions [with the campaign] at some point."³⁹ Representative Honda's District Director also told the OCE that "staff occasionally volunteered."⁴⁰
36. The Chief of Staff said that congressional staff members did "field work, just knocking on doors or making phone calls, participating in a phone bank, preparing perhaps a memo, a background, on an issue or something the Congressman had been involved in, attending a campaign rally."⁴¹
37. Representative Honda told the OCE that congressional staff members who wished to help with the campaign "would express interest to the Chief of Staff, and I believe usually she refers them to the campaign, but making sure that they know that there's some paperwork to be done to make sure we know how they're using their time."⁴² He said that campaign work was never done in the congressional office, and that congressional equipment was not used for campaign work.⁴³
38. When asked if any of the assistance provided by congressional staff members took place in the congressional office, the Chief of Staff said, "Our general practice is no. The staff

³⁴ *Id.*

³⁵ Transcript of Interview of Former Fundraising Consultant, April 20, 2015 (Exhibit 8 at 15-2070_0236) (hereafter "Former Fundraising Consultant Transcript").

³⁶ Employee Handbook for the Office of Congressman Mike Honda, U.S. House of Representatives, revised July 2014 (Exhibit 9 at 15-2070_0268-0269).

³⁷ *Id.* (Exhibit 9 at 15-2070_0268).

³⁸ *Id.*

³⁹ Chief of Staff Transcript (Exhibit 6 at 15-2070_0160).

⁴⁰ Transcript of Interview of Former District Director, April 21, 2015 (Exhibit 10 at 15-2070_0294) (hereafter "Former District Director Transcript").

⁴¹ Chief of Staff Transcript (Exhibit 6 at 15-2070_0161).

⁴² Rep. Honda Transcript (Exhibit 1 at 15-2070_0005).

⁴³ *Id.* (Exhibit 1 at 15-2070_0006).

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is very aware of the rules and we take them seriously. I am not aware of when and where every piece of assistance might have happened.”⁴⁴

39. When asked if any of the assistance provided by congressional staff members was on official time, the Chief of Staff said, “Our general practice is that staff, if they were volunteering on the campaign, would do that in their own time.”⁴⁵
40. According to the Chief of Staff, the congressional office did not require staff members to keep track of leave time taken to work campaign matters.⁴⁶ She said that the congressional office maintained records “that cover if one was out for an entire day or maybe a half day, they were sick or took vacation. Other than that, I am not aware that anyone kept specific time records within their own individual day.”⁴⁷
41. When asked if the district office kept time records in situations where congressional staff members took leave to work on campaign matters, the District Director said, “Aside from the vacation, I am not aware of staff working on the campaign, unless they worked after hours at a phone bank as volunteers. It was not our practice to have staff, during working hours, do anything for campaign.”⁴⁸
42. When asked if there was an expectation that members of Representative Honda’s congressional staff would assist with his campaigns, the Chief of Staff told the OCE, “No. Absolutely not.”⁴⁹
43. Members of Representative Honda’s congressional staff, however, indicated that there was such an expectation. When asked if there was an expectation that she would work on campaign matters, the Former Legislative Assistant told the OCE, “That is a fair characterization of how that atmosphere worked. . . . Yeah, there was an expectation that you would help out.”⁵⁰
44. The Former Legislative Assistant said that she began working on campaign matters when she was asked to do so by the Chief of Staff, explaining that the Chief of Staff “is usually the driver of these conversations and was pretty proactive in trying to get us engaged in that way.”⁵¹
45. The Former Legislative Assistant said that she had not expressed an interest in working on campaign matters.⁵² She explained, “I think when they came down to it, this became the central focus of what [the Chief of Staff] was working on, particularly when in the 2014 cycle the election was going to be more competitive and that involved a lot of work,

⁴⁴ Chief of Staff Transcript (Exhibit 6 at 15-2070_0161).

⁴⁵ *Id.* (Exhibit 6 at 15-2070_0162).

⁴⁶ *Id.*

⁴⁷ *Id.*

⁴⁸ District Director Transcript (Exhibit 10 at 15-2070_0296).

⁴⁹ Chief of Staff Transcript (Exhibit 6 at 15-2070_0177).

⁵⁰ Former Legislative Assistant Transcript (Exhibit 3 at 15-2070_0078).

⁵¹ *Id.* (Exhibit 3 at 15-2070_0076).

⁵² *Id.* (Exhibit 3 at 15-2070_0077).

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and it's just as one who wants to be helpful to your boss, I think it started that . . . Just started falling on my responsibilities.”⁵³

46. When asked if she could have declined to perform campaign work, the Former Legislative Assistant said, “Yes, I think that would have probably meant, though, that I needed to find a new job after that”⁵⁴

47. The Former Legislative Assistant told the OCE that “a lot of communications with the office generally moved to our gmail addresses at the beginning of 2013 when it became clear that we would have a serious challenger at the 2014 election.”⁵⁵

48. Former Congressional Aide #1 told the OCE that, with respect to emails, “there was no differentiation between official and campaign,” noting that official business was discussed using personal email accounts.⁵⁶ He characterized use of personal emails as “an effort to avoid the recording that would happen if you put it on mail.house.gov. If it's your personal email you can control that flow of information better.”⁵⁷

49. Former Congressional Aide #3 told the OCE that there was an expectation that district office staff would participate in email discussions relating to campaign matters: “[P]eople found a way to get your [personal] e-mail, but it was never, you don't have to if you don't want to, let us know if you want to be on the e-mail chain, it was just sort of, you're expected to be a part of it.”⁵⁸ The emails included requests to participate in campaign social media or to volunteer for campaign telephone work.⁵⁹

Members of Representative Honda's Congressional Staff May Have Used Official Resources to Research A Potential Campaign Opponent and Prepare Materials for His Campaigns

50. The OCE found several instances in which Representative Honda's congressional staff members appear to have conducted research or prepared materials for his campaigns. Official time and other official resources may have been used when performing these activities for the campaigns.

51. Representative Honda's Former Legislative Assistant told the OCE that she had “frequent” communications with the Chief of Staff regarding campaign matters, involving “research of the expected opponent, different stances that he might have taken on sets of issues and how we might respond to them.”⁶⁰

⁵³ *Id.*

⁵⁴ *Id.* (Exhibit 3 at 15-2070_0078).

⁵⁵ *Id.* (Exhibit 3 at 15-2070_0075).

⁵⁶ Transcript of Interview of Former Congressional Aide #1, March 25, 2015 (Exhibit 11 at 15-2070_0356) (hereafter “Former Congressional Aide #1 Transcript”).

⁵⁷ *Id.* (Exhibit 11 at 15-2070_0357).

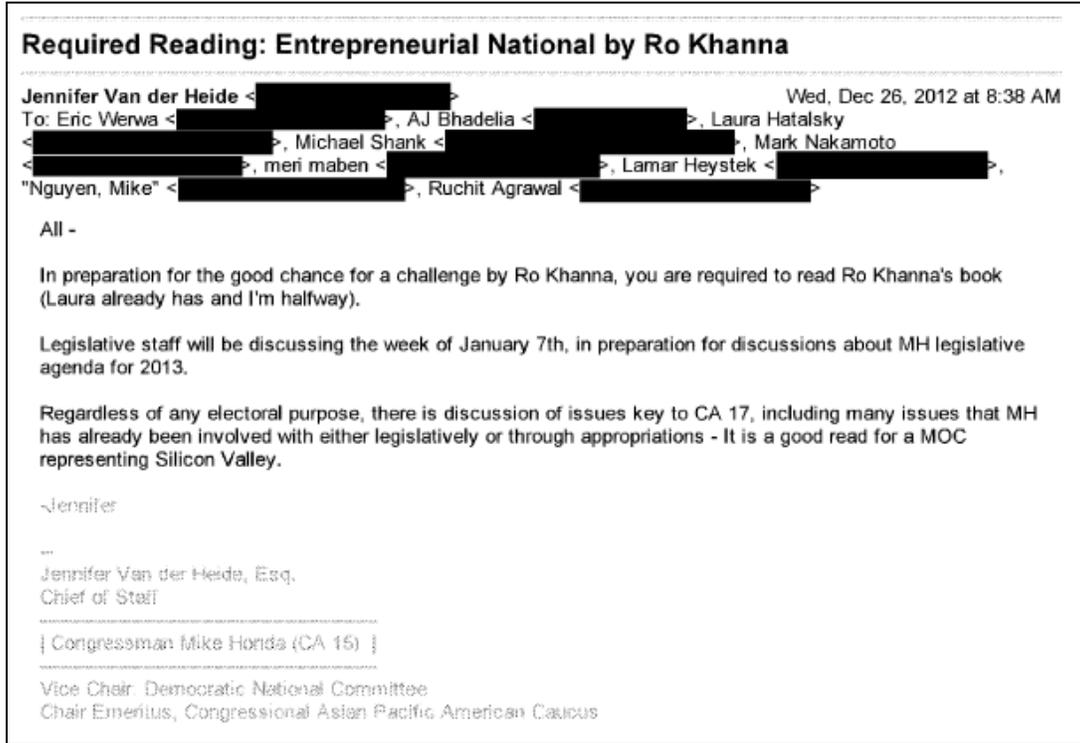
⁵⁸ Transcript of Interview of Former Congressional Aide #3, March 25, 2015 (Exhibit 12 at 15-2070_0398) (hereafter “Former Congressional Aide #3 Transcript”).

⁵⁹ *Id.*

⁶⁰ Former Legislative Assistant Transcript (Exhibit 3 at 15-2070_0075).

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52. At one point, the Chief of Staff directed several members of the congressional staff, using personal email addresses, to read a book written by a potential challenger to Representative Honda, advising that the “[l]egislative staff” would later discuss the book.⁶¹



53. The Chief of Staff told the OCE that she would characterize her use of the term “Required Reading” as “facetious.”⁶² She explained, “I don’t know whether they read the book or not. It was not a requirement. I see the word required there, but it was not a requirement or a condition of their employment or anything else.”⁶³ When asked if the legislative staff discussed the book during the week of January 7th, as advised in the email, the Chief of Staff told the OCE, “I don’t recall.”⁶⁴

54. When asked how she read the term “Required Reading,” the Former Legislative Assistant, who received the Chief of Staff’s email, said: “Exactly what is says, that we had to read it.”⁶⁵ She said that she did read the book: “I considered it part of my duties as someone that was working for Congressman Honda.”⁶⁶

⁶¹ Email from Chief of Staff to members of Rep. Honda’s congressional and campaign staff, December 26, 2012 (Exhibit 13 at 15-2070_0426).

⁶² Chief of Staff Transcript (Exhibit 6 at 15-2070_0169).

⁶³ *Id.*

⁶⁴ *Id.*

⁶⁵ Former Legislative Assistant Transcript (Exhibit 3 at 15-2070_0079).

⁶⁶ *Id.*

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55. Another recipient of the Chief of Staff's email, Former Congressional Aide #1, told the OCE that reading the book was "clearly required."⁶⁷ He said that he discussed the Chief of Staff's request with other members of the district staff, but that "[t]here was such an intermingling of official and campaign so that notion that we would get surprised that we were doing this . . . Nobody's going to be shocked that we're going to read the book."⁶⁸
56. Former Congressional Aide #1 said that some district office staff members read the book while in the district office, recalling that the Former Senior Congressional Aide sat and read the book in Representative Honda's office.⁶⁹
57. The Former Deputy District Director told the OCE that he did not take the Chief of Staff's email "as 'You needed to do this.' I honestly didn't read it."⁷⁰ The District Director told the OCE that she did not read the book.⁷¹
58. Members of Representative Honda's congressional staff also appear to have prepared written materials for the campaign. Representative Honda's Former Campaign Coordinator told the OCE that "campaign materials were received from people who were employed either by the congressional office in DC or the district office."⁷² The Former Campaign Coordinator could not, however, determine whether the materials were prepared by the staff members using official or personal time, or where the materials were created.⁷³
59. Former Congressional Aide #3 said that congressional staff drafted materials for the campaign: "I can't be specific with anything, but I just, it was always, to me, I just understood it as, well, this is also going to be used on the campaign side. We have systems to do it on the official side, so why not do it on the official side?"⁷⁴
60. Representative Honda's Former Deputy District Director acknowledged that he may have used a congressional office computer to prepare speaking points or background materials for campaign events.⁷⁵ When asked if campaign materials could be found on congressional office servers, he replied, "I think I might have a couple speaking points in there. . . . If you look in my folder, it's probably still there, there's probably a folder that says 'California Democratic Party' and I've got probably some memos in there."⁷⁶

⁶⁷ Former Congressional Aide #1 Transcript (Exhibit 11 at 15-2070_0352).

⁶⁸ *Id.* (Exhibit 11 at 15-2070_0353).

⁶⁹ *Id.* (Exhibit 11 at 15-2070_0352).

⁷⁰ Transcript of Interview of Former Deputy District Director, March 27, 2015 (Exhibit 14 at 15-207_0445) (hereafter "Former Deputy District Director Transcript").

⁷¹ Former District Director Transcript (Exhibit 10 at 15-2070_0303).

⁷² Former Campaign Coordinator Transcript (Exhibit 4 at 15-2070_0107).

⁷³ *Id.*

⁷⁴ Former Congressional Aide #3 Transcript (Exhibit 12 at 15-2070_0409-410).

⁷⁵ Former Deputy District Director Transcript (Exhibit 14 at 15-2070_0445).

⁷⁶ *Id.* (Exhibit 15 at 15-2070_0445-0446).

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61. Former Congressional Aide #3 told the OCE that while he could not say that he saw congressional staff specifically creating campaign documents using official computers, there were folders marked “campaign” from various years on the official office server.⁷⁷
62. When asked if campaign documents were kept on congressional servers, the Chief of Staff told the OCE, “Not to my knowledge.”⁷⁸
63. The Former Legislative Assistant told the OCE that her communications with the Chief of Staff about Representative Honda’s campaign included discussions of “content and either the op-eds or website or framing or press or what is the background on this and what is our response to it.”⁷⁹
64. The Former Legislative Assistant said that she was asked by the Chief of Staff to prepare a “side-by-side memo,” comparing policy positions of Representative Honda to those held by his opponent in the 2014 election.⁸⁰ While she could not recall where she prepared the document, she said that it “does not seem implausible that I spent time in the House office preparing it or adding detail to it.”⁸¹
65. The Chief of Staff told the OCE that she recalled another member of Representative Honda’s congressional staff prepared the memo: “I don’t recall if I asked him to do it. If I did, it would have only been in the context of a discussion because he wanted to help the Congressman It would have only been in the context of him indicating he wanted to volunteer for the campaign and us having a discussion about how to lay out the issues. It would not have been an ask or a requirement”⁸²
66. In a January 24, 2013 email with the subject “Labor breakfast,” the Chief of Staff directed members of the congressional staff to “prepare background memo on labor issues in congress for 113th. And highlights that mh can talk about for lhhs and what he’ll be fighting for. Mh will need at least by a day before.”⁸³
67. Several days later, on January 29, 2013, Representative Honda’s Legislative Director sent a background memo to Congressional Aide #2 and to Representative Honda’s Former Campaign Coordinator, noting, “I was assuming that since the event is [in California] you guys would be incorporating this into the briefer you are preparing.”⁸⁴
68. The Chief of Staff told the OCE, “It was unclear whether [the labor breakfast] was a campaign event or was it an official event. . . . Someone talked to someone at the Labor

⁷⁷ Former Congressional Aide #3 Transcript (Exhibit 12 at 15-2070_0404).

⁷⁸ Chief of Staff Transcript (Exhibit 6 at 15-2070_0164).

⁷⁹ Former Legislative Assistant Transcript (Exhibit 3 at 15-2070_0076).

⁸⁰ *Id.* (Exhibit 3 at 15-2070_0080-0081); Chart Comparing Positions Held by Ro Khanna and Mike Honda, undated (Exhibit 15 at 15-2070_0464-0469).

⁸¹ Former Legislative Assistant Transcript (Exhibit 3 at 15-2070_0080).

⁸² Chief of Staff Transcript (Exhibit 6 at 15-2070_0176).

⁸³ Email from Chief of Staff to Legislative Director, *et al.*, January 24, 2013 (Exhibit 16 at 15-2070_0471).

⁸⁴ Email from Legislative Director to Congressional Aide #2, *et al.*, January 28, 2013 (Exhibit 16 at 15-2070_0471).

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Council to clarify and that the decision was that it was an official event, where they were going to be talking about policy issues.”⁸⁵

69. However, according to the Former Campaign Coordinator, the “labor breakfast” referenced in the email was “an event put together to get support for Congressman Honda by labor council members. . . . I think this specific effort was probably with an eye towards campaign. . . . I was not looped in on official items”⁸⁶ The District Director also told the OCE that she believed, in the case of this labor breakfast, congressional staff prepared briefing material for a campaign event.⁸⁷
70. In May 2014, two members of Representative Honda’s congressional staff appear to have prepared an “Event Brief” for a “Fundraiser at Pritpal Singh”.⁸⁸

EVENT BRIEF	
To:	MH
From:	Monica and Vedant
Re:	Fundraiser at Pritpal Singh
<hr/>	
When:	Monday, May 5, 2014
Time:	6:30 – 7:00pm
Where:	Dr. Pritpal Singh's Home, [REDACTED]
Contact:	Monica, [REDACTED] Krystal Ka'ai, [REDACTED]

71. The Chief of Staff explained that the authors of the Event Brief, Monica and Vedant, were members of the official congressional staff, but that she did not know under what circumstances the brief was prepared.⁸⁹
72. When asked why members of the official staff prepared an event brief for a fundraiser, the Chief of Staff said, “I don’t know.”⁹⁰ When asked who would have directed them to put the event brief together, the Chief of Staff said, “No one would have assigned them or directed them to put a campaign brief together. I don’t know how this came about.”⁹¹
73. Representative Honda said that this event brief was in the same general format of briefs he would receive from his congressional staff.⁹² When asked if it raised any concerns to

⁸⁵ Chief of Staff Transcript (Exhibit 6 at 15-2070_0179-0180).

⁸⁶ Former Campaign Coordinator Transcript (Exhibit 4 at 15-2070_0103-0104).

⁸⁷ Former District Director Transcript (Exhibit 10 at 15-2070_0311).

⁸⁸ Event Brief, “Fundraiser at Pritpal Singh,” May 5, 2014 (Exhibit 17 at 15-2070_0473-0474).

⁸⁹ Chief of Staff Transcript (Exhibit 6 at 15-2070_0180-0181).

⁹⁰ *Id.* (Exhibit 6 at 15-2070_0181).

⁹¹ *Id.*

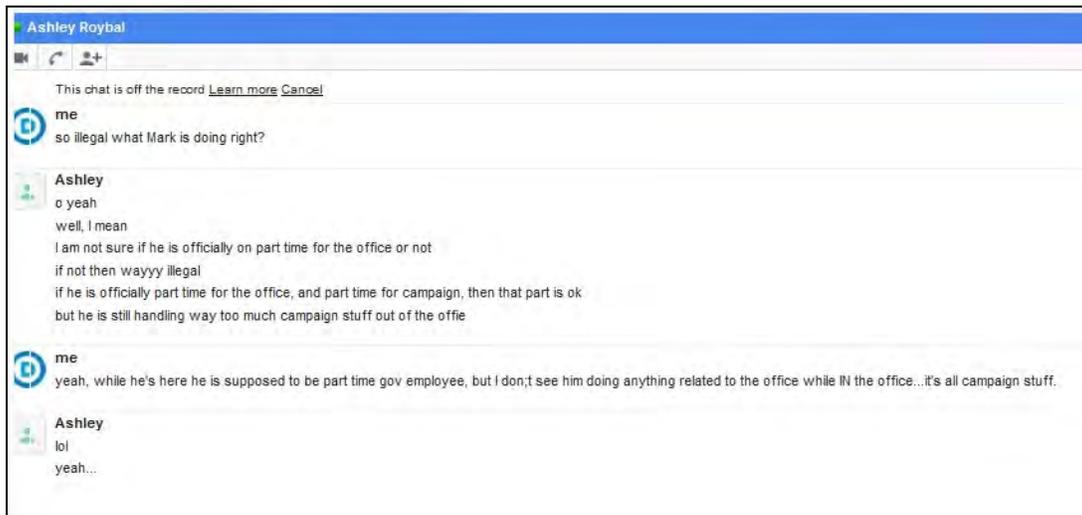
⁹² Rep. Honda Transcript (Exhibit 1 at 15-2070_0008-0009).

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see members of his congressional staff preparing an event brief for a campaign event, he acknowledged that he “should have been more aware of that, yeah. . . . I think that the title and everything else like that is open to criticism.”⁹³

Members of Representative Honda’s Congressional Staff May Have Conducted Campaign Activities While on Official Time, Using Official Resources

74. Congressional staff may have engaged in campaign work in Representative Honda’s congressional offices, using official equipment. Representative Honda’s Former Senior Congressional Aide, who worked part-time for the congressional office and part-time for the campaign, told the OCE that he “would conduct campaign business at the campaign headquarters and official business at the official time In the mornings, for example, I believe I was at the district office, so from 9 AM to say, 1 PM afternoon, and then I will leave and go the campaign afterwards.”⁹⁴
75. However, Former Congressional Aide #3, who worked with the Former Senior Congressional Aide in the district office, told the OCE that he witnessed the Senior Congressional Aide doing campaign work in the district office.⁹⁵ He told the OCE that he witnessed the Senior Congressional Aide making a campaign phone call using a telephone in the congressional district office.⁹⁶
76. Former Congressional Aide #3 provided the OCE with a screenshot from a chat conversation that he had with Former Congressional Aide #2, on or around May 16, 2012, when he witnessed the Former Senior Congressional Aide on a campaign telephone call in the congressional office:⁹⁷



⁹³ *Id.* (Exhibit 1 at 15-2070_0009).

⁹⁴ Former Senior Congressional Aide Transcript (Exhibit 2 at 15-2070_0027).

⁹⁵ Former Congressional Aide #3 Transcript (Exhibit 12 at 15-2070_00401-0402).

⁹⁶ *Id.*

⁹⁷ Former Congressional Aide #3 and Former Congressional Aide #2 Chat Transcript (Exhibit 18 at 15-2070_0476); Former Congressional Aide #3 Transcript (Exhibit 12 at 15-2070_0402).

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77. Former Congressional Aide #3 said that this chat conversation was prompted when he witnessed the Former Senior Congressional Aide “[t]alking about money, talking about the campaign event” on a district office telephone.⁹⁸ He recalled that the Former Senior Congressional Aide was doing “just a lot of campaign stuff.”⁹⁹
78. In her interview with the OCE, Former Congressional Aide #2 said that she did not see the Former Senior Congressional Aide working on campaign matters in the congressional district office.¹⁰⁰ In addition, the District Director said that she did not see the Former Senior Congressional Aide make campaign calls using district office telephones, but acknowledged that, given the layout of the district office, “[f]or [her] to see or hear a call out there would have been very difficult. I would not have seen it. That’s for sure.”¹⁰¹
79. In another example of congressional staff using official resources for campaign purposes, the Digital Strategy Director told the OCE that in the Spring of 2014, he witnessed a co-worker in the congressional office printing out campaign phone banking sheets from his congressional office computer using the office printer.¹⁰² He said he brought the matter to the attention of the Chief of Staff and did not see any further phone banking sheets being printed at the congressional office.¹⁰³
80. District staff may have been expected to staff Representative Honda at campaign events. Former Congressional Aide #3 told the OCE that that when district office staff members would staff Representative Honda on weekends, they were expected to be with him throughout the weekend, at both official and campaign events.¹⁰⁴ He said that there was no effort to differentiate the two types of events.¹⁰⁵

Members of Representative Honda’s Congressional Staff May Have Used Information from the Congressional Office for Campaign Purposes

81. Representative Honda’s congressional staff may have used information from the congressional office to raise funds for his campaigns. In early May 2013, the congressional district office successfully assisted someone associated with the San Jose Sharks professional hockey team with a casework matter.¹⁰⁶ When Representative Honda’s constituent services director notified the District Director of the successful resolution of the matter, the District Director directed the constituent services director to “send me her info to my gmail account.”¹⁰⁷

⁹⁸ Former Congressional Aide #3 Transcript (Exhibit 12 at 15-2070_0402).

⁹⁹ *Id.* (Exhibit 12 at 15-2070_0403).

¹⁰⁰ Former Congressional Aide #2 Transcript (Exhibit 5 at 15-2070_0139).

¹⁰¹ Former District Director Transcript (Exhibit 10 at 15-2070_0298).

¹⁰² Digital Strategy Director Transcript (Exhibit 7 at 15-2070_0213).

¹⁰³ *Id.*

¹⁰⁴ Former Congressional Aide #3 Transcript (Exhibit 12 at 15-2070_0390, 0395).

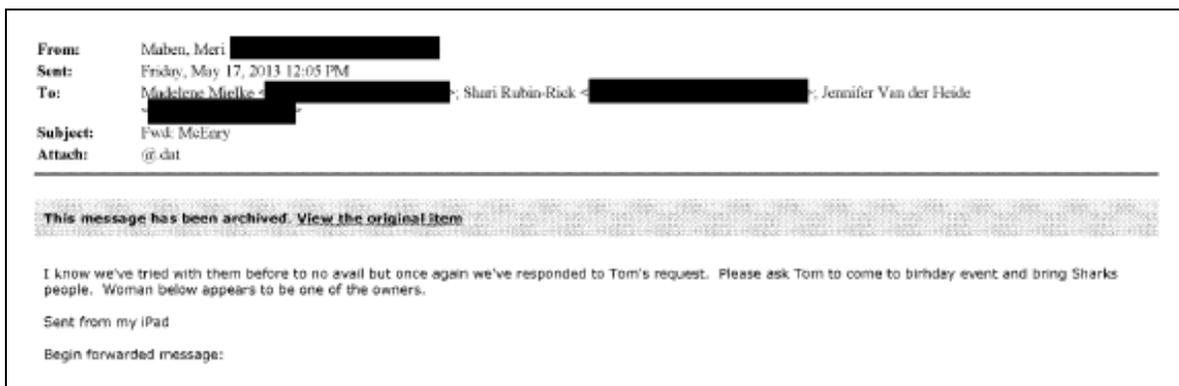
¹⁰⁵ *Id.* (Exhibit 12 at 15-2070_0397).

¹⁰⁶ Email from Constituent Services Director to District Director, May 1, 2013 (Exhibit 19 at 15-2070_0479).

¹⁰⁷ Email from District Director to Constituent Services Director, May 2, 2013 (Exhibit 19 at 15-2070_0479).

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82. On May 17, 2013, the District Director, using her congressional email account, forwarded information about the casework matter to Representative Honda's Former Fundraising Consultant, another campaign fundraising consultant, and the Chief of Staff, suggesting that the campaign seek contributions from individuals involved:¹⁰⁸



83. The District Director said that she sent this email to members of Representative Honda's campaign finance team to explain that the campaign had tried unsuccessfully to get members of the Sharks professional hockey team ownership group to come to a campaign event in the past, and to suggest that they solicit campaign contributions from the owners by inviting them to Representative Honda's upcoming birthday fundraising event.¹⁰⁹

84. The District Director told the OCE that she could not recall other occasions when she forwarded names to the campaign as potential campaign contributors.¹¹⁰

85. Representative Honda told the OCE that he was not aware of the District Director's effort to seek out campaign contributions from those involved in this casework matter.¹¹¹

86. Members of the congressional staff also appear to have shared the names of individuals interacting with the congressional office with the campaign. The District Director told the OCE that Representative Honda's campaign manager in the 2014 election cycle asked that she collect business cards from individuals attending official events and give those cards to the campaign.¹¹² She said that the campaign manager used the business cards to "build a database."¹¹³

87. The Chief of Staff also told the OCE that she "would collect the business cards of people that I thought might be interested or have told me that they're interested in supporting the

¹⁰⁸ Email from District Director to Former Fundraising Consultant, *et al.*, May 17, 2013 (Exhibit 19 at 15-2070_0478).

¹⁰⁹ Former District Director Transcript (Exhibit 10 at 15-2070_0308).

¹¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹¹ Rep. Honda Transcript (Exhibit 1 at 15-2070_0012).

¹¹² Former District Director Transcript (Exhibit 10 at 15-2070_0325-0326).

¹¹³ *Id.*

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Congressman,” even if she had had no discussion with the individuals about the campaign, then send that information to the campaign.¹¹⁴

88. When asked if he was aware of congressional staff members collecting business cards and sending them to the campaign, Representative Honda told the OCE, “I do know that they’ve been pretty tough on me saying that we can’t share that. If you’re going to do it, you have to collect your own, so I do remember them saying that they can’t do that.”¹¹⁵

Members of Representative Honda’s Congressional Staff May Have Discussed Campaign Matters during Official Meetings in the District Office

89. Several members of Representative Honda’s district office staff reported that campaign matters were often discussed during weekly district office staff meetings, held in the district office, during “coffee breaks” called by the District Director.¹¹⁶
90. The District Director explained that “coffee breaks” were, for about ten years, an item on the agenda of weekly district office staff meetings.¹¹⁷ The district staff meetings were held in the district office, and attendance at the meetings was mandatory.¹¹⁸
91. The District Director described “coffee breaks” as “an opportunity to talk about information that’s incidental, anecdotal, that wouldn’t be captured in our official weekly report, in order to gather information from the community. It was also a personal time to discuss any personal matters.”¹¹⁹
92. The District Director acknowledged that Representative Honda’s campaign was discussed during the “coffee breaks.”¹²⁰ She said that campaign events, fundraising, and campaign opponents may have been among the subjects discussed.¹²¹
93. Former Congressional Aide #1 described the “coffee breaks” as “a time when campaign related information would be discussed, such as what’s going on, what endorsements are we seeking, sort of generally what’s going on politically, locally.”¹²² He recalled one instance where the Former Senior Congressional Aide “talked about how one of the interns had done a really great job in bringing his friends or family members in to do phone banking.”¹²³

¹¹⁴ Chief of Staff Transcript (Exhibit 6 at 15-2070_0173).

¹¹⁵ Rep. Honda Transcript (Exhibit 1 at 15-2070_0011).

¹¹⁶ Former District Director Transcript (Exhibit 10 at 15-2070_0312-313); Former Senior Congressional Aide Transcript (Exhibit 2 at 15-2070_0041-043); Former Congressional Aide #3 Transcript (Exhibit 12 at 15-2070_411-0412).

¹¹⁷ Former District Director Transcript (Exhibit 10 at 15-2070_0312).

¹¹⁸ *Id.* (Exhibit 10 at 15-2070_0312-313).

¹¹⁹ *Id.* (Exhibit 10 at 15-2070_0312).

¹²⁰ *Id.* (Exhibit 10 at 15-2070_0313).

¹²¹ *Id.* (Exhibit 10 at 15-2070_0313-0314).

¹²² Former Congressional Aide #1 Transcript (Exhibit 11 at 15-2070_0363).

¹²³ *Id.* (Exhibit 11 at 15-2070_0364).

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94. According to Former Congressional Aide #3, the need to call for a “coffee break” came from the “specific line between government work and campaign work.”¹²⁴
95. The Former Senior Congressional Aide also told the OCE that he believes that Representative Honda’s campaign, including campaign updates, was discussed during the “coffee breaks.”¹²⁵

Members of Representative Honda’s Congressional Staff Discussed Campaign Matters during Official Staff Retreats

96. Representative Honda’s district staff organized and participated in several district office staff retreats during the period from 2012 to 2014. According to the District Director, the retreats were official activities, typically held off-site, with mandatory attendance by members of the district office staff.¹²⁶ She explained that the purpose of the retreats was “to build the Congressman’s action plan to meet his goals for the year. The purpose was always to bond.”¹²⁷
97. Campaign staff attended district office retreats,¹²⁸ and Representative Honda’s campaigns were discussed at the retreats.¹²⁹ The District Director acknowledged that she invited campaign staff to attend district office retreats.¹³⁰ According to the District Director, the “campaign portion” of a retreat “was in [her] mind, a break from official.”¹³¹
98. At a district office staff retreat held on Tuesday, February 7, 2012, Representative Honda’s Former Campaign Coordinator gave a presentation entitled, “Overview of the new district.”¹³² The District Director gave a presentation entitled, “2012: Challenges, Impacts, and Attributes/Skills.”¹³³ Notes from the presentation indicate discussion of campaign matters, including “[o]ur voters” and “new voters.”¹³⁴
99. The District Director acknowledged that both she and the Former Campaign Coordinator discussed campaign matters during their presentations.¹³⁵ She said that “in [her] mind, it was an official break. I was discussing campaign matters, how to reach new voters.”¹³⁶ While she did not recall specifically doing so, she said it would have been her practice to

¹²⁴ Former Congressional Aide #3 Transcript (Exhibit 12 at 15-2070_0412).

¹²⁵ Former Senior Congressional Aide Transcript (Exhibit 2 at 15-2070_0043-0045).

¹²⁶ Former District Director Transcript (Exhibit 10 at 15-2070_0315, 0319).

¹²⁷ *Id.* (Exhibit 10 at 15-2070_0315).

¹²⁸ *Id.*; Senior Congressional Aide Transcript (Exhibit 2 at 15-2070_0050); Former Congressional Aide #3 Transcript (Exhibit 12 at 15-2070_0406); Former Campaign Coordinator Transcript (Exhibit 4 at 15-2070_0109).

¹²⁹ Former Senior Congressional Aide Transcript (Exhibit 2 at 15-2070_0051); Former Congressional Aide #2 Transcript (Exhibit 5 at 15-2070_0144-0145); Former Congressional Aide #3 Transcript (Exhibit 12 at 15-2070_0406); Former Campaign Coordinator Transcript (Exhibit 4 at 15-2070_0109-0110).

¹³⁰ Former District Director Transcript (Exhibit 10 at 15-2070_0315).

¹³¹ *Id.*

¹³² Notes from District Office Retreat – Tuesday, February 7, 2012 (Exhibit 20 at 15-2070_0482). It is not clear who drafted the notes from this retreat. *See* Former District Director Transcript (Exhibit 10 at 15-2070_0316).

¹³³ Notes from District Office Retreat – Tuesday, February 7, 2012 (Exhibit 20 at 15-2070_0482).

¹³⁴ *Id.*

¹³⁵ Former District Director Transcript (Exhibit 10 at 15-2070_0316-0317).

¹³⁶ *Id.* (Exhibit 10 at 15-2070_0317)

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declare a “break,” and that attendees were free to leave at that point.¹³⁷ She did not, however, recall anyone exercising that option.¹³⁸

100. Another district office retreat was held on September 13, 2012.¹³⁹ Former Congressional Aide #1 told the OCE that the purpose of the retreat was “to set priorities and have a conversation with the campaign and try to collaborate. Make sure everyone’s on the same page.”¹⁴⁰
101. At this retreat, the Former Campaign Coordinator and Former Senior Congressional Aide, who at the time was working part-time for Representative Honda’s campaign, spoke on topics that included an overview of Representative Honda’s congressional district, takeaways from the June 2012 primary election, voter identification efforts, voter turnout efforts, fundraising ideas, and the interaction between the official and campaign offices.¹⁴¹
102. The notes from this retreat indicate discussion of how the campaign and district offices could work together. For example, participants discussed “how to transition info from campaign to [district office] (ethically and practically)”.¹⁴²

II. Overview of Ca-17 (Iamar, Mark Nakamoto)

>New cities, how to transition info from campaign to do (ethically and practically) - especially (not exclusively) Fremont’

103. Similarly, the retreat notes indicate that the participants discussed: “How does official use the intel from Campaign (outreach, learning)?”¹⁴³

Transitioning Data from Campaign to Official - Mark

How does official use the intel from Campaign (outreach, learning)?

-Google doc of stakeholders for ca 17

-One pager per issue, important is anecdotal info like “we supported issue x, this stakeholder was happy”

-Tells you who to go to if we have event x or issue y How many? One pager only for big issues.

104. When asked about these notes, the District Director acknowledged that the retreat participants “could have” discussed how the district office could help advance the goals

¹³⁷ *Id.*

¹³⁸ *Id.*

¹³⁹ District Office Staff Retreat Notes, September 13, 2012 (Exhibit 21 at 15-2070_0502).

¹⁴⁰ Former Congressional Aide #1 Transcript (Exhibit 11 at 15-2070_0367).

¹⁴¹ District Office Staff Retreat Notes, September 13, 2012 (Exhibit 21 at 15-2070_0502-0503).

¹⁴² *Id.* (Exhibit 21 at 15-2070_0502).

¹⁴³ *Id.* (Exhibit 21 at 15-2070_0503).

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and strategies of Representative Honda's campaign.¹⁴⁴ She further explained, "[T]his was in [her] mind within the confines of non-official time discussing campaign, that the intel from campaign was something specifically issue-related, would be important for district staff to be able to do their job."¹⁴⁵

105. The District Director said that the "intel" from the campaign "could have" had to do with ways the district office could help with or complement the campaign's efforts to win Representative Honda's re-election.¹⁴⁶

In this time period, when we were doing goal setting and my impression was that having a campaign person come to an offsite retreat to discuss the holistic view of the congressmen where campaign activities would impact our official schedule, those matters would be discussed.¹⁴⁷

The District Director acknowledged that re-election was one of the goals discussed.¹⁴⁸

106. Former Congressional Aide #1 said that his understanding of the presentation by the Former Campaign Coordinator and Former Senior Congressional Aide was "to think about how to use what we learn from campaign to help the district office achieve its objectives and vice versa."¹⁴⁹

107. In one specific instance, as part of a discussion of Representative Honda's primary election performance among Chinese-American voters, there appears to have been a discussion about how the district office could "help" the campaign, through Chinese language outreach.¹⁵⁰

Chinese

Slight majority dem 52-55%

- Vietnamese

Majority dem 60%

- Mike Nguyen believes Vietnamese not confused by opponents last name

Campaign - mark - like a normal Voter identification up until a few weeks, then do turn out, but because we don't need to worry about 50+1, can do some outreach that typical campaign consultant would say is not efficient.

> can go after Cupertino, Chinese, independents e how can we help in

> DO? Chinese language outreach in Cupertino

¹⁴⁴ Former District Director Transcript (Exhibit 10 at 15-2070_0319).

¹⁴⁵ *Id.* (Exhibit 10 at 15-2070_0322).

¹⁴⁶ *Id.* (Exhibit 10 at 15-2070_0323).

¹⁴⁷ *Id.*

¹⁴⁸ *Id.* (Exhibit 10 at 15-2070_0323-0324).

¹⁴⁹ Former Congressional Aide #1 Transcript (Exhibit 11 at 15-2070_0368).

¹⁵⁰ District Office Staff Retreat Notes, September 13, 2012 (Exhibit 21 at 15-2070_0503).

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108. The Former Campaign Coordinator explained: “I did an analysis of the votes for the campaign and pointed out that Cupertino is an existing part of the district. There were issues with the level of support there. . . . I think the discussion there was, well, maybe we need to start doing our stuff in Chinese and putting it out in Mandarin and getting people to connect that way to the congressional office. . . . It was in the context of votes. . . . The district office doing Chinese language outreach was mentioned in the context of a campaign and votes.”¹⁵¹
109. When asked if there were discussions about using the district office to further some of the campaign’s goals, the Former Deputy District Director said, “I think in terms of that, you could say yeah. We’re going to focus on all of our events in Fremont. You’re going to prioritize doing more events in Fremont than you are in Cupertino, for example. This is just me speaking hypothetically. I don’t know exactly what was said. Something like that. I recall those type of conversations happening.”¹⁵²
110. When asked if outreach undertaken by the district office was ever discussed in terms of the campaign, the Former Deputy District Director said that he was “[c]ertain it was discussed. I don’t recall any exact instances but I’m sure we talked about that stuff. I just don’t know when and where and that.”¹⁵³ He said that it was probably the Chief of Staff and District Director who discussed that with the district office staff.¹⁵⁴
111. The notes indicate that there was discussion of “stakeholders” in the district: “important is anecdotal info like ‘we support issue x, this stakeholder was happy,’” and “[t]ells us who to go to if we have event x or issue y”¹⁵⁵
112. Former Congressional Aide #1 explained: “The really important information is the anecdotal information that this important person felt this way when we supported this issue and didn’t feel this way when we supported this. . . . How does he feel actually about the Congressman? How does the Congressman feel about him? How can we be sure that the Congressman understands that Carl’s doing a favor to him? And so the Congressman changes the way he speaks to this person.”¹⁵⁶

¹⁵¹ Former Campaign Coordinator Transcript (Exhibit 4 at 15-2070_0111-0112).

¹⁵² Former Deputy District Director Transcript (Exhibit 14 at 15-2070_0452).

¹⁵³ *Id.* (Exhibit 14 at 15-2070_0458).

¹⁵⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵⁵ District Office Staff Retreat Notes, September 13, 2012 (Exhibit 21 at 15-2070_0503).

¹⁵⁶ Former Congressional Aide #1 Transcript (Exhibit 11 at 15-2070_0369).

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113. The notes from the September 2012 retreat also refer to a fundraising idea whereby the campaign would recruit 1,000 people to each contribute \$1,000.¹⁵⁷ The notes indicate that this fundraising effort “will likely be transactional – i.e. help me with this visa for my grandma. Donors are not going to be interested in the public affairs or federal gov policy.”¹⁵⁸

-Thousand crane-
>1m - thousand people, each give a thousand per yr
>FOR DONORS: Provide social network to keep in touch, email my with questions about federal issues
>Lamar is here to try out this MH idea, even after the election for this
>to work, it will require MHs to use his personal touch.
>unlike a nonprofit, folks are not going to ante up every year because they believe in the cause
>also will likely be transactional – i.e help me with this visa for my grandma. Donors are not going to be interested in the public affairs or the federal gov policy
>what about managing this? Can the DO handle requests by a crane? what about questionable requests?

114. The Former Campaign Coordinator explained that this reference to “transactional” came from a staff member who brought up the point that some people give to a congressional campaign because they can “get something out of it in return.”¹⁵⁹ He said that there was no effort to create a transactional relationship with donors.¹⁶⁰
115. At a third district office retreat held on Tuesday, October 22, 2013, then-Campaign Manager Doug Greven gave a “Campaign Update/Presentation.”¹⁶¹ The notes from the retreat summarize Mr. Greven’s presentation:¹⁶²

Campaign Update/Presentation
Doug Greven presented a short presentation on the campaign status and strategy.

- DC makes policy - we do events - Campaign takes DO events and uses them to raise \$
- Doug: Meri equivalent - admin for staff, political meetings, etc.
- Lamar: endorsements, validator organizing, political information, etc.
- Vivek: online media, press outreach, press secretary, message training w/ MH, scheduling of campaign events (briefeferer)
- Mehran: call-time manager, fundraising scheduler, intern supervisor, donor list manager, research
- Campaign right now is trying to be quiet - we don't want to talk about RK because we don't WANT to give him name recognition
 - Won't engage until March
- Lamar is setting political folks up to do events that show validators
- Important targets: Alameda County, younger people, caucasians, Latinos
- Prioritize business cards
- New motto: gets stuff done

¹⁵⁷ District Office Staff Retreat Notes, September 13, 2012 (Exhibit 21 at 15-2070_0503).

¹⁵⁸ *Id.*

¹⁵⁹ Former Campaign Coordinator Transcript (Exhibit 4 at 15-2070_0112-0113).

¹⁶⁰ *Id.* (Exhibit 4 at 15-2070_0113).

¹⁶¹ Notes from District Office Staff Retreat, October 22, 2013 (Exhibit 22 at 15-2070_0507).

¹⁶² *Id.*

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116. As indicated in the notes, among the topics Mr. Greven discussed: “DC makes policy – we do events – Campaign takes [district office] events and uses them to raise \$.”¹⁶³
117. Mr. Greven declined to cooperate with the OCE’s review and was not available to answer questions regarding his presentation.
118. When asked about the notes from Mr. Greven’s presentation, the District Director said that it “was part of Doug’s presentation and that was something he said, as to how it was to occur, whatever, I don’t recall there being a discussion, but it was his perspective in something that he said.”¹⁶⁴
119. Representative Honda told the OCE that he has attended district office staff retreats, noting that “[t]hey’re all official retreats.”¹⁶⁵ He said that there were no discussion of his campaigns at the retreats, and if there had been, it would have been inappropriate.¹⁶⁶
120. When shown the notes from the September 2012 district office staff retreat, Representative Honda acknowledged that the discussion went beyond a discussion of the new parts of the district, to more of a campaign approach: “Yeah, it may, but a lot of the information, a lot of data that we use was probably just to get a good handle on the district with the demographics, but that did occur, I guess.”¹⁶⁷
121. When shown the notes from the October 2013 district office staff retreat, including the reference to the “Campaign Update/Presentation” by Doug Greven, Representative Honda said that that surprised him: “It does now, yeah. I’ve never seen this.”¹⁶⁸
122. When asked about the line, “DC makes policy – we do events – Campaign takes DO events and uses them to raise \$,” Representative Honda said, “It’s open to a lot of interpretation, but it doesn’t look good.”¹⁶⁹
123. Based on the foregoing information, the Board finds that there is substantial reason to believe that Representative Honda and members of his congressional staff used official resources, including staff time, for campaign purposes.

¹⁶³ *Id.*

¹⁶⁴ Former District Director Transcript (Exhibit 10 at 15-2070_0325).

¹⁶⁵ Rep. Honda Transcript (Exhibit 1 at 15-2070_0012-0013).

¹⁶⁶ *Id.* (Exhibit 1 at 15-2070_0013).

¹⁶⁷ *Id.*

¹⁶⁸ *Id.* (Exhibit 1 at 15-2070_0014).

¹⁶⁹ *Id.*

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III. REPRESENTATIVE HONDA AND MEMBERS OF HIS CONGRESSIONAL STAFF MAY HAVE LINKED OFFICIAL ACTIVITIES TO POLITICAL SUPPORT

A. Applicable Laws, Rules, and Standards of Conduct

124. House Rules

Pursuant to House Rule 23, clause 1, Members “shall behave at all times in a manner that shall reflect creditably on the House.”

Under House Rule 23, clause 2, Members “shall adhere to the spirit and the letter of the Rules of the House”

125. House Ethics Manual

*According to the House Ethics Manual, “Members and staff are not to take or withhold any official action on the basis of the campaign contributions or support of the involved individuals, or their partisan affiliation. . . . [T]hat guidance is applicable to **all** official actions taken by Members and staff”¹⁷⁰*

“[O]ne of the key provisions of the Code of Ethics for Government Service states, in ¶ 5, that government officials should ‘[n]ever discriminate unfairly by the dispensing of special favors or privileges to anyone, whether for remuneration or not.’ The Code further provides, in ¶ 10, that ‘public office is a public trust,’ and thus the public has a right to expect House Members and staff to exercise impartial judgment in performing their duties.”¹⁷¹

“Because a Member’s obligations are to all constituents equally, considerations such as political support, party affiliation, or campaign contributions should not affect either the decision of a Member to provide assistance or the quality of help that is given.”¹⁷²

“[T]he [congressional] office files may not be reviewed to obtain the names of individuals to solicit for campaign contributions.”¹⁷³

B. Representative Honda and Members of His Congressional Staff May Have Tied Official Activities to Past or Potential Campaign or Political Support

126. Representative Honda and members of this congressional staff may have linked official activities, such as an official roundtable event with a State Department official, with past or potential campaign or political support.

127. On February 21, 2013, Representative Honda hosted a roundtable discussion with the Senior Advisor for Strategic Partnerships in the U.S. State Department’s South and

¹⁷⁰ House Ethics Manual at 150-151 (emphasis in original).

¹⁷¹ *Id.* at 151.

¹⁷² *Id.* at 308.

¹⁷³ *Id.* at 128 (Example 2).

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Central Asian Bureau, at Santa Clara University in California.¹⁷⁴ This was an official event organized by Representative Honda's congressional office.¹⁷⁵

128. According to the event invitation, “[t]his round table discussion on the economic relationship between the United States and India will provide an opportunity for policymakers, business innovators, and community leaders to draw upon the lessons of India and the Silicon Valley while helping to deepen the close partnership between the world’s largest and the world’s oldest democracy.”¹⁷⁶
129. Representative Honda told the OCE that this event “was to bring someone from the Obama administration, I believe it’s small business, and to invite folks over to the event, and then I would make the introduction, and then [the Senior Advisor] would conduct the meeting.”¹⁷⁷
130. According to Former Congressional Aide #1, the idea for this roundtable event originated with the Chief of Staff.¹⁷⁸ The Chief of Staff said that she did not recall who came up with the idea for the event.¹⁷⁹
131. When asked how the invitees to the event were selected, the Chief of Staff explained:

The best description I can give is it was a brainstorm. We started thinking about who were people who would be interested or knowledgeable in having a discussion about that. . . . I know [Former Congressional Aide #1] was involved in coming up with a list. I know I gave him suggestions. . . . I believe at some point, we were scrambling because we didn’t have what I would call a sufficient . . . We didn’t have a full room. We wanted to have a successful event. I know, based on the reports and going back and looking at the emails, that I asked [Former Campaign Coordinator] for a list. I was looking for more names and ideas of prominent South Asians who might be interested in coming. My recollection of the context is we were scrambling.¹⁸⁰

132. Representative Honda told the OCE: “What I wanted to do was make sure that we had Indo-Americans there because the Obama administration had done a real good job of hiring and appointing different groups, and I wanted a relationship and let them know that the administration has somebody that can talk to them and hopefully the same language and sentiment and understand the attendees also.”¹⁸¹

¹⁷⁴ Invitation to Roundtable Discussion with Senior Advisor, February 21, 2013 (Exhibit 23 at 15-2070_0516).

¹⁷⁵ Rep. Honda Transcript (Exhibit 1 at 15-2070_0015); Chief of Staff Transcript (Exhibit 6 at 15-2070_0188-0189); Former Campaign Coordinator Transcript (Exhibit 4 at 15-2070_0115).

¹⁷⁶ Invitation to Roundtable Discussion with Senior Advisor, February 21, 2013 (Exhibit 23 at 15-2070_0516).

¹⁷⁷ Rep. Honda Transcript (Exhibit 1 at 15-2070_0015).

¹⁷⁸ Former Congressional Aide #1 Transcript (Exhibit 11 at 15-2070_0372).

¹⁷⁹ Chief of Staff Transcript (Exhibit 6 at 15-2070_0188).

¹⁸⁰ *Id.* (Exhibit 6 at 15-2070_0189).

¹⁸¹ Rep. Honda Transcript (Exhibit 1 at 15-2070_0015).

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133. In a February 7, 2013 email, Former Congressional Aide #1 sent the Chief of Staff a list of “16 people and organizations” for the roundtable event, noting, “The list needs to be longer. Any ideas on who we can contact?”¹⁸²
134. Also on February 7, 2013, the Chief of Staff sent an email to the Former Campaign Coordinator, copied to Former Congressional Aide #1, asking if the Former Campaign Coordinator had “the list of proposed invitees to the Indian roundtable with State ready”.¹⁸³



135. According to the Former Campaign Coordinator, at the time of this email, the Chief of Staff “was very preoccupied with the Indo-American community,” explaining that “[t]hey represented a new community in the 17th Congressional District. They had not represented such a large share of the Indo-American community before. There was at this time a concern about a candidate from that community opposing Congressman Honda in the 2014 election cycle.”¹⁸⁴
136. Former Congressional Aide #1 explained, “There was a concern that the relationship with that [South Asian] community wasn’t as strong as it needed to be. Especially given that was a key political base for the challenger, we needed to do outreach.”¹⁸⁵
137. The Former Campaign Coordinator said that the Chief of Staff asked him “to prepare a list of people that can be looped in to be invited to the roundtable. . . . Come up with a list of people who are politically active, who are active in a number of ways, financially or otherwise, who can be part of this event.”¹⁸⁶ The Former Campaign Coordinator

¹⁸² Email from Former Congressional Aide #1 to Chief of Staff, February 7, 2013 (Exhibit 24 at 15-2070_0518-0519).

¹⁸³ Email from Chief of Staff to Former Campaign Coordinator, copied to Former Congressional Aide #1, February 7, 2013 (Exhibit 25 at 15-2070_0521).

¹⁸⁴ Former Campaign Coordinator Transcript (Exhibit 4 at 15-2070_0116).

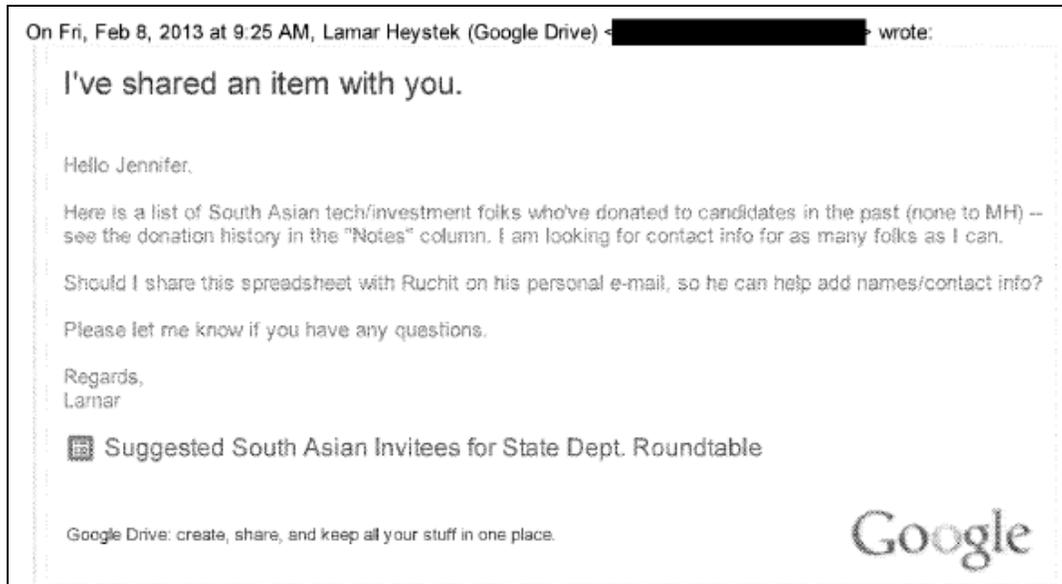
¹⁸⁵ Former Congressional Aide #1 Transcript (Exhibit 11 at 15-2070_0372).

¹⁸⁶ Former Campaign Coordinator Transcript at 26-27 (Exhibit 4 at 15-2070_0116-0117).

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said that the Chief of Staff asked for a list of individuals who had made campaign contributions before to other candidates, but not to Representative Honda.¹⁸⁷

138. The Chief of Staff told the OCE that she believes that she asked the Former Campaign Coordinator “to look at some kind of reports to come up with some ideas.”¹⁸⁸ She said that she did not recall what “reports” she asked him to review.¹⁸⁹ When asked if she asked the Former Campaign Coordinator to look specifically for a list of individuals who had donated to candidates in the past, she told the OCE, “I don’t recall what I specifically asked him to do.”¹⁹⁰
139. On February 8, 2013, the Former Campaign Coordinator sent the Chief of Staff “a list of South Asian tech/investment folks who’ve donated to candidates in the past (none to MH).”¹⁹¹



140. The list provided by the Former Campaign Coordinator included a column entitled “Notes,” which identified past campaign contributions made by the individuals included on the list.¹⁹²
141. When asked why the list of potential invitees provided by the Former Campaign Coordinator included contribution histories, the Chief of Staff said, “[I]t was an idea, one of many, of how can we get people to come to this event, and people who

¹⁸⁷ *Id.* (Exhibit 4 at 15-2070_0117).

¹⁸⁸ Chief of Staff Transcript (Exhibit 6 at 15-2070_0190).

¹⁸⁹ *Id.* (Exhibit 6 at 15-2070_0190).

¹⁹⁰ *Id.* (Exhibit 6 at 15-2070_0191).

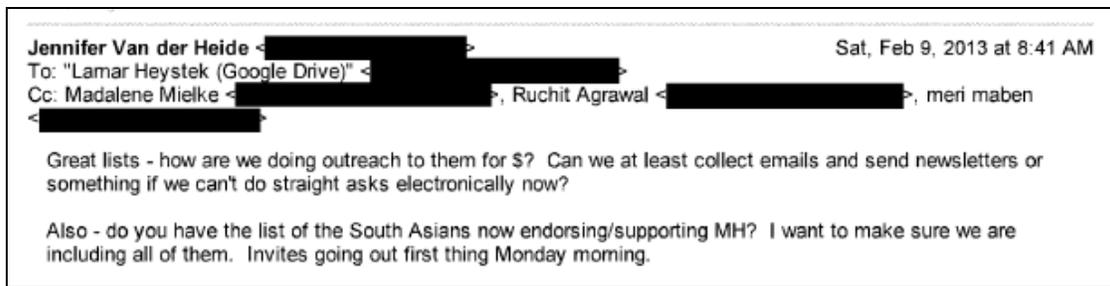
¹⁹¹ Email from Campaign Coordinator to Chief of Staff, February 8, 2013 (Exhibit 26 at 15-2070_0523).

¹⁹² “Suggested South Asian (and Non-South Asian) Invitees for State Dept Roundtable” Spreadsheet (Exhibit 27 at 15-2070_0529-0575).

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participate oftentimes are people who are involved in issues in their community. . . . We were looking for people who were opinion leaders, prominent in this area. It was an idea, clearly not a good one, but one of many.”¹⁹³

142. The Chief of Staff forwarded the Former Campaign Coordinator’s list to Former Congressional Aide #1, explaining: “I went through and culled out which ones should be on invite list so I need you to call me so I can read off the names.”¹⁹⁴
143. Former Congressional Aide #1 told the OCE that he believed the Former Campaign Coordinator was responsible for putting the invitee list together, and that he was asked by the Chief of Staff to contribute to the invitee list, explaining that he “was asked to take whatever official information we had and put it into the Google Drive that [the Former Campaign Coordinator] had started.”¹⁹⁵
144. On February 9, 2013, the Chief of Staff replied to the Former Campaign Coordinator, copying the District Director, Former Congressional Aide #1, and Representative Honda’s Former Fundraising Consultant:¹⁹⁶



145. When asked what she meant when she wrote, “Great lists – how are we doing outreach to them for \$?”, the Chief of Staff told the OCE, “I don’t know.”¹⁹⁷
146. When asked why she included the Former Fundraising Consultant on this email, the Chief of Staff told the OCE, “I don’t know.”¹⁹⁸
147. The Chief of Staff told the OCE that the roundtable event was not used as a way to raise money for Representative Honda’s campaign or as a way to recruit potential new campaign contributors.¹⁹⁹

¹⁹³ Chief of Staff Transcript (Exhibit 6 at 15-2070_0192).

¹⁹⁴ Email from Chief of Staff to Former Congressional Aide #1, February 9, 2013 (Exhibit 26 at 15-2070_0523).

¹⁹⁵ Former Congressional Aide #1 Transcript (Exhibit 11 at 15-2070_0375, 0378).

¹⁹⁶ Email from Chief of Staff to Former Campaign Coordinator, copied to Former Fundraising Consultant, Former Congressional Aide #1, and Former District Director, February 9, 2013 (Exhibit 26 at 15-2070_0523).

¹⁹⁷ Chief of Staff Transcript at 34 (Exhibit 6 at 15-2070_0191-0192).

¹⁹⁸ *Id.* (Exhibit 6 at 15-2070_0191).

¹⁹⁹ *Id.* (Exhibit 6 at 15-2070_0192).

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148. However, Former Congressional Aide #1 told the OCE that “[t]he purpose of the event was donors, or potential donors, and one of the ways to indicate potential donors is that they donate to other politicians, to prioritize them to do outreach to this event.”²⁰⁰ He said that the Chief of Staff was “talking about how to build relationships for fundraising.”²⁰¹
149. The Former Fundraising Consultant told the OCE that she was not involved in planning or organizing this event, and that she did not know why the Chief of Staff included her on this email.²⁰² She did not recall taking any action after receiving this email, nor did she recall any discussions about the email.²⁰³ She did not recall using a list associated with this round table event for fundraising.²⁰⁴ She said that she understood this to be a project on which the Former Campaign Coordinator was working.²⁰⁵
150. When asked how invitees to the State Department event were selected, the District Director said that district staff members “were uncertain as to how many people were coming . . . so we had to fill the event quickly.”²⁰⁶
151. The District Director told the OCE that she was not aware of Representative Honda’s campaign being involved in selecting invitees to the event.²⁰⁷ She was, however, copied on an email from the Chief of Staff to Former Congressional Aide #1, in which the Chief of Staff said that she had asked the Former Campaign Coordinator for a list of possible invitees to the roundtable event.²⁰⁸ The District Director said that she understood this to be the Chief of Staff asking the Former Campaign Coordinator “for people that he may have encountered during the campaign, as a source to fill up the room.”²⁰⁹
152. When asked if this email indicated that the campaign was involved in selecting invitees to the event, the District Director said, “I don’t know whether they did nor not. Obviously this asks for them. What I recall is my part in the official office, which I just described to you.”²¹⁰
153. When asked if the campaign at some point after the roundtable event reached out to the attendees or invitees to solicit campaign contributions, the Chief of Staff told the OCE, “I don’t know.”²¹¹ The District Director said that she did not recall any conversations

²⁰⁰ Former Congressional Aide #1 Transcript (Exhibit 11 at 15-2070_0377).

²⁰¹ *Id.* (Exhibit 11 at 15-2070_0380).

²⁰² Former Fundraising Consultant Transcript (Exhibit 8 at 15-2070_0249).

²⁰³ *Id.* (Exhibit 8 at 15-2070_0249-0250).

²⁰⁴ *Id.* (Exhibit 8 at 15-2070_0251).

²⁰⁵ *Id.* (Exhibit 8 at 15-2070_0250).

²⁰⁶ Former District Director Transcript (Exhibit 10 at 15-2070_0327).

²⁰⁷ *Id.*

²⁰⁸ Email from Chief of Staff to Former Congressional Aide #1, copied to Former District Director, February 7, 2013 (Exhibit 28 at 15-2070_0577).

²⁰⁹ Former District Director Transcript (Exhibit 10 at 15-2070_0328).

²¹⁰ *Id.* (Exhibit 10 at 15-2070_0328).

²¹¹ Chief of Staff Transcript (Exhibit 6 at 15-2070_0192-0193).

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with the Chief of Staff about seeking campaign contributions from individuals invited to attend the roundtable event.²¹²

154. Representative Honda told the OCE that he did not know whether his campaign was involved in selecting the invitees to the State Department roundtable, prior to press reporting about the event in September 2014.²¹³
155. Representative Honda said that he did not have any discussions with his Chief of Staff or anyone at his campaign about using the roundtable event as a way to help with fundraising for his campaign.²¹⁴ He said he was not involved in any effort to solicit campaign contributions from the event invitees.²¹⁵
156. Both the Chief of Staff and the District Director told the OCE that they do not recall other instances in which the congressional office asked the campaign for suggestions of potential invitees to official events.²¹⁶
157. Former Congressional Aide #3 told the OCE that the Former Campaign Coordinator would sometimes contact district office staff regarding potential invitees to campaign events: “[S]ometimes it was clarification on a particular contact or issue contact. ‘Hey, should we include them in this invite, because of our relationship with’”²¹⁷ He noted, however, that he did not recall any specific instance “where somebody said, this person donated this much money, so let’s make sure to invite them.”²¹⁸
158. The Former Campaign Coordinator told the OCE that “probably, maybe” there were other occasions on which the congressional office asked for the campaign’s input on people to invite to events.²¹⁹
159. Former Congressional Aide #1 recalled the Chief of Staff asking that he put together a list of stakeholders in the Sikh community, directing him to reach out to the Former Campaign Coordinator for names to include on this stakeholder list.²²⁰

²¹² Former District Director Transcript (Exhibit 10 at 15-2070_0330).

²¹³ Rep. Honda Transcript (Exhibit 1 at 15-2070_0015).

²¹⁴ *Id.* (Exhibit 1 at 15-2070_0016).

²¹⁵ *Id.*

²¹⁶ Chief of Staff Transcript (Exhibit 6 at 15-2070_0195); Former District Director Transcript (Exhibit 10 at 15-2070_0330-0331).

²¹⁷ Former Congressional Aide #3 Transcript (Exhibit 12 at 15-2070_0409).

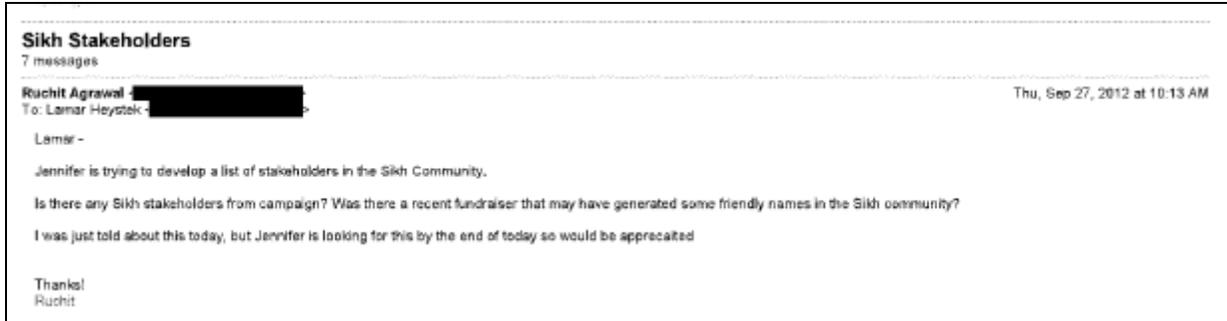
²¹⁸ *Id.* (Exhibit 12 at 15-2070_0417).

²¹⁹ Former Campaign Coordinator Transcript (Exhibit 4 at 15-2070_0124).

²²⁰ Former Congressional Aide #1 Transcript (Exhibit 11 at 15-2070_0381-0382).

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160. On September 27, 2012, Former Congressional Aide #1 emailed the Former Campaign Coordinator to ask for names to include in the list:²²¹



161. Former Congressional Aide #1 told the OCE that he does not believe he ultimately did anything with the names provided by the Former Campaign Coordinator, as the request “didn’t sit right” with him, because of the “line between campaign and official.”²²²

162. The Former Campaign Coordinator said that, after he received the request from Former Congressional Aide #1, he provided several names: “I probably put it in there and said, there you go. That’s the information, similar to the document with the state department. There you go.”²²³ He did not recall using a Sikh stakeholder list.²²⁴

163. Based on the foregoing information, the Board finds that there is substantial reason to believe that Representative Honda and members of his congressional staff tied official activities to past or potential campaign or political support.

IV. REPRESENTATIVE HONDA MAY HAVE USED OFFICIAL RESOURCES FOR PERSONAL PURPOSES

A. Applicable Laws, Rules, and Standards of Conduct

164. 31 U.S.C. § 1301

Federal law provides that official funds may be used only for the purposes for which they were appropriated.

165. House Rules

Pursuant to House Rule 23, clause 1, Members “shall behave at all times in a manner that shall reflect creditably on the House.”

²²¹ Email from Former Congressional Aide #1 to Former Campaign Coordinator, September 27, 2012 (Exhibit 29 at 15-2070_0580).

²²² Former Congressional Aide #1 Transcript (Exhibit 11 at 15-2070_0382-0383).

²²³ Former Campaign Coordinator Transcript (Exhibit 4 at 15-2070_0125).

²²⁴ *Id.*

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Under House Rule 23, clause 2, Members “shall adhere to the spirit and the letter of the Rules of the House”

166. House Ethics Manual

The House Ethics Manual advises: “House resources acquired with [official] funds – including the office telephones, computers fax machines and other equipment, office supplies, office space, and staff while on official time – are to be used for the conduct of official House business.”²²⁵

The Manual further provides: “The [Members’ Representational Allowance (“MRA”)] may only be used for official and representational expenses. The MRA may not be used to pay for any expenses related to activities or events that are primarily social in nature, personal expenses, campaign or political expenses, or House committee expenses. Members may be personally liable for misspent funds or expenditures exceeding the MRA.”²²⁶

167. Members’ Congressional Handbook

The Members’ Congressional Handbook provides that “[t]he MRA may not pay for personal expenses.”²²⁷

B. Members of Representative Honda’s Congressional Staff May Have Been Directed to Perform Personal Services for Representative Honda

168. During the course of its review, the OCE found evidence that members of Representative Honda’s congressional staff assisted Representative Honda with personal technology issues and other personal matters. The OCE found, however, that purely personal requests for assistance were rare, that congressional staff did not feel compelled to assist Representative Honda with personal matters, and that technological assistance provided by members of the congressional staff were often related to issues with equipment that Representative Honda used for official purposes.

²²⁵ House Ethics Manual at 197.

²²⁶ *Id.* at 323 (citing to Comm. on House Admin., *Members’ Congressional Handbook*).

²²⁷ Comm. on House Admin., *Members’ Congressional Handbook*, at 2.

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169. In an August 10, 2012 email, Nadir Vissanjy, who at the time was working as Representative Honda's system administrator, emailed Representative Honda, with a copy to himself and to Former Congressional Aide #1, instructing Representative Honda on how to activate his personal Netflix account.²²⁸

From: Mike Honda [mailto:████████████████████]
Sent: Friday, August 10, 2012 12:24 PM
To: Mike Honda
Cc: Vissanjy, Nadir; Agrawal, Ruchit
Subject: Netflix Activation

Congressman,

In order to activate your Netflix account, you'll need your new credit card information.

Please go to netflix.com, your username is ████████████████████ and password is ██████████

Click on Your Account (top right) and it will ask you to log in your information (credit card number and all that).

Once you have done all that, Ruchit will set up your apple TV. I will talk to him on how to do it (we'll also do it in DC for you).

Nadir

170. In the email, Mr. Vissanjy also tells Representative Honda that once his Netflix account has been set up, Former Congressional Aide #1 "will set up your Apple TV. . . . (we'll also do it in DC for you.)"²²⁹

²²⁸ Email from Nadir Vissanjy to Rep. Honda, copied to Former Congressional Aide #1, August 10, 2012 (Exhibit 30 at 15-2070_0584).

²²⁹ *Id.*

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171. In a subsequent email, Mr. Vissanjy directed Former Congressional Aide #1 and Representative Honda's Digital Strategy Director to assist Representative Honda with his Netflix and Apple TV accounts:²³⁰

From: Vissanjy, Nadir
Sent: Thursday, August 16, 2012 6:08 AM
To: Agrawal, Ruchit; Lucas, Robert
Subject: FW: Netflix Activation

Folks,

MH needs to activate his Netflix account and then you need to input that on his Apple TV and show him how to use his Apple TV. Yes, that's a request boarding personal, but such is life.

He needs to activate his Netflix account because his credit card expired. You will either need to get his credit card to re-activate his Netflix account and/or have him do it (I suggest the former). When you take down the credit card info, make sure you get the numbers, expiration date, numbers on the back and the address it is associated too. Make sure you inform Charlene and Daniel about the credit card info so they can update their records (this just happened this month).

He has two accounts (both on Evernote):

Netflix.com (waiting for MH to reactivate)

[REDACTED]	pw: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	pw: [REDACTED]

You will have to figure out which one he activated and all that. I suggest you activate his personal email address if you have the option to do so.

Thanks,
Nadir

172. In the email, Mr. Vissanjy explains that Representative Honda needs assistance with his Netflix and Apple TV accounts, acknowledging, "Yes, that's a request boarding [*sic*] personal, but such is life."²³¹

173. According to Former Congressional Aide #1, he felt that his primary work responsibility "was this sort of, for lack of a better term, personal servant, IT guy for the Congressman's home, [the District Director's] home and the congressional office."²³²

²³⁰ Email from Nadir Vissanjy to Former Congressional Aide #1 and Legislative Correspondent/Systems Administrator, August 16, 2012 (Exhibit 30 at 15-2070_0585).

²³¹ *Id.*

²³² Former Congressional Aide #1 Transcript (Exhibit 11 at 15-2070_0337).

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174. Former Congressional Aide #1 told the OCE that he discussed his dissatisfaction with Mr. Vissanjy's request with the Former Deputy District Director, who he said told him, "[T]his is how it is. Take it or leave it."²³³
175. Former Congressional Aide #1 said he also spoke with Representative Honda about his dissatisfaction with his technology work responsibilities: "I never would have joined working for you if I would have been doing tech support. I have a law degree I definitely would not have been doing stuff like this for you."²³⁴ According to Former Congressional Aide #1, Representative Honda told him, "[I]t's just early. It's important. You're just getting started. Be patient."²³⁵
176. Former Congressional Aide #1 said that after he received the email from Mr. Vissanjy, he did not take any action.²³⁶ He said that he did not know if anyone else fixed Representative Honda's Netflix or Apple TV accounts.²³⁷
177. The Digital Strategy Director told the OCE that he received the email from Mr. Vissanjy shortly after he began working for Representative Honda.²³⁸ He recalled that, at one point, Mr. Vissanjy asked him to set up Representative Honda's Apple TV in his Washington, DC home, and after receiving Mr. Vissanjy's request, he did set up the Apple TV in Representative Honda's DC home.²³⁹ He said that he has also worked on the Apple TV in Representative Honda's California home.²⁴⁰
178. When asked about Mr. Vissanjy's reference to this being a "personal" request, the Digital Strategy Director said that, "In my mind I knew, and so when I set it up, I went after work."²⁴¹ He added, "Initially, yes, it did seem like a personal request, but in the long run I saw how the system we have, kind of this ecosystem of sorts, really works together when you can connect all your devices. . . . Apple TV actually has a lot of purposes as well for official use that I didn't see at the time, such as screen sharing because the Congressman doesn't like to look at small screens."²⁴²
179. Representative Honda said that he set up his own account for Netflix, but "the use of the Apple TV and how that works, that was explained to me."²⁴³
180. The technical assistance provided to Representative Honda was often tied to his use of technology for official purposes. Representative Honda told the OCE that "technical staff help[ed] me set up my home office so I can receive information and stuff like that

²³³ *Id.* (Exhibit 11 at 15-2070_0383).

²³⁴ *Id.* (Exhibit 11 at 15-2070_0383-0384).

²³⁵ *Id.* (Exhibit 11 at 15-2070_0384).

²³⁶ *Id.*

²³⁷ *Id.* (Exhibit 11 at 15-2070_0384-0385).

²³⁸ Digital Strategies Director Transcript (Exhibit 7 at 15-2070_0228).

²³⁹ *Id.*

²⁴⁰ *Id.* (Exhibit 7 at 15-2070_0229).

²⁴¹ *Id.*

²⁴² *Id.* (Exhibit 7 at 15-2070_0230).

²⁴³ Rep. Honda Transcript (Exhibit 1 at 15-2070_0017).

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. . . .”²⁴⁴ He said that he has “a computer and a printer that my staff sends me my memos, my emails and things like that.”²⁴⁵

181. The Former Deputy District Director told the OCE that “[s]omething we did do was go to [Representative Honda’s] house and set up his technologies. He worked from home. He would check his emails from his home computer, which was actually an official computer we set up at his house We had an official fax machine there.”²⁴⁶
182. The Digital Strategy Director told the OCE that he “helped reorganize things in certain parts of [Representative Honda’s] house if it relates to technology just to make things simpler for me the next time I go in and use some of the technology, reconfigure something. In that case, yes, I would consider what I did personal, but it wasn’t even asked and the Congressman wasn’t event there.”²⁴⁷
183. The Digital Strategy Director estimated that he has assisted Representative Honda with his personal technology hundreds of times, multiple times per week, but that this help was primarily connected to Representative Honda’s ability to access his official email account via his personal telephone.²⁴⁸ He said that purely personal requests for assistance were “very infrequent” and “usually very minor.”²⁴⁹
184. The Former Deputy District Director surmised that Representative Honda may have asked a congressional staff member to help set up his Apple TV while the staff member was already at his home to work on official equipment.²⁵⁰
185. Representative Honda’s Chief of Staff told the OCE that she does not believe that she has directed members of the congressional staff to assist Representative Honda with any personal business or errands, nor was she aware of any congressional staff being directed to assist with such personal matters.²⁵¹
186. When asked if she ever directed congressional staff members to assist Representative Honda with personal matters, the District Director told the OCE that she did not remember directing anyone.²⁵² She did, however, recall discussions about such personal assistance:

I remember discussions regarding picking up the Congressman's medication from Costco. I remember a discussion regarding his dry cleaning. . . . With Costco it was, “Costco is only open until 6:00, his plane isn't arriving until then, and how are we going to get his medicine to him?” The dry cleaning was, “He doesn’t have time to pick up his dry

²⁴⁴ *Id.*

²⁴⁵ *Id.*

²⁴⁶ Former Deputy District Director Transcript (Exhibit 14 at 15-2070_0459).

²⁴⁷ Digital Strategy Director Transcript (Exhibit 7 at 15-2070_0225).

²⁴⁸ *Id.* (Exhibit 7 at 15-2070_0227-0228).

²⁴⁹ *Id.* (Exhibit 7 at 15-2070_0228).

²⁵⁰ Former Deputy District Director Transcript (Exhibit 14 at 15-2070_0461).

²⁵¹ Chief of Staff Transcript (Exhibit 6 at 15-2070_0195).

²⁵² Former District Director Transcript (Exhibit 10 at 15-2070_0331-0332).

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cleaning, can you pick it up on the way to an event, or on the way home if you live nearby him, or..." I don't recall the outcome, but I do remember discussing those two.²⁵³

187. The District Director said that such discussions did not happen very often.²⁵⁴
188. When asked if there have been occasions, other than those relating to technology, where congressional staff members have assisted him with personal errands or personal business, Representative Honda said, "No. In fact, they always want to drive for me, but I drive and always make comments about how people should not be walking other people's dogs and things like that. I'm pretty stubborn about some of that stuff."²⁵⁵
189. Based on the foregoing information, the Board finds that there is not substantial reason to believe that Representative Honda used official staff to assist with personal errands or business.

V. INDIVIDUALS WHO REFUSED TO COOPERATE WITH THE OCE REVIEW

Doug Greven

190. Doug Greven served as the campaign manager for Representative Honda during the 2014 election cycle.
191. The OCE requested the opportunity to interview Mr. Greven regarding his experience as campaign manager for Representative Honda's campaign.
192. Mr. Greven, through his attorney, declined the OCE's request for an interview. He therefore did not cooperate with the OCE review.

Nadir Vissanjy

193. Nadir Vissanjy served as Legislative Correspondent and Systems Administrator in Representative Honda's congressional office in Washington, DC, in 2012.
194. The OCE requested the opportunity to interview Mr. Vissanjy regarding his experience as the systems administrator for Representative Honda's congressional office.
195. Mr. Vissanjy, through his attorney, declined the OCE's request for an interview. He therefore did not cooperate with the OCE review.

VI. CONCLUSION

196. The Board finds that there is substantial reason to believe that Representative Honda and members of his congressional staff used official resources, including staff time, to benefit his campaign.

²⁵³ *Id.* (Exhibit 10 at 15-2070_0332).

²⁵⁴ *Id.*

²⁵⁵ Rep. Honda Transcript (Exhibit 1 at 15-2070_0018).

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197. The Board finds that there is substantial reason to believe that Representative Honda improperly tied official events to past or potential campaign or political support.
198. The Board finds that there is not substantial reason to believe that Representative Honda used congressional staff for personal errands or business.
199. Accordingly, the Board recommends that the Committee on Ethics further review the allegation that Representative Honda and members of his congressional staff used official resources for campaign purposes, in violation of House rules and standards of conduct.
200. The Board recommends that the Committee on Ethics further review the allegation that Representative Honda improperly linked official activities to past or potential political support, in violation of House rules and standards of conduct.
201. The Board recommends that the Committee on Ethics dismiss the allegation that Representative Honda used congressional staff for personal errands or business, in violation of House rules and standards of conduct.

**VII. INFORMATION THE OCE WAS UNABLE TO OBTAIN AND
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF SUBPOENAS**

202. The following witnesses, by declining to interview with the OCE, did not cooperate with the OCE review:
 - i. Doug Greven; and
 - ii. Nadir Vissanjy.
203. The Board recommends the issuance of subpoenas to Doug Greven and Nadir Vissanjy.

Exhibit 1

**Interview of Rep. Mike Honda
April 23, 2015**

Scott Gast: For the record, this is Scott Gast with the Office of Congressional Ethics. I'm joined by my colleagues Annie Cho and Omar Ashmawy. We're here with Representative Mike Honda, who has agreed to sit for an interview with us, and he's accompanied by his counsel, Andrew Herman. We provided Representative Honda with a copy of the False Statements Act, and you've signed the acknowledgment.

Mike Honda: I did.

Scott Gast: We're interested in talking to you today about your campaign in the last couple of cycles, the 2012, 2014 cycles, so it probably makes sense to begin, if you could tell us, currently, do you have anybody that's employed by your campaign?

Mike Honda: That's employed by my campaign currently?

Scott Gast: Yes, currently.

Mike Honda: Yes.

Scott Gast: Who is that?

Mike Honda: It's Sudip Dutta.

Scott Gast: What is that person's position?

Mike Honda: He's our finance director.

Scott Gast: Anyone else employed by the campaign currently?

Mike Honda: We have a PAC fundraiser group called Anchorholt Bros. Consulting, ABC.

Scott Gast: ABC?

Mike Honda: Yeah.

Scott Gast: What was that name again?

Mike Honda: Anchorholt Bros. It's commonly known as ABC.

Scott Gast: ABC?

Mike Honda: Yeah.

Scott Gast: Anyone else? No campaign manager currently?

Mike Honda: No campaign manager right now. I have a second contract with a consultant.

Scott Gast: Who is that?

Mike Honda: That's TRB, I think. I believe it is.

Scott Gast: Are they a general political consultant?

Mike Honda: Yes, they are.

Scott Gast: Anyone else that we're missing?

Mike Honda: I think, not on the payroll though.

Scott Gast: How about during the 2014 cycle? Can you tell us about your staff during that cycle?

Mike Honda: 2012 to 2014?

Scott Gast: Yes.

Mike Honda: We had, for a short while, a gentleman by the name of Lamar Heystek, and then we brought on the same group that I have right now. I think it's TRB, Terrence....something...Then we have a campaign manager, Doug Greven. Under him we hired a couple of other staff for finance and for communications.

Scott Gast: Do you recall how many people were formally on the paid staff of the campaign?

Mike Honda: How many? Besides the consultant group, we had Doug, Vivek, and eventually Sudip, and then later on Kodabandeh. That's his last name.

Scott Gast: Is that Mehran or something?

Mike Honda: Mehran, yeah, thank you.

Scott Gast: Vivek was a press person?

Mike Honda: The communications person was Vivek.

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Scott Gast: Mehran was another finance person? Is that correct?

Mike Honda: Yeah. Mehran was working, eventually, under Sudip, who came on later on.

Scott Gast: How about in the 2012 campaign? Do you recall who worked on the campaign during that cycle?

Mike Honda: You mean 2010 to 2012?

Scott Gast: Yes, for the 2012 election.

Mike Honda: I didn't have much of a campaign then. Strange though... All I can remember is the last one, which was memorable.

Scott Gast: Let me ask you this. What is your role in running your campaigns? How would you describe that?

Mike Honda: My philosophy has always been I'm the candidate, so I'm in the hands of the campaign.

Scott Gast: How often would you meet, interact and discuss strategy and administrative stuff?

Mike Honda: In the last cycle?

Scott Gast: Mm-hmm (Affirmative).

Mike Honda: As a large group, maybe three times, four at the most I think. I'd meet with the consultant a couple of times. The one I'd meet on a daily basis is usually the campaign manager and my finance person.

Scott Gast: You said you would meet daily with the campaign manager and finance?

Mike Honda: Whenever I was in the campaign office because I fly back and forth. Half the time I'm up here, the other half I'm on the other side.

Omar Ashmawy: About how often would you be there?

Mike Honda: Maybe two days out of the week maybe, and that'd be a good day for the campaign.

Scott Gast: What steps did you take to ensure that your campaign complied with all the relevant rules and regulations?

Mike Honda: We knew that there was a bright line between campaign and official, so I learned that. The campaign manager was experienced, so he knew what to do.

Scott Gast: Did you have any policies in place about, specifically, congressional staff participating in campaign events?

Mike Honda: Yeah, we have office policies, and the Chief of Staff has made those things very clear. All new staff are required to go to ethics training that the House provides.

Scott Gast: Within the congressional office, who was it that would be responsible for ensuring compliance with House ethics rules and campaign regulations?

Mike Honda: The Chief of Staff.

Scott Gast: That's Jennifer Van der Heide?

Mike Honda: Yes.

Scott Gast: How would you describe the relationship between your congressional office and your campaign operation over the last couple of cycles?

Mike Honda: The relationship? Aside from being separate, they know of each other. I think I'm probably the only one that runs between the two offices. That's about it, yeah.

Scott Gast: Would members of your congressional staff work on the campaign or do work for the campaign?

Mike Honda: They take time off, and that's well documented.

Scott Gast: Do you know how it was that they would come about to do work for the campaign?

Mike Honda: They would express interest to the Chief of Staff, and I believe usually she refers them to the campaign, but making sure that they know that there's some paperwork to be done to make sure that we know how they're using their time. If it's a long period of time, usually on vacation or they take personal time off.

Scott Gast: Were members of the congressional staff ever asked to do campaign work by either Jennifer or someone at the campaign?

Mike Honda: Not by me.

Scott Gast: Not by you? Do you know if they were asked by Jennifer?

Mike Honda: No, I don't think so. I think usually the staff expresses interest. I remember in the past they expressed interest in working on other campaigns that drew their attention, and they followed the same process.

Scott Gast: For those employees who expressed an interest, what kinds of things would they do for the campaign?

Mike Honda: It varies. Some would be in charge of phone calling, I guess, volunteer work, volunteer coordination, but under the supervision of the campaign manager.

Scott Gast: For those staff here in the District, in D.C., where would they do that work?

Mike Honda: I've seen some in the District when they're working on it, but other than that, I don't know how they use their time. It's probably recorded someplace.

Scott Gast: Do you know, was campaign work ever done within the congressional office?

Mike Honda: No.

Scott Gast: Do you know if congressional computers or congressional telephones were ever used to do campaign work?

Mike Honda: No.

Scott Gast: If a Washington staffer wanted to assist with the campaign, where would they go to do that, if they weren't in the district where there's a campaign office?

Mike Honda: I don't know. I didn't have that much of an oversight on those matters.

Scott Gast: I want to show you one email here. This is an email. For the record, it's RA-33 to 34, and I want to ask you just about that initial email at the top of the page. This appears to be an email from Jennifer Van der Heide, the Chief of Staff, to a number of members of the congressional staff, using their personal email addresses. The subject is, "Required reading,

Entrepreneurial National by Ro Khanna" and in the body of the email she says, "In preparation for a good chance for a challenge by Ro Khanna, you are required to read Ro Khanna's book," and so on.

Mike Honda: I don't think I've seen this one, but I'm aware of the book.

Scott Gast: Having reviewed that email from Jennifer, that initial email, does that refresh your recollection at all of times when Jennifer would assign campaign work to members in the congressional staff?

Mike Honda: No.

Scott Gast: What was Jennifer's role with respect to the campaign?

Mike Honda: This is prior to the campaign, so I suppose she would act as a campaign manager on her own time.

Scott Gast: Was that a formal role that she would have as campaign manager?

Mike Honda: I think that would be safe to say because over the years that we didn't have much of a campaign, she would take that responsibility and be sure that she made a cut between responsibilities as the Chief of Staff and doing things for the campaign.

Scott Gast: In serving in that position, would she enlist the help of other congressional staff members for campaign work?

Mike Honda: Don't know.

Scott Gast: Did members of your congressional staff ever prepare or provide you with information or materials about the campaign?

Mike Honda: No.

Scott Gast: I want to run through a couple of things to see if you're familiar with these documents. For the record, this is THMH-253. This appears to be a chart comparing certain positions held by you and Ro Khanna, who was your opponent in the 2014 congressional campaign. Have you seen this before?

Mike Honda: I may have at one time, yeah.

Scott Gast: What was your understanding of who prepared this document?

Mike Honda: I don't think I asked.

Scott Gast: It appears from some of the metadata associated with the document that Laura Hatalsky-

Mike Honda: Laura?

Scott Gast: -Hatalsky, who was, at that point, a legislative assistant in your congressional office.

Mike Honda: Yes.

Scott Gast: It appears that she might have drafted this. Does that refresh your recollection at all?

Mike Honda: No.

Scott Gast: Does that refresh your recollection of the congressional staff putting together information about this that was then shared with you? Did you have any conversations with Laura about this document?

Mike Honda: No, I didn't.

Scott Gast: Let me ask you about this document here. Take a minute to look over that. For the record, it's THMH-1423, and this appears to be an event brief prepared by Monica and Vedant.

Mike Honda: Vedant.

Scott Gast: Vedant. Who are Monica and Vedant?

Mike Honda: Vedant's a staffer.

Scott Gast: In the congressional office?

Mike Honda: Yes.

Scott Gast: And Monica? Do you know who Monica is?

Mike Honda: I believe she was one of our staffers also.

Scott Gast: Just first, generally, is this the kind of document that you would receive for events that you would do?

Mike Honda: Yes.

Scott Gast: Is this something that would be prepared by the congressional office? Is this the format they would use?

Mike Honda: General format.

Scott Gast: Do you know why two members of the congressional staff were putting together an event brief for a fundraiser?

Mike Honda: No. I remember the occasion also.

Scott Gast: Do you remember receiving this particular event brief?

Mike Honda: I don't remember, but I must have.

Scott Gast: Would that have raised any concerns for you, to see a fundraising event, the brief was being put together by members of your congressional staff rather than the campaign staff?

Mike Honda: It should have been better marked, and I should have been more aware of that, yeah.

Scott Gast: Do you recall any follow-up on that issue?

Mike Honda: No. I remember the event and having the discussion about the build-up we were looking at.

Scott Gast: Do you recall other instances where congressional staff would put together event briefs for campaign events?

Mike Honda: I guess if you showed it to me, if I did some others probably, but this is one of them.

Scott Gast: Sitting here today, do you recall any other occasions? I don't have any other documents to show you on that.

Mike Honda: No, but I think that the title and everything else like that is open to criticism.

Scott Gast: What about talking points for campaign events? Did you ever get talking points for campaign events from the congressional staff?

Mike Honda: Most of my talking points come from congressional staff, and how I use them, it's repetitive for different occasions.

Scott Gast: Do you recall instances where campaign staff put together talking points for events?

Mike Honda: Yeah. Once they know what my issues are, they usually know how to research that.

Scott Gast: I'll show you this. I apologize for the small font on this one. It may be a little more difficult to read.

Mike Honda: It's smaller than my Apple.

Scott Gast: For the record, it's THMH-1209. Just looking at this, it looks like it starts with a Google alert that Jennifer Van der Heide received at her personal account which she then forwards to Eric Werwa, Mark Mozena, Kelly Honda, and says, "Can one of you write Mike a short memo on these issues for him to take back on Thursday?" Then subsequent to that, Kelly Honda responds to the same folks, "Attached is a short, one-page stem cell memo. I'll put in a longer report in his Dropbox account if he needs more background." Does this look like an example of talking points prepared by the congressional staff in response to a position taken by your congressional opponent?

Mike Honda: Usually I want to have research done on our own side so if issues do come up, I'll be fresh on it; I'll be reminded of what the issues are and what the points are.

Scott Gast: This Dropbox account that's referenced in Kelly Honda's email, what was that account?

Mike Honda: I don't know. It's that

Scott Gast: Is that someplace where you would access documents?

Mike Honda: I don't access documents from staff, no.

Scott Gast: Did the congressional staff try to search out or schedule campaign events for you? Is that something that the congressional office would do?

Mike Honda: No.

Scott Gast: I ask because something like this email here ... For the record, THMH-1405, appears to start with an email from you, "Purpose?", and then Meri Maben responds. Just given Meri's response where she says, "The purpose of the event is to build momentum for your campaign," and she

references club members supporting your opponent, why was it Meri who responded and not somebody like Lamar Heystek who was also on the email? Why was this handled through the official office rather than the campaign office?

Mike Honda: Don't know. Probably, at that time, it was a new district, and as a new district, on an official basis, I do visit different places, so that could be it. That would be my thinking about that right now, how that happened.

Scott Gast: Let me jump to, did the congressional office ever ... Were you aware of efforts to identify potential campaign supporters and refer them to the campaign office?

Mike Honda: I have never asked them to do that, no.

Scott Gast: Some folks that we've talked to have suggested that the campaign asked congressional staff members to collect business cards of folks that they would interact with and send them over to the campaign. Was that something that you were familiar with?

Mike Honda: I know we'd collect business cards, but I do know that they've been pretty tough on me saying that we can't share that. If you're going to do it, you have to collect your own, so I do remember them saying that they can't do that.

Scott Gast: When you say them –

Mike Honda: My staff.

Scott Gast: Your staff, okay. Let me show you this email. Again, this is a small font one. For the record, it's THMH-1297 to 1299, and just to summarize, it appears to have started with a request regarding handling a passport that came in from Tom McEnergy.

Mike Honda: Tom McEnergy, yeah.

Scott Gast: Do you know who Tom McEnergy is?

Mike Honda: He's the past mayor, a few years ago.

Scott Gast: Cathy Ming Hyde indicates later in the chain that the passport issue was handled, and they got the issue resolved. I want to focus on then the first email in this chain where, after that has been handled, Meri Maben says ... She sends an email to Madalene Meilke, Shari Rubin-Rick and Jennifer

Van der Heide's personal email, where she says, "I know we've tried with them before to no avail, but once again we've responded to Tom's request. Please ask Tom to come to birthday event and bring Sharks people. Woman below appears to be one of the owners."

Mike Honda: Where's that at?

Scott Gast: That's at the very top, the first email, so, I guess, reading from the bottom up.

Mike Honda: I see. I'm not aware of this email, but I remember hearing about Tom asking for help because one of the players needed some help on his visa or their visa.

Scott Gast: Were you aware of what appears to be Meri's subsequent attempt to seek out campaign contributions from them?

Mike Honda: No.

Scott Gast: Who's Madalene Meilke?

Mike Honda: She's a campaign fundraiser here.

Scott Gast: In D.C.?

Mike Honda: In D.C. at that time.

Scott Gast: What about Shari Rubin-Rick, with Integrated Fundraising?

Mike Honda: It's another group that we used once. The job was to do fundraising. They're near San Francisco Airport.

Scott Gast: Do you know why Meri would have forwarded this information to those two fundraising people?

Mike Honda: No.

Scott Gast: Did you have any discussions with Meri or Jennifer, who's on this email, about seeking campaign contributions from the Sharks folks?

Mike Honda: No.

Scott Gast: I want to ask you about District office staff retreats. Did you ever attend any of those?

Mike Honda: Yes, I do.

Scott Gast: For those retreats that you have attended, are those official events, official retreats? Are they campaign retreats?

Mike Honda: They're all official retreats.

Scott Gast: The ones that you have attended, has there been a discussion about your campaigns during the course of the retreats?

Mike Honda: No.

Scott Gast: If there had been a discussion of the campaign during the retreat, how would that have struck you? Would that have been something that was appropriate or inappropriate?

Mike Honda: Inappropriate probably, but it never happened.

Scott Gast: I wanted to show you a couple of notes that we received from some retreats. This first one appears to be notes from a September 13th, 2012 staff retreat. Then, if you look at the notes, Roman numeral II there at the top, "Overview of California 17," it appears that Lamar Heystek and Mark Nakamoto, both of whom had campaign roles at the time, gave a presentation about the district, about demographics, voting trends. Does that surprise you to see that kind of a presentation?

Mike Honda: Yeah, this was ... If I recall correctly, it's an attempt to tell people how the new district looks like and inform the staff about the new district.

Scott Gast: What about references towards the bottom quarter of this first page, how a campaign determines a, quote, "area of concern"?

Mike Honda: First bottom corner? Oh, I see.

Scott Gast: Yeah, talking about the results of the June primary election. The section is "June primary takeaways." Then on the second page, middle of the page, it looks like Mark Nakamoto talks about the campaign plan to do voter ID and then turnout. There's a discussion of a "Thousand Crane" fundraising program. It seems to go beyond a discussion of the new parts of the district into more of a campaign approach.

Mike Honda: Yeah, it may, but a lot of the information, a lot of data that we use was probably just to get a good handle on the district with the demographics, but that did occur, I guess.

Scott Gast: I want to ask one other district office staff retreat. This one appears to have been in October of 2013. For the record, it's JVH-OCE-1342. I want to direct you to the second page where it's highlighted there, "Campaign Update/Presentation, by Doug Greven."

Mike Honda: This may have been the staff retreat that I was not at because we had about three or four staff retreats that I was not present at. It was done locally.

Scott Gast: Does that surprise you to see a campaign update/presentation as part of the retreat?

Mike Honda: Campaign update? It does now, yeah. I've never seen this.

Scott Gast: I want to ask you specifically about the line there under the campaign update presentation where it says, "D.C. makes policy, we do events. Campaign takes D.O. events and uses them to raise \$." You see that line?

Mike Honda: Yeah.

Scott Gast: Do you know what was meant by that line?

Mike Honda: It's open to a lot of interpretation, but it doesn't look good.

Scott Gast: Were you ever part of discussions in which fundraising relating to district office events was discussed?

Mike Honda: No, I wasn't at the retreat.

Scott Gast: How about aside from the retreat? Was that something that was a part of a campaign plan or anything that was discussed?

Mike Honda: I try to be real careful about that.

Scott Gast: Do you know what that was when he said that, what he was referring to?

Mike Honda: No.

Scott Gast: I want to ask you about this February 2013 event, state department roundtable that was held at Santa Clara University in the district. Are you familiar with that event?

Mike Honda: Yeah, I remember that one.

Scott Gast: What was that event, briefly?

Mike Honda: It was to bring someone from the Obama administration, I believe it's small business, and to invite folks over to the event, and then I would make the introduction, and then he would conduct the meeting.

Scott Gast: Was that an official event or a campaign event?

Mike Honda: It was an official event. Excuse me.

Scott Gast: Sure.

Mike Honda: I should have turned this off. Thanks.

Scott Gast: Do you know how the invitees to that event were selected?

Mike Honda: What I wanted to do was make sure that we had Indo-Americans there because the Obama administration had done a real good job of hiring and appointing different groups, and I wanted a relationship and let them know that the administration has somebody that can talk to them and hopefully the same language and sentiment and understand the attendees also.

Scott Gast: Do you know if your campaign was involved in any way in selecting people to be invited to the event?

Mike Honda: No, I don't know.

Scott Gast: Were you aware the Jennifer Van der Heide had asked Lamar Haystek, who was with the campaign at the time, to come up with a list of potential invitees?

Mike Honda: I became aware of that when I saw that through the campaign, when he brought it up.

Scott Gast: The news reporting?

Mike Honda: Yeah. I did know about the interaction.

Scott Gast: Prior to that, had you been aware of the ...

Mike Honda: No.

Scott Gast: ... Campaign's involvement? Had you had any discussions with Jennifer or anyone at the campaign or anyone else about using that state department event to help with fundraising for the campaign?

Mike Honda: No. To help fundraising with the campaign as a result of that? Uh-uh (negative). When we had a fundraiser, I know that the folks who were there, some of them were there at the fundraiser. Some of them were at another function that we put together, but I don't think we had a fundraising event as a result of that.

Scott Gast: Was it a campaign event?

Mike Honda: Which one?

Scott Gast: The second one that you said you saw some of the ...

Mike Honda: No, there was another one, official event.

Scott Gast: Another official event.

Mike Honda: It happened a couple of years later on.

Scott Gast: Was there any discussion about using this state department event as a way to identify any potential campaign supporters or campaign contributors?

Mike Honda: Many of them I already knew, and some of them were already supportive of me. I don't think we've taken advantage of that. But I do remember that there's about four or five folks that I do know that have helped me in the past and have continued to help me.

Scott Gast: When you say help you, make campaign contributions?

Mike Honda: Yeah, contributions.

Scott Gast: Do you recall at any time subsequent to the state department event doing a fundraising call list that was in any way tied to this event?

Mike Honda: No.

Scott Gast: No effort to reach out to the folks who were invited or attended the event for campaign contributions afterwards?

Mike Honda: Not on my part, no.

Scott Gast: Are you aware of any other occasions in which official events were used as a way to either identify or recruit potential supporters for the campaign?

Mike Honda: Official events to ... I can't think of any. I know one thing though. One of the things that's kept me in line was that I try to separate that and never want to have folks because I visit them or anything else like that. That's part of the deal. It's just not part of my character. It happens, but I just couldn't do it that way.

Scott Gast: One last area I want to ask you about, as you probably also saw in the media, there was some suggestion of your congressional staff being directed to assist you with personal business, setting up a Netflix account, Apple TV. Are you familiar with that?

Mike Honda: Yeah, I remembered the article, but I have technical staff help me set up my home office so I can receive information and stuff like that and give me technical understanding of how things work.

Scott Gast: Did somebody from the congressional staff actually help set up your Netflix account and Apple TV?

Mike Honda: No, not the Netflix account. That has to be personal.

Scott Gast: Are you familiar with this email here? It's somewhat confusing because it's from Mike Honda, to Mike Honda, but it appears to be an email from Nadir Vissanjy to you, copied to Nadir and to Ruchit.

Mike Honda: That's the technical way of helping me understand how I do this, but I had to set up my own account for the Netflix, but the use of the Apple TV and how that works, that was explained to me.

Scott Gast: Who was it that explained that to you?

Mike Honda: I don't remember, somebody from the technical part. It says here it's from Nadir, but I remembered getting technical instructions on how to do this.

Scott Gast: Let me back up just a second. You said that you have a home office.

Mike Honda: I have a computer and a printer that my staff sends me my memos, my emails and things like that.

Scott Gast: Is that in your D.C. home or your California home or both?

Mike Honda: I have a printer in both homes.

Scott Gast: Is that an official office piece of equipment, or is that your personal equipment?

Mike Honda: I'm not sure how that's bought. Usually stuff that I use all the time is either used for campaign because my phone is campaign, and I pay everything else, all the bills that way. I guess I should check with Jennifer.

Scott Gast: How often would somebody from the congressional staff go to your home to work on this equipment?

Mike Honda: Only when we have problems, like when the internet's down or something like that, but it's become less and less because it's easier and easier. I still call for help, technical help, in opening up or something's frozen on my phone or something like that. I do call.

Scott Gast: Have there been other occasions where district staff or D.C. staff, congressional staff, have assisted you with personal errands, personal business?

Mike Honda: No. In fact, they always want to drive for me, but I drive and always make comments about how people should not be walking other people's dogs and things like that. I'm pretty stubborn about some of that stuff.

Scott Gast: I believe those are all the questions we have for you then. We appreciate your time.

Exhibit 2

**Interview of Former Senior Congressional Aide
March 20, 2015**

Mr. Gast: This is Scott Gast, Investigative Counsel with the Office of Congressional Ethics, joined by my colleague Paul Solis, Deputy Chief Counsel in the office. It is Friday March 20th at approximately 4:15 PM. We are here with Former Senior Congressional Aide, who is a witness in our review number 15-2070. Former Senior Congressional Aide has reviewed the Federal False Statements Act copy which we provided him and he has signed the acknowledgement. We just like to usually start with a little background information about you, what you are currently doing? Your current employment situation?

Witness: Sure, I work for IBM in their sales department for the IBM resiliency services.

Mr. Gast: How long have you been in that position?

Witness: For just a little over six months now.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Generally what are your responsibilities in that position?

Witness: I cover the territory of the Southwest United States and sell services based on IBM's department for disaster recovery and resiliency.

Mr. Gast: Okay and what did you do immediately prior to that?

Witness: Prior to that I worked for the House of Representatives.

Mr. Gast: That was with Representative Honda?

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: Okay. When did you leave that position with Representative Honda?

Witness: I left that position July 2013.

Mr. Gast: When did you start?

Witness: I started officially as a staff member, let's see, that would be I think July 2008.

Mr. Gast: Okay and you said officially as a staff member – did you do something before that?

Witness: I started as an intern in September 2006 and conducted internships with this office off and on from September 2006 until July 2008.

Mr. Gast: Prior working for Representative Honda in those internship capacities what did you do?

Witness: I was a student at Santa Clara University.

Mr. Gast: That was undergrad?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Okay. You graduated, did a few internships till you got a fulltime position, is that ...

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: ...what you are saying, okay. Now while you were at Representative Honda's office what positions ...

Witness: I'm sorry back to your line, I did internships while I was in school and then graduated then I was offered a fulltime position.

Mr. Gast: What year did you graduate?

Witness: 2008.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Starting in September -- I'm sorry July 2008?

Witness: Right.

Mr. Gast: What was the position that you started at?

Witness: Staff assistant.

Mr. Gast: How long were you in that position?

Witness: Let's see, at least I think I believe a year in that position and I was promoted to staff assistant/ legislative assistant at some point and was in that position as well.

Mr. Gast: Then was that in the district office or was that in the Washington DC office?

Witness: That was in the Washington DC office.

Mr. Gast: Your internships during school, where were those?

Witness: The first internship was in September 2006 for the winter program or the fall program and that was in Washington DC. Then that was followed by a spring internships the following year in the district office, followed by a summer internship in the DC office. Followed by another internship in the district office.

Mr. Gast: You started as staff assistant, got promoted to the LA position. Did there come a time when you moved back to California?

Witness: Yes, in 2000 and, let's see, this would have been 2012. I moved back to California.

Mr. Gast: What prompted that move?

Witness: Job opportunity, being split halftime with the campaign and then halftime with the district office staff.

Mr. Gast: Okay. When you moved back to California did you start immediately in both capacities?

Witness: Correct, yes.

Mr. Gast: What was that arrangement? Were you paid by both or was your salary for both, was how many hours were you expected to work for both?

Witness: Sure. I was paid by both campaign and in the official capacity. I was, I split my number, my hours between both.

Mr. Gast: That would be 20 hours a week for each side?

Witness: Right, half the day and I think the mornings were often in the district office and then afternoon left to go work on as far as my campaign capacity.

Mr. Solis: When you say campaign just to be clear that's Representative Honda's campaign, congressional campaign committee?

Witness: That was Representative Honda's 2012 congressional campaign.

Mr. Solis: Not a leadership PAC or anything like that?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Was there a campaign headquarters that you worked out of?

Witness: There was. It was on Zanker Road.

Mr. Solis: Is that, give me a ...

Witness: Z-A-N-K-E-R.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Mr. Solis: Where is that?

Witness: That's in San Jose in California.

Mr. Solis: What was your title in the district office?

Witness: My title, I was senior congressional aide.

Mr. Solis: What was your title on the campaign?

Witness: Let's see, campaign coordinator.

Mr. Gast: That was in, do you have a month in 2012 when you started that?

Witness: I'd like to say that, and my memory is a little bit foggy, but I would like to say that it's, it was April of 2012.

Mr. Gast: How long were you been in that split capacity?

Witness: Through the end of the election so through the end of November.

Mr. Gast: Then what happened after the election?

Witness: After the election I went into a full official capacity with the district office.

Mr. Gast: Okay. To the best of your recollection what was your salary in the district office from April to November 2012?

Witness: Let's see. I believe somewhere around \$22,000 a year.

Mr. Gast: What was your salary for the campaign side? Were you salaried or hourly?

Witness: I was salary for the campaign and I believe there was somewhere around the same.

Mr. Gast: Around \$22,000?

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Now when you started fulltime in the congressional district office what was your salary at that point?

Witness: When I started fulltime in now, now can you repeat that question?

Mr. Gast: Sure. After the election in November of 2012, you said you went fulltime?

Witness: Right.

Mr. Gast: In the district office. Did your salary change at that point?

Witness: Yes, so now I went fulltime instead of halftime in the district office. Best to my recollection salary was somewhere around, I believe, \$50,000.

Mr. Gast: Okay. When you left the campaign you left the campaign to go fulltime in the congressional office, did anybody succeed you at the campaign?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Was anybody paid by the campaign at that point?

Witness: I don't, can you clarify?

Mr. Gast: After the election of 2012 was anybody paid by the campaign? Were there any fulltime or part time paid staff members for the campaign?

Witness: I believe still after 2012 the other fulltime campaign person was Lamar Heystek.

Mr. Gast: Did you, was he also paid by the campaign while you were paid by the campaign?

Witness: Yes as far as I know.

Mr. Gast: Do you know when he approximately started working for the campaign?

Witness: Let's see. Before I arrived in April 2012.

Mr. Gast: Right, okay. Who else was paid by the campaign during the time that you were paid by the campaign from April through November?

Witness: I don't know, I don't know that.

Mr. Gast: Who else was an employee or somebody with a title in the campaign?

Witness: The chief of staff I believe had the title of campaign manager.

Mr. Gast: That's Jennifer Van der Heide.

Witness: Jennifer Van der Heide, right.

Mr. Gast: Do you know if she was paid by the campaign?

Witness: I don't.

Mr. Gast: Did she work out of the district or in DC? Was she based in Washington or was she based in California?

Witness: Based in Washington DC.

Mr. Gast: Did she ever work out of the campaign office?

Witness: Not that I remember.

Mr. Solis: Why would you know that Lamar is paid by campaign but you wouldn't know if Jennifer is?

Witness: Lamar was and I said to the best of my knowledge, Lamar was paid by the campaign and I assume that because of the fact that he was a campaign staff. He was, from my understanding purely a campaign staff member.

Mr. Gast: Did he have a title?

Witness: Yes. When I was there I believe his title was also campaign coordinator.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Anybody else who was at the campaign fulltime?

Witness: Other than Lamar no not that I know of.

Mr. Gast: Anybody worked the same hours you did halftime?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Okay so as far as you know the people who may have been paid by the campaign were Jennifer, Lamar and yourself?

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: For the 2012 cycle from April when you started through the ...?

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: Okay and do you know that Jennifer was paid by the campaign?

Witness: I don't know that now.

Mr. Gast: Okay but you think she was.

Witness: No, I don't know. I know that she had the title of ... I believe she had the title of campaign manager.

Mr. Gast: Okay was there anything that gave you the impression that she was getting paid by the campaign?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Okay sorry if this is confusing, just trying to get that ...

Witness: Sure.

Mr. Gast: ...sense of who was working where. As campaign coordinator, what were your general duties?

Witness: General duties that I had were helping to create campaign plan for reaching-out to voters. I helped with documents for the campaign that would be say put up on the website. I'm trying to think of, running phone banks, recruiting volunteers.

Mr. Gast: Were you involved in planning events, organizing events?

Witness: Yes. For example the congressman's kickoff campaign event, I helped plan that.

Mr. Gast: What about fundraising? Were you involved in that?

Witness: I would staff the congressman at fundraising events.

Mr. Gast: What about actually making calls to help raise funds, doing outreach any kind of that kind of stuff?

Witness: No, I don't believe I did that.

Mr. Gast: Anything else that you could think of?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: What about as a senior congressional aide, what were your duties?

Witness: I had a portfolio of issues that for example transportation and would stay connected with those communities and staff the congressmen official events, that pertained to those issues.

Mr. Gast: Any other issues besides transportation?

Witness: Transportation, I had business issues, technology issues from the district office perspective. I'm trying to think of the others. I don't remember if I retained homeland security but ...

Mr. Gast: Possibly?

Witness: I had that in the DC office when I was a legislative assistant.

Mr. Gast: Okay. When you were on both the campaign and the official payroll, what steps did you take to make sure the two were separated?

Witness: Location wise, would conduct campaign business at the campaign headquarters and official business at the official time so managing the hours.

Mr. Gast: Did you keep time records, timesheets?

Witness: I don't believe I did.

Mr. Gast: How would you keep track of the hours?

Witness: In the mornings, for example, I believe I was at the district office, so from 9 AM to say, 1 PM afternoon, and then I will leave and go to the campaign afterwards.

Mr. Gast: How long would you be at the campaign?

Witness: From 1 PM until 6 PM unless we were a running a phone bank and then would stay hours afterhours.

Mr. Gast: Who did you report to at the campaign?

Witness: I reported to, I reported to Jennifer Van der Heide as far as I think the structural report chain goes. Lamar Heystek was the main fulltime campaign person.

Mr. Gast: Would you report to Lamar?

Witness: I don't believe according to the, I don't believe technically I reported to Lamar.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Who did you report to in the senior congressional aide position?

Witness: Meri Maben.

Mr. Gast: She is the district director?

Witness: She's the district director, correct.

Mr. Gast: Alright and you ...

Witness: I should say also there's others, Cathy Ming-Hyde who was the constituent services director and so another responsibility of mine as the congressional aide was to do case work. For case work issues I would report to Cathy Ming-Hyde. We also have a deputy district director Mike Nguyen and so I believe the report chain was to him as well.

Mr. Solis: When Mr. Gast asked you about separating the district work and the campaign work, you said that one of the steps was just physical location. You would do campaign work out of the campaign office district rather district office?

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Solis: Who gave you guidance to take those steps?

Witness: Jennifer Van der Heide.

Mr. Solis: She had conversations with you about what to do and what not to do?

Witness: Yes. She was very explicit that campaign and official work were separate and so needed to keep those separate.

Mr. Solis: Did the office have a written set of policies on this?

Witness: I don't remember. I know there's an office handbook and it wouldn't surprise me if a section was in there making that clear the separation between the campaign and unofficial.

Mr. Gast: What about any training? Did you go through any training on these issues?

Witness: Went through the annual ethics training that we would do every year and that was the training provided and I believe it was mandatory training provided by the office of congressional ethics.

Mr. Gast: What about when you went to specifically split the time between the two. Were there any extra training or any extra guidance provided?

Witness: I think I already mentioned the guidance, what was there, I don't know about training.

Mr. Gast: You don't recall anybody saying, "You are going to be doing two different sets of work, we want to make sure they are kept separate. Here's some guidance or here's somebody you should talk to?"

Witness: I remember there was this conversation that Jennifer Van der Heide had with me when I was moving into this role, that guidance as far as needing to keep campaign and official capacity separate. There was no formal training.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Mr. Solis: Just to be clear when you said the annual ethics training with the office of congressional ethics, you probably meant to say the committee on ethics?

Witness: Committee on ethics, correct.

Mr. Gast: Just to make sure I'm clear, were there any other paying positions on the campaign that you were aware of?

Witness: Any other paid positions on the campaign that ... No.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: Lenine Umali, do you know her?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Was she paid by the campaign do you know? Did she have a role on the campaign?

Witness: I don't, not when I was there.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Witness: That I know of.

Mr. Gast: Okay, what about consultants?

Witness: There were consultants. As far as, I didn't handle the salaries and so I don't, I would assume that they were paid.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Who were the consultants?

Witness: I did not work with them.

Mr. Gast: Were you aware of who was working with them at the campaign?

Witness: Who the consultants were working with? I believe Lamar Heystek.

Mr. Gast: Okay just trying to get a sense of the players involved.

Witness: Sure.

Mr. Gast: Was there a Madalene Mielke?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Was she involved in the campaign in the 2012 race?

Witness: Yes, Madalene from my understanding has been the congressman's fundraiser for the, I don't know what her type was, but she is in charge of fundraising for the congressman, Congressman Honda. Has been so for, I believe since I began as an intern in 2006.

Mr. Gast: What about Sudip, I think it's Dutta?

Witness: I don't.

Mr. Gast: In a finance role? Does that sound familiar, no?

Witness: It doesn't, I don't.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Alright anybody else in the campaign world that had some official formal role. You've talked about Jennifer, Lamar, you, Madalene?

Witness: Those were the players, the people that I worked with on the campaign.

Mr. Gast: Now let's talk about people who do volunteer work and help out with the campaign.

Witness: Sure.

Mr. Gast: Did any members representative Honda's district staff regularly or frequently volunteer or help with the campaign?

Witness: I wouldn't say regular or frequently. There were some nights where they would after work hours come and help with phone banking for example.

Mr. Gast: Who were those folks?

Witness: I'm trying to remember. Mike Nguyen, the deputy district director. Daniel Duong D-U-O-N-G. I'm trying to think who else. Those are the two that I'm remembering from phone banking.

Mr. Gast: Okay, Lenine, was she working in the district staff at the time you were splitting your time?

Witness: I'm trying to remember if Lenine was with the district staff at the time, I don't remember.

Mr. Gast: What about Ashley Roybal?

Witness: Yes, Ashley Roybal was with the district staff. I believe she helped on phone bank.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Beyond the phone banking would they help at all with events or?

Witness: There was, so for, Cathy Hyde had helped with campaign kickoff event by I think making food.

Mr. Gast: Did she help out with any other events?

Witness: I'm trying to remember. I believe there may have been a weekend fundraiser, that she helped out with.

Mr. Gast: Would district staff attend campaign events?

Witness: I'm sorry can you repeat that?

Mr. Gast: Sure. Would district staff attend campaign events?

Witness: For example, with the campaign kickoff, which was on a weekend, some district attended, yes.

Mr. Gast: Would they come to fundraisers, would they come to community events?

Witness: Yes, some district staff would come to fundraisers if it were on the weekend, for example, or after hours.

Mr. Gast: Would they do community events where representative Honda was going? Speeches, reWitness?

Witness: I don't believe they would do community events.

Mr. Gast: Okay. I think you had said that you would often staff Representative Honda on some campaign events. Do you recall seeing district staff at these?

Witness: Let me think. I'm blanking on... my campaign event that I was thinking of at the time was the kickoff campaign event. Yes, there were some district staff there.

Mr. Gast: What about Representative Honda himself, how active was he involved in the administration of the campaign?

Witness: I don't know what you mean by administration?

Mr. Gast: Beyond just going to the events and giving the speeches, I mean how involved was he with putting together the plan, putting together the schedule? The nuts and bolts rather than just a public face in the campaign?

Witness: I think his involvement came at approving at times or disapproving of parts of the campaign plan so in that case it would be having drafted the campaign plan, having him approve or disapprove or offer edits.

Mr. Gast: How often would that, would you have those interactions?

Witness: As far as the campaign plan, I think rarely.

Mr. Gast: Just a couple of times during the course of the campaign or?

Witness: I would think that would be correct, a couple of times or a few times during the course of the campaign. Because we don't really update the plan per se often.

Mr. Gast: Would you have conversations with him about the campaign, how it's going, what to do?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: How frequently would those conversations happen?

Witness: I don't, these weren't formal conversations.

Mr. Gast: Right.

Witness: They would happen, I don't know if I can put a number on for example weekly or monthly. Because I can't remember specific conversations.

Mr. Gast: Would it have been more once a month? You were there for about seven months, six-seven months. Would you think you had more or less than six or seven conversations, just about how the campaign's going?

Witness: More than once a month.

Mr. Gast: More than once a month. I imagine you would travel on the car with him, taking him to events and stuff. Would talk about the campaign during the car ride and stuff like that?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: What generally would talk about?

Mr. Solis: I mean, he'd want to know who's going to be at the event, right? You were in the car with him to the event, are you going to inform him of who is going to be there when he gets there?

Witness: Sure. Briefing on the event that we were going to.

Mr. Solis: Attendees, invitees things like that?

Witness: Correct, yes.

Mr. Gast: Any more strategic discussions like why aren't doing anymore events in this part of the district? Or we need to get to these people, this constituency? Trying to get the sense of how hands-on he was?

Witness: Right it's not improbable that those types of ideas or conversations happened. I was less on the strategy side of things more, I guess, more of the administrative side.

Mr. Gast: Was Representative Honda pretty aware of what was going on with the campaign or was he more hands-off? How would you characterize his involvement?

Witness: I think he was aware of the campaign, yes.

Mr. Gast: More hands-on than hands-off?

Witness: What do you mean by hands-on?

Mr. Gast: On a scale from a micromanager who wants to know exactly what's going every second for every campaign staff member, to just getting a schedule showing up where he needs to show up, along that scale?

Witness: Sure. As far as my interactions with him, he was ... In my interactions with him he was not a micromanager.

Mr. Gast: Was he completely hands-off?

Witness: No, I don't think he was completely hands-off.

Mr. Gast: Would you put it more towards the hands-off side or more towards the management, active management side?

Witness: That's hard because I don't have the full view of his actual actions with the campaign.

Mr. Gast: Considering your experience, I imagine you would see him several times a week.

Mr. Solis: Would he ask you for status updates on how the campaign is going?

Witness: You know, less formal, he would ask, how are the things going or did we ever follow up with so and so.

Mr. Solis: Okay, so he's making those requests, he's asking about details, he knows about invitees, he knows about when he's on his way to an event who's going to be there, where it's going be. The attendees, the invitees, he's asking about the status. I think to Mr. Gast's question, that seems to be somebody who is not, in his words "hands off," this person, Representative Honda, has awareness of the campaign operations. Is that fair to say?

Witness: Yes. I would say that it's fair to say that he was not unaware that a campaign was happening.

Mr. Gast: Let's talk a little bit about how the congressional office interacted with the campaign. You were in a unique position to see that, being kind of one foot in both worlds.

Witness: Sure.

Mr. Gast: Did anybody at the congressional office ever assign campaign work?

Witness: The question is, did anyone at the congressional office ever assign campaign work? Not to my knowledge.

Mr. Gast: I want to show you this email from Jennifer Van der Heide, the chief of staff.

Witness: Sure.

Mr. Gast: This would have been in December of 2012 when, I think, you had transitioned off of the campaign and went to work fulltime with the congressional staff. Take a minute to look through that.

Witness: Sure. Do you want me to read the entire chain?

Mr. Gast: I'm going to focus on the first email from Jenifer to several recipients. If you want to take a look at the other ones there....

Witness: Okay.

Mr. Gast: ...they come after the initial email.

Witness: Okay.

Mr. Gast: We know Jenifer Van der Heide was the chief of staff at the time, right?

Witness: Yes, correct.

Mr. Gast: Let's go through these folks. Who is Eric Werwa?

Witness: Eric Werwa was the legislative director based in the DC office.

Mr. Gast: He was in Washington? Okay. AJ Bhadelia?

Witness: AJ Bhadelia was a legislative assistant. I believe he also had the title of online communications director.

Mr. Gast: Where was he based?

Witness: Washington DC.

Mr. Gast: How about Laura Hatalsky?

Witness: Laura was a legislative assistant.

Mr. Gast: Washington office?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Michael Shank?

Witness: Communications director.

Mr. Gast: Washington or California?

Witness: Washington office.

Mr. Gast: You are listed -- [REDACTED]?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Meri Maben?

Witness: District director.

Mr. Gast: Obviously in the district?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Lamar Heystek?

Witness: I believe campaign coordinator was his title.

Mr. Gast: Did he have a position in the congressional office?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Mike Nguyen?

Witness: Deputy district director.

Mr. Gast: Ruchit Agrawal?

Witness: Congressional aide in the district office.

Mr. Solis: When Mr. Gast asked you earlier about who from the congressional office, either paid or unpaid, worked with the campaign, I believe you said it was Jennifer, you might have mentioned another name. Clearly that's a longer list, correct?

Witness: I'm sorry, what's the question?

Mr. Solis: Earlier when we asked you whether or not, how many people from the congressional office also worked on the campaign, either in a paid or unpaid capacity, you mentioned Jennifer. I believe you might have mentioned an additional name. It seems as if there is five, six, seven names of individuals who were from the congressional office who were now working at least paid or unpaid for the campaign, correct?

Witness: I don't know if the people on this list were working paid or unpaid for the campaign.

Mr. Solis: Okay.

Witness: I believe the discussion earlier was who were the, who were the paid employees of the campaign and that's where I said I know, I believed Lamar was paid. Jenifer Van der Heide was the campaign manager by title from my understanding. I believe that she would be paid as well and Madalene Mielke was the campaign fundraiser so I believe that she was paid as well.

Mr. Gast: But we also asked you who volunteered for the campaign.

Witness: Sure.

Mr. Gast: It looks like these folks are at least interested in campaign issues. The email says, "In preparation for a good chance for a challenge by Ro Khanna you are required to read Ro Khanna's book."

Mr. Solis: Who is Ro Khanna?

Witness: Ro Khanna was the candidate who ran in the 2012 campaign.

Mr. Solis: Okay.

Mr. Gast: Was it 2012 or 2014?

Witness: I'm sorry. Ro Khanna was the candidate who ran in the 2014 campaign.

Mr. Gast: So it looks like at least Eric and AJ and Laura and Michael and Meri and Ruchit and Mike at least had some interest in the campaign, is that fair to say?

Witness: Yes, I would say that. I would imagine that they had some interest in the campaign.

Mr. Gast: Aside from Lamar, no one on this email had a paying position with the campaign, is that correct?

Witness: That I know of.

Mr. Gast: Seems to me that these folks would have been at least volunteering to take a look at what a congressional campaign challenger is talking about?

Witness: What's the question?

Mr. Gast: Were folks like, excuse me, Eric, AJ, Laura, Michael, Witness, Meri, Mike, Ruchit, were they involved with campaign matters?

Witness: I would imagine and I don't remember specific events where they volunteered but I imagine ...

Mr. Gast: Why would Jenifer send this email to this group of folks?

Witness: I don't know why Jenifer would send this email.

Mr. Solis: Is the mentioning of Ro Khanna, would you call that a campaign issue? Would you call that a legislative issue or would you call that a campaign issue?

Witness: The mentioning of Ro Khanna, I would call it a campaign issue.

Mr. Solis: Mr. Gast is asking you, why Jenifer would send a campaign issue to all those individuals on that email. Why would she do that?

Witness: I don't know why she would do that.

Mr. Gast: Let me ask you this -- do you recall any instance in which the congressional office, congressional staff were asked to provide anything to the campaign?

Witness: I don't recall those.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall any instance whether there were issue papers or issue comparisons that were asked, that the congressional office was asked to prepare for the campaign?

Witness: Sorry repeat that.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall any instances of issue papers or issue comparisons that the congressional staff was asked to prepare for the campaign?

Witness: I don't. There were issue papers or issue statements about the congressman's record that were used for the campaign. I believe some staff volunteered to compare, or those papers. I'm trying to understand your question and ...

Mr. Gast: Sure. How do you know that they volunteered to do this?

Witness: I don't know that they volunteered to do this.

Mr. Gast: So you just know that some official staff members provided certain issue statements to the campaign?

Mr. Solis: Comparing Representative Honda's record?

Witness: During the campaign I was part of drafting his, some of his issue papers and so ...

Mr. Gast: I think you just said that there were issue papers that were given to the campaign, that were prepared by congressional staff who volunteered for the campaign. Which you said you don't know that they volunteered for the campaign. You just know that there were issue papers drafted and they ended up at the campaign.

Witness: No, and let me rephrase. I don't know that there were issue papers drafted by congressional staff and sent to the campaign.

Mr. Gast: What about a "top accomplishments" document? Do you recall that?

Witness: Yes. I believe, I don't know if that was the title of it but yes I do remember accomplishments.

Mr. Gast: What do you know about that document?

Witness: Now, I'm trying to understand "top accomplishments" document. I believe there was one for the campaign and then I believe there was one for the congressional office. Which are we referring to when you say top?

Mr. Gast: Are you familiar with the top accomplishments document for the campaign and for the congressional office, is that what you are saying?

Witness: I'm familiar with the one for the congressional office. I believe the website on the campaign, we had a list of issues, issue one pagers. I don't remember but I believe that there may have been one tab that just gave a very swift overview of the congressman's accomplishments. That's what I was referring to as far as the top accomplishments on the campaign side versus the ... There was accomplishments document on the official side.

Mr. Solis: How do you know that?

Witness: How do I know that there was an accomplishment document on the official side?

Mr. Solis: Yes.

Witness: I believe I participated in drafting certain sections of it based on my legislative issues.

Mr. Solis: Were you a congressional staffer at the time?

Witness: When I drafted those issues? Yes.

Mr. Solis: Was the top accomplishments document that was drafted on the congressional side, the same document that was drafted on the campaign side?

Witness: No.

Mr. Solis: In terms of content?

Witness: It was an ... I don't know how to answer that question because in terms of content.

Mr. Gast: Who drafted the accomplishments doc on the campaign website?

Witness: I don't remember if I did but I did draft a number of the one page documents on the issues.

Mr. Solis: Okay and you also took part in drafting the top accomplishments document for the official site?

Witness: Correct, yes.

Mr. Solis: Is there a chance that you drafted both with the same content?

Witness: I'm trying to answer the question in the light of I don't remember the amount of content that was the same in each document. For example, in the top accomplishments document on the congressional side, one top accomplishment was the congressman's securing funding for the BART extension to San Jose that the Bay Area Rapid Transit extension to San Jose. I am almost certain that the accomplishment that the congressmen secured funding for the BART extension to San Jose was an accomplishment on the campaign side.

Mr. Gast: You really, you drafted accomplishments docs sections at least for the congressional office and you also believe that you drafted accomplishments doc sections for the campaign office?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Solis: They were different drafts?

Witness: Correct. Yes, I believe they were different drafts.

Mr. Solis: Okay, but they both would have originated with you?

Witness: For example, if we are talking about the transportation section of the congressional top accomplishments document, I believe I was the original drafter of that section as I believe while I was working on the campaign. When I was drafting the transportation issue, that was released on the website, I believe I was the original drafter of that document as well.

Mr. Gast: Alright I want to move on to, are you familiar with idea of “coffee breaks” from the district office?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: What are these “coffee breaks”?

Witness: “Coffee break” was a term used during, often times, during district staff meetings. This was often used to talk about things going on in the community. Weren’t necessarily things going in the community such as gossip that people were hearing, that type of conversation.

Mr. Gast: Who organized these coffee breaks?

Witness: I don’t know that they were organized. They were part, typically they were part of the weekly staff meeting which was led by the district director Meri Maben.

Mr. Gast: Would Meri Maben lead the coffee break discussion?

Witness: I think she would kickoff the discussion.

Mr. Gast: How would she do that?

Witness: There was no formal way of doing that.

Mr. Gast: How do you know when they started? How would you know when you were on a coffee break?

Witness: Meri Maben would say at certain times, “Okay, coffee break.”

Mr. Gast: Okay, so she was the one who started them or initiated them?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Okay. You said these were during district staff meetings?

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: In the district office?

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: All the district staff attend?

Witness: I believe and I'm trying to remember because, there was once a time I believe in the district office where the staff assistant wouldn't attend because they were there to receive any constituents that came in.

Mr. Gast: They man the phones kind of thing?

Witness: Correct. I also believed that there was a point where the door was then, the next step, was that, the door to the outside would be locked. Then the phones would still be on for interns to answer. If there was ever a knock at the door the interns would come and interrupt the meeting to get a staff member.

Mr. Gast: Okay. But other than the staff assistant or the interns, was it all district staff?

Witness: Yes from my understanding. It was unless someone was out sick or at an event but regularly it was all district staff.

Mr. Gast: These were weekly?

Witness: Most of the time they were weekly.

Mr. Gast: When they weren't, sometimes more or sometimes less?

Witness: Sometimes less, if for some reason that week there wasn't a district staff meeting. That would be an exception, they were normally weekly meetings.

Mr. Gast: Would Representative Honda ever attend these district meetings?

Witness: I can't remember a time that he attended the district staff meeting.

Mr. Gast: Anybody else attend?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Did Lamar ever attend?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: So what was discussed? When Meri would say, "Okay, coffee break."

Witness: I don't remember details of what was discussed but generally it was gossip in the community. Sort of what have you heard out there? That type of thing.

Mr. Gast: Do you have an example of the gossip that was discussed?

Witness: I don't. I'm trying to think but I don't have an example that comes to mind.

Mr. Gast: Were campaign matters ever discussed during the coffee break?

Witness: I believe they were.

Mr. Gast: What kind of stuff?

Witness: I think for example and I'm giving a general example here. I had heard that, someone would say, "I heard that this person was thinking about running for city council."

Mr. Gast: Was Representative Honda's campaign discussed?

Witness: Yes, I believe it was.

Mr. Gast: Were there updates given on how the campaign was going?

Witness: Without having specific examples to recall, yes I believe there were updates given.

Mr. Gast: Were there discussions of events coming up, campaign events coming up?

Witness: There was often discussions about... Another part of the district staff meeting was going through the congressmen's calendar for the upcoming week. It wasn't unusual that there would be a campaign event on the calendar.

Mr. Gast: Beyond just discussing this is an event that is on the calendar, was there any additional discussion about the event?

Witness: Not that I remember.

Mr. Gast: Were people asked to attend campaign events?

Witness: At the staff meeting were people asked to attend campaign events? I don't remember people being asked to attend campaign events.

Mr. Gast: The purpose of calling, "Okay, coffee break," what was your sense of why that needed to be said?

Witness: It was, that was a phrase that I just ... I think going from the work when you are going into gossip mode it's now ...

Mr. Gast: Why would you need to call a coffee break for gossip?

Mr. Solis: You are there during the work day in the district office doing official work, right? That's what you are paid to do right?

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Solis: Meri Maben calls a meeting just like any other meeting, right? But this is different. I think Mr. Gast is asking you why is this is different?

Witness: Meri Maben calling this meeting was not different, this meeting was a weekly meeting on the calendar that we had every week and ...

Mr. Gast: But the coffee break, I mean, frankly, it sounds like you are saying, okay everybody is now off of the congressional clock and not being paid by the congressional office so that we can talk about campaign matters?

Witness: I don't know but ...

Mr. Solis: You just told us that the campaign was discussed during coffee break, you just told us that?

Mr. Gast: I don't imagine that if you had a piece of really juicy gossip and you wanted to go to tell your coworker and you wanted to go tell Meri, you would go up to her desk and say, "Ok, Coffee break. Here's this gossip." I mean it seems like there's some other purpose for calling coffee break. That purpose seems to be, it was time to now go from official to campaign mode?

Witness: Again as the person who didn't use the term coffee break I don't know what the intent of ...

Mr. Gast: We are just asking you an impression of why, what were these coffee breaks for?

Witness: Again they were for gossip in the community which did include gossip about campaigns in the community. I believe the campaign, of the congressmen's

campaign was discussed so that's my recollection of what these what, when Meri would say coffee break that's what would follow.

Mr. Gast: Did you ever discuss Representative Honda's campaign without first calling coffee break?

Witness: I don't remember discussing the congressman's campaign without, I don't if that happened.

Mr. Gast: In the meeting, in the district staff meeting did you ever discuss the campaign without calling coffee break?

Witness: I don't remember instances where that happened.

Mr. Gast: Okay, did you believe that when coffee break was called that you were on a formal coffee break?

Witness: I didn't... when coffee break was called I didn't stand up to go get coffee.

Mr. Gast: Was, did you consider it to be some formal change in status?

Witness: No. I didn't.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Mr. Solis: You thought you were a district congressional employee during coffee break?

Witness: Yes, I did.

Mr. Solis: Were the conversations about, when the campaign would get brought up during coffee break, did the conversations ever go beyond strictly the calendar?

Witness: Yes, they went beyond strictly dates I believe.

Mr. Solis: In what ways did they go beyond strictly dates?

Witness: I think... Again going back to my previous example, gossip about someone thinking about running for city council is not.

Mr. Solis: City council is not Representative Honda's campaign.

Witness: Okay, can you repeat your original question?

Mr. Solis: I asked you, did Representative Honda's congressional campaign, those discussions, did they go beyond strictly dates? You said yes. Then I asked you, in what ways did the discussions go beyond strictly dates? To be clear I am not talking about city council campaigns, I'm not talking about state legislature campaigns. I'm talking about Representative Honda's congressional campaign discussions. During coffee break.

Witness: For example, I believe it might be discussed if someone endorsed the congressman.

Mr. Gast: Did anybody report on an event they attended, a campaign event, saying, "I went to this event last night it was really good, Representative Honda gave a great speech, got a great turnout."

Witness: I believe so, I believe that would happened.

Mr. Gast: The conversations do go beyond just this event is coming up on Wednesday at 9 AM?

Witness: Correct, yes.

Mr. Gast: Let's move on, I don't want to keep you too late. Google Drive, can you tell me about the Google Drive. We have seen some things, this is an example, so I have this email that you sent, where you share this document on the Google Drive. Can you tell me what this Google Drive is?

Witness: Often for the campaign we would often use the Google Drive which is the database that's freely provided by Google to keep and share documents.

Mr. Gast: It's like a drive in the Cloud?

Witness: Yes, Google is a drive in the Cloud.

Mr. Gast: Where you can put documents and somebody else can come up and access the documents?

Witness: Yes, correct.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Who set that up?

Witness: I don't know if it was officially setup. Who setup Google Drive?

Mr. Gast: Let me ask you this, was this a campaign Google Drive or a congressional office Google Drive.

Witness: I don't believe there was ever a campaign, I don't believe there was ever an actual drive. From my understanding of how I used Google Drive or ...

Mr. Gast: This is an account, this is a specific account?

Mr. Solis: You have to setup the account.

Mr. Gast: Was this a campaign account that was setup or was this an official account that was setup?

Witness: Now I understand you have to setup an account but for example if have an account, with Google, a Gmail account, I have a Google Drive. When I create a document in Google Drive I could ...

Mr. Gast: Was this posted to your Google Drive?

Witness: I don't know, I don't remember that specific document.

Mr. Gast: Wasn't there a CA17 congressional district Google Drive?

Witness: I honestly don't remember if there was a CA17 congressional district Google Drive.

Mr. Gast: You don't recall whether or not there was a Google Drive that was used by folks in the congressional office?

Witness: Correct, I don't remember, no.

Mr. Gast: We are going to talk about this a little later, you posted list of attendees for a congressional event to a Google Drive for people to access.

Witness: Okay.

Mr. Gast: You don't know where you posted it?

Witness: I honestly don't remember a congressional CA17 Google Drive so in this case as far as I understand how what you were saying is that if I for example drafted a document and put it to this, it would be a specific account for Google.

Mr. Gast: When you drafted the document and wanted to share it with Honda world, was there a Google Drive that you would go to?

Witness: I think if I wanted to share I would put it on my Google Drive and copy one. I don't remember CA17.

Mr. Gast: Let's get off the CA17. Do you remember, and here again you posted another thing to Google Drive. "I've shared an item with you." Do you remember this being your Google Drive?

Witness: Yes. As far as I can remember and what looks like from this email is that, this is a personal Gmail account.

Mr. Gast: Well I want to get into this later but I just want to close the loop on this. You don't recall there being a central Google Drive for Honda world? For whether it's campaign, official where people who are affiliated with representative Honda went to post and access docs?

Witness: Correct, I don't remember Google Drive.

Mr. Solis: Can you say for certain that there wasn't one?

Witness: No, I can't say for certain that there wasn't one.

Mr. Gast: Let's talk about district office staff retreats.

Witness: Sure.

Mr. Gast: Have you attended any?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: How often would you have these staff retreats?

Witness: I feel like it was either maybe once a year or once every two years?

Mr. Gast: Okay. How many did you attend?

Witness: We are talking purely district office, solely district office, staff retreat.

Mr. Gast: Yes, for the record.

Witness: There's two that's coming to mind. I want to say that there was more than two but two that are coming to my mind.

Mr. Gast: Okay, when was the first one?

Witness: When I was an intern and let's see that would be, I believe, 2008.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall where that one was held?

Witness: It was somewhere near Monterey I don't remember the specific city.

Mr. Gast: Was it a hotel, was it a restaurant, was it a house?

Witness: No, it was a house.

Mr. Gast: Who's house?

Witness: I believe it was a rented house.

Mr. Gast: Okay, let's talk about the second one that you recall going to. When was that?

Witness: That was in, I don't remember the month it was in, I believe it was in 2012.

Mr. Gast: 2012. You recall whether it was first quarter, second quarter, third quarter, fourth quarter? If you don't remember the month, first half of the year, second half of the year? Was it warm, was it cold?

Witness: Right. I believe it was midyear.

Mr. Gast: Where was that one?

Witness: That was at Meri Maben's beach house in Aptos possibly.

Mr. Gast: That's A-P-T-O-S.

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Alright let's talk about the one in 2012. What was the purpose of the staff retreat?

Witness: I believe the purpose was to get organized as far as an office. Usually there is a, from what I remember of this retreat, there's planning so now I wouldn't be surprised if it was earlier in the year in 2012 because there's planning involved.

Mr. Gast: When you say get organized as an office is that a district office?

Witness: As a district office.

Mr. Gast: As a district office. Was it just district staff that attended?

Witness: I believe for a major portion it was only district staff who attended.

Mr. Gast: Was there anybody from Washington, the Washington office there?

Witness: I don't believe there was anyone from the Washington office at this staff retreat.

Mr. Gast: Was this a mandatory staff retreat? Were you required to attend?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Was it an all day thing?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Recall roughly from like what, nine to five, or?

Witness: That sounds about right.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Was there food and drink?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Do you know who provided the food or drink?

Witness: I remember there were bagels in the morning. I believe Meri Maben provided them or Charlene Loomis, was our district office manager and scheduler, and so I wouldn't be surprised if she shopped and ...

Mr. Gast: Brought the bagels?

Witness: Brought them.

Mr. Gast: Was there lunch?

Witness: Yes, there was.

Mr. Gast: Did Representative Honda attend?

Witness: I don't believe he did.

Mr. Gast: Did anybody from the campaign staff attend?

Witness: Yes, Lamar attended.

Mr. Gast: Madalene, was she involved?

Witness: I don't believe so, no.

Mr. Gast: Okay, so what was discussed at the retreat?

Witness: General objectives for the year and there's always and I believe, we had some sort of team building exercise.

Mr. Gast: Was Representative Honda's campaign discussed?

Witness: Yes. Yes, it was.

Mr. Gast: I want to show you a document. My documents are all messed up. Take your time to look through that, this is a document that appears to be an email from Ruchit Agrawal to Meri Maben, copied to CA15 District Internal. Would that have been an email group for everybody in the district office staff?

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: The subject is "DO Staff Retreat Notes" and there's an attachment. Take a minute to go through that. Let me get some water.

Witness: Okay.

Mr. Gast: Alright, as an initial matter the email is dated September 20th 2012. Does that help refresh your recollection at all as to the time of the staff retreat that you attended in 2012?

Witness: It doesn't help recollect, but September 13th 2012 is on here. So that wouldn't surprise me that it's in September. That's what I thought maybe ...

Mr. Gast: Is this the district retreat that you recalled attending?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Having looked through the attachment of notes from the retreat, does this look like what was discussed at the district office retreat.

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Does this look like an accurate record of what was discussed at the retreat?

Witness: I would say it's an accurate record of some things that were discussed at the retreat. I don't know if it's an accurate record of the full district retreat, I don't remember.

Mr. Gast: I just want to make sure you said "an accurate" not "inaccurate"?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: It's an accurate.

Witness: I believe it's an accurate account of some of the things that were discussed.

Mr. Gast: The problem was with recording.

Witness: Sure.

Mr. Gast: I want to ask you about a couple of items from these notes. First, Roman numeral II on the first page of the notes. "Overview of CA17 (Lamar, [REDACTED])" That's you obviously?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Can you tell us what this overview of California 17 was?

Witness: If I'm remembering correctly because I was halftime on the campaign, Lamar and I were asked to give a brief overview of the campaign, the status of the campaign.

Mr. Solis: So at that point when you are giving that overview, are you a congressional staff member or are you a campaign staff member?

Witness: At the time that I am giving an overview about the campaign, I'm a campaign staff member.

Mr. Gast: The first item under Roman numeral II, where it says, "New cities, how to transition info from campaign to DO (ethically and practically)." What does that mean?

Witness: I don't remember.

Mr. Gast: What does that idea generally mean, if you don't remember specifically talking about it?

Witness: I'm reading it again, it says "New cities, how to transition info from campaign to DO."

Mr. Gast: It seems from reading through this document that "DO" maybe D.O. for district office.

Witness: Okay.

Mr. Gast: I don't know if that is what you read it to be but that is seems to be an abbreviation that was used.

Witness: How I read that now, and I don't remember what that, what that phrase is or that sentence is related to. There's a new part of the district and I guess any information that the campaign is learning from that new part and how to make sure the DO, if that's how it's used, is understanding the new part of the district.

Mr. Gast: What kind of info would that be?

Witness: I don't know. I'm thinking information maybe a stakeholder who, maybe the campaign had met and that's within the district.

Mr. Gast: What's a stakeholder? What do you mean by that?

Witness: Someone who has a, who is involved in the community.

Mr. Gast: There have been references of some of the materials that we've been looking at to a list of stakeholders in the district. Does that sound familiar?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: What was this list?

Witness: I believe early on when I was moved to being halftime on campaign, there was a request for a list, stakeholder list, on who are the new players in the district.

Mr. Gast: Who requested that list?

Witness: I believe Jenifer Van der Heide.

Mr. Gast: Was that a list that the campaign maintained or the congressional office maintained?

Witness: I believe it was a list that the campaign maintained.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Did you ever use that list?

Witness: In what sense?

Mr. Gast: Did you have to look up certain stakeholders in an area or something?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Where would you find the list?

Witness: I believe it was part of a Google doc. It may have been an Excel document with the campaign on the campaign laptop.

Mr. Gast: On the campaign laptop?

Witness: Right.

Mr. Gast: When you say a Google doc, does this go back to that idea of a Google Drive? Is there someplace where you went on Google to access it?

Witness: I don't believe the stakeholder list on Google Drive, I don't remember if it was. Again I don't remember there being an official Google Drive that things were put into that was for the campaign for example. I don't remember there being a CA17 campaign Google Drive.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Back to this how to transition info from campaign to DO or do. Why would you want to transfer that info from the campaign to the district office?

Witness: It's a new district due to redistricting. It's not brand new but there are constituents who have not been part of the district for a number of years.

Mr. Gast: Couldn't the district office get that info themselves, too? Why would the campaign need to share that?

Witness: I imagine that the district. Yes the district office can get information from reading the sentence, it seems like, sharing the information to the district office.

Mr. Gast: I want flip to the next page.

Witness: Sure.

Mr. Gast: Starting at the top of the page. It looks like there's a discussion of the Chinese vote, specifically the paragraph that starts, "Question:" It talks about Chinese vote, could be opponents rep and her last name being Chinese.

Witness: I'm sorry, where are you on the page?

Mr. Gast: Where it says question.

Witness: Question, okay alright.

Mr. Gast: We talked about the Chinese vote above and into that. Then under the Chinese heading, the very last point, it says, "DO? Chinese language outreach in Cupertino." Given the discussion about the Chinese vote immediately preceding this, is this a directive or a suggestion for the district office to do Chinese language outreach in Cupertino for campaign purposes?

Witness: I don't know what that sentence refers to.

Mr. Gast: Why is it included in this discussion of the Chinese vote?

Witness: Again I don't know, I didn't draft this notes.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall the discussion about the Chinese vote at the retreat?

Witness: I recall a discussion of the fact that, and I don't recall this to the retreat. I recall discussions about the fact that the opponent in the 2012 campaign was a Chinese American person. Whether or not that would help her in the Chinese American community and if more needed to be done on our part in order to engage in that community.

Mr. Gast: For electoral purposes?

Witness: Yes, for electoral purposes.

Mr. Gast: Was the district office discussed as a way to help with that?

Witness: I don't remember the district office being discussed as a way to help with that.

Mr. Gast: Okay. The next point down is "1000 Crane." Do you recall what that is?

Witness: I do vaguely and yes I do.

Mr. Gast: What is that?

Witness: This was an idea that I believe Congressman Honda had for his campaign which was part of fundraising. Creating some sort of social group for his top fundraisers where they would, I think if they donated a certain amount they would be part of this group and be able to exchange ideas with each other about anything.

Mr. Gast: If you look down to the last arrow under 1,000 crane says, "Also will likely be transactional. By helping with the visa from my grandma, donors are not going to be interested in public affairs or federal policy." Do you know what, recall what was discussed about this being transactional?

Witness: Let me read that.

Mr. Gast: Sure.

Witness: I don't remember the discussion around that.

Mr. Gast: Was there some sense of tying assistance that the congressional could provide to this 1000 crane idea?

Witness: No, not from, not from what I remember.

Mr. Gast: Alright that last topic "Transitioning data from campaign to official-Witness," is that you?

Witness: I would assume so.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall talking about, leading a discussion about transitioning data from campaign to official?

Witness: I don't recall, no I don't recall leading that discussion.

Mr. Gast: You don't recall discussing that at all?

Witness: Correct and to be quite frank, there's very little I'm remembering from specifics of this retreat.

Mr. Gast: Do you call discussing how the congressional office can use "Intel" from the campaign?

Witness: I don't recall that.

Mr. Gast: Was there an effort to facilitate the congressional office using "Intel" from the campaign?

Witness: I'm sorry, repeat the question.

Mr. Gast: Sure, was there an effort to get information, "Intel," from the campaign to the congressional office?

Witness: I don't recall an effort to do that.

Mr. Gast: You don't recall discussing it, you don't recall ever doing anything about it?

Witness: Right. That's correct. Like I said earlier I think there's always an interest in what's learned out in the community. What's learned out in the community that's part of the campaign it's pertaining and is still has value to the congressional staff or the congressional office, the official office.

Mr. Gast: Did the campaign share information with the district office?

Witness: Specific information? I mean I ...

Mr. Gast: Specific, general.

Witness: I imagine, well, for example, this is a staff retreat and part of it had an update from the campaign so that would be sharing information.

Mr. Gast: Okay. I think those are all the questions I have on the retreat.

Mr. Solis: Were there any instances other than that example and those notes? With the campaign sharing information with congressional office?

Witness: Not that I recall, I don't recall specific examples of that.

Mr. Gast: Alright I want to move on to a state department roundtable event.

Witness: Okay.

Mr. Gast: Held with a gentleman from the, I'm going to blank on his name ... A senior advisor from the State Department's South and Central Asia Bureau held at Santa Clara University. Do you recall that event?

Witness: I do yes.

Mr. Gast: Did you work on that event?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Did you work on that event in your official capacity or campaign capacity?

Witness: My official capacity.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall when the event was?

Witness: Early 2013 I believe.

Mr. Gast: Generally what was it?

Witness: From what I remember it was an event with an official from the state department who was an advisor on South Asian Affairs. It was a roundtable with community leaders, community stakeholders who had an interest in US-Indian affairs. I believe the roundtable was focused on the Gujarat state of India. It was a tie between Silicon Valley being a tech capital and Gujarat also being a tech capital.

Mr. Gast: Who came up with the idea for this event?

Witness: I don't know.

Mr. Gast: Do you know if it was a State Department suggested event or do you know if the congressional office initiated the event?

Witness: I don't know.

Mr. Gast: Who assigned you to work on it?

Witness: I don't remember who specifically assigned me to work on it. I believe it was Meri Maben. I was assigned to work on it very late in the planning process of it.

Mr. Gast: Is that because Ruchit had been working on it and he left?

Witness: Yes, I believe Ruchit had been working on it and left and so then someone needed to step in and execute it.

Mr. Gast: Who else worked on it?

Witness: I believe I had interns help with it.

Mr. Gast: Anybody else?

Witness: I believe there was, I believe Mike Nguyen, the district deputy director, helped and I believe mostly with day-of, moving the tables around and that sort of thing. I want to say that there was a Washington DC staff member who also was there but I'm not remembering if there was or not.

Mr. Gast: You don't recall who that would have been?

Witness: I don't recall but I want it say that it was AJ Bhadelia.

Mr. Gast: Okay. What about Jenifer Van der Heide?

Witness: Yes, Jenifer Van der Heide did attend the event. Yes, she did.

Mr. Gast: Did you work with her on the set up, the lead up to the event?

Witness: I may have, I wouldn't be surprised if I did pass a question to her or, I wouldn't be surprised if I did.

Mr. Gast: Okay. How were the invitees for this event selected?

Witness: I believe some of them were already selected when I took control of the event. If I'm remembering correctly I think there, I believe interns were asked to look for CEOs or CEO level executives of technology companies within the district who are Indo-American with the idea that they would be most interested in attending such an event.

Mr. Gast: Did the campaign have any input on the list of invitees?

Witness: I don't know that.

Mr. Gast: Do you know if Lamar Heystek had any input on the list of invitees?

Witness: I don't know that.

Mr. Gast: Let me show you a couple of emails.

Witness: Sure.

Mr. Gast: Take a look at those.

Witness: Okay.

Mr. Gast: First on this longer one.

Witness: Sure.

Mr. Gast: From a list of names. Jennifer sends you an email, well first you send an email to Jennifer, "Indo roundtable missing email," and then you list some names. She writes back, "None of these were on Lamar's chat I assume?" What is the chart that she's referring to?

Witness: I don't remember.

Mr. Gast: Does this help refresh your recollection at all about Lamar being involved in identifying potential attendees?

Witness: It doesn't, I assume that there is a chart that Lamar had put together as well, it doesn't.

Mr. Gast: But you don't recall seeing that chart?

Witness: I don't.

Mr. Gast: If there is one?

Witness: Right.

Mr. Gast: Same on this second email and the number three guest list, "I have the intern working on the list now, they are from the emails you sent me and the people you picked out from Lamar's list." Again no recollection of what Lamar's list or Lamar's chart is?

Witness: I don't remember seeing a chart or list from Lamar.

Mr. Gast: Let me show this. This is a little tricky so I'm going to try to lay this out the way in a way that's easiest.

Witness: Sure.

Mr. Gast: First of all this cover email, the chain begins with an email from you to Jennifer Van der Heide. Again, we kind of briefly touched on this before, sharing a Google doc with her, which appears to be entitled "India state department roundtable." In this email I want to, just as a quick side note, you are using it appears to be personal email accounts?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Yours appears to be a Gmail account and hers appears to be a Gmail account as well?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Why are you using personal email accounts to share this information?

Witness: Sometime when using the Google Drive you can only use it with your personal email account. You can only share and edit I believe with a Gmail account.

Mr. Gast: Was there any other reason to use a personal account other than just the technology issue?

Witness: I don't believe there was any reason to use, other reason to use a personal email account on this.

Mr. Gast: Okay now I want to show you the attachment, that's where it gets a little tricky. It's such a long chart, it's in three pieces.

Witness: Okay.

Mr. Gast: I believe that is the first page of that chart. Take a minute to look at that.

Witness: Okay.

Mr. Gast: Is this a document familiar to you?

Witness: It looks to be familiar. I mean it looks like a doc, yeah.

Mr. Gast: What is this document?

Witness: I think the, it looks to be a list of the people who were either attending or invited to attend the state department roundtable.

Mr. Gast: Okay, and you can see it goes for several pages. If you want to take a look. The pages match up, that's why there's three sections.

Witness: Okay.

Mr. Gast: Do you know who prepared this chart?

Witness: I don't.

Mr. Gast: Do you know, do you recall how you came into possession of this chart?

Witness: I don't.

Mr. Gast: Would have Jennifer have given it to you?

Witness: I don't remember.

Mr. Gast: Would it have been inherited from Ruchit?

Witness: It wouldn't surprise me if I inherited this after Ruchit left.

Mr. Gast: Okay, but you don't recall specifically how it came into your hands?

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: Let me ask you about the columns here. "Giving history 2014" and it looks to be a record of campaign contributions made by the individuals on the list. Do you know why that was included on this chart?

Witness: I don't.

Mr. Gast: There are also some notes, sorry this is complicated. It's all this, for example this says "MHLM thank him for his commitment to raise financial support for fed venture capitalist event in Silicon Valley." Do you know what this information was included on this chart?

Witness: I don't.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Do you recall any discussions with anyone about raising campaign contributions from the people on this list?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Did you discuss that with Jennifer, anything about raising money from these folks?

Witness: I don't recall ever discussing that with Jennifer.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall discussing this list at all with Lamar?

Witness: I don't.

Mr. Gast: Just a couple of more things to talk about. There was an Ethiopian Awards ceremony in Los Gatos, I hope I said that right, in about September of 2012. Ruchit and Mike Nguyen might have worked on that. Were you involved in that event in any way?

Witness: I don't remember that event.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Finally I want to ask you, have you ever been asked to help with personal errands or personal business for Representative Honda?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: What have you been asked to help with?

Witness: I believe, for example, first thing popping in my mind is when I was an intern in Washington DC there was a time when the congressman had a cold and so I was asked to pick cold medication from the House physician and walk it over to his house.

Mr. Gast: Who asked you to pick up the medicine and walk it to his house?

Witness: I don't remember.

Mr. Gast: Would it have been Jennifer at that point?

Witness: I don't remember.

Mr. Gast: Okay. What else have you been asked to help with?

Witness: There was a time after a campaign event which went into the early evening that the congressman asked if I would go with him up to friend's house in San Francisco and I was happy to do so.

Mr. Gast: Were you driving him?

Witness: Yes I drove.

Mr. Gast: You drove him to the friend's house?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Did you wait and then take him back to his house or how did that work?

Witness: Yes, I didn't wait in the car, I was ...

Mr. Gast: You were invited in?

Witness: Invited in.

Mr. Gast: Was it like a social visit?

Witness: It was a social visit.

Mr. Gast: What else have you been asked?

Witness: I'm not recalling. I'm trying to think of... That's the little bit of examples I can think of.

Mr. Gast: Can you come up with a ballpark estimate of how many or how often, how many times, how often you were asked, to do a person errand or to do a personal request for or by Representative Honda?

Witness: It was rare. He liked to do a lot of things himself. He wasn't big on the idea of staff holding doors open for him or that sort of thing just he often liked to do it himself.

Mr. Gast: When you say rarely, couple of times a year? A couple of times a month?

Witness: Couple of times a year maybe.

Mr. Gast: Okay. What about other staff? Were you aware of other staff being asked to help with personal requests?

Witness: I was aware that if sometimes staff may have, he may have asked staff to do a personal request but I can't think of specific examples.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Specific staff members who were asked to do personal things for him?

Witness: No, I don't think it was specific.

Mr. Gast: You don't recall anybody specifically? Whatever the request was, do you recall discussing with anybody or hearing about anybody being asked to do something?

Witness: No.

Mr. Solis: How were you aware of it then?

Witness: I think generally, I think that, it must have been discussed at some point. It just overall it doesn't surprise me if someone said, took the congressman his, I don't know, on the way home when I'm dropping off his briefer for the next day at his house, maybe I also took a gift that was brought to him. I don't if that's ...

Mr. Gast: Sure. Did you feel like it was part of your duties, could you feel like you could say no?

Witness: Absolutely I felt like I could say no.

Mr. Gast: When they asked you to go pick up the cold medicine, did that feel like they were directing you as an intern to undertake this task?

Witness: I don't think I was ever directed, I think it must have been a question of, would you mind?

Mr. Gast: Okay and then I have one last thing to ask you about and I appreciate you bearing with us.

Witness: Sure.

Mr. Gast: I understand that you were contacted at some point by Ruchit Agrawal about a complaint that he was going to file with the committee on ethics?

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: Can you just tell us about the circumstances about how that happened?

Witness: I don't remember the date, this would have been, let's see. I don't know if you have a date?

Mr. Gast: Looks like it was December 2013.

Witness: Okay. He had sent me an email, looks like this email on December, looks like December 8th and that's what happened, he sent me the email.

Mr. Gast: What did you take this email to be?

Witness: As far as?

Mr. Gast: It's a very strangely kind of worded email.

Witness: It was, I took it to be worrisome in the sense that, it almost sounded like a rant and a not-all-together-emotionally type of rant.

Mr. Gast: Did you, he's asking for your help with the complaint?

Witness: Yes, correct.

Mr. Gast: Did you have any discussions with him beyond this email? Did you respond, did you call, did you see him in person?

Witness: No I didn't.

Mr. Gast: Who is Zara Escobar?

Witness: Zara is Jennifer Van der Heide's daughter.

Mr. Gast: Okay is she an adult daughter or?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Teen?

Witness: Let's see, I believe she's maybe around 12.

Mr. Gast: Why would you forward that to her?

Witness: After I received this email I called Jennifer Van der Heide and told her what I had received and that was quite, seemed to be coming from a place of ... Again, an emotionally disturbing rant and told her about it.

Mr. Gast: Why did you send it to the daughter's email address?

Witness: Jennifer had asked me to send it to her daughter's email address.

Mr. Gast: Do you know why she picked her daughter's email address and not her own?

Witness: I don't.

Mr. Gast: Did it strike you it was odd?

Witness: Sure.

Mr. Gast: Have you sent things to her daughter before?

Witness: No.

Mr. Solis: She says, you can send this to Zara's email address, did you ask any questions why?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Did you have her email address?

Witness: Who?

Mr. Gast: Zara's?

Witness: No, she gave it to me.

Mr. Gast: She gave it you. Alright do you have any other questions?

Mr. Solis: Who have you talked to about our review?

Witness: I talked to my wife about it in the sense that, not going into details but just this review is happening, and I talked to Jennifer Van der Heide about it.

Mr. Solis: Separate from that conversation about Ruchit's email?

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Solis: What, when did you talk to Jennifer about this?

Witness: I talked to her a few times about it, I think the most recent was a few weeks ago.

Mr. Solis: What did you talk about?

Witness: I had told her that I was invited to have this conversation and she, I asked if there's really any counsel I could get or how something like this goes I don't know if she had been through it already. I didn't know much about the process.

Mr. Solis: When you say counsel, was it strictly procedural or was it also, "Jennifer I have questions about some of the things that have been raised and what do you think happened?"

Witness: Strictly procedural.

Mr. Solis: Okay. Did Jennifer offer you any of her opinions on some of these issues?

Witness: No, and she made pretty clear that she can't offer advice or counsel on it.

Mr. Solis: Why would you talk to her on more than one occasion just about procedural issues?

Witness: Prior to that I believe she contacted me to let me know that a review was happening and that I may be contacted. I think she did just didn't want me to be caught off, by surprise if something happened.

Mr. Solis: Just two times?

Witness: There may have been a third time, I don't remember.

Mr. Gast: What would have prompted the third call?

Witness: I think the process so I think the first call might have been just so you know this is maybe likely going to happen, I don't remember what the exact phrase was but just so you are aware. Then maybe the next one might have been, its confirmed that this type of review is happening and then the third one again I

believe I contacted her when I received an official invitation to come and interview.

Mr. Solis: Just your wife and Jennifer, is that right?

Witness: I'm trying to think. Yes I believe so.

Mr. Solis: Okay. Are you sure because we want to make sure that when we talk to other people and they say, we spoke to Witness as well, we want to make sure that's accurate.

Witness: Sure, let me think again. I think talking about this procedure, ethics interview I believe my wife and Jenifer were the only people I talked about it.

Mr. Solis: Okay, we want to make certain, it's not just about the review and the procedure, also just generally some of the topics we are talking about here, now that you've been gone from the office for a while, Ruchit sent that email, was there any discussion with former staff or current staff about some of his allegations?

Witness: Yes, and I talked to Meri Maben about it.

Mr. Solis: How long ago was that?

Witness: There was a conversation in ... There were a few conversations. One was when I believe right around the time that this issue made it into local press. I think Meri contacted me just to find out what I remembered about the issue. Then there was another time in I think mid-October where Meri contacted me. I think there may have been another, something happened in the press, I don't, but Meri contacted me again.

Mr. Solis: What did Meri say?

Witness: She wanted to know, I think my understanding of my, what I remembered versus what was in the press about the issue.

Mr. Gast: When you say the issue, what's the issue?

Witness: I think there was an article, and I'm trying to remember what publication, one of the local publications, that was a former staff comes forward with ethics allegations. That was the issue.

Mr. Gast: Was it a specific allegation? Or just the fact that there was an ethics allegation?

Witness: In this article I remember there were specific allegations.

Mr. Gast: Did you discuss the specific allegations themselves or just that they had been made?

Witness: I believe I discussed the specific allegations themselves.

Mr. Gast: Those being what?

Witness: I believe the state department roundtable was part of that, was in that press article from this local publication and so ...

Mr. Gast: You discussed that with Meri, the state department roundtable?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Any other allegations that you discussed?

Witness: I don't believe we discussed any other allegations because this was specifically towards something that I had helped at the very end organize.

Mr. Solis: Did Meri give you her opinion of what she thought happened?

Witness: In what sense?

Mr. Solis: When you talked about the state department roundtable event she asked you, "What do you remember about it?" Did Meri give her opinion to you about what she remembered about it?

Witness: Yes. When I said that I remember asking interns just look up the contact information of Indian American C-level executives would be interested in or within our district attending this event. She said, "That's what I remember as well."

Mr. Gast: Did you discuss the Netflix allegation at all?

Witness: I don't think we did. I think we discussed the fact that there was this article out and the staffer, former staffer, was Ruchit Agrawal and this is what the article says but I think the conversation was about the Indian roundtable.

Mr. Gast: Coffee breaks, did you talk about coffee breaks?

Witness: No I don't remember talking about coffee breaks.

Mr. Gast: Okay. I think those are all the questions we have for you.

Witness: Okay.

Mr. Gast: I appreciate you sticking with us.

Witness: Sure.

Mr. Solis: Thank you.

Exhibit 3

**Interview of Former Legislative Assistant
April 20, 2105**

Mr. Gast: For the record, this is Scott Gast with the Office of Congressional Ethics, with my colleagues Kelly Brewington and Annie Cho, and we are here with Former Legislative Assistant who has agreed to sit with us for an interview. We've provided Former Legislative Assistant with a copy of the Federal False Statement Act and she has signed the acknowledgement form.

Witness: Indeed I have.

Mr. Gast: We appreciate your time, sharing with us. We'd like to start with a little bit of background. If you could tell us your current employment and how long you've been here.

Witness: Sure. I am [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Mr. Gast: Sure. What are your general duties here?

Witness: My general duties here involve [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED].

Mr. Gast: What did you do prior to starting this position in March?

Witness: Before this, I was [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED].

Mr. Gast: How long were you in that position?

Witness: I think about 2 years.

Mr. Gast: Then before that?

Witness: Before that I was a legislative assistant for Congressman Mike Honda.

Mr. Gast: How long were you in that position?

Witness: I believe about a year and a half. I think I started with him shortly after Thanksgiving of maybe 2011, and was with them ... I informed them of my decision to accept a new job on my birthday, February 26th of 2013, I believe. I might have the years jumbled up but that was the general timeline. It was a memorable birthday.

Mr. Gast: I guess. What did you do before working for Representative Honda?

Witness: Before Representative Honda ... Man, we're going to my whole resume. Before Representative Honda I was working [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Mr. Gast: How long have you been working on or within the Hill world?

Witness: I moved to Washington, D.C. in the summer of 2006 and fell into doing Hill jobs shortly thereafter.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Witness: I worked for a few congressmen, a couple of senators. I took some time off, went to grad school, think tank stuff but it generally started ... The whole fun started in 2006.

Mr. Gast: [REDACTED]

Witness: [REDACTED].

Mr. Gast: I want to talk to you about your time with Representative Honda specifically. Can you tell us a little bit about your duties as an LA in that office?

Witness: Sure. One of my main areas of responsibility was staffing the congressman on his budget committee duties. At the time, he was one of the members of the Budget Committee at a time where budget debates were of particular importance for both parties. I staffed him for Budget Committee hearings. That involved developing lines of questions for different witnesses appearing before the committee.

The main area of responsibility was this very exhausting process where I wrote the Congressional Progressive Caucus's alternative budget. Every

year there is this budget battles that happen and everybody introduces their version of their budget and the Congressional Progressive Caucus is the leftmost caucus in the House of Representatives. I developed their budget alternative for the year and tried to corral around 80 some members to get to vote for it.

Beyond that, it was pretty typical run-of-the-mill legislative assistant responsibility. Meeting with constituent groups, writing the congressmen and the legislative director and the chief of staff about different issues that our constituents were asking us for, the positions he might take, the positions he might not take, pretty run-of-the-mill stuff.

Mr. Gast: Who did you report to in that position?

Witness: Who did I report to? Eric Werwa, who was the legislative director at the time and he was the LD the entire time that I was at the office, and also Jennifer Van der Heide, the chief of staff.

Mr. Gast: Was that kind of just a dual reporting or?

Witness: I would say that I would describe ... How would I describe this setup with the office? I would describe Eric as a particularly active LD. I think he is focused on his set of issues so while he was informed of the work that I was doing in terms of making progress and next steps, it was mostly at the advisement of Jennifer Van der Heide.

Mr. Gast: Okay. When you were with Representative Honda, did you have any interaction with his campaigns?

Witness: Yes, I did. I'm trying to think of who was involved. Lamar, I don't recall Lamar's last name.

Mr. Gast: Could have been Heystek?

Witness: Yes, that sounds familiar. There were also, I'm unclear exactly how that was working in the district office. I think that Mark Nakamoto was splitting time between doing official duties and then working specifically on the campaign and I think he was explicitly splitting time at some point while I was working for the congressman and although I don't remember which election or how exactly that worked. I think those were the two main people, I mean most of the ... Truthfully, I think Jennifer who was the chief of staff and the campaign manager so.

Mr. Gast: Would you talk to Jennifer about both campaign issues, campaign matters and also official office matters?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: How would you interact with Lamar and Mark? That be by phone, e-mail, in person?

Witness: I'm trying to recall. I don't recall ... I would say the majority of the time, it happened over e-mail.

Mr. Gast: Did you have an e-mail that you used for campaign purposes?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: What was that e-mail?

Witness: It was my gmail address.

Mr. Gast: You would use that gmail address for interacting with the campaign?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Okay. About how often would you have that interaction with Lamar and Mark?

Witness: With Lamar and Mark, I would describe it as fairly, fairly rare. With Jennifer, I would describe it as frequent.

Mr. Gast: What would you discuss with Jennifer?

Witness: It would be hard for me to speak in terms of specifics. I would say in general, a lot of communications with the office generally moved to our gmail addresses at the beginning of 2013 when it became clear that we would have a serious challenger at the 2014 election. Those communications could involve things that ... I'm trying to think through what that might looked like. It could be as simple as something like content on an op-ed that we wanted to write which wasn't necessarily about campaigns in particular or our campaign in particular. Sometimes it would involve research of the expected opponent, different stances that he might have taken on sets of issues and how we might respond to them. Other things we might have ...

That seems to be the majority of what I was involved with. It was content and either the op-eds or website or framing or press or what is the background on this and what is our response to it.

Mr. Gast: When you say we, you said we a couple of times when we discussed this, or we thought about this, who do you include in that we?

Witness: You guys probably have the e-mails. If my name's come to your attention, I'm sure that you've seen the other people that are probably on these e-mails. Jennifer is usually the driver of these conversations and was pretty proactive in trying to get us engaged in that way. Our communications director who was usually involved in those conversations. The legislative director, Eric Werwa was usually on those e-mails.

Our social media and digital guy, AJ Bhadelia was typically on those e-mails. He was a pretty senior level person ... While he wasn't an LD, he had acquired some tenure by the time that I was in the office and was trusted advisor for both the congressman and the chief of staff. His opinion mattered. He was usually involved in some way or form. That seems to be it. I mean, those are the people that come to mind in terms of if remember us going back and forth about an op-ed that seems to be the scope of people that would be involved.

Mr. Gast: Were other folks from the DC congressional office involved with the campaign who weren't necessarily part of this group that you listed?

Witness: Outside of the policy stuff, Jennifer Van der Heide usually kept an assistant so whoever the assistant to the chief of staff was at the time probably was helping her manage that part of operations.

Mr. Gast: When you were there, who was that person?

Witness: Her name is Fayzan Gowani.

Mr. Gast: How about in the district? Were there district folks?

Witness: I was not particularly close with the district folks ... I mean, I know that Mark Nakamoto started in the DC office and I overlapped with him in the DC office but I know that he moved out to the district and he's getting married or something like that. He was the main person that I was aware of that was splitting time and had that kind of working arrangement but I'm not aware of ... I know who those people are but I don't know what

their day-to-day working stuff was. I wasn't on e-mails with them. That was not something that I saw.

Mr. Gast: Meri Maben?

Witness: She's the district director. Is it plausible that she was involved in a different side of it? Sure, but I never saw it.

Mr. Gast: She's never in that interaction?

Witness: Yeah, I mean I was like the, again like the policy nerd. I would say that the district director's job is more district focused as you might expect. That could be events or roundtables or things like that and helping the people of the district. That's her job, casework stuff. I just wasn't involved in that stuff.

Mr. Gast: How did you get involved with the campaign side of things?

Witness: I was asked to get involved by the chief of staff.

Mr. Gast: Can you tell me how that came up?

Witness: I think it just happened.

Mr. Gast: Did you express any interest in working on the campaign side?

Witness: No, I never ... I don't recall any specific conversations about it. There was never ... I never affirmatively said I want to be involved in doing campaign work. That's never a conversation that was had. I think when they came down to it, this became the central focus of what Jennifer was working on, particularly when in the 2014 cycle the election was going to be more competitive and that involved a lot of work, and it's just as one who wants to be helpful to your boss, I think it started that ... Just started falling on my responsibilities.

Mr. Gast: Did you ever feel that you didn't want to help out or this was a responsibility that you wouldn't have necessarily saw that of yourself?

Witness: That I didn't want to help them? No, I mean I think you always want to be helpful. I don't know. That's a tough question to answer because it's about a mentality in working within a congressional office and I'm used to introducing bills and writing letters and doing these things. The point is to be helpful and do what your boss asks you to do. It doesn't look like ... I don't know. I'm having a hard time responding to your question but I

never said to Jennifer, "I don't want to do this." That was not a thing that I said out loud ever.

Ms. Brewington: Do you think there was an expectation that you would?

Witness: That is a fair characterization of how that atmosphere worked. I think you can just see that by the move from all over. You have traffic being on the official side to everything moving over to gmail. While the content of it may not have explicitly addressed Ro Khanna because of the pace at which it was coming in and the tone with which it was. I mean, there is an expectation that you answer these things and she was always very, very urgent. We used to made fun of her with the urgency with which she sent all these e-mails to people. It became a joke.

Yeah, there was an expectation that you would help out. I never confronted what the alternative was, like if somebody said, "I wasn't comfortable with this." I never saw what the consequences of that was but ... Did Jennifer expect a fair amount of responsiveness and asked a lot of us that was like just for the sake ... I don't know if it qualifies as campaign or non-campaign, but was it on my gmail? All the time. Sure, yeah.

Mr. Gast: Do you think you could have said no?

Witness: Yes, I think that would have probably meant, though, that I would need to find a new job after that. So I could say no, but that meant that the job maybe wasn't necessarily for me.

Mr. Gast: I want to, while we're on that subject, I want to ask you about this e-mail. It goes with what we've been talking about. If you want to take a minute to look this over. It's really just the first e-mail that I want to ask you about but take a look at the whole chain.

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall this e-mail?

Witness: Not specifically but this doesn't come as a surprise.

Mr. Gast: I believe that's your gmail account but ...

Witness: Indeed it is.

Mr. Gast: How did it come about that Jennifer got your e-mail account, your gmail account?

Witness: I think she just asked me for it or her assistant asked me for it.

Mr. Gast: Obviously, the subject here is "Required Reading -- Entrepreneurial National" but I think it's "Entrepreneurial Nation."

Witness: Yeah, that's Entrepreneurial Nation.

Mr. Gast: By Ro Khanna, who is obviously the expected opponent in that cycle.

Witness: Yep.

Mr. Gast: What did you take that to mean by "required reading"?

Witness: Exactly what it says, that we had to read it.

Mr. Gast: As part of your responsibilities on the congressional staff?

Witness: I mean it says in the e-mail "in preparation for a good chance for a challenge by Ro Khanna." It was in preparation for that, as Jennifer says explicitly in the e-mail. I mean also she knows that I don't disagree that it's a thoughtful book. Ro Khanna is a fairly prominent guy in Silicon Valley that has a lot of original thoughts. So as she also notes, "it's a good read for someone representing Silicon Valley." It was required that we'd be up-to-date on what was in the book and how it compared to Congressman Honda's record.

Mr. Gast: Did you read the book?

Witness: Yes, I did.

Mr. Gast: When she said required, I mean I asked this before but was that ... As a member of the congressional staff, I don't know how she could require you to do it in any other way.

Witness: I'm not sure I know what you mean.

Mr. Gast: Did you see this as a responsibility? As part of your duties in the congressional office?

Witness: I considered it part of my duties as someone that was working for Congressman Honda.

Mr. Gast: Requests like this that would come in to read this book by Ro Khanna, did you get other requests to do things for the campaign?

Witness: Sure. Some of them were pretty benign and were ... They were actually for the election before this. It was filling out issue questionnaires, what is Mike Honda's record on retirees, what is Mike Honda's record on social security, what's Mike Honda's record on fill-in-the-blank issues. Specifically to this book, I was asked to put together a side-by-side memo, basically Mr. Khanna's proposals in the book and in another column, Representative Honda's either similar or related response or how we might respond to something like that. It was a side by side ...

Mr. Gast: Funny you should bring that up. Does this look like that side-by-side?

Witness: Yes, it does.

Mr. Gast: Was this the document that you prepared?

Witness: Yes, it is.

Mr. Gast: Where did you prepare it?

Witness: I don't recall.

Mr. Gast: Would it had been in the congressional office?

Witness: It might have been but I don't recall.

Mr. Gast: Would you been able to produce it at home?

Witness: Yeah, I had a computer at home. I can read at home. I don't know. It's long. It's pretty thorough. I did a pretty good job.

Mr. Gast: Several pages.

Witness: I don't know the timing of when I prepared this. I don't know if it was ... I'm away on Christmas vacation for a week so I'm going to spend some time churning through the book and put together something like this doesn't seem implausible. It also does not seem implausible that I spent time in the House office preparing it or adding detail to it. I just don't know the answer. I'm sorry, I don't.

Mr. Gast: Sure. Who asked you to prepare it?

Witness: Jennifer Van der Heide.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Did you work with anybody else on the document?

Witness: I don't remember but I don't think so.

Mr. Gast: There were some suggestion, some of the metadata associated with the document that AJ Bhadelia and ...

Witness: I don't recall.

Mr. Gast: Don't recall working with him?

Witness: I don't recall if AJ and I worked together on this stuff. It seems like it's more focused in the issue areas that I was focused on, to be frank. If I were to speculate, I don't think that he had much involvement in putting together this document, but I don't know that for certain.

Mr. Gast: Let me ask you about this document. This is a little more bare bones. This appears to be, starting with the bottom then working up, an e-mail from Jennifer Van der Heide to you and Eric Werwa copied to Meri Maben and Ashley Roybal in a labor breakfast, preparing a background memo. Do you recall what that event was this labor breakfast?

Witness: I don't recall.

Mr. Gast: Do you know if it was a campaign or official event?

Witness: By looking at this, I don't recall. It appears to be to my official e-mail address so I assume that it is an official event but I don't know the answer to that. I don't see my gmail anywhere on here but that like, "Do I recall this event?" Absolutely not.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Witness: No, no idea. This is Jennifer's I think e-mail signature from her official side. She used different ... I don't know the answer to that, I'm sorry.

Mr. Gast: Did you work on a memo?

Witness: I don't recall but I'm sure if Jennifer asked me to, I'm sure I did.

Mr. Gast: If you look further up the chain, Eric Werwa sends the e-mail to Ashley Roybal and Lamar Heystek, copied to Meri. It looks like you've been removed by that time.

Witness: I'm right there.

Mr. Gast: On the top one?

Witness: The very top one? Okay. Yeah, I'm off now.

Mr. Gast: It looks like it was sent to Lamar at his gmail.

Witness: Okay.

Mr. Gast: Then to Ashley, who I believe at the time may have been doing some work halftime on the campaign.

Witness: I don't know the answer to that. I know Ashley as someone that works in the district office. I don't know what her arrangement was with the campaign.

Mr. Gast: Does the fact that the memo was sent to Lamar suggest anything to you?

Witness: I don't know of other reasons why he would have it unless it was useful for him to have it. I don't know if this is ... I don't know. I don't know why we would send it to Lamar.

Mr. Gast: Sure. Just to note again, you're not on that part of the chain?

Witness: Yeah. I don't remember an Alameda Labor Council event but Lamar could be on it because it's campaign event. He could also be on it just for his situational awareness and that there might be similar events like that that happened later but I have no idea. I have no idea, I'm sorry. I don't, really don't know.

Mr. Gast: Sure. Besides the chart, maybe this memo and that couple other things we've talked about, do you recall other instances in which Jennifer asked you to prepare materials for the campaign?

Witness: We talked about questionnaires. The side-by-side of this book. She asked me to put together something that goes back to the CPC budget that I mentioned earlier. That was one of my main responsibilities, and in that budget, as you might expect because they're very liberal, they raise a lot of taxes in the budget. It's just a proposal. Just a thing to put out there.

She asked me to put together an analysis of what the implications could be for an average voter in the congressman's district. As you might expect, Silicon Valley could be a pretty wealthy place. The idea was that Congressman Honda could have put out a document, been the leader on the document, that potentially proposed the tax increase on a lot of people that he represented. So I put together an analysis of that, just a memo that was just a run down of you propose going back to the Bush era tax cuts, you propose rating taxes on capital gains and dividends. You propose financial transactions, tax, all of those things have implications for how a household would be treated in Silicon Valley. That was something that I was asked to put together.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall her specifically saying average voter versus an ...

Witness: I don't know. I don't remember her saying that, no.

Mr. Gast: Any other requests to prepare items, materials for the campaign?

Witness: I don't think so. I think that seems to be the real ... The book and the side-by-side item.

Mr. Gast: How often would she make those kinds of requests, would Jennifer make those kinds of requests?

Witness: I mean those kinds of requests is a pretty ... I don't know how to ... For me, in my experiences, I mean the issue areas, surveys from the 2012 cycle, so well before any of this, when they needed to be done, they came in fairly regularly. When it was getting into the 2014 cycle, I would say it was more rare. I don't know that my experiences were typical of everyone in the legislative staff though, so these are the logical areas with which I would have been involved, economic policy. I don't know if that ... if it provides any clarity but I mean I think it's just independent.

Mr. Gast: When you say your experience wasn't typical, how would it had been different from other legislative staff members?

Witness: I think that other people were more ... I think I was actually in the middle in terms of people that were involved in this stuff. There were definitely people that were less involved and there were definitely people that were more involved.

Mr. Gast: Who were the ones who were involved?

Witness: I would say there our communications directors were probably asked to do a lot more because, I mean, op-eds and press content. I think there was a pretty ... I think they were asked of a lot. I think Eric was probably asked for a lot. Beyond that, I don't really know.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Were campaign materials created or kept on congressional office computers?

Witness: I don't know the answer to that.

Mr. Gast: Did you ever create or access a campaign document off of a congressional office, computers?

Witness: When I was asked to do questionnaires relating to issue areas under my jurisdiction, those were accessed during the day. Sometimes they were sent to me at 9am and said, they need it to be finished by noon so that was when they needed it to be done.

Mr. Gast: Sure. If you go into the server system in the congressional office, would there be any kind of campaign, folder campaign area?

Witness: I don't know the answer to that.

Mr. Gast: You never saw anything like that?

Witness: I don't know. I wouldn't be surprised if it were just in general content that then gets moved over to another space. For instance, one's gmail and then is used for that purposes but was it Ro Khanna's feelings, like a folder titled that ... I'm not sure but I don't recall seeing anything like that. There wasn't a central storage place for us to put stuff like that. It was not formalized in that way.

Mr. Gast: How about this idea of a Google drive or Dropbox account?

Witness: I would send some Google drive stuff. Congressman Honda uses Dropbox to access things, whether it'd be on either side so for, "Hey, you're about to go to this budget committee hearing. Here's a list of questions I would like for you to ask." That would be something that I would put in his Dropbox so he'd always use the Dropbox account. To the extent that it's used for campaign stuff, I don't know.

Mr. Gast: Okay. You said you didn't have much interaction with the district staff, did you ever hear this idea of "coffee breaks" in the district office?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Any instances where you saw staff members using the telephones or computers or any other official resource for campaign activities?

Witness: I don't know the answer to that.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall anything?

Witness: I mean for DC staff if you're working on a document and somebody's working on a document on their computer, how am I supposed to know what that's for? I would operate under the presumption that it was probably DC based work and they were doing policy work for their stuff. I don't recall seeing anybody doing campaign, Mike Honda logo-type stuff at their desk. That is not a thing I recall. No.

Mr. Gast: Did you attend any staff retreats during your time with Representative Honda?

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Gast: Were they DC, district staff?

Witness: I went to a DC staff one that was out in a cabin somewhere in Virginia or something. I don't even remember where it was but yeah, it was a DC staff only.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall when that was?

Witness: I don't. I don't remember. It would have been ... No, I really don't even know. It was nice weather so it wasn't winter. It was before Ro Khanna was a person of interest to Jennifer, just because I don't recall us having any explicit conversations about him or his candidacy. We talked about other policy stuff.

Mr. Gast: Was campaign or campaign matters discussed at the retreat?

Witness: I don't recall. I don't think so.

Mr. Gast: Were any campaign staff there or any political folks?

Witness: I don't think so.

Mr. Gast: Okay. I want to ask you about an event in February of 2013. Not long before you left. It was a State Department roundtable event held at the district.

Witness: I've read about that one.

Mr. Gast: You have an idea of what I'm talking about?

Witness: Yeah, I mean sort of.

Mr. Gast: Were you involved with that event?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Did you help plan it or provide any information?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Heard of any discussions about the event?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: You may have seen in the paper that there were some questions about whether the attendees or the invitees to the event were solicited for campaign contributions or targeted as potential donors? Was that something that it was ever discussed while you were with Representative Honda?

Witness: I don't think I was ever a party to conversations about campaign finance. That was just not a ... In general, did we discuss people that were friendly to Congressman Honda? Or did we talk about people whose interests aligned with the congressman and he'd been really active on funding an appropriations project with XYZ, and fill-in-the-blank corporation really cared about that stuff. They would care about us. We've worked together to make the district better. So having a good grasp in terms of allies was something that we talked about pretty regularly but not in like a campaign finance. I wasn't. I don't, no.

Mr. Gast: Did you ever refer individuals to the campaign as potential contributors?

Witness: Potential contributors? No, I don't believe so. I don't believe so but ...

Mr. Gast: For example, an ally that you may have had a meeting with or something and realized that there were some compatibilities there or you would

have remarked that this would be a good person for the campaign to contact?

Witness: That's an interesting way of asking that. I don't recall ever doing that. Is it a thing that I might have mentioned to Jennifer, "Hey, I just had a great meeting with someone so it seems like they'd be really interested in what we're doing on fill-in-the-blank issue." I mean she did ask me once to pick my brain on gay people that she thought would give the congressman money just because I'm gay.

Mr. Gast: Sure.

Witness: All the gays know each other. I remember being pretty useless in that capacity actually. I was ... I don't know. I mean, Witness Ricketts is a lesbian and she's really rich but I don't know that she's going to give money to you. I have no idea. She asked me once about that but it was sort of a casual offhand.

Mr. Gast: Do you know where that conversation took place?

Witness: I do not remember.

Mr. Gast: Could it have been in the congressional office?

Witness: It could have been or it could not have been. I don't remember.

Mr. Gast: Did you ever have any conversation with Representative Honda about his campaign?

Witness: In a personal sense but not in the operational sense. More in a, "We believe in you boss. How are you holding up," kind of way.

Mr. Gast: Not nuts and bolts?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Fundraising progress?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Anything like that?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: How active was he in his campaigns?

Witness: That is a question for other people. I never had any interaction with the congressman on these matters.

Mr. Gast: I want to ask you about one last area -- using official resources for personal purposes.

Witness: Okay.

Mr. Gast: You might have seen in some of the reporting that there was an e-mail about helping the congressman set up his Netflix and Apple TV.

Witness: Okay.

Mr. Gast: Were you ever asked to help with any personal business, personal matters?

Witness: No, that was other peoples' responsibility.

Mr. Gast: Whose responsibility was that?

Witness: I mean I feel the people that had more administrative responsibilities in the office. Robert Lucas did a lot of technical assistance, IT assistance for the congressman when I was there, and his scheduler I think is just more involved in his personal life but I don't know the details of that.

Mr. Gast: That was Daniel Oliver?

Witness: Yes, that's him. Yeah.

Mr. Gast: Do you have any specific examples of Daniel's involvement in his personal side of life?

Witness: I don't know. I don't know. Maybe that's just a reflection of how the two of them interacted because they were very close but I think Daniel was very involved in making sure that Honda got where he needed to be and had a clean suit and tie kind of stuff. I don't know. I mean personal stuff with members. Who knows what those people do.

Mr. Gast: Aside from that relationship, did you ever seen instances where congressional staff were assigned to do some personal errand for the congressman?

Witness: No, I can't think of one. No.

Mr. Gast: Okay. I'll just look back through my notes here. Do you have a question?

Ms. Brewington: Yeah, back to the congressional office, were there any written policies regarding campaign activity?

Witness: I would suspect that it was part of the office handbook but I do not recall what it said.

Ms. Brewington: There was an office handbook?

Witness: There was an office handbook of sorts. Yeah, well, I don't know what it mentioned. I don't recall that it mentioned ... What I'm trying to say is that if there was something that would be where it lived and I signed it probably on my first day, but I don't recall what it said about that stuff and we didn't revisit it during my tenure, when I was there. I signed a handbook upfront and just went from there.

Mr. Gast: Any training that you were given about campaign activities as a congressional staff member?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: I believe those were all the questions we have for you.

Exhibit 4

**Interview of Former Campaign Coordinator
March 26, 2015**

Mr. Gast: This is Scott Gast, Investigative Counsel with the Office of Congressional Ethics, joined by my colleague Paul Solis, Deputy Chief Counsel. It is March 26, 2015 and we are here with Former Campaign Coordinator who has agreed to speak with us about a matter our office is reviewing. Former Campaign Coordinator has reviewed the Federal False Statements Act and signed the acknowledgement form. We'll begin our discussion.

Witness: Great.

Mr. Gast: We just like to begin with a little background, if you could just tell us your current employment situation.

Witness: My name is [REDACTED] I'm employed as the program development officer for a nonprofit here in San Francisco, Asian Incorporated.

Mr. Gast: Asian Incorporated?

Witness: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Mr. Gast: What generally do you do in that position?

Witness: I do grant proposals, solicit funding for the organization. I solicit other forms of support for the organization, try to help keep existing programs running, help start new ones and get them the resources they need to be able to succeed. I gather a lot of financial support for the organization. I gather other types of support in kind and technical assistance for the organization.

Mr. Gast: What did you do prior to working for that nonprofit?

Witness: I was in a capacity with Mike Honda for Congress. When I left Mike Honda for Congress, I was the political director. I was employed initially to be a campaign coordinator.

Mr. Gast: When did you start with the Mike Honda for Congress campaign?

Witness: December 2011. It's late December 2011, maybe the last week of December or the second last week.

Mr. Gast: You were hired as campaign coordinator at that time?

Witness: I was. I responded to a posting for a campaign coordinator.

Mr. Gast: Where was that posting listed, if you recall?

Witness: I think Craigslist and it was in an email.

Mr. Gast: When you were hired, was anybody else employed by the campaign at that time?

Witness: Let me think to make sure. In a direct employee hire situation, no.

Mr. Gast: What about indirect?

Witness: As contractor? There were certainly contractors, one for campaign treasurer, one director of finance consultant. I believe those were the only two contractor relationships that existed. I was given the opportunity to either be a contractor or a direct employee of the campaign and I elected to be a direct employee.

Mr. Gast: Who was the finance consultant?

Witness: The finance consultant at the time was Madalene Mielke. That's M-A-D-A-L-E-N-E, Mielke, M-I-E-L-K-E with Arum Group in Washington DC. I don't know what her relationship right now with the campaign but when I left Mike Honda for Congress, I know that she was still a part of the campaign.

Mr. Gast: You were hired in December of 2011?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: At some point your title shifted to political director?

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: When was that?

Witness: That was after the campaign manager was hired. Officially, I would say April 2013. My job as being coordinator was ... I was repurposed to handle or to ... They called it something different and I did other things besides field and volunteer recruitment and things as we brought in more people to the campaign. I started shifting to being called and referred to as the political director.

Mr. Gast: The campaign manager hired around that time, was that Doug Greven?

Witness: Yes, Doug Greven.

Mr. Gast: When did you leave the Honda campaign?

Witness: March 24th ... or thereabouts, 2014.

Mr. Gast: 2014?

Witness: March 2014. Mid March, let's say. Right around there.

Mr. Gast: Sure. What were the circumstances of leaving the campaign?

Witness: The commute. I was living in San Francisco at the time. It's an hour-and-a-half drive, to and from. I appreciate that you asked that because it was just about ... My wife was about to have our second child, 6 days a week on the campaign, Saturdays. People typically when they are having families you want to have time like the Saturdays that you can spend with your family and to be there for your partner and my wife was going to give birth in June.

I said to Congressman Honda and he totally understood. It had all to do with family. I'm on the record and I don't mind being on the record, obviously but people talk about that. Really it was my family situation and of course people understood.

Mr. Gast: It was an amicable separation?

Witness: Absolutely.

Mr. Gast: Was it around that time or shortly thereafter that you then began working for the nonprofit?

Witness: Absolutely.

Mr. Gast: I want to get a sense of who was on the campaign payroll either as an employee or consultant during the time that you were there just so I know who the players are.

Witness: Forgive me. Let me close my eyes and think. If you give timeframes, I can try to look back.

Mr. Gast: You said when you were hired in December 2011, it was just you as the sole, full-time employee and there were consultants then associated, the treasurer and the finance person.

Witness: Right. Of course, I was supervised by an unpaid campaign manager, someone who's titled as campaign manager who was my direct supervisor. I don't know. To my knowledge, there's no payroll flowing to that person but that person was

my supervisor and I reported to that person. I don't know if that's who you counted as staff or if you're interested in people being paid by the campaign.

Mr. Gast: That's a good point. Let's broaden it to people who had a formal position, whether it's paid or unpaid or consultant, formal position. Who was that person that supervised you when you started?

Witness: The person on record as campaign manager in our campaign manual and the person I reported to as campaign manager was Jennifer Van der Heide.

Mr. Gast: Was she also serving as Representative Honda's chief of staff in his congressional office at that time?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Then in that December 2011 time period there was Jennifer, there was Madalene, the treasurer.

Witness: Madalene, Jennifer and the treasurer.

Mr. Gast: And yourself. Anybody else with a formal position in the campaign?

Witness: Now that I think of it as well, there was a webmaster-type person like a technical assistant, the tech person with the backend of the website and the email.

Mr. Gast: A consultant?

Witness: No. It was someone who might have been paid as a contractor but was also a staff member, was on Congressman Honda's congressional payroll. It was someone in his private personal non-congressional capacity.

Mr. Gast: Who was that?

Witness: His name is Ahmed. We called him AJ but, Ahmed, A-H-M-E-D, Bhadelia, B-H-A-D-E-L-I-A. He was someone who did the website, if you will and controlled the domain, the MikeHonda.org. At the time, I think was MikeHonda.com domain. Again, I think he was paid for his services but I know he was listed as webmaster as someone who had that relation.

He was also someone on Congressman Honda's official DC staff but was doing this privately. Another person who ... And I'll have to speak to this because I know you have a lot of questions. Before me ... and I don't think ... I don't know what the relationship was right when I came in but the person I came in to replace was ... her name was Ashley Roybal, R-O-Y-B-A-L hyphen R-E-I-D.

Ashley Roybal-Reid and she was also in the district office as a congressional aide. She was doing this obviously on her ... in a non-congressional capacity. I think she said she would have to step back from the role. I don't know what the overlap was. I don't know if she was on getting a check or anything like that. Another person in a ... maybe in a press capacity, there might have been someone.

I'll have to take a look. I mean, if we want to do follow up questions, I can probably answer them but there may have been someone doing press. I don't know if they were paid or unpaid.

Mr. Gast: Was that somebody also associated with the congressional office?

Witness: Likely. If the person was on board at that time. I'll have to take a look at my emails and see where that person was. Yes.

Mr. Gast: Who was that?

Witness: At that time, it was Jack. His official first name is John but we called him Jack D'Annibale. His last name is spelled D apostrophe A-N-N-I-B-A-L-E. And I think that's it. I think that's the universe, I think at that time. There were other people who were employed during the campaign not at that time when I started. I can tell you about those people too.

Mr. Gast: Let's talk about the 2012 election, that cycle. From December 2011, through election day 2012, so that would have been roughly about a year.

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Did anybody else come on board the campaign with an official formal title?

Witness: Yes. Campaign coordinator, Mark and his first name officially is Marcus I believe. Mark Nakamoto, N-A-K-A-M-O-T-O. I think he was either a legislative correspondent or leg aide and then he came on board to the district office. I think he was half-time there and then they gave him some time. Half-time there and then Congressman Honda gave him ... or Congressman Honda's campaign gave Mark Nakamoto some capacity on the campaign.

Mr. Gast: Anyone else in that 2012 cycle?

Witness: Probably, and it was above me because I wasn't the manager, like a general consultant. Someone to advise the campaign generally to be, what the campaign should do. I'm sure there was ... There was polling done.

Mr. Gast: Nobody specific to the Honda campaign, nobody else?

Witness: Not that I can think of. If I can take a look and make sure that my recollection is not ... I want to be as full and complete. I would take a look but at the moment, I can't think of anyone else.

Mr. Gast: Then how about after the 2012 election? You said, I believe in April, Doug Greven was hired to be the campaign manager for the 2014 cycle?

Witness: Yes, but before Doug Greven came on board, there was also some hiring done like the mail consultant, the general consultant if you will, in a contractor position, a contract position. That was a firm. There was another fundraising team consultant that was brought on board locally because Madalene is based in DC. There was maybe a social media consultant who's brought on board. In terms of direct hires, the one after me would've been Doug Greven.

Mr. Gast: It was you and Doug as employees up until the time you left?

Witness: There were other employees after Doug but ...

Mr. Gast: Up until the time you left it was just the 2 of you?

Witness: No, no, no. There were others. After Doug was hired in April in 2013, there was communications.

Mr. Gast: Was that Vivek?

Witness: Vivek, yes. Communications director, comms. He's direct as well. There was a field person, Jeremy Cohen, field director. He was hired field director. There was like a deputy finance person who was on for a very short time. I don't know. He was taking a paycheck but I don't know if it was direct or indirect. Probably direct. His name was Mitchell Oster, O-S-T-E-R. It was for a brief time and I don't know what his official title was but it was something like a deputy finance position, doing the call sheets and things.

After Mitchell left, someone else came on board. It was actually a volunteer who they taken on to be that position, to do what Mitchell had done to support call time and things in a finance capacity. His name is Mehran, M-E-H-R-A-N, Kodabandeh which is K-H-O-D-A-B-A-N-D-E-H. He, I believe, is still with the campaign. Then there was also a finance director, meaning like someone to oversee that person I just named and his name is Sudip, S-U-D-I-P, Dutta, D-U-T-T-A, was a direct employee of the campaign.

Mr. Gast: His title was finance director?

Witness: Finance director. I don't know how much you want me to go. There was also people under the field director.

Mr. Gast: I don't need to get that specific at this point. Lenine, was there a Lenine involved in the campaign?

Witness: Lenine was involved in the campaign to take over my duties, Lenine Umali.

Mr. Gast: She succeeded you as political director?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Did she come out of congressional office?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Do you know, is she was working half-time, full-time for the campaign?

Witness: I mean, I don't know what the exact duration was. It could have been. I would say it's better than a 50% chance it might have been some split. I know that then there was some time where she took a leave of absence from the office and she did campaign. There might have been a little bit of time where she was doing both, but then, in fact, probably so, that she did that. Then it was campaign. They wanted to transition to get her off her congressional duties to give to someone else I think is what it was.

Mr. Gast: I want to talk to you a little bit about the relationship between the campaign and the congressional office.

Witness: Sure.

Mr. Gast: We talked a little bit about some of the folks who were working in the congressional office also having responsibilities on the campaign. Can you just generally talk about how you saw the relationship between the two offices?

Witness: I was very careful on my end to follow instructions on not reaching out to people on their official email addresses. Any relationship I had with the office, if it were anyone in a non-congressional capacity who may have been employed by the congressional office, I was made sure to email them personally and I never asked for anyone to basically not do their day job because that's not appropriate.

The only people I had contact with when I called them and I needed something what the campaign, that had anything to do with the district office or the DC office was the schedulers. I would talk with the schedulers. My understanding

was you talked to the scheduler if it's something about the campaign schedule. The ethics allows that. That's what we were told.

I talked with Charlene Loomis in the district office who has a schedule there and Daniel Oliver, the DC scheduler. To see availability, to figure out if something could work or not, if something couldn't work or not, I told Jennifer and often times the district director. She didn't have an official capacity but always emailed her on her private email and to say if it's about campaign thing.

Mr. Gast: Now, let me just stop you real quick. You said it was okay, that that's what they told you, it was okay. The ethics rules permitted you to talk to schedulers. Who was the "they" that told you that?

Witness: I was told by Jennifer.

Mr. Gast: You talked to the scheduling folks. You said you talked to Meri Maben?

Witness: Not about whether Congressman Honda were available. I would only talk with the schedulers about that. An example would be let's say Meri in her personal capacity, just saying, said, this looks like a good thing for Congressman Honda to attend. It would be my job to figure out whether he could actually do that or not. I'd have to ask someone who had the schedule to say is this something that fits on his schedule.

I would be told it would or would not. If it did, we said this is the event. This is the idea and you send it to the scheduler and if it's a district event or something in this part of the world and you would loop in the district director in her personal capacity if it's about a campaign item. We always looped in the district scheduler on the mail.house.gov email address because it was a scheduling item that we thought we could loop them in on firstly because they have access to the schedule.

If Meri is the one who made the suggestion and if you were available then in theory Congressman Honda would get to see whether that's something that he could do but he did not always do that because sometimes it's very hard to get a Member of Congress to take a look at that kind of thing. Sometimes those things were scheduled without his looking. There was no interaction with the office. When I emailed Charlene, it wasn't about anything else other than the schedule.

Mr. Gast: Any other congressional employees that you would email with on their personal email addresses besides Meri?

Witness: Yes. Almost all of the staff on their personal email because they were all ... Well, in 2014 there was more involvement because the campaign was more of a

involved situation because it was a bigger campaign. In 2012, anyone at the district office who wanted to play a role in the campaign in a non-congressional capacity, I certainly did email, yes, on their personal email.

Mr. Gast: How did you determine who wanted to be involved?

Witness: I would usually be sent the names by either one of their colleagues or, if it was a district person, it was Meri who said, "Oh, such and such, Mr. Solis, would like to be ... said he would have some spare time outside of his day job to be able to do something. You should talk with him about organizing volunteers." Then I said, "Great. Let's follow up with Mr. Solis if you will." I'd email Mr. Solis in his personal email. If it was a DC person that'd probably come from Jennifer because she's the chief of staff there.

Mr. Gast: You had said almost all district staff had indicated in one way or another that they wanted to be involved?

Witness: In 2014, yes. I would say in 2012, I'm trying to think of people who weren't involved in that office. Well, I mean there were a couple of people who weren't involved in either campaign really. I didn't bother them.

Mr. Gast: Who were those? Do you have a couple of names?

Witness: Yeah. It may have been a few emails but it wasn't anything about they volunteered if you will. Cathy Ming Hyde. Cathy Hyde is the constituent services director in the congressional office. I don't know what the staff looks like now so she probably is still employed there. She was someone who didn't really participate.

She could probably tell you why that was or whatever if you're interested in that but people certainly weren't ... I usually received those names and that indication of they'd like to participate, I received that from someone who worked with them in the congressional office.

I didn't say you have to do this. You must do this. Because you cannot force especially anyone whether they are employed by the congressional office or not. You can't force people to participate. Usually, it helps me if I know that they want to participate but that's already been determined by someone else versus whether I can just ... because there are lots of people in the district that you can talk with about participating.

Mr. Gast: How would you describe Meri Maben's interaction with the campaign?

Witness: I would say she was like an advisor of the politics locally. Sometimes she was available to be part of the conversation. Sometimes she wasn't. She was seen as someone who had a lot of information on relationships and on the politics. I don't know how you put that but the landscape.

It was told to me at the beginning that if it were a district related event or a district related issue then she would be the one to provide direction on how to deal with that situation if there were one. Overall, it was Jennifer who sometimes, even on district level issues, would say we're going to go this way.

You can look at the emails but often times it's Meri and me also receiving direction from Jennifer. Well, Meri certainly wasn't in any official capacity. She was just someone who just knew a lot and provided information about people and how to work with people and how to work with different organizations or different groups of people.

Mr. Gast: Though she didn't have an official role, was she active with the campaign?

Witness: May I ask what you mean by active? Does it mean always ... She showed up to a lot of things. She showed up to a lot of events and meetings and was on calls. It wasn't like a casual ... I mean she ... It was pretty much that she was a link to the local district. I would say active. I wouldn't say she was there at everything though.

Mr. Gast: You said she was on calls. What kind of calls were those?

Witness: Check-in calls, weekly check-in calls. So I would have to prepare a weekly report. Then Jennifer and Meri would go over that report and ask questions about, basically taking it bullet-by-bullet and asking follow up on that. She was part of that. Those were the calls. Other calls were political calls that maybe a finance call. She knows people so she can say this person will help, that person can help, that kind of thing.

Mr. Gast: Who was on those weekly calls?

Witness: When it was just the 2012 campaign. It was me and Jennifer and Meri. Then when Mark Nakamoto came on board during 2012, he was also part of that too. In 2014, it included a lot more people.

Mr. Gast: Anyone else from the congressional staff, like Jennifer or Meri?

Witness: It could have been. In 2014, it could have been someone who's doing press.

Mr. Gast: Do you know who that was?

Witness: Let me think. At that time, it could have been Michael John Shank in DC and then there was another person named Anthony. His last name escapes me. The person was in the press role in the DC office. May have been a part of the calls because they were either a paid or unpaid volunteer at the campaign -- paid media person or volunteer of the campaign or something like that.

I'd have to see who's looped in. I mean, I don't necessarily remember what their contributions were necessarily, if any, during a call but they could have very well been part of the calls. Then another person who came on board, Ken Scudder who I know was part of calls. He's also in that press role now.

Mr. Gast: Shank, Scudder, and then an Anthony.

Witness: I can ...

Mr. Gast: That's fine.

Witness: Are you sure? Well, I mean, I've been giving you everyone's full name so I feel I could give you it. I try to be thorough, so that's why I'm closing my eyes and really thinking about this.

Mr. Gast: Sure. We appreciate that.

Witness: I don't want you to feel like I can't produce that information that I know. Anyway, the point is the calls would include more people because more people were part of the campaign. I will look the name up and then you can ... Anthony.

Mr. Gast: While you're looking that up, you had said that ... We talked briefly about the scheduling issue, that Jennifer had let you know that was okay under ethics rules. Did you get any training on ethics rules when you were going onboard or anytime while you were on the campaign?

Witness: Not a formal course but we did address it at the beginning where we talked about the difference between official and campaign. In one of the emails it was pointed out that there are other campaigns that the line hadn't been drawn or the line had been crossed. That was made aware to us and they said, "This is what official is. This is what campaign is," those kinds of things. It wasn't like a formal seminar on that or a formal online thing or whatever is available. It was definitely discussed as an agenda item.

Mr. Gast: Who did you discuss that with?

Witness: Jennifer and Meri.

Mr. Gast: Jennifer and Meri?

Witness: Yes. I think I know it now. It's Anthony Kusich, K-U-S-I-C-H.

Mr. Gast: Great. All right. I'm trying to focus on some certain things.

Witness: I don't know if this has helped.

Mr. Gast: It is. It's very helpful to get the lay on the land. Are you aware of any occasions where the campaign, either through you or someone else asked congressional staff to prepare anything for the campaign?

Witness: Can you repeat the question?

Mr. Gast: Are you aware of any instances in which the campaign went to the congressional office looking for something like an issue paper or ...

Witness: Yes. I specifically remember, in the 2012 cycle, I was told well they have that. They have a public document that they would give out to anyone. You would ask them for that. When we were updating the website, so usually these websites list how they feel about various issues. You want to put in the information that applies to that candidate, so you would say, "Where is that information?" If my recollection is correct, some of it was prepared by campaign but then some of it was based on information that was solicited directly from the DC office.

Mr. Gast: I want to show you this one piece and ask if you are familiar with this document at all. Have you seen that before? For the record, it's THMH253.

Witness: Was this an attachment of some sort? Can you give me a context?

Mr. Gast: I don't know that I have much context, which is why I'm asking, but it appears to be a chart comparing positions held by Ro Khanna versus Mike Honda.

Witness: I don't specifically recall this document. You know what, I think the person who ... I mean I don't want to be incorrect or inaccurate. I personally don't recall this document. It doesn't leap out at me. I can see if I received it.

Mr. Gast: Not necessarily at this point. If you're not familiar with it, you're not familiar with it.

Witness: That doesn't set off any alarms in terms of, I remember that, or I participated in that. I did not participate in this, so I didn't ask for it to be prepared, or no one asked me to ask someone to prepare this or to get any of this together.

Mr. Gast: Any instances where you've seen something similar -- issue comparisons like this between either the 2012 opponent or 2014 congressional campaign opponent?

Witness: Let me think. I don't recall that. I mean, with the 2014, other people were involved. I mean, it may have been the communications people or, I bet, in terms of drafting this and putting these things together, massaging that, I was not part of that. I don't recall that in 2012. There wasn't really that kind of effort in 2012 because the opponent was nominal but in 2014, I don't remember I'm participating in this kind of document or anything like that.

Mr. Gast: All right. I want to show you that email. Let's switch with it. It'll take a minute to look that over. For the record, it's THMH930.

Witness: Well, it says I received it but I think ... If it's got my email address on it I must have it.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall this email?

Witness: I don't but my name is on it so I must have received it unless it ended up some place else. I can check that if it's with me.

Mr. Gast: Well, let me just ask you a couple of general questions. Do you remember at January 30th, 2013, Alameda Labor Council breakfast?

Witness: Breakfast? Yes, I do.

Mr. Gast: What was that event?

Witness: They put people together because Congressman Honda wasn't really a known person in Alameda County so they got labor stakeholders together. I think this is an event that I did not staff so I may not have prepared the memo on it. Again, I could look. I can look to see who it was. It was an event put together to get support for Congressman Honda by labor council members.

Mr. Gast: Support for Congressman Honda's campaign?

Witness: I mean, ostensibly. I mean, I think they would be interested in his support both in official and campaign but I think this specific effort was probably with an eye towards campaign.

Mr. Gast: Do you remember was this event considered a campaign event or an official event? Would have it been staffed by a congressional person or somebody in a congressional capacity?

Witness: If I can look in my calendar to see how it was characterized, I can give you that information.

Mr. Gast: If it's something, yeah, you can.

Witness: I wasn't the one there.

Mr. Gast: You recalled the event but you don't recall attending?

Witness: Absolutely.

Mr. Gast: You recall not attending.

Witness: I recall not attending. I can even look on the calendar just to see again because the calendar could say who was assigned to go to the event. The background material might have been prepared by the person who actually staffed him. I'm looking at that. That's not me. If you would give me a second.

January. That is a Wednesday. Well, it shows that I'm bringing my son to his grandparents' house. The meeting took place. The staff is MM and Witness, optional for Witness.

Mr. Gast: MM being Meri Maben?

Witness: Yes. It says the briefer was by me but I don't remember that. It could've been someone else. I can look at the email traffic on this but that you showed me, I didn't ... I wasn't even on this email. Anyway, it says, "Reservation made for 6 people under Congressman Mike Honda. Details: MH ask for meeting with Alameda Labor Council leaders, Josie Camacho, Dave Connolly, and Andreas Cluver. Staff -- MM and Witness, Witness optional."

Mr. Gast: Does that information suggest to you that this was an official event or campaign event?

Witness: Well, the fact that I'm part of it suggested it's a campaign event. I was not looped in on official items that had nothing to do with ... I mean, and that I was assigned to it. I mean, "optional for Witness," that suggested that was a campaign thing but I didn't attend. That shows in my calendar I took my son to his grandparents' house. I don't know if you want the calendar item or I don't know.

Mr. Gast: We can get back to you on that but back to this email, it appears that a background memo was prepared by a congressional staff for that event? Was that ...

Witness: If I can look at my email and tell you because the documents I provided you have been through the 27th of January. I haven't gotten to the 30th yet. That's the 29th.

Mr. Gast: I don't think we need to do that right now just because issues of time.

Witness: I mean that's something I'm happy to look up. The issue is I just don't recall that document. I may not have done it because I wasn't staffing him and it might have been Ashley doing it. The attachment was attached to this email?

Mr. Gast: I don't know that we had the attachment with this email.

Witness: I'm very curious. I know that you have other questions. I have this. It was attached to an email to this one that I got but I didn't do anything with it. It looks like the memo ... I don't show any of the briefer that I prepared that I sent it out. If I had done the briefer, I would have sent it out because every time I prepared written material, it always have to go to Jennifer and Meri.

Mr. Gast: Is it fair to say that if you are included in an email about an event that it would be considered a campaign event, as you said.

Witness: I would consider it something that someone deemed relevant to the campaign. Whether or not it is or isn't is another issue but I would say someone made the determination that this has a campaign aspect and that's why I'm part of it. I just wasn't looped in when it wasn't anything that didn't have anything to do with the campaign.

If someone asked me if his participation were campaign at that time period, I would ... He was very interested in making sure he had campaign support from those folks. That doesn't seem incongruous.

Mr. Gast: Let's move on to this email. I'm interested in the bottom line. Switch with me again.

Witness: Okay.

Mr. Gast: It appears to be a March 6, 2013 email from Jennifer's personal email address to Sherry Ruben-Rick, Madalene Mielke and Britney Feitelberg, copied to you. It looks like it's forwarding a top accomplishments doc. Are you familiar with that? For the record, this is THMH1170. Are you familiar with this top accomplishments document?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: What was that document?

Witness: It was probably a Word doc that had subject areas and what he did in those areas.

Mr. Gast: When you say he, you mean Representative Honda?

Witness: I'm sorry, Congressman Honda, yes.

Mr. Gast: Who prepared that doc?

Witness: Not me. I don't know.

Mr. Gast: Where was that doc kept? Where would you find this accomplishments doc?

Witness: Where would I find it? Well, I would have found it on this email if I had received it. Are you saying it's stored somewhere?

Mr. Gast: Yeah. Was it a campaign document? Was it an official document?

Witness: When you talk about document storage, it would have been really great if people just put something in Google Drive and basically put it in there and they're using their own campaign, like their personal emails. Maybe putting it in a folder that says campaign material or something but people just email that around like this.

I'm assuming because I was part of it and there are all these campaign people in there that it's a campaign document and be treated as such. That's what I would say. I would say if I'm part of it then is this not a campaign document. I didn't get this email from the one on top. I only got this one here, so this stuff about Joon, I don't know. It makes it look like in my eye maybe it was ... I don't know. I mean I'd be speculating but I didn't create the top accomplishments.

Mr. Gast: What was the doc used for?

Witness: Probably to update the website?

Mr. Gast: When you say the website, the campaign website?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: All right. Given just this last couple examples, this top accomplishments document, this background memo for that labor breakfast, that issue

spreadsheet, does that bring to mind any other similar documents that the congressional office may have prepared for the campaign?

Witness: When you say the congressional office -- in its official capacity prepared for the campaign? Or are you talking about people on congressional time on their congressional emails prepared for the campaign?

Mr. Gast: Both.

Witness: I'm sure that there are. I mean, I think that there are other items. I can't list them out right now but I would say that if these are two, there are probably others. I can find if I have them. If I was looped in, I would have them.

Mr. Gast: There are others ... Which are they, the one and the two?

Witness: I don't know. If someone sends it from their personal email, I don't know what time they used to do it. You know what I'm saying?

Mr. Gast: Sure.

Witness: If you have a private email like Mr. Gast at Gmail and you sent it to me, well, you might have done it on sitting at your desk at the Office of Congressional Ethics but in terms of emails with the mail.house.gov, there are probably very few of those that are with attached documents that were prepared at the behest of the campaign. Any documents like that could have been stuff that it was deemed what we would give any member of the public who requested this anyway. That's the type.

In terms of people like at the their office on congressional time doing stuff, that is not campaign related but is sent to the campaign, that could also very well be but I can't make that determination because I can't know where they were, whether they were outside of the office. Certainly, campaign materials were received from people who were employed either by the congressional office in DC or the district office. Ostensibly, in an ethical manner that would be consistent with that kind of arrangement.

Mr. Gast: As you said, you don't know the circumstances surrounding a preparation of these materials. They just came to you from congressional staff.

Witness: Well, people who are employed by the congressional office that may have been using their personal emails. May have been on their own time but people who are otherwise on the payroll. I'm trying to think, are there documents that these people prepared that they would only have been able to prepare because they

were members of the congressional staff. I'd have to look at the documents. I'm sure that there are documents.

Mr. Gast: Want to ask you about, did you ever attend district meetings at the congressional office?

Witness: No. They did give my ... I would like to make sure that people know that they did throw a little daddy shower for me and my wife. We were expecting our first child, so if you call that a meeting. It was more like with cupcakes and stuff like that.

Mr. Gast: As far as regular weekly staff meetings, did you attend those?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Did you ever go to any other meetings held at the district office, with the district staff?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Any other meetings at the district office with anybody?

Witness: No, just to pick up campaign mail that was sent there. That was not official. They opened it and it's not something for ...

Mr. Gast: That often happens.

Witness: Very often happens, yes.

Mr. Gast: All right. I'd like to show you this document now.

Witness: Let's switch.

Mr. Gast: Are you familiar with this document?

Witness: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Mr. Gast: For the record. This does not have a Bates number but these are notes from a district office retreat. What is this document?

Witness: Well, I mean, this document summarizes a discussion of people who are employed by the district office as well as me when I was not employed by the district office. It was a retreat held at Meri Maben's property she owned in Aptos.

Mr. Gast: You said the district staff was there?

Witness: Yes. People employed at the district office were there, yes.

Mr. Gast: You were there?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Anybody else?

Witness: No, maybe interns.

Mr. Gast: What about Representative Honda, was he there?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Was this an official event or campaign event?

Witness: I don't involve myself in official affairs so for me, it was seen as not official. How they characterized it to their staff, I don't know how they characterize it but for me if it were anything to do with ... I would say for me it's wasn't official so for me it was campaign. I don't know if you asked them whether it was official or campaign. They may have said it was official but for me it was campaign. They invited me because I think they felt that I knew a lot about the new district.

Mr. Gast: When you say they invited you, who's they?

Witness: I would say specifically Meri invited me.

Mr. Gast: Did you give a presentation at that event?

Witness: I did.

Mr. Gast: What was your presentation generally?

Witness: I think this pretty much sums it up. I mean, some of these things ... I mean, I don't know what else I could say. I mean, I could try to run through it but I think the person who took these notes characterized what I said as far as I can tell.

Mr. Gast: That's good enough. I want to ask you about a couple of specific lines in here.

Witness: Sure.

Mr. Gast: On that first page, right under Roman numeral 2. It says, "New cities, how to transition info from campaign to ..." I believe that's "DO" for district office.

Witness: District office.

Mr. Gast: "...ethically and practically." What was meant by that?

Witness: Let me think. I think they were really interested in knowing who people were. They were really interested in having information about certain stakeholders. They said can you provide us with the key people in these new parts of the district that you engaged because these are our constituents? These are our new constituents. They will be our new constituents, if you will.

I think this was between the primary and the general election. It was like, I don't know, July, August, somewhere in there. It was sunny. I remember that was summer. They wanted that kind of information. They wanted to know who people were. I think that's specifically what they were really interested in.

Mr. Gast: How would the campaign have that information that they wanted to get into the district office? I don't understand that "transition."

Witness: Google Drive, or at the time it was called maybe Google Docs, you put stuff up there like name, address, phone number, email. How would you be able to get that from campaign to ... It could be as easy as, I mean, I could share any document that I "own" in my Google Drive. I could just hit share with Mr. Gast Gast, Mr. Solis Solis.

I know that that was not in my time at the campaign. That wasn't really discussed how it would really be done but they were really interested in that information. I put a lot of things on Google Drive so spreadsheets and things.

Mr. Gast: What was the ethical concern that's noted here?

Witness: Maybe it was whether people were okay with giving their information that way to the district office. I mean, I don't know exactly what we were talking about. I could try to look at my presentation but I know that that came up during the retreat. There's this information the campaign has what's the best way to get it to the district office. I don't remember the specific detail.

Mr. Gast: I just want to ask you briefly about Google Docs, Google Drive. Was there a CA17 drive that was set up, CA17 congressional district?

Witness: Not until the ... Well, no. Let me say this. There's an account, a head, a main account and the address is campaign@mikehonda.com. Through Google Drive

that email or that account could own documents. I was using a lot of my [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] My emails were being sent to [REDACTED] and to
[REDACTED]. I'd get duplicates.

At some point, I'd cut off the duplicate because I didn't want campaign emails over all my own personal emails. A lot of the emails I've been sharing with you have been before I cut the cord if you will. A lot of the documents maybe I owned under my email address and some of the ones are owned because I physically put them into the Mike Honda Google Drive, campaign@mikehonda.com.

Mr. Gast: Back to the notes, I want to flip to the second page.

Witness: Sure.

Mr. Gast: There's a discussion at the top of the page about the Chinese vote and how it breaks down. At the end of that section, under Chinese, it says "DO? Chinese language outreach in Cupertino."

Witness: Are you looking ...

Mr. Gast: Second page, there's a "Chinese" underlined heading.

Witness: Underlined. I see it.

Mr. Gast: Then the last point on that says "DO? Chinese language outreach in Cupertino." What was that? What was meant by that?

Witness: I think the district office was saying ... I think there was a discussion that says, "We should really put out materials in language in Cupertino," because as you can see, I did an analysis of the votes for the campaign and pointed out that Cupertino is an existing part of the district. There were issues with the level of support there.

We tried to correlate is it ethnic or something like that. I think the discussion there was, well, maybe we need to start doing our stuff in Chinese and putting it out in Mandarin and getting people to connect that way to the congressional office.

Mr. Gast: Was that discussed in terms of a campaign context? Was the district office doing this as a way to increase a vote, share?

Witness: I don't know if it was stated that way. I think people felt well, if this is what's happening on the ground, well, maybe the district office needs to do something to better connect. The discussion was not about getting more votes.

Mr. Gast: Looking just at the notes, it talks about the Chinese as a slight then-majority.

Witness: Absolutely. I just don't know if anyone there said that explicitly but the context was in ... Well, you can see the discussion. It was in the context of votes.

Mr. Gast: It looks like you discussed voter ID, turnouts, campaign consultants. How do we go after the Chinese and then all of a sudden the district office pops up. It sounds like that's a discussion on how do we get more Chinese votes? Well, let's have the district office do this as well.

Witness: I think certainly that was mentioned. The district office doing Chinese language outreach was mentioned in the context of a campaign and votes. I mean, we can say they should may be having that discussion about doing an in-language anyway outside of this discussion but this happened to have been talked about and mentioned during this particular discussion which was about a voting population.

Mr. Gast: Let's jump to the next, to the "thousand crane" underlined. We've talked to some folks. I think we have a pretty good idea. It was a thousand people who gave a thousand dollars for a million dollars. I want to ask you about the last arrow under that section: "Also who will likely be transactional, i.e., he helped me with this Visa for my grandma donors. They're going to be interested in the public affairs of federal government policy, what about managing this," et cetera. What was the discussion about that being transactional?

Witness: I know that that word was used by a particular staff member. He was making the point that no one was advocating it for it to be transactional. No one was saying this is the way we can work this to make it so that people get something out of it. I want to be perfectly clear about that. That's absolutely a no-no.

I think that that person brought up during the discussion was that people are likely to give because they think they can get something out of it. That's what I think that it was about. I want to be absolutely clear my recollection on that is not that anyone would advocate that we create a transactional relationship.

I remember the person who said this was making the point that was stating what he thought was going to be an issue here which is, for people they sometimes give because they think they can create a relationship that they can get something out of it in return.

Mr. Gast: Who was that, that brought that up?

Witness: My recollection was that it was Ruchit Agrawal. I remember he's using that word a lot in terms of ... That word sticks. That's what he often said.

Mr. Gast: What about the idea of ... Was it discussed that people who are Cranes would get special access, special preference in managing their requests in the congressional office?

Witness: That was never discussed by the campaign. That was never anything that I'd ever been a part of because that would be absolutely not within what we would do. I think the question was asked but that was not something that we said, "Well, if you do this, then you get ..." No.

We would be very careful that anyone who had any kind of request would have to do it the same way everyone else would do it because that is ... I mean, I don't have to explain. That's just the basic. You just don't do that kind of thing. I know that that wasn't a point that I participated in bringing up.

That probably was a question asked, "Well, we're district office people and what are you going to do? Are you going to give us a special ... route these people this way if you're ..." That was not something that were talking about. There was a discussion that people would interact on a campaign setting with Congressman Honda.

Mr. Gast: I want to talk to you about the last underline heading "Transitioning data from campaign to official -- Mark." Similar to the first thing we talked about, transitioning info from campaign to DO. Was that the similar discussion?

Witness: I'm sure it was because Mark and I worked together and he mentioned Google Docs, stakeholders which I had talked about as well. We're probably going over a list of things and that's his part of the agenda, I'm thinking that he was going to talk about.

Mr. Gast: What is this Google Doc of stakeholders or CA17?

Witness: Are you familiar with Google Drive?

Mr. Gast: Roughly, yeah.

Witness: Google spreadsheets, you can turn an Excel spreadsheet in a Google spreadsheet and so that can be something that resembles an Excel spreadsheet that can be shared with people. Say the three of us can share it and we can be typing on it at the exact same time and edit it together at the same time. That's the kind of

document that was. That's something that can be easily shared with people and be edited in real-time.

Mr. Gast: Whose document was that? Was that the congressional office's document, was that the campaign's document?

Witness: My recollection was it was initiated by campaign, that either Mark or I, and it could've been Mark who created it because I know was one of the things that he did. I probably contributed to it. You can see if I did or didn't. I knew a lot of the people in the new district. What we thought would become the new district that Congressman Honda would end up representing.

Mr. Gast: Would members of the congressional staff have access to that stakeholder's document?

Witness: Via their personal addresses, I'm sure they did. I can look at it to see if that document exists, if I'm still shared on it. I could possibly not be on it because I'm not part of the campaign anymore.

Mr. Gast: What was that doc used for?

Witness: I don't know what it was used for in that context if any in an official sense but in our sense, it was just a place to put, categorize important people and put their names and addresses and phone numbers and emails and why they were important.

Mr. Gast: Once you had that list, what did you use it for?

Witness: It was a directory of people. If we needed to know about someone or get a hold of someone, then we would just look at that.

Mr. Gast: Would they be used for fundraising purposes?

Witness: I'm sure it was.

Mr. Gast: Used for invites to events or for volunteers?

Witness: I don't know if it was used for volunteers. Maybe these are the people you would want to invite to things but again, I can't speak for what the official office did with that because I don't ...

Mr. Gast: You used it for fundraising purposes, for invites to events, if you needed to get background on somebody that Representative Honda was meeting with?

Witness: Or to put in information that someone else could see like Jennifer or Meri or whoever.

Mr. Gast: All right. I want to ask you ... We're running probably about 20 more minutes before we need to get to the airport so I'm trying to do this quickly.

Witness: I'm trying to be, as much I can do.

Mr. Gast: This is all very helpful. I want to talk to you about a state department roundtable event in February, March 2013. Do you recall that event?

Mr. Gast: Absolutely.

Witness: This is a couple of documents put together about that event. If you want to take a minute just to look through that.

Mr. Gast: Can you tell me what this event was, first of all?

Witness: It was, if I can recall correctly, because it was not something that I organized or was on, an official event that involved a high ranking official with the state department who were interested in facilitating relations, either trade or other kind of relations, with the people of the Indian subcontinent is what I can recall. I mean, it was not what I worked on to create, but obviously I was moved in, but that's my recollection.

Mr. Gast: Was this an official event or campaign event?

Witness: Official.

Mr. Gast: Who worked on the event?

Witness: Who worked on?

Mr. Gast: Organizing and executing the event, that you're aware of?

Witness: Ruchit. I would assume it was Ruchit. I mean, I don't know exactly. I can see on the calendar item if you'd like for me to see who the notes were.

Mr. Gast: From your recollection for now.

Witness: At that time, my sense was that he was on it.

Mr. Gast: What about Jennifer, did she ever ... This is you personally. Who did you work with?

Witness: Who did I work with? I only sent it to Jennifer. She may have called me about it. I don't remember talking to her. I may have talked with Ruchit. I'd have to really look and see if I had any interaction with him directly.

Mr. Gast: Let's walk through some of these emails, starting with the first one. It looks like February 7th, 2013. For the record, this is RA49. This appears to be an email from Jennifer to you copied to Ruchit.

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: She's asking you, "Do you have the list of proposed invitees to the Indian Roundtable state ready we need to start sending out?"

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Can you tell me the context of this email?

Witness: Yes. I think at that time, the ... Well, I would say, Jennifer was very preoccupied with the Indo-American community. She asked me to prepare a list of people that can be looped in to be invited to the roundtable.

Mr. Gast: Why was she preoccupied with the Indo-American community?

Witness: They represented a new community in the 17th Congressional District. They had not represented such a large share of the Indo-American community before. There was at this time a concern about a candidate from that community opposing Congressman Honda in the 2014 election cycle.

Mr. Gast: Was that Ro Khanna?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: It appears you must have a conversation or email with her prior to this?

Witness: It may have been a phone call. I could look through my emails to see if I had a previous one but I'm sensing it could have been something that was conveyed during a phone call. When you have the text of your message as a subject that is pretty much, you better get on that. In my experience, not just in this particular case but in other cases, when people put what they want in the subject and nothing else, then that spoke crystal.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall generally what they discussion you had was prior to this email?

Witness: Well, let me take myself back. Something to the extent ... I'm paraphrasing. I don't know the exact words. Probably something like this is an opportunity for Congressman Honda to develop a relationship. Something that Congressman Honda with the new district and this new population and this is a new opportunity for him to interact or to have a relationship.

Mr. Gast: What was her task?

Witness: Come up with a list of people who are politically active, who are active in a number of ways, financially or otherwise, who can be part of this event.

Mr. Gast: What do you mean by active financially?

Witness: They've given before to other candidates.

Mr. Gast: What about Congressman Honda?

Witness: If they'd given to him? I think I'd gave her a list of people who hadn't. "Here's a list of South Asian Tech Investment folks who donated." I remember it was like investment type people, "in the past none to MH." These are people who didn't give to him.

Mr. Gast: She asked you to come up with a list of people who were politically active, who are financially active meaning they had made political contributions to other candidates in the past but not Representative Honda?

Witness: Correct. What I shared with her was in reaction to that request.

Mr. Gast: Let's jump to that. I think you're looking at that February 8th, 2013.

Witness: It's RA40.

Mr. Gast: I think RA39 and 40 ...

Witness: Come together at the end.

Mr. Gast: Attached to that whole chain. It's "I've share an item with you," and the text is ... Through Google Drive and the text is "Hello, Jennifer. Here is the list of South Asian Tech Investment folks who've donated candidates in the past, not to MH. Should I share this with Ruchit?" There is an attachment there.

Witness: A link to the document on Google Drive.

Mr. Gast: Let me show you this -- and this is a little tricky because it's a long document so it's a spreadsheet that goes over several pages. It reads that way. Does that look familiar?

Witness: Can I flip through this?

Mr. Gast: Please.

Witness: The information on here was on the spreadsheet I shared. This is not as far as I can tell. I didn't do yes, no, email, name plate, name tag, this kind of thing but maybe someone took what I did and changed it to this or maybe this is a separate document altogether. Maybe somebody created a new one but I don't recall this particular one.

You know what I'm saying? So I could share something with you and then you can put it into something or you take what I did, like I said, you can change it. Put columns in, colors and new information.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall what information was on your spreadsheet? What categories of information? What the column headings were?

Witness: Probably this one, probably this one, this one.

Mr. Gast: Can you say the names?

Witness: I'm sorry. Last name, first name, organization, title, email address. Wait. Can I read the notes?

Mr. Gast: Sure.

Witness: I didn't do these notes. I don't know who these notes ... I didn't put that in there. A donation history in the notes. I may have done this column.

Mr. Gast: Which was?

Witness: Someone called it "giving history 2014." In other words, there's a column called notes and I make a reference to notes on this one but the notes that you see here are not my notes. I may have done the giving history column. I don't want to editorialize but I mean it's a lot of work to find that information.

Mr. Gast: Donation history?

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Gast: How long do you think it took to put that together?

Witness: Maybe like a whole evening or something.

Mr. Gast: Several hours?

Witness: Sure.

Mr. Gast: I want to look at RA40 real quick, the last email from you on that page. It says this list is part of the NGP batch upload of the research data we had compiled a few months ago, et cetera.

Witness: This list.

Mr. Gast: What does that mean? What's the NGP batch?

Witness: Do you know Salesforce?

Mr. Gast: I do not.

Witness: You do not?

Mr. Gast: No.

Witness: Well, it's headquartered here. It's like a database for contacts. It's a contact management database. You would put names and addresses, phone numbers, emails. You put giving history would be something that could be put into that database. You would put in ...

Mr. Gast: What does NGP stand for?

Witness: It stands for someone's name, Nathaniel G. Pressman or something like that but NGP is a very common software-as-a-service database that people use. There had been what's called donor research done, who had given to particular candidates. You pick a candidate and who'd given to them. You take a person, who have they given to and you do that and you put that into the database.

Mr. Gast: That is donation history that somebody else had compiled that you took and added to the Honda campaign database?

Witness: Yes, because I think the database had been prepared by an intern. This is what I'm referring to. If this says a few months ago, that probably refers to when we had someone do it.

Mr. Gast: Just to close the loop on this. That spreadsheet that you shared with Jennifer via the Google Doc on February 8th had that donation history in the ...

Witness: I'm sure it did because I said it did. I said see donation history in the notes column. I'm sure I did share that with her.

Mr. Gast: What was her response or what happened next after you sent her that list?

Witness: Well, I think you have it because it's here. It says, "Great lists. How are we doing research to them for money?" That's RA39.

Mr. Gast: Did you respond to her on this? I don't know we have a response from you.

Witness: I can see if I did or didn't.

Mr. Gast: Just for now, do you recall responding to her about how the outreach to them "for \$"?

Witness: I don't remember. I may have. I mean if you'd like for me to look. I'd like to be able to see if I did or didn't but I don't remember.

Mr. Gast: We might want to follow up on that but for now, you just can't say either way?

Witness: Well, I don't remember. If I'd say one way or the other ...

Mr. Gast: Did you have any further discussion with Jennifer about that list?

Witness: No. This was a very busy time. There were a lot of other things going on. I didn't dwell on it. That's why I can't tell you if I remember saying anything. It's like there you go. Here's your list. I guess in retrospect I would have said per your request, here's the list because it was her request and I just did it.

Mr. Gast: Do you know why she asked you to include a donation history on that list?

Witness: To see how politically active, financially active people are in the district. I think it says right there.

Mr. Gast: Was it the intention to seek contributions to the campaign from those folks?

Witness: That was not told to me before we prepared the list.

Mr. Gast: How about after?

Witness: What she told to Madalene, the finance person at that time, it may or may not had been brought up during the call, but I think the idea was to engage them so that they would have a relationship. My understanding was that it was a public event and so you can invite everyone. No one was going to be turned down. They felt like if it was going to be a public event that people can go to, make an extra effort to talk with people who are politically active and otherwise.

Mr. Gast: I just want to show you this document as well. For the record, it doesn't have a bates number but it has a spreadsheet on the bottom. There's a handwritten note that says "From Madalene to JVH. RE: Indo contribution targets. Folks who have contributed to MH." Are you familiar with that document?

Witness: Let me just read some of the information on here.

Mr. Gast: Sure. I'm going to apologize. Everything is so small.

Witness: This maybe a document that ... There is data here that I think that I contributed. The verbiage, research, no bio found, may have been something that I put in. I didn't do all these other people. Let's see. Texas.

Mr. Gast: Let me just ask you, is that document something that you recall working with in regards to the state department roundtable event?

Witness: Yes. Let's put it this way. There's the columns and the data that a lot of the data I see are things that I remember putting in. I don't know. Maybe someone put in additional data because these documents were shared. I mean, I remember these names. I remember the columns. I remember emails. I remember this field. The notes column has giving history. This must have been something that I participated in.

Mr. Gast: With respect to the state department roundtable, do you remember using it for that event?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: How was it used with respect to that event?

Witness: See, that I don't know because I only provided the list so I don't know what anyone did because I didn't do anything else after that. I didn't do anything. I can tell you that. I mean that's an official event. I'm sure someone affiliated on that side did something or maybe they didn't but I didn't do anything because I just prepared information on this.

Mr. Gast: We may want to ask you to come back and ask you if you can find that actual list that you did send to Jennifer because it appears we have a couple of different versions that maybe different.

Witness: That's the thing. If I can find the version that I put together, it may closely resemble this one but I would definitely do that.

Mr. Gast: Great.

Witness: Is that something I'll get it in writing or do I have to remember to do it?

Mr. Gast: We'll send you an email when we get back to the office. Just maybe a couple of follow up points once we look at your other documents you sent, too.

Witness: If someone asks me did I prepare ... If the contents of this ... If this was prepared at the behest of someone who had asked about that information specifically, I would say yes.

Mr. Gast: Just to close the loop on this particular topic, you prepared this list and sent it off to Jennifer?

Witness: Yes, because I didn't ... I recalled that I did not ... Well, it doesn't say that I sent it to Meri and I don't think I did so I think it was only Jennifer.

Mr. Gast: Was it Jennifer? Then she sent that email back and included Madalene Mielke on that.

Witness: She did two things because from what I'm seeing here, she looped Ruchit and said, "I went through and culled out which ones should be on invite list so I need you to call me so I can read off the names." Then on that same email, did another thread, started another thread to Madalene and Ruchit and Meri. Looped Meri in and says, "Great list." I can see the nature of this correspondence that the message was forwarded to Ruchit. Then going back to that original share, she also looped in Madalene, Ruchit, Meri. Does that make sense?

Mr. Gast: It does.

Witness: That's like two different tracks.

Mr. Gast: Two different tracks.

Witness: You can do even just the conversation between Jennifer and Ruchit and then maybe a continuation of the thread between Jennifer, myself, Meri and Ruchit, and Meri.

Mr. Gast: Following those two steps, did you have any additional interaction, any involvement with this list and this event?

Witness: Not that I can recall no. I mean, I wish I had gotten to this time before I sent those documents over. I only got to the 27th. Not that I didn't expect you to ask about it but I just didn't really study it. I'll see what kind of email correspondence was after that.

I know that I wasn't ... Once I sent this out, there wasn't any kind of direct invitation or involvement like that. This was information that was public and so I just provided public information. I didn't do anything special.

Mr. Gast: Ruchit went off and did his thing, Madalene her thing, and you were done with your involvement?

Witness: Yeah. I want to be clear. This information is not special. It's on the internet that anyone can get. That's what we did. It was a high school student that worked on it a lot, too.

Mr. Gast: All right. A couple of quick things. Let's show you this.

Witness: It's hard to be so long-winded. I'm trying to be ...

Mr. Gast: No. This is all very helpful. This is for the record RA28. If you could take a look at that, do you recall that email exchange?

Witness: I remember that Congressman Honda mentioned that person. It wasn't like I came up with the idea of inviting this particular person but I knew that there was an event that had been discussed. I think this is something that Congressman Honda knew. I would like to correct, I don't know if Congressman Honda said let's invite that person. I think it's a person who had been mentioned.

I remember Congressman Honda mentioning the person's name. I can't remember if he said go invite him but it's a name. It's someone that Congressman Honda knows.

Mr. Gast: Beyond sending this email to Mike Nguyen and Rutchit, did you have any other involvement in selecting or proposing invitees to this event?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Was there any discussion about putting together a list of folks who would ...

Witness: Ethiopians had given?

Mr. Gast: Who had contributed to other candidates?

Witness: No, not on that one. That would be another 2 hours, but not on that one.

Mr. Gast: What about beyond ...

Witness: I initiated it because I started the conversation.

Mr. Gast: What about beyond the State Department event with the Indo-Americans, this email about Ethiopians... Were there other occasions where the congressional office asked for your or the campaign's input on people to invite to events?

Witness: If I said no, I would be presumptuous. I would say probably, maybe.

Mr. Gast: Can you think of any examples?

Witness: I can't think of any off the top of my head. In fact, the exercise, I haven't gone through the emails, it starts to jog things up. I'll be honest. I mean, I was in the new parts of the district when that was not a part of the existing district they were representing. They felt like I knew people that they didn't.

Mr. Gast: If as you go through your documents, you can think of other events where you were asked to provide potential invitees, please let us know and forward that to us.

Witness: Absolutely.

Mr. Gast: All right. Last document I have for you.

Witness: I know you guys are going to the airport but let's see.

Mr. Gast: I think we're in good shape. Do you recall this exchange?

Witness: I do.

Mr. Gast: For the record, this is RA29. This is Ruchit reaching out to you to develop a list of stakeholders in the Sikh community that Jennifer asked him to create. What do you recall about this exchange?

Witness: I'm sorry to have to say like, maybe, but it's like she may have said, "Ruchit is going to ask you about this," because they want to make sure they have relationships with the Sikh community because there are Sikh issues. There are issues. Congressman Honda has been very active on protecting people who have religious headgear and things like that.

Working in Fremont which was not a part of that district at the time, the contemporary district in 2012, they were thinking well, you're probably going to interact with more of these people than we are.

Mr. Gast: Was this a list of stakeholders developed by the congressional office or by the campaign?

Witness: I don't know. I mean, it says Jennifer. I'm assuming that because Ruchit is involved, I mean I would be making an assumption, I would say the person who can answer that is Jennifer in terms of what it was for. I don't personally have any ... I can contribute to the document but I didn't use the document to say who are my Sikh people, who do I need to talk? I probably put it in there and said, there you go. That's the information, similar to the document with the state department. There you go. Here you go.

Mr. Gast: After the stakeholder list was apparently put together, did you ever use that list?

Witness: No. Not to my recollection, no. I remember the names. I certainly do. I'd put that together.

Mr. Gast: As far as you know you sent the names to Ruchit and you don't know what happened to the list or what the list was used for?

Witness: No, I don't.

Mr. Gast: Final question. Final area. Ever asked to assist Representative Honda with any personal errands or personal business?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: What kind of things?

Witness: He really likes karaoke. Sometimes you have to find the songs and find the video.

Mr. Gast: What do you mean, find the songs, or find the video?

Witness: He likes [inaudible]. He likes that song. Find the video.

Mr. Gast: Find that online or find it to buy it?

Witness: He wants to be able to sing along with it when he goes to places and so he likes to sing karaoke, things like that. You put together, get a song and put it up and share it with me. I want the video so I can play the song and play and sing to it.

One time, I'd have to go and find his congressional pin. Go to his house.

Mr. Gast: His house. Look all around.

Witness: Then that kind of thing.

Mr. Gast: Pick up dry cleaning at all?

Witness: Yes. Drop off dry cleaning, yes.

Mr. Gast: Were these instances where you felt ...

Witness: I didn't feel compelled to do it.

Mr. Gast: You didn't feel compelled?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: You were willing to assist?

Witness: You think find someone on Sunday to do this dry cleaning but it was not something that ... In fact, I can think of other people where if I did it for them, it would be a chore but for him it was not.

Mr. Gast: How often? I mean, just to get a sense of how often?

Witness: Occasionally. Not as a matter of ...

Mr. Gast: Not on a daily basis?

Witness: No, but yes, I mean, I did that lovingly.

Mr. Gast: Well, those are all the questions I think we have for you.

Mr. Solis: Just finally -- have you spoken with anybody about our review?

Witness: I kept it confidential. I have mentioned ... My wife knows that I'm meeting with you this morning because she's my wife. I like to share things that are important to her like that. I have not shared with anyone that else that I'm meeting with you. When Jennifer came out to visit in, a couple of months ago, she casually mentioned this investigation but we did not discuss what was asked of me, the details.

I certainly wouldn't have discussed it because I don't want to have any relationship there on this. It had come up but we had ... She was more concerned about my personal life and how I was doing personally. I appreciated that very much. However the Office of Congressional Ethics were, the House of Representatives, however this issue is dealt with, it's ultimately their people.

I think she reached out to me as a person. We just talked about family and other things but I did not talk about 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, all the questions. We both felt that this was something that was in our lives that we had in common. It is what it is.

Mr. Gast: People aren't always joyous when we come in to your lives.

Witness: You can turn that off if you'd like. I'd like to say that is a tough job to do.

Mr. Gast: Is there anything else that you'd like to add, anything you think we should know before we turn off the recorder?

Witness: I just like for people to know, you two and others to know, I want to be as helpful as possible without being unhelpful. If I can't recall something, it's because I can't recall it. If I can try to recall it, I will. If I can look at my records and see if that's something that happened, to the extent that you can provide me with some guidance on, look here, look there. I'm happy to do that and I want to not impede your job.

Mr. Gast: We appreciate that. Thank you very much.

Exhibit 5

Interview of Former Congressional Aide #2

March 12, 2015

Mr. Solis: This is Deputy Chief Counsel Paul Solis with the Office of Congressional Ethics. I'm joined by Omar Mr. Ashmawy, Chief Council of the Office of Congressional Ethics, and Former Congressional Aide #2. It is March 12th. Former Congressional Aide #2 has seen a copy of 18 USC § 1001 and she has signed an acknowledgement form that she understands that the law applies to our discussion today. We can begin the interview. [REDACTED] what is your current employment right now?

Witness: I am a law student at the University of Chicago.

Mr. Solis: Okay, what did you do prior to becoming a law student?

Witness: I was the Senior Congressional Aide for Congressman Mike Honda and Congressional Aide in his office for about six years. And I also worked part-time as the Campaign Liaison for his office and I worked part-time for his campaign as well.

Mr. Solis: And when you were a Congressional Aide did you... I'm sorry... did you start off as a Congressional Aid for his office?

Witness: No, I started as Staff Assistant and was in that role for one year, from 2007 to mid-2008 and then was a Congressional Aide for, I want to say about four years, and then took on the title Senior Congressional Aide for about a year after that.

Mr. Solis: What were the dates of the time when you were a Senior Congressional Aide?

Witness: I believe it was... it was shortly after Mark took over on the campaign; and then I stopped working on the campaign and became a Senior Congressional Aide. I want to say it was early 2012.

Mr. Solis: You stayed in that role until you left the office and began law school?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Solis: So there was a time between when you were a Congressional Aide and a Senior Congressional Aide where you were off the official pay role?

Witness: Of the campaign or of the office?

Mr. Solis: Of the Congressional office.

Witness: No. I... no. As far as I understand it, congressional ethics allows you to have one person in the office who is the campaign liaison. And I played that role for about a year or two towards the end of my tenure as a Congressional Aide before I became Senior Congressional Aide.

Mr. Ashmawy: When you were the campaign liaison for the office, was that your sole responsibility?

Witness: No, I worked part time for the campaign, a couple hours a week, and then I worked for the office.

Mr. Ashmawy: As the campaign liaison?

Witness: No, that was not... I worked for the office as a Field Representative and Caseworker and... but part of that role was doing anything that required either, I mean, working with the scheduler on things that related to different... coordinating different things. So anything where the two offices had to coordinate, I was the person who was in charge of that.

Mr. Solis: Your duties as a Congressional Aide and Senior Congressional Aide, you mentioned Field Worker, you know District Representative, what... can you talk a little bit more about some of your duties?

Witness: It's kind of a catch all position, but first I was a Case Worker and handled constituent case work in a lot of different areas. And then I was a Field Representative and was... helped coordinate events, manage outreach programs, publicized work that we were doing, maintained relationships with different community groups, tracked issues that were happening locally. Kind of, coordinate or tried to keep track of community concerns and translate them into legislative priorities, and work with our legislative staff in DC on those things. Though a little bit of legislative more from a community organizing...

Mr. Solis: You mentioned you did spend some time working for Representative Honda's congressional campaigns?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Solis: When did you work for his congressional campaigns?

Witness: So it was approximately a year. Do you actually mind if I pull out and I look at my resume and actually tell you the exact dates?

Mr. Solis: Sure. And you are going to be referencing your resume?

Witness: Yeah I will. Sorry, okay. So I was on the campaign from 2010 to 2012 that was... I want to say February or March 2012 when I stopped.

Mr. Solis: And during that time were you part-time with the campaign then?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Solis: While you were also a congressional employee?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Solis: What was your title with the campaign?

Witness: I suppose Campaign Coordinator. It was a lot more, I mean we didn't have an official title for me, I didn't have business cards. But it was when we had... essentially at that point we didn't have an extraordinarily active campaign. I was in charge of... I had... I checked the messages for the campaign. I would check the mailbox for the campaign. I would check the emails for the campaign. I would attend fundraisers with the Congressman and collect donations. We had them so...

Mr. Solis: Where you paid by the campaign?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Solis: How much were you paid?

Witness: \$22 an hour I want to say...

Mr. Solis: And about how many hours a week were you working on the campaign from 2010 to 2012?

Witness: It varied a lot. It really depended on whether we were having an event or other thing. Some weeks it was one or two, and some weeks it was as much as ten.

Mr. Solis: And when would you do your work for the campaign?

Witness: Usually on the weekends, sometimes in the evenings. We sometimes had events in the evenings.

Mr. Solis: Did you ever volunteer for Representative Honda's congressional campaigns?

Witness: I mean, I think I probably... I mean certainly before that I had been... I had volunteered for events. I had volunteered to go to... when we had larger events I think I... during that time I generally got paid whenever I did something campaign related.

Mr. Solis: And when you say 2010 to 2012 would that... that would correspond to those election cycles then, 2010 and 2012 election cycle?

Witness: Well no because I stopped in early 2012 I think it was February or so... Lamar took over at that point. Once we decided we needed someone full time, I wanted to stay with the office, so Lamar was hired to be a full time person and then he took over all the things I'd been doing in addition to a number of new duties.

Mr. Solis: Were you the only campaign worker during that time?

Witness: Well, we had Jennifer I think was also on the campaign payroll doing, our chief of staff, who also works for the campaign. I think she was also on the campaign payroll during that time. Madalene, who was our fundraiser, Alma, who was our attorney for the campaign -- but there was no campaign office; everyone who was doing campaign work during that time was doing it out of their home. We had no real opponent during most of that time so we... it was just political events and fundraising and things.

Mr. Solis: Do you know if, after the time you left the campaign, whether Representative Honda's congressional campaign did get an office?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Solis: They did?

Witness: They did at some point. I want to say it was late 2013 or so. It was definitely after I had left the office overall, not just the campaign. Yeah, with Lamar and a number of new employees who came on the campaign, Doug and a few other people.

Mr. Solis: Where's that office located?

Witness: I believe it was in the same building as the congressional office was, but I'm not certain. I think for a while they were working out of a labor center, the SEIU building but then I believe they actually got an office location.

Mr. Solis: And how do you know they got this office?

Witness: I knew about the labor one because I knew people who were going to volunteer there. In terms of the other, or in terms of the actual office... I don't really know how I know. I mean, I keep in touch with people. At some point I know they had an office which I'm pretty sure was in the same building but I don't remember how I heard.

Mr. Solis: And you touched upon this a little bit but I just want to make clear, during that time you were with the campaign, what were some of your duties and responsibilities?

Witness: I would check the messages for the campaign. We had a P.O. Box at a local post office, so I was in charge of checking the P.O. Box. Any donations that we received, I was in charge of keeping track of, emailing the information to both Madalene and to Alma. Alma was as I said our attorney and Madalene was our fundraiser. And then Madalene and Alma would handle any follow-up or reporting. So I was basically in charge of doing a lot of the administrative stuff related to keeping track of donations and then, as I said, campaign events that happened in California, other than the big ones, which Madalene might come out for. The small ones, someone was hosting a coffee at their house or something to raise money, I usually staffed for those.

Mr. Solis: Would you be the only paid campaign employee in California?

Witness: I believe so, yeah.

Mr. Solis: Who did you report to for the campaign on the campaign work?

Witness: Jennifer or Madalene, depending on what the issue is.

Mr. Solis: And Jennifer was she the campaign manager, did she have a title?

Witness: Yeah, she was the campaign manager.

Mr. Solis: Did you work at any other congressional campaigns?

Witness: I volunteered for some. I didn't work I wasn't a paid employee of anyone.

Mr. Solis: And when... whose campaigns did you volunteer for?

Witness: I volunteered for Ami Bera congressional campaign, his first one, not his most recent one where he... not the one he won. I think this was 2010, so I took three or four vacation days and I went up to Sacramento and volunteered on that. I also volunteered for Charlie Brown's campaign. I think I took four or five days off for that and went up to Lake Tahoe and helped volunteer up there.

Mr. Solis: That is a vacation.

Witness: Yeah, and then I think four or five of us took, I want to say three or four days off, maybe it was 2008, and went down to Judy Chu's special election campaign... It might have been 2009. It was a special election.

Mr. Solis: When you say using vacation time that means that you're checking with the congressional office to see if you can use that time? What you are doing?

Witness: Yeah, we had a form that was in the office that said that I want to take whatever days off and then, assuming it was approved. And we could have the time to ourselves just like anything else. We did generally know about the campaigns because we knew people, but we'd go down, and it was separate from our work, and we had the days off.

Mr. Solis: You mentioned Jennifer, who was also a congressional employee, she was the Chief of Staff. She worked on the campaign. Who else from Representative Honda's congressional staff also worked on his congressional campaign?

Witness: Certainly our scheduler had a lot of interaction because whenever he's in town we'd be coordinating between campaign events and congressional events. And he would often end up driving from a campaign event to a congressional event. I think Meri certainly interacted with it. She would... Whenever we had weekend events she would always come. I don't believe she was paid by the campaign. Whenever we had big events that Madeline would come out for and many of the staffers would attend especially when we had weekend events and when we had big ones. It's one of the perks of

being a staffer; you can go to these events and you're... so almost whenever we had a big event on a weekend people would come out for it.

Mr. Ashmawy: What was Meri's title?

Witness: Meri's title in the congressional office was District Director.

Mr. Ashmawy: And then what was the scheduler's name?

Witness: Charlene Loomis.

Mr. Solis: You said Charlene?

Witness: Charlene, yeah.

Mr. Solis: Was Charlene based out of DC or...

Witness: She was in the district office. We also had a scheduler in DC who I assume had a similar role in trying to coordinate between the two different roles that the Congressman did.

Mr. Solis: Madalene was she a congressional staffer?

Witness: No.

Mr. Solis: No. So you think Meri and Charlene, would that be it? Is that the only congressional staff who...

Witness: Well, as I said, people would volunteer on weekends especially when we had big events, especially when we had celebrities coming to events. Those were always things that people wanted to try to get an opportunity to go to. A lot of people would volunteer when we had special events, but for most of the day-to-day stuff, it was just me and we wouldn't get any volunteers and nobody else was paid as far as I know.

Mr. Solis: So Charlene and Meri were not paid?

Witness: Not as far as I know.

Mr. Solis: When you would do this work for Representative Honda's campaign, how much was Representative Honda involved? In that work?

Witness: He's... he wasn't involved in the administrative stuff. I mean any event we had, anything where it was a meeting, he would be a part of but anything that was administrative, he wouldn't... he didn't really interact with...

Mr. Solis: Would he ever ask you what the turn-outs were going to look like for an event, anything like that? Or...

Witness: Yeah, he would. He would ask who's going to be there, and part of my job while I was working on the campaign was checking in with Madalene beforehand, and she did a lot of the prep work for these events and a lot of the invitations and everything else. So part of my job was checking in with her and getting all the details. Making sure we had everything ready to go since I was the person on the ground. So part of my job was to know that stuff and he would often ask, "Who's going to be there?" or "Who's hosting?", "Why are they hosting?"

Mr. Solis: Would he ask that on the way to the event or days before?

Witness: Usually on the way to the event. He liked us to send... well that was for official stuff... but I mean he liked to receive some kind of information about any event he was doing a few days in advance but he often would ask questions on the way too.

Mr. Solis: Okay. Did the office have any policies about staffers conducting campaign activity, about the congressional staffers conducting campaign activity?

Witness: Yeah, anything that we did that was political was supposed to be on our own time. We, I mean,... obviously, as I said, being in proximity to politics, we knew a lot of what was happening and we had relationships with various other elected officials and staffers. But anything we did that was a political event was supposed to be on our own time. And if, you know, we wanted an opportunity to do something we would usually ask for vacation days or we would, you know,... if we were going to have the time off we would usually still check in with Meri and Jennifer to let them know that we were going to be doing something with a particular campaign or with a particular group, but yeah, the policy was that we were supposed to not have it in the office.

Mr. Solis: Were those policies written?

Witness: I don't know. Not that I recall. Yes, we did have a staff handbook. I don't know that I ever read all the way through it but they may have been there. We did do ethics training every year; we talked about it at that point. We watched a video that came from you guys or from somewhere and would tell or would go over the separation between campaign or political activity and congressional activity. So that is usually when we went over, when we reviewed that policy, but other than that I don't...

Mr. Solis: I just want to get a sense of when you say that there was a policy in the office and everyone understood this; if it wasn't written, did it come from Jenifer? Did it come from Representative Honda?

Witness: I think it... it definitely came from Jennifer and Representative Honda and Meri. I was... I interacted... within the office I interacted a lot more with Meri. Because in the day-to-day office operation she was my boss in terms of the congressional work. I know there were a couple of times when people would send something and Meri would respond and said this is borderline political, you shouldn't use or don't use your House mail accounts for this. You shouldn't be discussing this on office... using office resources. So it may have been written, but I don't recall. I do know that it was mentioned several times whenever people would bring things up or send things out to the staff that Meri or Jennifer thought were inappropriate for the staff to have or be emailing about on their House accounts.

Mr. Solis: Okay, were you ever asked by anyone at the campaign to send over an issue paper or any kind of information from your work as a congressional staffer?

Witness: I think, it's a little different for me because I was actually working for the campaign. I wasn't asked to send anything from the office. I certainly was asked to, while I was working for the campaign, to do an initial draft of filling out a campaign questionnaire at one point that we had received. But that was something that I had pulled out of the mail and I had emailed Jennifer about related to my... when I pulled it out of the campaign mailbox, she had said, "Why don't you take the first crack at it?" It was something that I probably knew more about because I had worked in the office but I wasn't... I don't think I ever worked on it in the office. As far as I recall. So, no.

Mr. Solis: You say campaign mailbox was that...

Witness: It was a P.O. Box.

Mr. Solis: A P.O. Box?

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Ashmawy: Can we go back to the policies? So you don't recall it being written, how was it conveyed to you?

Witness: I know any staffer who started in the office, including me, had an initial ethics training with Cathy, who would spend a couple of hours going over general ethics rules and then at some point within I think a couple months, we had to do the ethics training. Also we all were sent out to DC within our first year to do the ethics training on the Hill, for district staffers.

Mr. Ashmawy: And who's Cathy?

Witness: She's our Constituent Services Director.

Mr. Ashmawy: So Mr. Solis asked you if the congressional office was providing anything to the campaign. Did the campaign provide any information to the congressional office, like suggest events or things like that?

Witness: Not that I saw. I mean, Jennifer would regularly have... Jennifer and Meri and many others in the office would regularly say, "I think we should do this event, I think this is something people are concerned about, I think this is something people we interact with a lot are concerned about," but that was never in a campaign context. I don't know where they came up with those ideas. As far as I know it wasn't campaign.

Mr. Ashmawy: How about specifically suggesting invitees to congressional events?

Witness: The campaign did not but Jennifer and Meri very regularly would say we want to make sure we invite this person or this person or this person.

Mr. Ashmawy: Would they do that... Which email account would that come across?

Witness: That would come from the House email account. But...

Mr. Solis: We will... there's a specific instance I wanted to ask you about. So we'll get to that specific question. Mark Nakamoto, do you know who he is?

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Solis: Who is he?

Witness: He worked in our office and I believe he worked at some point for our campaign, but he worked back and forth in our different offices for quite a while. He interned in our district office and then interned in DC and then came back and worked in the district office part-time for I want to say a year or two and then began full-time in our office after one of our staffers left. And then he was...

Mr. Solis: And when was that when he started full-time?

Witness: I believe it was after Chris Shores left, which I want to say happened in 2010ish.

Mr. Solis: At that time when he was full-time at the office, did Mr. Nakamoto also work for the campaign?

Witness: Not that I recall.

Mr. Solis: Do you know if he volunteered for the campaign?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Solis: Do you know if Mr. Nakamoto was ever paid by the campaign? Ever, even after you had left?

Witness: I believe at some point he left the office or was at some point I believe he went over and was doing something related to communications. One of his interests was always communications-related stuff. So he was doing that in the district office for a while. And then I think he went over and did it for the campaign for a little bit but I can't say. I think that was after I left. I was in my 1L year and was pretty busy.

Mr. Solis: When Mr. Nakamoto was in the district office full-time, or even part-time, did you ever see him working on the campaign while he was in the office?

Witness: While he was in the office, no. He would regularly volunteer and attend events in the community and he was really interested in politics generally. He would come to a lot of events, both for our campaign and for other campaigns and for political groups. But, as far as I know, none of them were on office time.

Mr. Solis: In all of your time with the official office, did you ever see an instance where staff time, email, phones, computers, anything that's an official house resource, was used for campaign purposes?

Witness: I mean I saw people step out of the office, when they would get calls on their cell phones periodically. Certainly Meri would periodically get cell phone calls and would go outside. So that may have been on office time.

Mr. Solis: And you mean calls related to the campaign?

Witness: I assume so, yeah. I know she would, especially during busy times, she would get calls a lot and she would go out. I think everyone would be checking their Gmail periodically on the House computers, anything that was sent to us for the campaign was generally sent to our Gmail accounts. So it's very likely that people did check them through the House computers, because people were looking at their Gmail accounts throughout the day.

Mr. Solis: September 13, 2012, a district office staff retreat, do you recall that?

Witness: Yeah we would have retreats every two years. I believe that was the one in California?

Mr. Solis: I believe it was at Meri Maben's Beach house.

Witness: Yes, in Aptos, yeah.

Mr. Solis: Okay, I'm sorry where was it?

Witness: Aptos.

Mr. Solis: Aptos?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Solis: I'm not familiar.

Witness: It's about 20 minutes past Santa Cruz.

Mr. Solis: Okay. What was the purpose of the retreat?

Witness: We had had retreats about every two years... well that was the district retreat. Generally it was to kind of figure out what our goals were generally for the next two years. We'd kind of go over some of the big picture things,

our priorities. What we were trying to do in terms of outreach and different things that were likely to... kind of give everyone the overview of different things that were likely to affect the next two years or the next year depending on the retreat. And then we would always do some kind of bonding retreat activity.

Mr. Ashmawy: How long did it last?

Witness: I believe that was a day long. We were there from... yeah, I think we got there in the morning and we left around five.

Mr. Solis: Did you have food or drinks there?

Witness: Yeah, we always had food or drinks.

Mr. Solis: Do you know who paid for it?

Witness: I don't. Charlene would usually pick things up. I don't know where they came from.

Mr. Solis: Okay. Who else was there?

Witness: Everyone in the district office.

Mr. Solis: Did Representative Honda come?

Witness: I don't believe he came to that one. No.

Mr. Ashmawy: Did everyone in the district office have to go? Or was it, they could voluntarily go?

Witness: It was generally something that everybody was expected to go to.

Mr. Ashmawy: Anyone from the DC Office attend?

Witness: Not that one.

Mr. Solis: Lamar Heystek or Mark Nakamoto, were they there?

Witness: I believe Mark was there.

Mr. Solis: Do you know if Lamar was there?

Witness: I don't believe so.

Mr. Solis: So you mentioned goals for the office. Was it strictly an official retreat? It was strictly official related topics discussed?

Witness: We also had like bonding activities that Meri really, really liked bonding activities. We had like... we went to the beach and did some kind of construction competitions with sticks and things. I'm trying to remember the exact things we did but as far as....

Mr. Ashmawy: Was the campaign... Did the topic of the campaign come up at all?

Witness: I think we... I mean it always does in the context of, you know, he's going to be really busy doing campaign stuff, we're going to be seeing him less because he's likely to be spending more time on the campaign.

Mr. Ashmawy: How about campaign priorities?

Witness: No, I mean certainly we would talk about the fact that there was less likely, or we were less likely to move forward with a lot of our legislative priorities because campaigning was going to be keeping him really busy or he was going to be spending a lot more time doing that. And certainly we would talk about obviously how it was going to affect our work, but not campaign priorities specifically.

Mr. Ashmawy: Specifically was there any conversation about how district staff could better help the campaign?

Witness: I believe there was probably discussion of, we really want to make sure we're really responsive because we need to show that he is there and that was definitely... He's going to be in a tight race this year so... We really want to make sure that we don't have any missteps in terms of public relations or things we do publicly. We really want to make sure that we're keeping him focused. We really want to make sure that... keeping him from mis-stepping in any way, and we really want to kind of keep everybody on track and keep the office responding to people immediately and being really.... And so that was certainly discussed, somewhat in the context of the fact that he was going to be in a tight race. So it was, I think that was definitely an issue.

Mr. Solis: What about discussions at the retreat of transitioning info from the campaign to the district office?

Witness: Not that I recall.

Mr. Solis: Okay. And doing so ethically and practically?

Witness: Not that I recall, but again this is a one day retreat three years ago so. I don't....

Mr. Solis: Do you know what the phrase "A Thousand Cranes" means?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Solis: What does that mean?

Witness: This is a... it's him wanting to get a thousand, or I think a thousand, people... a certain number of people who are going to give him a thousand dollars each and he won't have to do any fundraising.

Mr. Solis: Who are you speaking about?

Witness: Mike Honda.

Mr. Solis: Mike Honda.

Witness: Every time we did any kind of fundraising event he would bring up the "Thousand Crane Club" -- would be a much better way of doing it.

Mr. Solis: Was the phrase "Thousand Crane" used at this retreat?

Witness: Very possibly. I mean, we would we all thought this idea was a little bit unrealistic and so we would joke about it a lot, but also I know it was something that was a priority for him. So I think we probably did discuss it in some context. I don't recall the details. I do know at various times within the office we, you know, would joke about this, you know, this thing he is trying to do.

Mr. Solis: I want to show you an email with an attachment here. And the email is dated September 20, 2012 it is from Ruchit Agrawal to Meri Maben cc-ed to "CA 15th District Internal." Do you know if that cc-ed "CA 15th District Internal," would you receive emails on that?

Witness: Yes, everyone that was on the district staff would receive it.

Mr. Solis: Okay, so there's this email, it's a cover page with nothing really on it. If you turn here, these are notes taken from that district retreat. Presumably compiled by Ruchit but sent to Meri Maben and the rest of the district staff. If I could point you to that second page there, you'll see, for example,

mid-way down the phrase "Thousand Crane." Again these are not your notes I'd presume...

Witness: Right, no.

Mr. Solis: These are Ruchit's notes as far as we can tell.

Witness: It's Ruchit.

Mr. Solis: Ruchit. Does this help refresh your recollection of whether or not the retreat...

Witness: Yeah, yes.

Mr. Solis: It does?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Solis: So what could you tell me more about the "Thousand Crane" issue discussed at the retreat? Was it middle of the day? Was it at the end?

Witness: It was probably around midday. I mean I'm really hesitant to give you anything that's too specific because I just don't have enough detail in my head.

Mr. Solis: The best you can.

Witness: But I mean this was his general idea.

Mr. Ashmawy: Let me... Go ahead.

Witness: I'm sorry, I'm just trying to read over this so I can try and remember the conversation. I mean most... I know that Meri probably said something to the effect of, "This is a priority for him." I know that at some point Meri said, and it may have been at this retreat I don't know for sure but, she did say, you know, "He really, really, really wants to do this. We've told him this is kind of ridiculous. He really wants to do this he's going to try... and we have to kind of accept that this is what he wants to do and try to make it happen." So I guess Lamar did attend. I think at some point we... I don't remember the details of this conversation but I know that at some point, we did talk about, and I guess we did at this retreat, we did talk about various challenges that were going to be coming up with fundraising and

trying to get the same people to donate again and again and again to a campaign that they didn't really think was struggling.

Mr. Solis: Okay was there a transition in the topics for, you know, individuals who were running this retreat. If it was Meri, Jennifer, did they say, now we're going to talk about fundraising? How would this subject have been brought up?

Witness: I mean what I believe, and again I can't say for certain but... what I believe was that generally what Meri probably said, or what Meri said, something to the effect of, "Here's what's happening right now. Here's where things are so far," and as I said we did interact with these issues to a certain extent, in terms of, we were obviously invested in knowing what was happening with his campaign, because we work for him as an elected official. I think obviously, this overview is a lot more extensive than I remembered it being but I think she did give us an overview.

Mr. Solis: If you'll look above, you'll see Lamar's analysis of voting results, takeaways. If you'll look down there's a question "Should we be going after those who it will not pay out (Chinese voter could be opponent's rep and her last name being Chinese) or build relationships to bear fruit." You also look down a little bit more, there's a breakdown of what looks like voting demographics. A little further, it says, "Campaign, Mark, like a normal voter identification up until a few weeks." And then even beyond that, "Thousand Crane," you'll see "Transitioning data from campaign to official. How does official use the Intel from the campaign?" So you'll see this second page, I would say it is based almost solely on issues of an election and campaign issues. Would you say that's fair to say?

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Solis: And again, given that these aren't your notes, does this in totality refresh your recollection of an extensive conversation about these campaign related issues at the retreat?

Witness: To a certain extent, yeah. Again I just I don't remember the details, I mean I... my biggest memory is going to the beach. I do vaguely remember this, but I don't remember much detail.

Mr. Ashmawy: Let me ask you in a slightly different way. Take a look at the notes. Do they seem like an accurate digest of the day?

Witness: Certainly doesn't seem like the totality of it, because there... it's very possible that this is accurate, I can't say but ... yeah, there was almost always discussion of legislative issues at our retreats because this was one of the few times where we were able to get kind of an understanding of what was happening in DC, from a district perspective. So I don't think this is the totality of it, but I don't know... but again I would be very hesitant to say whether anything on here is incorrect or yeah...

Mr. Ashmawy: Do you have any reason to think that anything on there was not discussed?

Witness: No.

Mr. Solis: Do you know if that retreat was on a weekday or weekend?

Witness: I don't know, but I'm sure it's in the calendars in the...

Mr. Solis: I want to move on, I know we are getting a little pressed for time here. So, I want to move on to a State Department Round Table event. That was held around February or March of 2013. Do you recall that?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Solis: Where was that event held?

Witness: So this was... remind me what the topic of this was about because I think I'm confusing it with another one.

Mr. Solis: It was a Senior Advisor from the State Department's South and Central Asian Bureau who might have attended.

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Solis: With some local officials.

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Solis: As far as I can tell... we can tell it was held at Santa Clara University

Witness: Yes. Yeah, so I actually did not go to that event. I was one of the people who was in the office that day, because I did not handle foreign affairs or issues related to the South Asian Ethnic Community and we always generally with almost all of our events, we'd leave one or two people behind, unless they were really, really, really big events, to keep the office open. So I didn't go to that event but I do remember it being discussed.

Mr. Ashmawy: Do you know who did go to the event?

Witness: I don't know for sure but, I would almost certainly say Mike Nguyen. I would say... let's see, this is early 2013. Lenine probably was there. Was Vedant on... I don't think Vedant was in the office yet, otherwise he would've gone. Meri probably went. I think anything where we had anything really high level official like that, Meri would go, too. Cathy may have gone but I don't think so. Charlene was almost certainly back at the office. Yeah.

Mr. Solis: Given that your job at the time, I mean you can tell me if I'm wrong, it would have been to set up events like this, in the district. You would've had working knowledge of this event. Correct?

Witness: Yeah, I mean we have four people who had similar roles and we generally divide up who is doing which event based on our issue areas or the the area of expertise that we had. So I had a working knowledge in that I was peripherally involved in it, in that I was... it was happening around me, but I don't believe... I mean, I only knew about it in that I was asked about who we should invite and as I think almost everyone was because it was a big deal event. And I remember some emails about it but I don't remember... but I didn't go to it and I don't know anything about the details of the day.

Mr. Solis: Who asked you who you should invite?

Witness: I believe Mike.

Mr. Solis: Mike Nguyen?

Witness: Not Honda.

Mr. Solis: Right. Did he ask anybody else or just you?

Witness: I believe he asked everybody. I believe he said, "We need key stake holders in the community. This is a really important event. If you have someone who you think should be invited, send it to me. And then me and Meri are going to go through them and try and figure out who we should actually invite, because we have a limited number of spots." I don't, yeah...

Mr. Solis: What did you respond with?

Witness: I don't recall. I can speculate on it, but I don't recall. I was only peripherally involved with that event.

Mr. Ashmawy: Do you know how the invitees were ultimately selected?

Witness: Meri and Mike handled it.

Mr. Ashmawy: And did Lamar Heystek provide a list of invitees to the event?

Witness: It's possible, if so I didn't see it.

Mr. Solis: What were the discussions with the more senior staffers, either in the district or in DC, about that event and about who to invite to that event?

Witness: I remember it being discussed as a high priority event. It was something that was going to be very high profile. We wanted people who were going to be either leaders or high profile individuals themselves. I think we said that because it was the South Asian State Department, we wanted leaders from the South Asian Community. I... that's the biggest emphasis I can recall is leaders from the South Asian Community, but I don't...

Mr. Ashmawy: Was... well, more specifically, was there any conversation with the Chief of Staff, Jennifer, or anyone else about potentially asking for contributions to the campaign from the people who were invited?

Witness: Not that I recall but certainly... I mean there's always an overlap between people who really like us and give a lot of money to our campaign and the high profile stake holders who we think are important on different issues. Generally somewhat of an overlap. Almost certainly, there were a lot of the same people and almost certainly there was some interest in maintaining relationships with those people on both ends. Both the campaign and the...

Mr. Solis: Did you ever see an email, or any communication, from anybody in the district staff or the campaign staff making that link between who to invite and the potential ability to donate to the campaign?

Witness: I don't know, but I do... I don't want to speculate. I vaguely recall an email of some kind from Lamar about, "There are a lot of leaders who we've have been hearing from on this side who you guys may be interested in."

Mr. Solis: And by "this side" you mean?

Witness: The campaign side.

Mr. Solis: The campaign side.

Witness: I mean part of it is, too, that we would also we would get... when I was handling phone for the campaign, we'd get calls from people who thought it was the office and vice versa. I don't know if that was necessarily the case here, but there's always a little bit of overlap both in terms of public perception and in terms of the people that both sides are interacting with. I feel there may have been an email from Lamar at some point about this. I... again, because I wasn't really involved in this event, other than just kind of being aware of it. I didn't really engage too much. I don't know the... I don't know that I paid too super-close attention to it.

Mr. Solis: So who from the office, the district office, would've been the primary person on this?

Witness: I would guess Mike. Mike generally handled issues related to foreign affairs, generally handled issues related to Asian American Communities. So it seems like this is probably an event that would've been in his wheel house.

Mr. Ashmawy: Let's switch gears real fast to another event that was held in September 2012. It's been described as the "Ethiopian Event." Do you recall this event?

Witness: I recall a campaign event that was an Ethiopian event at somebody's house in Santa Cruz. There was also a... Ethiopian Community Celebration of some kind in downtown San Jose that I staffed him for but ... is it one of those? No?

Mr. Ashmawy: Well, that's kind of why we're asking. Were they both held in September 2012?

Witness: I mean, I worked for him for six years; it does blend together a little a bit. I know the one in downtown San Jose was towards the end of the summer, I don't know if it was in 2012, it could have been in 2011. It couldn't have been as late as 2013 because I was gone. It was sometime when it was really hot outside. That was a huge Ethiopian Community event in downtown San Jose. I don't know who wrote the brief for that; it wasn't me, it was whoever handled the issues that they were related to.

Mr. Ashmawy: Would you... that huge downtown Ethiopian event, would that event be one where you would've handled the invitations to it?

Witness: No, oh, no, we weren't hosting this one.

Mr. Ashmawy: Was there an Ethiopian event you did host?

Witness: The fundraiser, yeah, was hosted by the campaign... well, it wasn't hosted by the campaign but it was hosted by two people who I think at some point worked with Madalene or other people on the campaign, to figure out who they were going to invite.

Mr. Ashmawy: Do you know how they picked their invitees?

Witness: I don't. Generally with the campaign stuff, I would get an email from Madalene saying, here are the attendees.

Mr. Solis: But that wasn't an official event?

Witness: That wasn't. No. Sorry, I don't know.

Mr. Solis: Okay.

Mr. Ashmawy: Do you know just generally though? I mean you described it as a campaign event. Do you know if the congressional office in any way coordinated with any of the invitees? On that event?

Witness: I don't know which event it was. It could've been either one of those two ... oh, in terms of the fundraising one, as far as I know, no. But again Madalene handled most of the invites. Jennifer and Meri would sometimes, when they were working, when they were doing campaign stuff. Meri pretty much worked every weekend volunteering for the campaign, at least during busy times, she would spend a couple of hours almost every weekend. Well, at big events, she would spend time. So I think it's very possible that she and Jennifer discussed it, whether or not they drew things directly from the office, or they drew from their knowledge related to the office, is often hard to distinguish.

Mr. Ashmawy: We want to be sensitive to your schedule; we just have a few last questions. Were you ever asked to help to do personal errands for Representative Honda?

Witness: I think whenever we are staffing, our role is to try to help make sure he gets whatever he needs and gets to wherever he needs on time. So that sometimes might involve picking up coffee or often, we would drive him over to his house and we would pick him up, we'd get him in the car and get him to wherever he needed to go.

Mr. Ashmawy: What about other stuff like picking up laundry, dry cleaning, things like that?

Witness: No, not that I ... no... I never did.

Mr. Solis: Do you know if anybody did?

Witness: I don't know... I mean Mike certainly seemed to talk a lot about the Congressman's tailor and his jackets and things, so it's possible but that's complete speculation based on the fact that Mike was really into the Congressman's clothes.

Mr. Solis: Do you know who Robert Lucas is?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Solis: Who is he?

Witness: He is... I believe he was staff assistant in our Washington, DC office. He was also our tech person in DC for two years maybe, I don't know. Maybe he's still there actually. I'm not sure.

Mr. Solis: Do you know if he ever traveled to the district?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Solis: How frequently?

Witness: At least a couple of times.

Mr. Solis: A year, or in total?

Witness: I think he was only in the office concurrently with me for maybe a year and a half. Maybe longer but I feel like during that time I saw him probably three times.

Mr. Solis: Do you know if he ever did any personal errands for Representative Honda while he was out in the district?

Witness: Well he was generally trying to coordinate a wide variety of tech stuff. But again, there's a lot of overlap. He would definitely have if there was anything related to the Congressman's fax machine or blackberry or any of his other communication devices. Robert would handle it.

Mr. Solis: What about his Netflix account, or Apple TV?

Witness: It's very possible, I don't know.

Mr. Solis: Did Robert ever talk to you about that?

Witness: Robert and I weren't particularly close.

Mr. Solis: Did anyone in the district office ever mention that in anyway whatsoever?

Witness: Ruchit.

Mr. Solis: Ruchit?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Solis: He mentioned it to you back then?

Witness: Yeah, Ruchit was pretty upset. He felt like he... he talked several times about being irritated that he was asked to do things that he thought were below him.

Mr. Ashmawy: Specifically, what?

Witness: He was asked to... the biggest thing that I remember is, he was asked to carry some things, some tech stuff, some computers and things, first when we were moving the office, but then also I think at some point he was asked to transport some things from the Congressman's house, and I don't know what they were, I think they were tech related, but I assume they were tech related but...

Mr. Ashmawy: Did he complain about it in the context of that he was doing personal errands for the Congressman?

Witness: He complained about it... Ruchit didn't like the job very much. Ruchit, I mean complaints were generally that this was far below somebody who had finished law school, and should not have to be doing much work for the Congressman.

Mr. Solis: So Ruchit mentioned the Netflix account and Apple TV to you?

Witness: He did not mention them, but he mentioned that he was being asked to do things that he thought were unfair, or again he said, "I shouldn't be having to take care of all these little things for the Congressman."

Mr. Solis: Has anybody talked to you about our review? Or discussed our review?

Witness: I did call Jennifer after I heard from you, and she said she couldn't discuss it, but that I could look at the complaint online and told me it was available for public review.

Mr. Solis: Why did you call her?

Witness: Because I wanted to get more information about what I was going to be asked.

Mr. Ashmawy: Did she have... how much of a conversation did you have with her?

Witness: Well we talked about this for two minutes and then we talked about my summer job for probably five.

AHSMAWY: Specifically... excuse me... Specifically what did she say to you about this review?

Witness: She said, "I can't really discuss it." They're just going to ask you questions. The investigation's not targeted at you. It's just at the office so, you know, just go be honest and I said, "Well what about, what are they going to ask me? Do I need to prepare anything? Do I need to look over anything?", "Do I need to go back over something?" And she said, "I can't really talk about it, the complaint's available online. You should be able to find it," and so I said, "How do I find it?" and she said, "I don't really know but I'm sure if you google it you'll be able to find it."

Mr. Solis: I'll just quickly review my notes... Omar, did you have anything else?

Mr. Ashmawy: No, that's it. Is there anything we didn't ask you, that you think is relevant?

Witness: I mean... I'm trying to come up with a specific... Obviously I think there's always, I think as I said, a little bit of overlap in terms of trying to, in terms of his schedule, in terms of trying to figure out which things belong in which category. I think... yeah, I can't really come up with anything specific.

I mean, certainly trying to remember if there was anything that seemed like blatant.

Mr. Solis: Was there any time in any way that you felt uncomfortable as a congressional staffer with a suggestion about campaign work?

Witness: Not about the suggestion about campaign work. I think it was difficult for me being in kind of a combined role because it was always hard to figure out where I draw the line and how much information that I knew that I could use in one area or the other. But I think that was more just me not... Certainly people in the office would ask, "Oh what's this event about?" or "What's on the schedule?" and, you know, sorry... I think it was more difficult in me worrying that I was going to violate the rules. I'm not really sure where exactly to draw that line in terms of how much can be discussed with other people and how much can be... how much I can know from here and use here, but I think that was it really.

Mr. Solis: Were you ever asked to work more on the campaign, or that you were not working enough on the campaign? Did anybody ever say that to you?

Witness: No, because my campaign work was generally, it was very specific. So it was usually a specific event and it was... I would submit my hourly things. It was more things I had to get done rather than specific hours. It was just I had to check the mail with a certain frequency to make sure we got the mail in time or that we got the contributions reported in time and other things. There was certainly an issue early on where I didn't report something in time... I didn't catch something in time, because I wasn't checking the mail frequently enough and we had to return the check.

Mr. Solis: Did you check the mail the campaign mail, the P.O. Box, during the weekday?

Witness: I checked it in the evenings when I was on my way home.

Mr. Solis: Would you ever check it during the day?

Witness: No.

Mr. Solis: Okay, I think that's....

Mr. Ashmawy: Thank you very much for your cooperation. Thank you very much for your time. I appreciate it.

Mr. Solis: Thank you.

Exhibit 6

**Interview of Chief of Staff
April 23, 2015**

Mr. Gast: This is Scott Gast with the Office of Congressional Ethics, joined by Kelly Brewington. We are here with Chief of Staff, with Representative Honda, who has agreed to sit with us for an interview. She is accompanied by her counsel, Stan Brand. We have provided Chief of Staff with a copy of the Federal False Statements Act. After consulting with her attorney, she has declined to sign the acknowledgement form.

We'll just dive right in. You are currently the Chief of Staff for Representative Honda. Is that correct?

Witness: That is correct.

Mr. Gast: How long have you been in that position?

Witness: I've been his Chief of Staff here in DC since he was elected, so I started in January 2001.

Mr. Gast: Can you give us a general idea of your duties as Chief of Staff?

Witness: Generally it's to ensure that the Congressman and the staff best serve the constituents of the 17th District of California. That generally includes managing the staff, managing the operations of the office, providing strategic guidance, managing the schedule of the Congressman and ensuring that we're doing everything as a staff that we can so that he can be effective in his role.

Mr. Gast: Do you have a formal role with Representative Honda's campaign?

Witness: I wouldn't classify it as a formal role.

Mr. Gast: How would you describe your role?

Witness: I'm a volunteer. I've worked for the Congressman for coming close to two decades, since he started in local government. I provide historical input, ideas. That's how I would generally classify it.

Mr. Gast: That's provide historical input and ideas to the campaign?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Okay. You said that you worked with him in state government. Is that right? Did you have an employment relationship with him before he got to the Hill?

Witness: I was an aide when he served on the County Board of Supervisors, doing women's health. I worked for him when he was a state legislator in Sacramento.

Mr. Gast: We've talked to a few folks from Honda world, I guess it is. Some have said that you were the campaign manager. Is that something that you would consider yourself?

Witness: The campaign had a campaign manager, had paid campaign managers.

Mr. Gast: How would you describe your relationship then with Representative Honda's campaign?

Witness: Could I ask a clarifying question?

Mr. Gast: Sure.

Witness: What time period are we talking about?

Mr. Gast: Let's focus on the last two cycles, the 2012-2014 cycles, if that helps.

Witness: That does help.

Mr. Gast: Okay. How would you describe your personal relationship with the campaign? How much contact would you have? How often? Who would you deal with?

Witness: I was in regular contact, consistent contact, with the campaign manager. There was two campaign managers during that time frame.

Mr. Gast: Who were they?

Witness: Lamar Heystek and Doug Greven.

Ms. Brewington: When you say regular contact, how frequent?

Witness: I can't say exactly but probably I would say at least five of the seven days a week, when the campaign was most active. That would not have been true through the first cycle.

Mr. Gast: The 2012 cycle?

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: How often in that cycle, would you have contact with the campaign?

Witness: I don't recall specifically. Much less.

Mr. Gast: Much less. Is it fair to say that Lamar was the campaign manager of the 2012 cycle and Doug in the 2014 or was there some other overlap?

Witness: Lamar was the campaign manager in the 2012 cycle. Doug became the campaign manager in the 2014 cycle. I don't recall specifically when he was hired. It was sometime mid-year, 2013.

Mr. Gast: Okay. What sorts of things would you discuss when you had these communications?

Witness: With the campaign managers? It varied depending on what was happening with the campaign at that time. It could be information about relationships that Congressman had had historically. It could be information about what his policy positions are. It very often had to do with schedule. We discussed press. We discussed fundraising. We would discuss hiring of campaign staff.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Witness: We would discuss how the Congressman was doing, what his needs were, and how best to help him.

Mr. Gast: How would you have these conversations? Would they be over the phone? In person? Email?

Witness: All of the above.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Did other members of the congressional staff have interactions with the campaign?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Who would that be?

Witness: I don't know the full extent of who spoke with whom. Meri Maben, our district director, at the time. The schedulers, as needed. The press secretary, as needed. Can you repeat the original question?

Mr. Gast: Sure. Who on the congressional staff had interactions with the campaign?

Witness: In the 2014 cycle? During the course of the cycle, many of the staff chose to volunteer their time on the campaign and, as a result, would have had interactions at some point.

Mr. Gast: Does that include members of the legislative staff?

Witness: Some.

Mr. Gast: What about the District staff?

Witness: Some.

Mr. Gast: In your role as Chief of Staff, does your supervision extend to the District office as well? District staff?

Witness: I don't directly manage all of the staff, but I do have overall supervision of the entire operation.

Mr. Gast: Then I take it, would Meri Maben be the one who had the direct supervision over the District staff?

Witness: The direct supervision, yes.

Mr. Gast: Would she report to you?

Witness: She would report to me, but I would say that we've worked together for 15 years. I'm not sure I would characterize it as reporting.

Mr. Gast: Sure. You said in the 2014 cycle, many of the staff, the congressional staff, volunteered their time for the campaign. How did that come about? How did they become involved?

Witness: His staff is incredibly dedicated to the Congressman and the work and the vision and who he is as a person. When it came to be that he had a challenging race, just organically many of the staff wanted to help on their own time. Our Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director has been with our office for 14 years. Many of our staff are voluntary staff.

Mr. Gast: Were congressional staff members asked to volunteer?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Did they come to you to express an interest in volunteering or how did that come about?

Witness: Some came to me and expressed an interest and wanted guidance on was that okay, how would they do that, who would they talk to, kind of the how to's.

Mr. Gast: You said some came to you. How about the others? How did it come about that they got involved?

Witness: I don't specifically recall how each and every person got involved.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Did any of the congressional staff members who helped with the campaign get paid for their services?

Witness: In the 2014 cycle?

Mr. Gast: Sure.

Witness: Lenine Umali, from the District office. Mark Nakamoto was...worked part-time on the campaign, but I don't recall specifically what that time frame was. I believe it was the previous cycle. I don't specifically recall if there were others.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Going back to the staff who either came to you or got involved in the campaign in some way, who expressed this interest to volunteer, what kind of stuff did they do for the campaign?

Witness: Field work, just knocking on doors or making phone calls, participating in a phone bank, preparing perhaps a memo, a background, on an issue or something the Congressman had been involved in, attending a campaign rally. That's what I'm aware of as I sit here right now.

Mr. Gast: Sure. Aside from the field work and attending a campaign rally, did any of the assistance provided by the congressional staff take place in the congressional office?

Witness: Our general practice is no. The staff is very aware of the rules and we take them seriously. I am not aware of when and where every piece of assistance might have happened.

Mr. Gast: What about did any of that assistance take place while staff was on official time?

Witness: Our general practice is that staff, if they were volunteering on the campaign, would do that in their own time.

Mr. Gast: Did staff, who were volunteering for the campaign, keep time records at all about work performed for the campaign versus work performed for the official office?

Witness: Can you ask that question again?

Mr. Gast: Sure. Did the congressional staff members who did work for the campaign, volunteer for the campaign, did they keep any kind of time records to ...

Ms. Brewington: How did they keep track of that time that they were volunteering?

Witness: We maintain, I mean the office maintains vacation and sick leave records for the entire staff that cover if one was out for an entire day or maybe a half day, they were sick or they took vacation. Other than that, I am not aware that anyone kept specific time records within their own individual day.

Mr. Gast: Sure. That was not a requirement of the office to keep those kind of time records?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Did the office have any policies about congressional staff doing campaign work?

Witness: The office has written personnel policies that include guidance about volunteering for a campaign. I often would circulate, if the Committee on Standards or Ethics issued the pink sheets, I often would circulate those. When new employees started, my general practice was to make sure that someone also talked to them about keeping the separation. All staff met the requirements to go to ethics training. We have Fellows in our office who are not formally considered staff, and thus are not required to take ethics training, but we require that they do. We, being the Honda office. The conversations about keeping the separation clear came up anecdotally or throughout the course of our work.

Mr. Gast: Okay. How involved was Representative Honda in managing his campaigns?

Witness: I don't even know how to characterize that. He's the candidate. He's extremely busy. I would say he had little involvement in the day-to-day operations of the campaign.

Mr. Gast: Did you have occasional or regular strategy meetings or senior campaign staff meetings that he would attend?

Witness: Yes, but minimal that he attended. I can think of two bigger team meetings, over the course of the two years. There were other meetings that he held with his campaign team in California. He would meet with his consultant. He would meet with his campaign manager. I don't know if that was responsive to the questions.

Mr. Gast: Sure.

Ms. Brewington: When you said he had two bigger team meetings over the course of this time, who would be involved in those team meetings?

Witness: The two meetings that I'm thinking about are classified more formally as a retreat, specific to the campaign, retreat or meeting. I don't know what the difference is. He had his campaign consultants. The team was different because there were different points in the campaign. He would have some of his campaign staff there. I participated. Meri participated in at least one of them. I don't recall specifically if she was at the one.

Ms. Brewington: You mentioned two campaign retreats. When were they?

Witness: It's probably better to call them meetings.

Ms. Brewington: Meetings, sure.

Witness: It was more formal than a half an hour meeting one day. I believe one was in August of 2014, early August. I believe one was in 2013, in the first half of the year. I can't be exact.

Ms. Brewington: Okay.

Mr. Gast: Besides you and Meri Maben, was anybody else from the congressional staff included in that team, the campaign team?

Witness: In those two meetings that you're talking about?

Mr. Gast: Or other senior meetings that may have happened.

Witness: Well Lenine, but she was on the campaign at that point.

Mr. Gast: Full time?

Witness: Like 75 percent or something. That's an approximate. I don't know specifically.

Mr. Gast: Sure.

Witness: I believe that our Communications Director at the time was in the first meeting.

Mr. Gast: What was that person's name?

Witness: Anthony Kusich. I don't recall at the other meeting. I'm not positive about Anthony being there. I think he was.

Mr. Gast: Okay. I want to jump back real quick to the volunteer work done by the congressional staff. One of the things I think you mentioned that they might do is short memos or papers about issues, positions the Congressman may have taken. Were any campaign documents like that kept on congressional servers?

Witness: Not to my knowledge.

Mr. Gast: I want to ask you about the Dropbox account. Are you familiar with that?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: What is that?

Witness: Sorry. We're getting into technology. I need Robert to help me answer the questions. The Dropbox is an account. Are you asking me what Dropbox is or what ...

Mr. Gast: Or what you used it for.

Witness: We use the Dropbox account primarily as a way to share documents with the Congressman.

Mr. Gast: Was it used to share documents among staff or was it primarily the Congressman?

Witness: I can't say specifically. I mean the primary purpose, what's coming to mind, is to share documents with the Congressman.

Mr. Gast: What about a Google Drive. Are you familiar with that?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: What was that used for?

Witness: We use a Google Drive to share documents that we might work on collaboratively, to maintain lists, an RSVP list, something that more than one person can edit.

Mr. Gast: When you say we would use that, who is we?

Witness: Our official staff uses Google Doc, Google Drive, Google Documents. The campaign staff I believe uses Google Documents as well.

Mr. Gast: Is that the same account?

Witness: We're getting into areas where technically I don't know how to answer some of these questions. Anybody with a Gmail can have a Google Doc account. Anyone, I believe, but I'm, you're getting me into areas that I can't describe technically. If you have Gmail, you can use Google docs.

Ms. Brewington: Would they both have access to the same documents? I guess that's the question.

Witness: Each document is created with a circumscribed number of people who can be part of that document. I can't speak to all the documents.

Mr. Gast: Let me ask you about any, if you want to take a look at this. For the record, it's THMH-1453 to 1455.

Witness: Okay.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall this chain of emails?

Witness: I don't have a specific recollection, other than looking at this document.

Mr. Gast: It looks like it starts with an email from Robert Lucas to members of the congressional staff about the subject "Changes to office Google and Dropbox accounts and best practices." Do you see that?

Witness: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Mr. Gast: One of the best practices, on the third page, says, "Install the Dropbox program on your computer." Was this something, an official office tool that was used?

Witness: I'm sorry, the Dropbox?

Mr. Gast: Both the Dropbox and the Google Drive.

Witness: What is the question?

Mr. Gast: Was this an office, a tool used by the congressional office, by the official office?

Witness: Our official staff uses Dropbox to transmit documents to the Congressman, so yes.

Mr. Gast: I realize I'm probably not asking this in the most clear way, but in response to this email from Robert, do you have an exchange with him and, at one point, towards the bottom of that first page, you say, "I don't understand the impact on campaign files, et cetera." I guess I'm trying to understand if this is an official office account, set up by Robert on the official staff, and emailed to members of the official staff, why you would be asking about campaign and campaign files?

Witness: I don't know how to explain that. Dropbox can be created through a Gmail account, which I don't understand to be an official account. Campaign staff can use that to send documents to the Congressman.

Mr. Gast: Did campaign staff use the Google Drive account or office Google account and the office Dropbox to send campaign documents?

Witness: I don't know. You're classifying it as office versus non-office. I don't know how you're ... I don't understand the distinction.

Mr. Gast: Let me ask you how you classify the two accounts. Were they congressional office accounts? Were they not congressional office accounts?

Witness: I would classify it as an official, an office account, if it uses the mail.house.gov exchange.

Mr. Gast: In this case, it appears that it was switched by Robert at this time. He mentions that he has unlinked his official email, with an unofficial account. It was switched to Gmail accounts. Was that your understanding?

Witness: I don't understand how Robert sets up different accounts, so if that's what it says. I don't have a specific recollection of which account was which.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Let me just ask you, did you use the office Dropbox for official purposes?

Witness: Ask that question again.

Mr. Gast: Did you use the office Dropbox for official purposes to share official documents?

Witness: I don't recall if I specifically used the Dropbox.

Mr. Gast: What about the Google Drive? Did you use the Google Drive?

Witness: Which Google Drive?

Mr. Gast: Were there more than one?

Witness: I'm sorry but the questions about the accounts and how you're classifying them are confusing me. A Google Drive, if somebody ... I'm not sure that I understand it correctly. If you have a Gmail account and you want to create a document and you want to share it with someone, then I think you can do that with your Gmail account. I'm confused by the line of questioning.

Mr. Gast: Sure. Let me try this last question. These appear to be, based on the email from Robert, two accounts that were set up by the congressional office for use by the congressional staff. Then it appears from your later email that you used those accounts for campaign files. My question is, did that raise any issue to you I guess?

Mr. Brand: I'm not sure I understand that question. You're saying ... Where does it say she used it for campaign files?

Mr. Gast: On this page one, this email on August 2nd, 2013, at 2:36. You say, "RB, I don't understand the impact on campaign files et cetera." I guess let me ask what you meant by that statement.

Witness: I don't recall what I meant by that statement. I'm confused about which account is which and who owns them. I don't specifically know which accounts are set up. It looks to me like I didn't understand which accounts were which.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Let me ask you about another email here. Take a minute to look over that. For the record, this is RA-33 to 34.

Witness: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Mr. Gast: Do you recall this email?

Witness: I don't have a specific recollection, but I read it in the course of collecting documents for this purpose.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall the circumstances surrounding when you sent this email at the top of the page?

Witness: I have no idea what you mean by ...

Mr. Gast: What prompted you to send this email? What your purpose was in sending the email?

Witness: My recollection is that this book talked about a lot of the issues that are discussed relevant to Silicon Valley, to the Congressman's District, and to initiatives that he worked specifically on.

Mr. Gast: What about the reference to a good chance for a challenge by Ro Khanna? What did you mean by that?

Witness: I mean that there's a good chance for ... I meant what it said here.

Mr. Gast: The recipients of this email, with the exception I believe of Lamar, were all members of the congressional staff. Is that right?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: It appears that everyone is using their Gmail account or some kind of personal account. Is that right?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: The subject of the email is, "required reading." Was this an instruction by you to members of the congressional staff to do reading that had a campaign purpose to it?

Witness: I would characterize it more as facetious.

Mr. Gast: Facetious?

Witness: Yeah. I mean I don't know whether they read the book or not. It was not a requirement. I see the word required there, but it was not a requirement or a condition of their employment or anything else.

Mr. Gast: In addition to the subject, required reading, you go on to say, "In preparation for a good chance for a challenge by Ro Khanna, you are required to read Ro Khanna's book." I mean did you have an ability to require these folks to do anything outside of their employment with the congressional office?

Witness: Can you ask that question again?

Mr. Gast: When you are saying that these recipients are required to do something, aside from the authority that you had in the congressional office, did you have the authority to require them to do anything?

Witness: I just said that it was facetious. It was during a winter break. I'm looking at the date. It was not a requirement. No, I didn't have any authority to require them to do anything with regard to the campaign.

Mr. Gast: You say it's facetious. I just read this and I see twice that the word required is used. Then you go onto say legislative-

Mr. Brand: Now you're arguing with her. Her testimony is what she meant, was facetious. You can accept that or not.

Mr. Gast: Then let me go on and ask you about the next line, the next paragraph, where you say, "Legislative staff will be discussing the week of January 7th."

Witness: What's the question?

Mr. Gast: Let me ask you. Did you discuss Ro Khanna's book the week of January 7th?

Witness: I don't recall.

Mr. Gast: All right.

Witness: Required in the course of our official function in the official office would mean that I would know whether or not an employee did something that was required of them. I have no idea if any of these people read the book or not. It was not required.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Did the congressional office seek out or schedule events that had campaign or political purposes?

Witness: I was transitioning. Can you ask that again?

Mr. Gast: Sure. Did the congressional office staff seek out or schedule events that had campaign purposes or political purposes?

Witness: I don't know in that question how you're defining campaign purpose, political purpose. I don't know what specifically you're referring to.

Mr. Gast: Did the congressional office seek out events that would have some benefit to Representative Honda's campaign?

Witness: Did we seek out events? The official office would plan events that were relevant to stakeholders in the District, issues going on regionally in Silicon Valley or Santa Clara or Alameda County. Those were the events that official staff would plan.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Let me ask you about this email. For the record, this is THMH-1405.

Witness: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Mr. Gast: Are you familiar with the Sunnyvale Democratic Club event that's referenced in this email?

Witness: I don't recall a specific event, no.

Mr. Gast: You are listed as a recipient of this email from Meri, in which she says, "The purpose of the event is to build momentum for your campaign. Sunnyvale is new territory and you have limited relationship with club members per our intelligence. Additionally, certain club members are supporting your opponent." Is this an example of the congressional office scheduling or seeking out events that were useful to Representative Honda's campaign?

Witness: I don't specifically recall this event. An event with a Democratic club in our District would generally be considered a campaign event. I don't know what this event was. It looks to me like the Congressman, as he often does, is trying to understand where he's going and why.

Mr. Gast: Given that you said that this would typically be a campaign event, do you know why official emails were used to discuss this event?

Witness: I don't know why because I don't specifically recall it. Oftentimes the Congressman may not know what the event is. He may not know is it campaign or is it official. He may not know who to ask. I don't know who he sent the email to. He may have been seeking clarification. I don't know who he emailed to.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Go ahead.

Witness: Many events that come through congressional offices, when campaigns are going on, require consideration of what is the nature of the event and is it campaign or is it official. Stakeholders, constituents out in the District, they don't draw those distinction oftentimes. We're oftentimes put in a position of saying, "That sounds like something for campaign. You need to talk to so and so." It's not always clear from the face of it what they're asking for. It does take some probing sometimes. As a result, a constituent might reach out to someone on the official side and say, "I'd like to put some event together" or "Can we talk about this?" It oftentimes requires a conversation. Then you get there and then a decision has to be made about what type of event this is. Political events are unclear.

Mr. Gast: On the face of this email, is this unclear as to whether this is a campaign or official event?

Witness: I don't know what the event is, so it's unclear to me because I don't know what that is.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Just go ahead.

Witness: I made my comments solely based on the name in the subject. I don't recall what it was.

Mr. Gast: Let me ask you about this email. I apologize for the small font on that.

Witness: Good thing I brought my glasses. Okay.

Mr. Gast: I guess I want to ask, it appears that your email, in the middle of the page, "When are we looking at for next STEM event?"

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: Based on the reply from Meri, copy to Edwin Tan, it appears that those were the recipients that you sent the email to.

Witness: Right.

Mr. Gast: It looks as if you have been prompted by an email or notification, contact, from the campaign of Ro Khanna. Is that what prompted your email?

Witness: Looking at this document, I would say it reminded me that we have a STEM Advisory Council and, "By the way where are we?" A lot of things throughout the day prompt me to remember the other 20 things I'm supposed to be doing. Reading this email, it appears it prompted me to remember "Oh, by the way, where are we with our Advisory Council and what are we doing?" Yeah.

Mr. Gast: Was the STEM event meant in some way to be a response to what the congressional opponent was doing?

Witness: No. I don't know which STEM event you're talking about. We had a STEM Advisory Council that we had meetings with. It reminded me ... I mean I'm basing that on looking at this document, it appears it reminded me, "By the way, where are we?" We didn't plan an event as a result of, "Oh our opponent is looking at this issue." It appears that it reminded me of it.

Mr. Gast: If that was the reminder for you, why did you forward the Ro Khanna email?

Witness: I don't know.

Mr. Gast: Sorry?

Witness: I don't know. I mean...I don't know.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Did the congressional office ever identify potential campaign contributors to the campaign?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: How did that come up? Tell me about that.

Witness: In my role as Chief of Staff, on occasion I meet people who indicate that they want to support the Congressman.

Mr. Gast: What would you do in those situations?

Witness: I would let the campaign know.

Mr. Gast: What about in situations where there was no indication of a willingness or a desire to help the Congressman, were potential campaign contributors, in those circumstances, referred to the campaign?

Witness: I'm sorry. Can you ask that again?

Mr. Gast: Sure. Did the congressional office refer names of potential campaign contributors to the campaign, even in situation where there had been no desire to become involved with the campaign had been expressed?

Witness: I don't recall.

Mr. Gast: We've talked to folks who had said that the campaign had asked them to collect business cards of people that they interacted with and forward those to the campaign. Are you aware of that?

Witness: I would collect business cards of people that I thought might be interested or have told me that they're interested in supporting the Congressman.

Mr. Gast: Would you send those to the campaign?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Would you send those to the campaign, even if you had not discussed the campaign with the person?

Witness: That has happened, yes.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Let me show you this email. Again, I apologize, this is another small font one.

Witness: Are they going to get smaller and smaller?

Mr. Gast: Hopefully not.

Witness: Okay.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall this email from Meri Maben to Madalene Mielke, Shari Rubin-Rick and yourself?

Witness: I don't recall the email, but I've seen it during the course of collecting documents for this purpose, for being here.

Mr. Gast: Who is Madalene Mielke?

Witness: Madalene was previously our fundraiser based in DC.

Mr. Gast: What about Shari Rubin-Rick?

Witness: Shari was a fundraising consultant based in California.

Mr. Gast: Then the subject of the email is "McEnergy." It looks like it's referencing a Tom McEnergy, who had emailed previously?

Witness: McEnergy.

Mr. Gast: McEnergy.

Witness: He's the former Mayor.

Mr. Gast: Former Mayor of?

Witness: San Jose.

Mr. Gast: San Jose. Do you know what he was doing at the time of this email?

Witness: I don't, no.

Mr. Gast: When Meri says, "I know we've tried with him before to no avail," do you know what she was referencing there?

Witness: Not specifically, no. I don't have a relationship with Tom McEnergy.

Mr. Gast: Given the context of the email, that it was sent to Madalene and Shari, as well as you, does that suggest what she could have been referencing in that email?

Witness: The email says, "Please ask Tom to come to the birthday event." I would assume that ... The only birthday event that we had for the Congressman was a fundraiser that I recall.

Mr. Gast: Did you have any discussions with Meri subsequent to this email?

Witness: About what?

Mr. Gast: About the substance of the email.

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: What about with Madalene?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Or Shari?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Did members, I think you said before, members of the congressional office had provided maybe memos, background information, to the campaign. I want to go through some examples of this. Are you familiar with this document. For our record, THMH-253?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: What is this document?

Witness: The document appears to be a comparison of some policy positions between the Congressman and his then opponent.

Mr. Gast: Do you know who prepared this document?

Witness: I don't recall specifically who prepared it, no.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall generally?

Witness: It likely would have been Joon Suh or Laura Hatalsky. I'm basing that on who I think covered the issue areas.

Mr. Gast: How did it come that they would prepare this document?

Witness: I'm sorry. I'm looking at it. I think this was probably Joon. Joon wanted to volunteer to help the Congressman on his campaign.

Mr. Gast: How was it that he came to create this document?

Witness: I don't recall specifically how he came to do it. We likely had a discussion.

Mr. Gast: Would you have asked him to create this?

Witness: I would not have asked him to create it as part of his official duties.

Mr. Gast: Would you have asked him to create it as a campaign volunteer?

Witness: If he indicated he wanted to volunteer on the Congressman's campaign, and we had a discussion about the issues, we may have talked back and forth about how to put a document together. I don't recall if I asked him to do it. If I did, it would have only been in the context of a discussion because he wanted to help the Congressman and how would we best lay out the policy? It would have only been in the context of him indicating he wanted to volunteer for the campaign and us having a discussion about how to lay out the issues. It would not have been an ask or a requirement or ... I'm sure we had a discussion about it.

Mr. Gast: I guess my question is, he wouldn't have just created this document on his own. Would that have come through you? Would it have come through the Congressman?

Witness: It wouldn't have gone through the Congressman. At this point, I'm guessing or assuming that he and I had a discussion. This is the result of the discussion. In the context of him indicating that he wanted to volunteer for the campaign, Joon, like almost all of our staff, is totally dedicated to the Congressman and really wanted him to be re-elected and believes in him.

Mr. Gast: Where would you have these discussions?

Witness: Generally we would keep the discussions out of the office. We'd go downstairs. We'd talk about something, go outside. I don't know where. I don't recall a discussion about this document. I don't recall where it happened or in what context. I don't know.

Mr. Gast: Did you ever have discussions with congressional staff about work for the campaign in the congressional office?

Witness: Our general policy is to keep a separation between official and campaign. You ask did I ever? What was the question specifically?

Mr. Gast: Did you ever have conversations with the members of the congressional staff about campaign work in the congressional office?

Witness: When you say campaign work, I don't know what you mean by campaign work because they weren't doing campaign work, if they were volunteering. If you're asking did we ever have a conversation about the campaign in the office? Our general policy is no, but we likely did have conversations occasionally, if it was something that affected the work that everyone was doing. It changed the context of the District and what stakeholders were constantly coming to us, talking about, so we probably did.

Mr. Gast: Specifically about work product that had been put together, did you have conversations with congressional staff about what they could do for the campaign in the congressional office?

Witness: It's the same answer, which is our general policy is to keep that separate. Did I ever? I probably did. I don't have specific recollection of conversations, but I'm not going to say I never did.

Mr. Gast: Was there an expectation that members of the congressional staff assist or help with the campaign as part of their duties?

Witness: Was there an expectation that?

Mr. Gast: Members of the congressional staff help with the campaign?

Witness: No. Absolutely not.

Mr. Gast: Are you familiar with a document, or maybe several iterations of a document, about Honda accomplishments, top accomplishments?

Witness: Yes. I know we have a lot of accomplishments documents.

Mr. Gast: Who put those documents together?

Witness: We've had accomplishments documents in various forms, iterations, put together by a variety of staff since he began in Congress. It's how we keep track of what he's doing, what we're talking about, what could go into an eNewsletter at the end of the year. I mean there's many, many variations.

Mr. Gast: When you said, put together by staff, is that the congressional staff?

Witness: Does the congressional staff put together accomplishments documents?
Yes.

Mr. Gast: Are those documents ever used for campaign purposes?

Witness: I have shared documents that talk about what is the Congressman's position, what work has he done in Congress, with the campaign.

Mr. Gast: I'm going to ask you about a couple of these emails. For the record, it's THMH-1170.

Witness: Okay.

Mr. Gast: Looking at the first email in the chain, it's an email from you to Shari Rubin-Rick, Madalene Mielke and Brittany Kneebone-Feitelberg, copied to Lamar Heystek. The subject is, forwarding, "Do not forward this email accomplishments and agenda documents."

Witness: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Mr. Gast: Do you know what those documents were that are referred to there?

Witness: I don't know the specific documents that I was referring to.

Mr. Gast: Do you know why you said, do not forward?

Witness: I don't know why I said that.

Mr. Gast: Were these documents prepared by the congressional office?

Witness: I don't know specifically what documents are being referred to in this email. Looking at the email, my assumption would be, yes.

Mr. Gast: Can you think of a reason why you would not want the email forwarded?

Witness: I don't know why I wrote that.

Mr. Gast: Let's see about this one.

Witness: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Mr. Gast: For the record, this is THMH-1452. This appears to start with Robert Lucas looking for permission to use this "My Accomplishments" document for the web content. Then you reply, "You need to edit. Campaign is using this." First of all, do you know what document is being referred to here?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: It looks like, at the bottom of the page, the name of the document may have been "Honda Top Accomplishments 2-13-2013." Does that help identify the document?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Do you know what you meant when you said, "Campaign is using this."

Witness: I don't know which document this is. I know that we can't use official content on the campaign. I know that I shared information with the campaign about what the Congressman's policy positions are, things that he's done. That's what I know.

Mr. Gast: Did the congressional office put together documents about accomplishments specifically for the campaign to use?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: I want to ask you about a couple background briefing documents. For the record, this is THMH-930.

Witness: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Mr. Gast: Do you recall this Labor breakfast, this Alameda Labor Council breakfast event that's referenced in the emails?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: What was that event?

Witness: As I sit here today, I'm still unclear on what the event was. This was one of those events where different people were having conversations. It was unclear whether it was a campaign event or was it an official event. My recollection, but I can't be sure, is that we had a bunch of conversations. Someone talked to someone at the Labor Council to clarify and that the

decision was that it was an official event, where they were going to be talking about policy issues. That's my recollection. I was not at the event.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Go ahead.

Witness: I was just going to say I believe in this instance, because I remember it because I remember the confusion and my saying, "I don't understand what the event is." I believe that the executive director of the Labor Council talked to Lamar, who somehow then it came to me, and we had conversations or perhaps through the District staff. I didn't have the direct conversation. In clarifying what the event was and what was going to happen at the event, that it was an official event where they were going to talk about policy.

Mr. Gast: Who made that decision? Was that a decision you made?

Witness: I don't recall specifically whether I made the decision or whether Meri did or whether we had a conversation about it. It would have been one of us. The campaign was not in a position to decide that something was an official event, to make a formal decision. Certainly they would have a sense about it, but the official staff makes the decision about whether something's going to happen through the course of official business.

Mr. Gast: Okay. We'll move on to this document. For the record, this is THMH-1423 to 24.

Witness: Okay.

Mr. Gast: Are you familiar with this document?

Witness: No. I'm familiar with most of the documents you're going to show me because they got collected.

Mr. Gast: Sure.

Witness: I don't have a specific recollection of this document, no.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Witness: I'm not sure I ever saw it before.

Mr. Gast: It's from Monica and Vedant. Who are Monica and Vedant?

Witness: Vedant and Monica were official staff.

Mr. Gast: What were their titles?

Witness: Monica was a Fellow and I don't know what Vedant's title was at that time.

Mr. Gast: Okay. This is an event brief for a fundraiser at Pritpal Singh.

Witness: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Mr. Gast: Why were official staff members preparing an event brief for a fundraiser?

Witness: I don't know.

Mr. Gast: Who would have assigned them or directed them to put together this brief?

Witness: No one would have assigned them or directed them to put a campaign brief together. I don't know how this came about.

Mr. Gast: Okay. The format of this brief, is this something that is familiar?

Witness: Yes and no. We have a lot of formats to different documents. This does not look specific. I mean the answer is no. I don't know this specific format.

Mr. Gast: Is this a format that was used in the congressional office, that kind of heading on there?

Witness: We don't have a single format in the official office. Individual staff use different kinds of formats. I can't say about this specific format, where it came from, whether it was from an official or a non-official format. I don't know.

Ms. Brewington: Where was the document prepared?

Witness: I don't know.

Ms. Brewington: It was prepared by congressional staff? The Fellow and somebody else who worked in the congressional office?

Witness: I'm making that assumption only because their names are on the document as it being from them, but I don't know where or under what circumstances it was prepared.

Mr. Gast: I'm going to ask you about a similar event brief. For the record, this is THMH-1422. Do you know who the Kristen who this is from?

Witness: Kristen was a Fellow in our office.

Mr. Gast: In the congressional office?

Witness: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Mr. Gast: Do you know how this event brief came to be written by Kristen?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Do you know what the League of Conservation Voter's Victory Fund Countdown to Election Day reception was?

Witness: Not specifically. There's thousands of receptions on Capitol Hill. It looks like a reception.

Mr. Gast: Would this have been an official event or a campaign event?

Witness: I don't know.

Mr. Gast: Based on your-

Witness: I mean this ... I don't know how one would classify it. I don't know how this would be classified. It's a reception on Capitol Hill. It was not a Mike Honda for Congress campaign event, if that's what you're asking.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Does the fact that it references election day and candidates, does that impact your analysis as to what kind of event this is?

Witness: Looking at this document?

Mr. Gast: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Witness: As it's written, I would say it was probably a campaign event, but I don't know this specific event. I don't know. I'm saying it's not a Mike Honda for Congress event.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Were congressional staff advised or instructed or directed to prepare event briefs for political events?

Witness: I don't know what you mean by a political event.

Mr. Gast: For campaign events or campaigns dealing, or excuse me, campaign events or events dealing with political groups, like PACs and campaign fundraising?

Witness: Can you repeat the question please?

Mr. Gast: Sure. Were congressional staff members directed to prepare event briefs for these kind of campaign-related, political-related events?

Mr. Brand: I'm going to object to the question because I think there's two different issues of political versus campaign.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Mr. Brand: I think something can be political and be legitimate and be within the rules and not be campaign-related.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Let's split those up. Were congressional staff directed to prepare event briefs for campaign-related events?

Witness: Were congressional staff directed to? No.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Are you familiar with the practice of coffee breaks held in the District office?

Witness: I've heard discussions of them.

Mr. Gast: What do you know about these coffee breaks?

Witness: My understanding is it was a term to denote a more informal discussion where one might discuss feedback from the community, might discuss I mean just what's happening in the community, politically what's happening in the community, what might be happening in a staff's personal life or a family, things that might be differentiated, for instance, from counting off how many cases we've completed in a month. That's my understanding.

Mr. Gast: Was Representative Honda's campaign discussed during coffee breaks?

Witness: I don't recall that I've been in what has been termed these coffee breaks. Why don't you ask the other question.

Mr. Gast: Sure. Based on your discussions that you've had about coffee breaks, was it your understanding that Representative Honda's campaign was discussed during those breaks?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Did you learn any more about what specific to the campaign was discussed?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: What was that?

Witness: Generally if the Congressman, as an example, was at an event over the weekend that was a campaign event and something significant happened there that's worth discussing or some people in the community complained about a position the Congressman had taken, and that communication happened during the course of the event, that's the type of thing that, from the official staff, it's helpful to have the information.

Mr. Gast: What about ways in which the District staff could help the campaign?

Witness: I'm not aware of those discussions and coffee breaks. I know there were discussions that staff wanted to volunteer on the campaign. I know that as managers, both Meri and I have had conversations about, "That needs to be separate and removed from your official time. You need not to use official resources." I know that there was discussions in the District office, when it came closer to the actual two elections in the last cycle about who was going to use vacation time when because we, our primary responsibility is to ensure that the congressional office is always running smoothly. Staff also wanted to be able to use their vacation time to help out on the campaign. I know there were discussions around when and how could that happen.

Mr. Gast: Okay. I want to talk to you about staff retreats. Were you involved at all with District office staff retreats?

Witness: I don't specifically recall the conversations, but generally, anytime there was a significant event involving staff, it might be something that Meri might debrief me on or say, "We had this meeting and this happened."

Mr. Gast: Did you ever ... Go ahead.

Witness: She often would share an agenda. I didn't always get a chance to read them.

Mr. Gast: Did you ever attend any District office staff retreats?

Witness: Not that I recall.

Mr. Gast: What about notes following retreats, notes from retreats, would those be shared with you?

Witness: I would expect so.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Let's see if this looks familiar at all. This is, for the record, there is no Bates label, but this is an email with District office staff retreat notes from September 27th, 2012. Based on the attachment to the title, it looks like the retreat was held September 13th, 2012.

Witness: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Mr. Gast: Would you have received these notes?

Witness: I don't know specifically whether I received these notes.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Witness: I read them in the course of this investigation. I don't know if they were sent to me and, if they were sent to me, I don't know if I read them. Unfortunately, I don't get to read everything that's sent to me.

Mr. Gast: Sure.

Witness: Just I try.

Mr. Gast: For the email group, California 15 District internal, would you have been included in that?

Witness: Where are you?

Mr. Gast: On the first page, the to/from, one third of the way down. It's copied to California 15 District internal.

Witness: I don't know if I'm on that email list. We have many different email groups. I don't know if I'm on that one.

Mr. Gast: You don't recall whether you received or read these at the time they were sent?

Witness: No, I don't recall.

Mr. Gast: Did you discuss with Meri at the time these retreats were put together the fact that campaign staff would make presentations during the retreats?

Witness: I don't recall specifically discussing that. It sounds like something we would have discussed, but I don't have a specific recollection. Meri's very good about discussing everything.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Just going through these notes, I want to ask you about a couple items. On the first page of the notes, right under Roman numeral II. It says, "New Cities. How to transition info from campaign to DO," which I believe is District office, "ethically and practically." Do you know what they were referring to when they were talking about the info they were going to transition?

Witness: Do I know what information? Is that the question?

Mr. Gast: Right.

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: The information that they reference here?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Okay. What about on the second page, at the bottom, the last underlined heading is, "Transitioning data from campaign to official." Under that, "How does official use the intel from campaign for outreach and learning?" Do you know what the data and the intel reference there was referring to?

Witness: I don't know the specific data. I know that our office has done everything we can to understand the rules and to know what the rules are and to use information without violating those rules.

Mr. Gast: What about the Google Doc of stakeholders for CA 17 that's referenced on the next line?

Witness: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Mr. Gast: Do you know what that document is?

Witness: Not specifically.

Mr. Gast: Did the congressional office keep and prepare and maintain documents of stakeholders in the District?

Witness: We have stakeholder documents that we prepare that cover the entirety of stakeholders. We have a stakeholder document that, for instance, if someone is working on transgendered issues, someone's assigned that issue in both offices, both in DC and in the District. We have been working to find the best way to have a living document where local stakeholders and national stakeholders can be kept in one place, which I believe is why, I don't know if we still do it, why at some point we came upon Google Docs because it can be edited by more than one person.

Mr. Gast: Do you know if that stakeholder document was ever used by the campaign?

Witness: No. I don't know.

Mr. Gast: You don't know. I'm going to ask you about notes from one other retreat. I just want to ask you about one line in this one, on the second page. For the record, this is JVH-OCE-1342 through 1350. On the second page, there is a campaign update presentation given by Doug Greven. The first line there, under his presentation, it says, "DC makes policy. We do events. Campaign takes DO events and uses them to raise \$." Do you know what Mr. Greven meant by that?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Did the campaign take District office events and use them somehow?

Witness: I don't know what that means.

Mr. Gast: When he says that, that doesn't strike any familiarity about discussions you had about District office events and how the campaign interacted with that?

Witness: For context, which I think is probably true with every congressional race, there oftentimes is a convergence of an issue is in the news. It's something that people are really caring about. We do our events oftentimes based on, for instance, the issue of making cuts to Social Security. That might be something that Congress is working on. It might

be something that's in the news, so it's something that's in people's minds. They want to come discuss it. In those cases, that's the type of thing we might do an event on. Now what the campaign does and what they communicate with their universe, I don't know specifically.

Oftentimes, if you look at the Presidential races, they're talking about the same issues that people are talking about in the news and that people are caring about in that moment. That's just a context. I can't speak to what Doug was referring to or who wrote these notes or how they were transcribed. I don't know.

Mr. Gast: Okay. I'm going to turn to the State Department Round Table event, that the congressional office put together with an official from the State Department.

Witness: I thought you were going to skip that actually.

Mr. Gast: Are you familiar with that event?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Can you just tell us briefly what the event was?

Witness: The event was a round table discussion. A senior advisor, which I understand to be a mid-level position in the State Department, was in town and was willing to come have a conversation about US-India relationships. It was a round table. It was held at Santa Clara University. It was in a room that I don't recall specifically. It was not a big room, a rectangle, 20, 30 people or something like that capacity.

Mr. Gast: Who came up with the idea for the event?

Witness: I don't recall specifically who came up with the idea. The person who came was someone who I had very ... I didn't know him well. He's someone who I had talked to out here. He mentioned he was going to be in town.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Did the idea for the event ... I'm sorry?

Witness: We had common friends.

Mr. Gast: Did the event come up through the congressional office? Was it something proposed by the campaign?

Witness: No, it was a congressional office event.

Mr. Gast: It was. Who worked on the event?

Witness: Who worked on the event? Most of our District office events may have one or two people who are leading the event. Oftentimes they end up involving somewhere between half and all of the staff, depending on how many hands on deck were needed. My recollection is the lead was Ruchit. Then at some point during the planning, it transitioned to Mark because Ruchit had stopped showing up for work. I know I was making suggestions of people to invite. I don't recall specifically what, if anything, Meri had to do with it, other than overall supervision of events, as she always does.

Mr. Gast: How about Representative Honda, what was his involvement in the planning of the event?

Witness: I don't recall specifically. I expect that it was minimal, if anything at all in the planning, other than his preparation for his role. I believe we had lunch with the speaker in advance to just talk about what was going on with the US-India relationship.

Mr. Gast: How were the invitees to this event determined?

Witness: The best description I can give is it was a brainstorm. We started by thinking about who were people who would be interested or knowledgeable in having a discussion about that.

Ms. Brewington: It was a brainstorm among whom?

Witness: I don't recall specifically how it happened. I know Ruchit was involved in coming up with a list. I know I gave him suggestions. I know there were a couple hosts who were local elected officials. I believe that at least one of them, and I don't remember who asked, if it was me or someone else, "Do you have suggestions of people to invite?" I know at some point, we were scrambling because we didn't have what I would call a sufficient ... We didn't have a full room. We wanted to have a successful event.

I know, based on the reports and going back and looking at the emails, that I asked Lamar for a list. I was looking for more names and ideas of prominent South Asians who might be interested in coming. My recollection of the context is just we were scrambling. Somewhere along the way, the main person in the District office who was in charge of pulling this event together stopped coming to work.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall what it was specifically that you asked Lamar for?

Mr. Brand: She said prominent South Asians. That's her testimony.

Witness: I read the email that I wrote. That was what I had in mind because I was looking for prominent people who would be interested in coming.

Mr. Gast: Did you ask for any additional information, other than their names?

Witness: I don't recall. Yeah, I don't recall.

Mr. Gast: What about, did you ask for contribution histories, campaign contribution histories?

Witness: No. I believe I asked him to look at reports. According to my email, I asked him to look at some kind of reports to come up with some ideas. That was the purpose because I was looking for ideas in many places because we didn't have enough people to come-

Ms. Brewington: Ideas for people or-

Witness: Ideas for attendees to come to this event. We were looking. We were doing Google searches. We were trying to find people who would be interested in coming.

Mr. Gast: You said you asked Lamar to look at some reports?

Witness: Show me the email. I don't remember the specific language.

Mr. Gast: What reports did you ask him?

Witness: I'll wait for the email.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall what reports?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Let's walk through some of these emails that I think you've probably seen before. This has five pages. I think it's a lot of repeat. I want to ask you about the first two emails on the first 80 percent of that first page there. On February 8th, Lamar shares an item with you. Based on the email, it appears to be a document named, "Suggested South Asian invitees for State Department round table." He says, "Hello, Witness. Here's a list of South Asian tech investment folks who have

donated to candidates in the past (none to MH). See the donation history in the notes column."

Witness: I'd really like to read that. I'm sorry. I'm having trouble following...

Mr. Gast: Lamar, when he shares this list with you says, "Here's a list of South Asian tech investment folks who have donated to candidates in the past (none to MH). See the donation history on the notes column." Did you ask him to look specifically for a list of South Asian tech investment folks who have donated to candidates in the past?

Witness: I don't recall what I specifically asked him to do.

Mr. Gast: Do you know why he would include that language, assuming you had not asked him for that?

Witness: No. I only recall what's written. I mean I don't even recall what's written. I'm reading what's written. I don't have a specific recollection of at the time what I asked for.

Mr. Gast: Just to be clear, you don't recall asking him for donation histories or to specifically focus on folks who had not given to campaign contributions to Representative Honda in the past?

Witness: I don't have a specific ... I don't have a recollection of that, but I'm reading that I did it.

Mr. Gast: Okay. In your response to Lamar, it looks like it's copied to Madalene Mielke, Ruchit, and Meri Maben.

Witness: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Mr. Gast: Why was Madelene included on this email?

Witness: I don't know.

Mr. Gast: Did she have any role in putting together the State Department round table event?

Witness: No, she did not.

Mr. Gast: Then you say there, in the first line, "Great list. How are we doing outreach to them for \$?" What did you mean when you wrote that letter or wrote that line?

Witness: I don't know.

Mr. Gast: Let me ask you, were you looking to use this round table event as a way to raise money for the campaign?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Was this a way to recruit potential new campaign contributors?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Can you think of a reason then why the two emails that we've just looked at reference donation history, and folks who haven't given to MH, and "how are we doing on outreach for \$?"

Witness: What I recall about the event is that we were scrambling to try to find the right people to event, to come, and the right people being people who'd be interested in what I would call a mid-size event and coming to talk about US-India relations. I know that at that point, we were looking for names for prominent people who would want to come, people who care about these issues. That is what I recall about putting this event together. I don't know in looking at these emails what this is about.

Mr. Gast: Was contribution history a factor used in finding the right people to come?

Witness: No, it was ... I think the reason we looked at the list is people who, it was an idea, one of many, of how can we get some people to come to this event and people who participate oftentimes are people who are involved in issues in their community.

Mr. Gast: When you say "people who participate," what do you mean by that? Participate in what?

Witness: We're talking about donors. I mean here, that's the list that he sent. If they participate in campaigns, whether they come volunteer or whether they are donors, whether they are a community leader who regularly comes to City Council meetings. We were looking for people who were opinion leaders, prominent in this area. It was an idea, clearly not a good one, but one of many.

Mr. Gast: Did the campaign at some point after this event reach out to the attendees or suggested invitees to ask for campaign contributions to Representative Honda's campaign?

Witness: I don't know.

Mr. Gast: Were you involved in any discussions about reaching out to the attendees or the invitees for campaign contributions?

Witness: Not to my recollection.

Mr. Gast: Let me ask you if this was a congressional office event, a District office event, why were Gmail email addresses being used? Why did you send this from your Gmail account, rather than your official account?

Witness: I was asking for suggestions from the campaign of people who might be interested. As I said, it was one of many, many avenues. I was looking for names. I asked a campaign person for suggestions, so I used non-official email.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Let me ask you about this document here. For the record, it's THMH-1093. Do you know what this document is?

Witness: I know this document was in a pile of documents that I had at my house that, for the purposes of going through this collection, I found. I have no idea when it's from, where it's from. I know nothing about it, but I produced it.

Mr. Gast: Was this a document that was associated with the State Department round table in any way?

Witness: I don't believe so. Madalene wasn't involved in that event at all. Madalene worked with us for a decade. She wasn't involved in our District events at that point. My recollection is that this is an older document, probably before this campaign.

Mr. Gast: I want to show you this set of emails. This jumps ahead to September of 2014.

Witness: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Mr. Gast: The subject of this first one, it says, "India State Department round table call log report." Does this email, first let's start with this first one, THMH-1778. Does this email have a connection to the State Department round table held back in 2013?

Witness: I'm sorry what's that? Oh, sorry, the dates were confusing. Yes. After these emails about the State Department were leaked to the press, 2

months before the Congressman's election, after that time, this was clearly a political issue that was drawing a lot of attention in our District. I didn't remember all the specifics, as I don't know about the event. I asked our campaign staff, because it was a political issue in the news at the time, to go and research, "By the way, who were these people who showed up" so that we would know in the end who showed up, because I didn't remember. I asked them to look and find out where they ... What was their donation history? Were they supporters of the Congressman? Were they supporters of our opponent? This was all done after-the-fact to deal with the media in the course of the campaign.

Mr. Gast: The call log report, that's listed as an attachment on the first email, it says attachment there. It looks like there's two attachments. One, an Excel spreadsheet. Then two, a call log report.

Witness: I don't remember. I don't remember a call log report. I see it here, but I don't remember.

Mr. Gast: You don't remember what that document was?

Witness: No, I don't remember even seeing the document. I remember seeing the document where they listed things on the side of the attendees list.

Mr. Gast: Was it a call log specific to the attendee list of the State Department round table?

Witness: I don't know specifically. I don't remember a call log report. I remember asking the campaign to look at the attendee list. This was in September-October of 2014, right before the election. This was front and center in the news. I asked them to go look and find out, so I would know, were any of these people ... I didn't even know, were any of them our supporters? Were they supporters of our opponent? I looked at the sheet and saw that most of the people who came supported our opponent. That's what I remember.

Mr. Gast: Let me just ask, have you ever seen a call log report, a fundraising call log report, tied to the list of attendees or invitees to that India State Department round table?

Witness: I am not recalling that. I don't know what that is.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Witness: I remember a chart.

Mr. Gast: Okay. I just want to ask you about the statement that you made to the press where you indicated you fell short of the Congressman's expectations. Do you recall that statement to the press?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Can you just tell us what it is that you believe you fell short of the Congressman's expectations in this instance?

Witness: There was a perception in the public. There was media reports that jumped from perceptions to violation of House rules to illegal and my having written something in an email or done anything that drew that kind of press attention to someone who I love and have worked for, for almost two decades, in my mind was falling short.

Mr. Gast: Are you aware of other instances in which the congressional office has reached out to the campaign for potential invitees to official events?

Witness: I don't recall other instances.

Mr. Gast: Okay. I'm going to ask you about one final area and that's about the use of official staff or official resources for the personal errands, personal business of the Congressman. Have you ever directed any congressional staff to assist the Congressman with any personal business, personal errands?

Witness: I don't believe so, no.

Mr. Gast: Are you aware of any other congressional staff directing other members of the staff or being directed to assist with personal-

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: I imagine that you have seen in some of the press coverage, allegations about staff being directed to set up the Congressman's Netflix and Apple TV. Are you aware of those?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Are you familiar with the circumstances surrounding that?

Witness: I'm familiar from reading the emails when they were released to the press. I'm familiar because Ruchit sent those to our staff, those

complaints, before he threatened to shoot my daughter in the head. That was in, I'm forgetting what year it was.

Mr. Gast: August 2012. Does that sound familiar?

Witness: The email is the complaints I became aware of sometime in December of 2012, when he started circulating whatever he submitted to House Ethics to members of our former staff, asking them to get involved in his ...

Mr. Gast: Did anybody ever complain to you about being asked to assist the Congressman with any personal matters?

Witness: Never. No.

Mr. Gast: Okay. I believe those are all of the questions we have for you.

Exhibit 7

**Interview of Digital Strategy Director
April 21, 2015**

Mr. Gast: For the record, this is Scott Gast with the Office of Congressional Ethics, here with my colleague Kelly Brewington. We're joined by Digital Strategy Director, who has agreed to sit with us for an interview. He is accompanied by his attorney Stan Brand. We've provided Digital Strategy Director with a copy of the Federal False Statement Act. On the advice of his attorney, he declined to sign the 1001 acknowledgement form. We appreciate you sitting down with us and talking with us this morning. We'd like to start with a little background information. Tell us your current employment situation and your responsibilities in that position.

Witness: My title right now is Digital Strategy Director and Legislative Assistant for Congressman Honda. I've been with the office since August 2012. My role as Digital Strategy Director is overseeing our franking program, our website, our social media. As Legislative Assistant, I have a legislative portfolio that includes a number of issues, including housing, LGBT issues and ethics issues, including the political process.

Mr. Gast: You said you were with the office since August of 2012?

Witness: That's correct.

Mr. Gast: Have you been in the same position?

Witness: I've had several different title changes since August 2012.

Mr. Gast: When was your most recent title change?

Witness: In January 2014.

Mr. Gast: What did you do? I assume that you became the Digital Strategies Director and LA at that time.

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: What did you do immediately prior to that?

Witness: It's easier if I just go chronologically if you want to me to just ...

Mr. Gast: Sure, sure.

Witness: In May 2013, I became Legislative Correspondent and Systems Administrator. Before that I was Staff Assistant and Systems Administrator. Let's see, in May of... or January of 2014, I became Legislative Correspondent and Technology Director. Then January 2015, I became the Digital Strategy Director. I think I was still in 2014 a couple of months ago.

Mr. Gast: OK.

Witness: There we go.

Mr. Gast: All right. What did you do prior to working for Representative Honda?

Witness: I've had multiple internships and before that, I worked for the Senate Foreign Relations committee as an administrative specialist. Before that I worked for the US Elections Assistance Commission.

Mr. Gast: Before we go further, a couple of times in documents we've reviewed, we've come across a Google Drive, a Dropbox account, are you familiar with those terms as they relate to Representative Honda's office?

Witness: Yes. I'm familiar with a Dropbox and a Google Drive.

Mr. Gast: Can you tell us what those are?

Witness: What they are as a service or how our office uses them or what?

Mr. Gast: Assume I don't know what they are. Give that background and then how the office uses them.

Witness: A Google Drive is a web based service ... software is a service and so it provides cloud-based storage. Same is true for Dropbox, of course they're provided by different companies. Our office uses Dropbox as a way to share documents with the Congressman and the same for Google Drive.

Mr. Gast: Why the two separate systems?

Witness: Google Drive, the way that I've used Google Drive with the Congressman is to provide specific documents such as passwords or sensitive information to him. Then Dropbox, everyone has access to or staff has access to. It provides a little more tailored access.

Mr. Gast: Let's go through this a little. Starting with the Google Drive, who had access to the Google Drive?

Witness: What user name do you have for the Google Drive account?

Mr. Gast: What user names did you use?

Witness: We've only have one and that's repmikehonda@gmail.com. What people may have used with their personal I don't know.

Mr. Gast: That was the ...

Witness: That was the office one.

Mr. Gast: Did you set that up?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Who had access to this Google Drive?

Witness: Everyone as staff has access to repmikehonda@gmail.com.

Mr. Gast: Every member of the congressional staff?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: District and DC?

Witness: Yes, whether they know it or not.

Mr. Gast: What about campaign staff? Do they have access to the Google Drive?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: How about this Dropbox?

Witness: The user name is also repmikehonda@gmail.com.

Mr. Gast: OK. Who has access to this one?

Witness: Again, all congressional staff.

Mr. Gast: What about campaign?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Were these both official accounts, used for official purposes?

Witness: Yes. I mean we use [REDACTED] as a username and using "rep" connotes it being official.

Mr. Gast: OK. I want to ask you about an email that you sent about this issue. I just have one copy for you to share. Take a look at this before I ask you about it. Are you familiar with this email?

Witness: I am.

Mr. Gast: It appears to start with an August 2nd, 2013 email from you to most of the congressional staff, if not all, about updates to the Google and Dropbox accounts and best practice. Are these the two accounts we just talked about? The Dropbox and Google Drive?

Witness: Yes. That's correct.

Mr. Gast: OK.

Witness: Yes, the Dropbox is now associated with that and the Google Drive, well I mean this looks like it only associates... oh, here we are. Yes, that's correct. There's the Google Drive.

Mr. Gast: OK. You were updating the password and credentials?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: OK. Who did you send this email to?

Witness: The original email was sent to official staff, all congressional staff.

Mr. Gast: At their official email addresses?

Witness: Yeah. Most likely.

Mr. Gast: You say in that paragraph of your email, "I've changed the credentials for MH's Dropbox account to unlink this official email with an unofficial account." What does that mean?

Witness: The way we used Dropbox at the time, which like most of our technology has been from a series of people who have used it and who have managed technology and never put a forward thinking approach, there was no strategic decisions as to how we purchase technology, how we've used it in the past. It was more short term. So the way we used this Dropbox account at the time was assigned to him, with the idea, the

Congressman, that is. But the way we thought about it was that it was a personal file for him. Instead, it would need to become an office account. What we store on the Dropbox, for example, includes notes for the briefings that he goes to, but it also includes op-eds that we've had for years. That's because he uses it as a file system as well.

Mr. Gast: The Congressman uses...? Go ahead.

Witness: Instead of providing him with just a personal file system only, the idea was to make it for everyone, but to use a name they'd remember as well. [REDACTED] is a user name for our Facebook account, our Twitter account. Almost every single account we have is [REDACTED]. This brought it into line. That's why I created this Gmail account. It's why we store everything around this Gmail account typically. It's just easier for staff to remember.

Mr. Gast: Why unlink it from his official email?

Witness: Because people don't remember well ... People don't remember [REDACTED] for one account and then it's [REDACTED] for a different account.

Mr. Gast: What do you mean by unlinking an official email with unofficial account?

Witness: I mean, I can't remember exactly what I was thinking at the time to say those terms.

Mr. Gast: Did you consider the Dropbox to be unofficial account?

Witness: In a certain way it is. We provide files in the sense that it's unofficial. It's not hosted by the House. We used to have it an Evernote account which had very few things on it that were more related to the technology. My predecessor used it. The House decided to block Evernote because it's a file sharing service. At the time, these were the things that I was consumed with in my position because it was looking at what will the House block next? Dropbox has a waiver. Under other circumstances, Dropbox would have been blocked in the past. In a sense, it's not an official House service. And Google, and Gmail is not an official House service as well.

Mr. Gast: OK. I want to jump to the first page. The email on the bottom of the page, also August 2nd, 2013; this is an email from Jennifer Van der Heide, looks like she's responding to your general email to the staff. You went back

and forth once. Then she says, "RB, I don't understand the impact on campaign, campaign files et cetera." First of all, this RB, is that you?

Witness: I don't know what RB refers to.

Mr. Gast: KB would be Katherine Brandt I take it. If you go to the next email, it appears that it's an email among Jennifer, you and Katherine Brandt.

Witness: I don't know what she was referring to with RB.

Mr. Gast: Did you take that as directed to you?

Witness: Most likely. It seems like a typo.

Mr. Gast: What did you understand her to be saying there?

Witness: What happens when I send technology emails to all staff is two things. People don't read them or people don't understand them, and so she responded back, "I don't know what this means." Over the years she just generally learns to not even, she hasn't responded at all to them with that any more. I'm being a little tongue-in-cheek. But she didn't know what this meant clearly at the beginning and then I responded back. "You just have to use the username and password." Then she wanted to just change it and then she says, "I don't understand the impact on the campaign, campaign files, et cetera." I don't know exactly what that's referring to in this case.

Mr. Gast: It looks like you responded shortly after that by saying, "Everything is still available."

Witness: Because I don't know fully what she was managing in addition and what happens with technology and explaining technology to people is sometimes there's a conflation between accounts and services and files on their computer, on their phone, in a web-based service, in a completely different storage account. Some people confuse exactly where those things are being stored and how things may have an impact on other things when they in fact don't.

I don't know what the full concern was and I think going back almost two years and looking at this email, "Everything is still available," seemed like an attempt just to explain everything is fine. You can still access the things which you can access on these accounts. It's just changing the usernames and the passwords.

Mr. Gast: Let me ask you this. Were either the Dropbox or the Google Drive set up by the congressional office used for campaign files or campaign materials?

Witness: I have not used them for that purpose.

Mr. Gast: Were they used by other people for that purpose?

Witness: I don't know fully if other people used them for non-official purposes. I know we've had political documents stored on Dropbox, but to the full extent, whether that was a political purpose or not, I don't know. The overwhelming amount of documents that were stored on Dropbox were for official purposes.

Mr. Gast: When you say political documents, what do you mean by that?

Witness: The only documents I can think of, again because there's so many documents on Dropbox, I know we've had at least one briefer for a campaign event on Dropbox.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall what that campaign event was?

Witness: I don't. I didn't create it.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall and didn't create it?

Witness: I can't remember creating but I just remembered certain documents and that was the one that comes to mind.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall any others?

Witness: No.

Witness: You do recall that there were other political documents other than this briefer on the Google drive. I'm sorry, it was the Dropbox?

Witness: Dropbox.

Mr. Gast: Was the Google Drive also used for campaign materials?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Did you ever see campaign materials on that Google drive?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: I want to ask you about your interactions with Representative Honda's campaigns.

Witness: OK.

Mr. Gast: Did you have any interactions with the campaign?

Witness: I have volunteered for the campaign.

Mr. Gast: What kind of things have you volunteered to do?

Witness: I have volunteered to phone bank, to canvass, and to troubleshoot technology in campaign offices.

Mr. Gast: Did you have a formal role in any time with the campaign?

Witness: From what period?

Mr. Gast: At any time during your association?

Witness: I've been paid by the campaign as an individual consultant.

Mr. Gast: When was that?

Witness: That was in March of 2015.

Mr. Gast: So just recently?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: What were you paid to do? What was the nature of the services you provided?

Witness: That was to provide technology consulting. Basically to give feedback on issues that the campaign has with technology, it was a small amount.

Mr. Gast: How much was that?

Witness: \$750.

Mr. Gast: Was there any specific project you were working on or a distinct set of questions you were answering?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: What was that?

Witness: We were looking at exactly what an app could do for fundraising for the campaign. I gave my feedback on the app.

Mr. Gast: OK. Was this an app that was being developed for the campaign or an app that was off-the-shelf that you were looking at?

Witness: Just a third party app, data.

Mr. Gast: OK. Aside from that March '15 consulting period, were you ever paid by the campaign at any other time?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: But you did do work for the campaign?

Witness: I volunteered for the campaign.

Mr. Gast: You did volunteer for the campaign. What periods would you say that you volunteered?

Witness: I volunteered in May of 2014.

Mr. Gast: What did you do at that time?

Witness: I volunteered for phone banking, canvassing and troubleshooting technology in the campaign office.

Mr. Gast: Also at that time?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Was that an ongoing thing or just this once?

Witness: In that specific case it was just technology as it related to phone banking. Just phones helping people use their phones, making sure things worked; the Wi-Fi had problems.

Mr. Gast: OK. Are there other times where you volunteered for the campaign?

Witness: If there were tasks, they were very short and they were in the evening. Yes, there were other times.

Mr. Gast: How often did you say that you'd do things for the campaign?

Witness: This is infrequent.

Mr. Gast: Infrequent?

Witness: Infrequent.

Mr. Gast: Once a month, twice a month, once every couple of months?

Witness: Twice a month.

Mr. Gast: Twice a month. To your knowledge, did the campaign ever have a tech person on staff?

Witness: No designated full-time tech person.

Mr. Gast: Were you the kind of the go-to guy for tech stuff?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Who would that have been?

Witness: I don't fully know. I think it was a shared duty.

Mr. Gast: Who else would have shared that duty?

Witness: I know people when volunteering, certain people would buy things, I think it was an ad hoc process of who would buy a printer if necessary, you just buy the printer. Like I said I don't think there's any strategic planning with technology.

Mr. Gast: Sure. Who did you interact at the campaign?

Witness: What do you mean by interact? Work?

Mr. Gast: Yeah, emails, conversations, phone, in person. Who did you talk to that was associated with the campaign?

Witness: I have interacted with the campaign manager, communications director, in person, most of the other staff as well.

Mr. Gast: Most of the campaign staff?

Witness: Most.

Mr. Gast: Who was the campaign manager that you're referring to?

Witness: Doug Greven.

Mr. Gast: The communications director?

Witness: Vivek.

Mr. Gast: The other staff?

Witness: The organizers, so Ahmad.

Mr. Gast: Sorry?

Witness: Ahmad Refad.

Mr. Gast: Ahmad, tell me his last name again.

Witness: Refada.

Mr. Gast: R-E-F-A-D?

Witness: I think it's actually Rahad, sorry. R-A-H-A-D. He was the one I worked with primarily in the office I volunteered for.

Mr. Gast: OK. What about Jennifer Van der Heide? Did you interact with her on campaign stuff?

Witness: Yes I did.

Mr. Gast: What about Meri Maben?

Witness: No. If so, it must have been very small.

Mr. Gast: Anyone else employed by the congressional office that you interacted with on campaign matters?

Witness: When I volunteered for the campaign?

Mr. Gast: At any time where you would have any kind of interaction on campaign matters?

Witness: I have volunteered with other staff on the campaign, so yes.

Mr. Gast: Other congressional staff?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Who was that?

Witness: At the time it was Seth Stein and Helen Chung, at the time, now named Helen Boudreaux.

Mr. Gast: Anyone else?

Witness: Those were the congressional staff I volunteered with.

Mr. Gast: When you volunteered to do phone banking, canvassing, and the troubleshooting, where did you do that work?

Witness: That was in the campaign office in Newark.

Mr. Gast: In California?

Witness: In California.

Mr. Gast: What about Seth Stein and Helen Chung, with them also in the Newark?

Witness: They worked in the other offices.

Mr. Gast: What other offices were there?

Witness: There were three offices, so the headquarters, in Cupertino, and Newark.

Mr. Gast: Headquarters were in Cupertino?

Witness: Headquarters was in San Jose.

Mr. Gast: OK. The headquarters, and then Cupertino and Newark? OK. How involved would you say that Representative Honda was in his campaign?

Witness: Very involved.

Mr. Gast: Can you describe his involvement?

Witness: I mean it's pretty hard. He was the candidate, an incumbent. I'd say very involved. Everything you'd expect a candidate and an incumbent in a campaign to do.

Mr. Gast: Did you ever discuss his campaigns with him?

Witness: Only briefly.

Mr. Gast: What did you discuss?

Witness: More of his well being, how he was handling.

Mr. Gast: When you did do the work for the campaign, the phone banking and canvassing... I take it that you work for the congressional office here in DC, is where you're based?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: How were you in California to do that work?

Witness: Why was I in California?

Mr. Gast: Yes. Were you there to specifically work on the campaign?

Witness: No. I was there to work in the district office. I travel to the district office several times a year.

Mr. Gast: While you were out there on a work trip, you volunteered time to work with the campaign?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Did anybody in the congressional office ask you to do work for the campaign?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Anybody direct you to do work for the campaign?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: You volunteered to work?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Who did you go to to express your interest in volunteering for the campaign?

Witness: It was Jennifer.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall the first time you went to Jennifer to express this interest?

Witness: I don't remember the first time, no.

Mr. Gast: Generally when that would have been? Would that have been earlier on at the time you were working in the office?

Witness: I remember expressing the interest in going, in working in the evenings or on the weekends for the campaign. And so I did ask her.

Mr. Gast: What was her reaction?

Witness: I don't remember that.

Mr. Gast: Did she give you work to do or give you ideas, tell you to contact somebody, how did you did ...

Witness: She was going to check with the campaign.

Mr. Gast: When opportunities would come up, would Jennifer be the one that would communicate with you about opportunities to volunteer? Or there were others?

Witness: I don't remember knowing what I was going to do in May for a while. I don't think I knew until I got there. I just knew I'd be volunteering and I don't remember when Newark as the office was assigned to me. It was at one point either I knew before or maybe once I got there.

Mr. Gast: What do you mean Newark was assigned to you?

Witness: As the place I'd essentially go to volunteer, that's what I meant.

Mr. Gast: Who made that assignment?

Witness: I don't know.

Mr. Gast: Who told you that that was going to be your work office?

Witness: I don't remember exactly.

Mr. Gast: Was it Jennifer?

Witness: I don't remember those details. I remember not knowing for a while because in my mind I was wondering if I'd be out in the California sun doing some canvassing or I'd be phone banking and I didn't even know this at the time.

Mr. Gast: Was your travel to the district coordinated with the volunteer work that you had expressed an interest in doing?

Witness: Sorry?

Mr. Gast: You said you travelled to the district several times a year for official work purposes. Were those trips coordinated in such a way that you could time them with volunteer activities on the campaign?

Witness: No. Not to my knowledge. I travelled in 2014 in January of that year if I'm not mistaken, then in May, then also in November of 2014. I volunteered in May.

Mr. Gast: Did you volunteer at the other two times?

Witness: No. I did not volunteer in November.

Mr. Gast: What about in January?

Witness: I did not volunteer ... The only time I spent in the campaign office was in May.

Mr. Gast: Did you ever do any volunteer work for the campaign ...

Witness: I remember if January was the exact date.

Ms. Brewington: This was the office in Newark? I just want to make sure.

Witness: Yeah. But I had travelled multiple times for various issues. Some have been for events that had been planned, press conferences. Multiple trips, so I don't have the exact date.

Mr. Gast: Did you ever do any work for the campaign here at DC?

Witness: Yes. I mean I was paid here so, yes, I was paid for my work.

Mr. Gast: Where did you do that work?

Witness: It was at my home.

Mr. Gast: Any other volunteer work that you did for the campaign here in DC?

Witness: Was given small assignments that were in the evenings, it's hard to remember all the details.

Mr. Gast: When you say small assignments, who would give you those assignments?

Witness: They would typically come from Jennifer.

Mr. Gast: Do you have examples of what those small assignments were?

Witness: I'd look through the website for example, to see what could be improved.

Mr. Gast: That's the campaign website?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Where did you do that work?

Witness: On my computer at home.

Mr. Gast: Did you ever do any work for the campaign at the congressional office?

Witness: No, there was no work for the campaign.

Mr. Gast: Do you know of anyone else who did any work for the campaign in the congressional office?

Witness: I don't know, I haven't worked with anyone on campaign issues in the office. I know one example. My former co-worker Seth Stein had printed out phone banking sheets in the office and so I asked him why he was doing that. It wasn't a very good answer. I told Jennifer and no more phone banking sheets were printed out.

Mr. Gast: Do you know where they printed them off from or where he got them to print off?

Witness: It was from his work computer.

Mr. Gast: Where were the documents?

Witness: I don't know that. I just know I was trying to print something then I saw a bunch of phone banking sheets come out.

Ms. Brewington: When was this?

Witness: The spring of 2014.

Mr. Gast: Are there any other occasions where you saw or you're aware of campaign work being done in the congressional office?

Witness: That was the one I know directly.

Mr. Gast: As the systems administrator in the office, did you ever see campaign documents saved on the congressional servers?

Witness: Our S drives and H drives, there is no very easy way to search them, so no. I don't know.

Mr. Gast: You've never seen campaign materials on those drives or on any congressional server drives?

Witness: No. The way we store them, I mean you had to go through folder to folder and you have to understand what that document was by title. If I did see something, I didn't know it was campaign related.

Mr. Gast: Any campaign folders or campaign area of the server where political documents had been kept?

Witness: On the S drive, no. It's public, it's hard to be accountable to all the files people may have put on or pulled off over the two year period.

Mr. Gast: OK. I want to ask you about a couple of specific instances where you may have helped with the campaign. This email, and for the record, this is THMH1470, if you want to take a minute to look at that.

Witness: OK.

Mr. Gast: Are you familiar with this set of emails?

Witness: Two years ago, yes.

Mr. Gast: It looks like a set of June 2013 emails, asking about certain purchases on a campaign credit card. Did you have access to the campaign credit card?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Why did you have access to the campaign credit card?

Witness: For the Member's... basically if I needed to purchase technology.

Mr. Gast: For the campaign?

Witness: Yes. It would be a non-official device.

Mr. Gast: How many times over the years would you say that you've purchased technology for the campaign?

Witness: Sporadic. It's typically for just the Member himself, so the iPad. That is something I know I've purchased for the campaign.

Mr. Gast: OK. Is that why you were included on this email because you may have used the campaign credit card for a technology purpose?

Witness: Yes, most likely.

Mr. Gast: Then it comes back where you see Daniel Oliver asks you if you know what the PayPal thing is for and you reply that it was his iPad. What was that iPad?

Witness: His iPad? What was his iPad?

Mr. Gast: What is that iPad that's referenced there in your email?

Witness: That is most likely the purchase for the iPad. \$279 was likely the purchase for the iPad.

Stan: For his iPad you say?

Mr. Gast: Yes, for Representative Honda's iPad, for use in his campaign account?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Campaign purposes, excuse me. You use your official email here? Is that right?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Any reason why you use your official email rather than the personal email or campaign email to discuss this?

Witness: I replied probably via my phone.

Mr. Gast: I am sorry?

Witness: I replied by phone most likely.

Mr. Gast: You had access to your congressional email on your phone? Is that it?

Witness: Yes. I access to my Gmail on my phone as well.

Mr. Gast: OK. One phone, two email accounts. Official and personal?

Witness: Yeah. I have one phone with official and my Gmail on there as well.

Mr. Gast: OK. Let me ask you about these documents. This looks like just a couple of Verizon wireless forms, for the record it's THMH-1448, -49, -50 and -51.

Witness: Yes, I'm familiar with these forms, I provided them for the Request for Information.

Mr. Gast: What are these forms?

Witness: These are essentially permissions forms for accessing the Verizon account.

Mr. Gast: What Verizon account is this?

Witness: This was the Verizon account for the campaign.

Mr. Gast: Was this Representative Honda's phone or other phones?

Witness: Yes. This covered several phones for the campaign.

Mr. Gast: Why were you listed as the authorized contact?

Witness: Because I was the authorized contact for the iPad.

Mr. Gast: How was it that you came about to be the authorized contact?

Witness: This is something that I signed and became one... early, probably in September of 2012, maybe August in 2012.

Mr. Gast: How did it come about?

Witness: I don't remember the full circumstances in how I was added the account. I know I spoke with Nadir.

Mr. Gast: Who is Nadir?

Witness: My predecessor.

Mr. Gast: That's Nadir Vissanjy?

Witness: Vissanjy.

Mr. Gast: He was your predecessor as systems administrator at the congressional office?

Witness: That's correct.

Mr. Gast: Did he direct you to serve as the point of contact? Was he the person that you spoke to?

Witness: No. I probably spoke with him about this at one point. It was actually very difficult to make this happen over time and it took months as you can see, it was 2013 again with this document in trying to add me as an administrator to this account. I remember it being very difficult.

Mr. Gast: Did somebody ask you to serve as the point of contact?

Witness: That's the part I don't fully remember. I likely spoke with Nadir about this in 2012. I just don't remember that conversation.

Mr. Gast: You don't recall what was said during the conversation?

Witness: What I do remember is having a very difficult time being added to this account. I can remember the multiple times I tried to get this done over what looks like a four to five month period. That's what I really remember. I remember working with Nadir initially with the office in transitioning, but I don't remember our conversation specifically about this one. I don't know.

Mr. Gast: The address listed, is that your home address?

Witness: That is my home address.

Mr. Gast: The title listed is systems administrator.

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Was that your title in the congressional office?

Witness: That was part of my title in the congressional office. I was the staff assistant/systems administrator.

Mr. Gast: Was this done as part of your duties as systems administrator in the congressional office?

Witness: No. I don't think so.

Mr. Gast: Because I think you said before you didn't have a formal role with the campaign.

Witness: That's correct.

Mr. Gast: I'm just curious when you say systems administrator if that comes from your role at the congressional office.

Witness: That's probably what I wrote for myself, yes, in thinking about myself as a systems administrator but it's something to fill out on the form rather than... I don't feel like I was... I think that was probably a poor choice on my part.

Mr. Gast: Is that your personal cell phone number?

Witness: That is my personal cell phone number.

Mr. Gast: That is [REDACTED].

Witness: That is correct.

Mr. Gast: You had said that that was the email address you used for the congressional office Dropbox and Google Drive?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Was that something that was used by the official office, that Gmail account?

Witness: The Gmail account.

Mr. Gast: OK.

Witness: Is a mix of services that go into that.

Mr. Gast: What do you mean by a mix of services?

Witness: I mean, hard to put, emails are routed to that. It's mainly more for me because that's the email side of it.

Mr. Gast: Would you use that email address for campaign purposes?

Witness: I have not sent an email on the behalf of the campaign from that account. That receives the receipts and the transactions from Verizon though. That is correct.

Mr. Gast: Who has access to that [REDACTED] account?

Witness: By having access to the Google account, everyone would have access to that email account.

Ms. Brewington: Everyone in the congressional office?

Witness: ...office would have access to that.

Mr. Gast: Let me ask you about this email, this series of emails for the record THMH-1441 to 43.

Witness: OK.

Mr. Gast: I want to ask you about this because it appears to be an email that starts with a press release sent out by Ro Khanna, who's challenging Representative Honda in the election. Sent to some of campaign folks and a couple of congressional office folks at their Gmail, eventually ends up being emailed to you and Anthony Kusich. Who is Anthony Kusich, by the way?

Witness: He was the former communications director for the office.

Mr. Gast: For the congressional office?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Do you know why Mr. Werwa sent this email to you and Mr. Kusich in the congressional office?

Witness: I don't remember. Since it says "reform congress" this was likely in relation to my legislative portfolio.

Mr. Gast: Did you have any follow up conversations with Mr. Werwa after getting this email?

Witness: I don't remember a specific conversation about this email but at least as I see it here.

Mr. Gast: Do you remember any general follow up?

Witness: No, I don't. I don't remember a specific conversation but I can see how this relates to me, but I don't remember a specific conversation about this email.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall any conversations about this proposal?

Witness: I remember it talked about reforms but there were a lot of ideas at that time so it's very difficult to remember something related to this specifically. Because we also have legislative items that we've introduced historically that are similar in nature to this as well.

Mr. Gast: Do you remember any conversations about this issue specifically associated with Ro Khanna?

Witness: No, because I don't remember the specific conversations about this email. It's hard to remember what was specific about something else related to this conversation. I don't remember a direct follow up on this.

Mr. Gast: Just to be clear you don't recall any conversations about reform congress proposals in which Mr. Khanna was discussed or Mr. Khanna's proposals were discussed.?

Witness: I don't know what you mean by "reform congress." I mean I see what this says here and I know I had legislative ideas about reform in Congress and still do because it's in my issue area. I know we have bills that we've introduced that are related to reforming Congress or bringing new ideas in or supporting fellows. I don't remember specific conversation about this thing that Eric is referencing or Jennifer is referencing in this about Ro Khanna, if that makes sense.

Mr. Gast: All the things that you went through, proposals to reform congress, any discussion of Ro Khanna as part of those discussions and those ideas, proposals?

Witness: As a congressional staffer, I am aware of the politics in the district. There is an acknowledgment of factors that will be received or won't be received from our official work or introducing a bill. How the community receives it is part of thinking about a reform proposal. There is always talk about, not always, but there are talks, there are considerations of the local political factors at the time of introducing a bill or proposing something especially from someone like me who's not from California.

Mr. Gast: Did you ever suggest to the campaign ideas for campaign events or ...

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: You did?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: What kind of things did you suggest?

Witness: One came to mind right away. I had a fundraising idea and I thought it should be around, essentially it's more of a social media/fundraising idea, carving the best pumpkin and promoting it in October.

Mr. Gast: That would have been October of...?

Witness: 2014.

Mr. Gast: Whom did you speak to about that proposal?

Witness: I think I sent that to Vivek most likely to Jennifer as well.

Mr. Gast: How about invitees for campaign events, did you ever share with campaign the names of folks that you thought would be good invitees for campaign events?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Did you attend any staff retreat while you were with Representative Honda?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: When were those?

Witness: August or September 2012.

Mr. Gast: Where was that?

Witness: That was the first one, I can go through more.

Mr. Gast: Sure, what were the other ones?

Witness: Then one again in 2015 as well.... All-staff one.

Mr. Gast: It was earlier this year?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Where was the one in 2012 held?

Witness: It was in Virginia.

Mr. Gast: Someone's house or...?

Witness: It was a rented cabin.

Mr. Gast: How about the one in 2015?

Witness: That was at Santa Clara University.

Mr. Gast: That's in California?

Witness: Yes. There was a one-day retreat in DC in 2013.

Mr. Gast: Where was that held?

Witness: At a community center ...senior center...?

Mr. Gast: The one in 2012, was that the entire congressional staff, was that just DC staff?

Witness: Just the DC staff.

Mr. Gast: During that retreat, did you discuss Representative Honda's campaigns?

Witness: No, very unlikely.

Mr. Gast: What about the one in 2013?

Witness: It was a one-day retreat. There was not a talk about the operations in the campaign. There was a talk about the local feeling and the changes that were happening in the community.

Mr. Gast: What changes were those?

Witness: I don't remember exactly because again this is beginning of just a lot of things. I'm not familiar with, not being in California, but just changes. I'm trying to remember specifically but it's ... I can't remember specifically what was said but a typical, we always discussed a number of things and demographics of the district and the local, the cities as well. All the cities, number of schools, things like that.

Mr. Gast: Who attended that one-day retreat?

Witness: Virtually all of the DC office, congressional staff.

Mr. Gast: Any district folks?

Witness: No, not that I can remember.

Mr. Gast: How about anybody from the campaign?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Lamar Heystek, did he attend it?

Witness: That I remember, no.

Mr. Gast: I want to ask you about a State Department round table event that took place in February of 2013. Are you familiar with that event?

Witness: I'm familiar generally with it but I didn't really have anything to do with it.

Mr. Gast: Were you involved in the planning or execution of the event in any way?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: What is your familiarity with the event?

Witness: Only as it relates to why we are here today, that's about it.

Mr. Gast: OK. Aside from anything you learned from the press or since

Witness: I didn't really know about it. District events are handled mainly by the district staff unless it's in my legislative area. Those are the ones that I'm involved in planning. Otherwise I really didn't know about it. When I took over social media, then I would start to learn more about events before.

Mr. Gast: The State Department event, did that happen prior to when you took over social media?

Witness: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Mr. Gast: Do you recall any discussion about using that event to raise money for the campaign?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Were you involved in preparing a response to media inquiries about that?

Witness: No. I don't think I was directly involved, no.

Mr. Gast: Were you indirectly involved?

Witness: No, I don't think so. This is for the media inquiries in 2013, right?

Mr. Gast: 2014.

Ms. Brewington: 2014.

Witness: For when the event was held, is that right?

Mr. Gast: In the more recent coverage about the event.

Witness: That, I mean I have talked with the communications director about that, but at the end of the day I don't feel like I was directly involved, it was more indirectly.

Mr. Gast: What did you talk with the communications director about? What was the substance, the thrust of your conversation?

Witness: Again I don't think I really have, there were times where I'd give my input on what should be said or maybe even take a look at a draft, what may be said. Typically that's the communication director on everything. I think I remember discussing it because it was obviously high profile. It was just more, what are we going to say and I don't even remember what that was at the time. That's just me being nosy.

Mr. Gast: I want to ask you about personal errands or personal business for Representative Honda. Were you ever directed by anybody on the congressional staff to perform personal assistance or help with personal business for Representative Honda?

Witness: Personal errands, no. I was not directed to.

Mr. Gast: Were you ever asked to help with personal?

Witness: I was not asked to help with personal.

Mr. Gast: Have you ever helped with personal?

Witness: Yes, I have.

Mr. Gast: How did that come about?

Witness: Typically if I'm, I know I've helped reorganize things in certain parts of his house if it relates to technology just to make things simpler for me the next time I go in and use some of the technology, reconfigure something. In that case, yes I would consider what I did personal, but it wasn't even asked and the Congressman wasn't even there.

Mr. Gast: When you said you helped to reorganize things in his house, you mean Representative Honda's house?

Witness: Yes. Both houses.

Mr. Gast: In DC and in...

Witness: California.

Mr. Gast: California. How did it come about that you were there organizing things?

Witness: I've been to his house multiple times, both of them. If there's a problem with connectivity, such as slow internet which was an issue at one point, I have installed the extenders for the Wi-Fi, I've replaced the printers, I've replaced the computers and his fax machine as well.

Mr. Gast: Were these all Representative Honda's personal items?

Witness: I think they were all paid for by... So the printers and the fax machine I think were official. The computers were non-official purchases. He did have an official computer in his California home at one point.

Mr. Gast: Did he also have a non-official one?

Witness: Yes, he has a laptop that's non-official.

Mr. Gast: OK.

Ms. Brewington: In California? What about in Washington?

Witness: Just one iPad and one notebook or laptop.

Mr. Gast: Just to be clear, two computers in the California home, one official, one laptop/unofficial ...

Witness: At one point. A lot of things have changed over time. He did have an official desktop computer. He actually has a multiple official desktop computers in his California home at one point.

Mr. Gast: Did he ever have official computers in his DC home?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Did he ever have any official computer equipment, printers, faxes...?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: ...in his DC home? OK. You said you were never asked to help with this stuff. How did it come about that you ...?

Witness: With the personal errands, is that what you're talking about?

Mr. Gast: Yes.

Witness: Well that's what I've ... I mean the way things are stored in his homes, if it's on a desk and there's a bunch of stuff on the desk, I need to move the stuff on the desk and I reorganized it in that process.

Mr. Gast: I guess my question is what brought you into his house in the first place?

Witness: It was the internet connectivity problems, buying a new computer, extending the internet, troubleshooting the internet problems because he didn't have wireless extenders for a while.

Mr. Gast: This was for personal?

Witness: These were official extenders.

Mr. Gast: These were all official?

Witness: Official devices, the extenders are.

Mr. Gast: Did you ever go to Representative Honda's house either here in DC or in California to address an issue with his personal technology?

Witness: No. Not personal technology.

Mr. Gast: You would go to address some issue with official technology?

Witness: Yes, if there was trouble with his iPad, I would look at that. In a sense, yes non-official devices that had trouble, I would look at it.

Mr. Gast: Who would ask you to do that? Would that be brought to your attention by Representative Honda?

Witness: If it's his personal devices typically, he would let me know that there is a problem.

Mr. Gast: Anybody else ever communicate that to you?

Witness: Actually it could be Daniel in the office who's, in a sense, the scheduler – part executive assistant on a level as well.

Mr. Gast: About how many occasions would you estimate that you've assisted Representative Honda with his personal technology?

Witness: Hundreds.

Ms. Brewington: How often would it happen generally?

Witness: It's been more in the past because it's just been more changes in technology in the past. We have more stable systems now. It was much more common to have issues with the iPhone or iPad at one point.

Ms. Brewington: At that time how frequent do you think --

Witness: Multiple times per week sometimes.

Ms. Brewington: OK, thanks.

Mr. Gast: Can you give us a sense of what the things were that you helped him with?

Witness: From general hardware use and operating the phone itself to accessing content on apps. That means both hardware and software.

Mr. Gast: Was it part of your duties as systems administrator in the congressional office to help them with his personal technology?

Witness: I wouldn't say it that way because it's not really his personal technology. There's a connection to house emails on this devices. If the internet goes out on his phone, then he can't have access to his official email, then I'm called in to help.

Mr. Gast: What about purely personal requests for help?

Witness: He has asked me before.

Mr. Gast: About how many purely personal times have you helped?

Witness: I think it's very infrequent, and it's usually very minor.

Mr. Gast: I just want to ask you about this email. And you can take a minute just to look through that. I want to ask you about the two emails starting on the second and third pages. I think the first page is just repeat.

Witness: OK.

Mr. Gast: Are you familiar with these emails?

Witness: Yes, I'm familiar with these emails.

Mr. Gast: Can you tell us the circumstances around these emails?

Witness: This is likely what Nadir sent because the Congressman's Netflix account was not working for some reason.

Mr. Gast: Why did he send that to you and to Nadir ... I'm sorry you, Nadir and Ruchit, why did Nadir send that to you and Ruchit Agrawal?

Witness: I mean this was the first day I was in the office I think. I began the 8th or the 9th of August so I don't know exactly why. I remember seeing it. At the time it was likely because something again was not working with his Netflix account.

Mr. Gast: Did you have subsequent conversations with either Nadir or Ruchit after getting this email?

Witness: I spoke with Nadir after this at one point, I don't know if it was after this, but at one point when I began and he did ask me to set up the Congressman's Apple TV in his DC home. And so I set up his Apple TV at night and I remember that actually in detail.

Mr. Gast: Did you discuss the personal nature of the request?

Witness: I don't think I discussed that with him, no.

Mr. Gast: You see his line there at the top of the page, “yes that’s a request boarding personal, but such as life.”

Witness: I remember that.

Mr. Gast: Did you discuss that at all?

Witness: No, I didn’t discuss it with him. In my mind I knew, and so when I set it up, I went after work.

Mr. Gast: What about in the California home, is there a similar issue in his California home?

Witness: What do you mean?

Mr. Gast: With his Netflix and Apple TV that needed to be set up there?

Witness: Yes, he uses Netflix in both his homes.

Mr. Gast: Were you involved in setting up the Apple TV and Netflix in California?

Witness: Not initially but there have been difficulties connecting to the Internet and all sorts of issues set up across devices. I know I've worked on his Apple TV in his California home as well.

Mr. Gast: Did you ever have the sense that you were doing too much personal assistance for Representative Honda?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Did you ever get a sense that you were being asked to do things that weren’t part of your job description?

Witness: No, I didn’t feel like I was being asked to do beyond what my job expected me to.

Ms. Brewington: You said this email came shortly after you started working there. How did you react to it when you saw it, the requests such as this? What's your reaction?

Witness: I do remember thinking at the time that the Apple TV was a personal request, so I did go after hours to set it up. Having said that, after almost three years managing technology for 20 plus people sometimes, there’s a lot of...there are many purposes to all the devices and we had gone from

90% Windows to 100% Apple. The way these devices work best is when they all have the same hardware. The Apple TV actually has a lot of purposes as well for official use that I didn't see at the time, such as screen sharing because the Congressman doesn't like to look at small screens. You can put that on the screen, you can access documents and photos, it does a lot as well to make all the technology work. These wire technology problems have gone down long since we have all the same devices now.

Initially, yes, it did seem like a personal request, but in the long run I saw how the system we have, kind of this ecosystem of sorts, really works together when you can connect all your devices.

Mr. Gast: Are you aware of other instances in which congressional staff members were asked to do personal errands for the Congressman?

Witness: Not really, when I get involved in the technologies of it, so I may have known about it but I didn't know that was a personal errand if it did exist.

Mr. Gast: I believe those are all the questions that we have for you.

Exhibit 8

**Interview of Former Fundraising Consultant
April 20, 2015**

Mr. Gast: This is Scott Gast with the Office of Congressional Ethics. It is April 20, 2015, here with my colleague Bryson Morgan, also from the office, and Annie Cho, interviewing Former Fundraising Consultant. Did I say that correctly?

Witness: It's close enough.

Mr. Gast: Okay. We provided Former Fundraising Consultant with a copy of the Federal False Statements Act and she has signed the acknowledgement form. We usually like to start it with a bit of background, if you could tell us your current employment situation and how long have you been doing what you're doing.

Witness: I am a political consultant specializing in fundraising and training. I've had my firm for 13 years. I've always basically worked in Democratic politics.

Mr. Gast: Are you the sole person associated with the firm or do you have other partners or employees?

Witness: I am the only person.

Mr. Gast: Have you had other employees or partners in the past 13 years or has it been always-

Witness: I've had subcontractors. I've had another firm where I've had a business partner.

Mr. Gast: Can you just tell us generally your duties, your responsibilities in that position?

Witness: I raise national fundraising as well as DC PAC-related fundraising.

Mr. Gast: Can you give us a sense of who your clients are, what kinds of entities your clients are?

Witness: Mainly incumbent Members of Congress.

Mr. Gast: Do you work for their campaign committees or their PACs or Super PACs?

Witness: Both.

Mr. Gast: Both?

Witness: Leadership PACs and re-elects.

Mr. Gast: Is representative Mike Honda a current client?

Witness: He is not.

Mr. Gast: Has he been a client in the past?

Witness: He has.

Mr. Gast: When was he a client?

Witness: 2004 to the end of 2014.

Mr. Gast: How did it come about that he became a client?

Witness: He was looking for a new fundraiser in 2004 and we went through the process of an interview and such to begin the contract. I was never officially an employee. I've always been a contractor.

Mr. Gast: Always a contractor to his campaign?

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: Does he have a Leadership PAC?

Witness: He does.

Mr. Gast: What's the name of his Leadership PAC?

Witness: New Vision America.

Mr. Morgan: Did you say New Vision?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Morgan: Okay.

Mr. Gast: When was the New Vision America established?

Witness: Maybe in 2000. I don't recall when.

Mr. Gast: You think somewhere in the 2000 timeframe?

Witness: Somewhere around that.

Mr. Gast: Okay, so this predated your affiliation?

Witness: I believe. I don't recall actually, I don't.

Mr. Gast: Were you involved in setting up New Vision America?

Witness: I don't remember.

Mr. Gast: At the time you entered into a relationship in 2004, was that a relationship with both the campaign and the Leadership PAC, or one entity?

Witness: Re-elect.

Mr. Gast: Just the re-elect? Was that the same throughout the course of the relationship? Did you ever worked for Leadership PAC?

Witness: Later. I don't remember when.

Mr. Gast: At the end of 2014 when the relationship ended, were you working for both?

Witness: Correct, yes.

Mr. Gast: What were the circumstances of the end of the relationship?

Witness: I felt that it was time to, after 10 years, to move on to other projects.

Mr. Gast: Was it an amicable departure?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: What type of services did you provide to Representative Honda's campaign and PAC?

Witness: We started with in-district as well as national and PAC fundraising, and then, for the 2014 cycle, the scope of work only involved DC-related fundraising.

Mr. Morgan: Why was that? Why was 2014 limited to DC fundraising?

Witness: He had taken on other consultants and other staff, so we shared the responsibilities instead of having the scope of work all start with me. Other people took other pieces.

Mr. Gast: Let's talk about that a little. In the 2012 cycle, where there any other consultants involved in fundraising?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: What about staff? Did he have any staff?

Witness: He had a political person.

Mr. Gast: Who was that?

Witness: Lamar Heystek.

Mr. Gast: Did you work with Lamar on fundraising activities?

Witness: He would staff events since I didn't necessarily always go out to California. Since he was on the campaign staff, he could execute events.

Mr. Gast: In 2014, you said additional contractors were brought on?

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: Who were those additional contractors?

Witness: He had a California consultant firm and he had an in-house finance director.

Mr. Gast: Who was that California firm?

Witness: Brittany Kneebone, and Shari ... I don't remember her last name.

Mr. Gast: Was is Rubin-Rick?

Witness: Yes, so Britney Kneebone Feitelberg.

Mr. Gast: You recall what the name of their firm was?

Witness: It no longer exists. They decided to also get out of politics after that cycle. Integrated Fundraising, I believe.

Mr. Gast: Who was the in-house person?

Witness: Sudip Dutta.

Mr. Gast: D-H-U-T-T-A?

Witness: D-U-T-T-A, last name.

Mr. Gast: What was his position?

Witness: Finance director.

Mr. Gast: Were there other staff members dealing with finance during the 2014 cycle?

Witness: No.

Mr. Morgan: Are you currently working as a fundraising consultant for any re-elects? Are you still continuing that work?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Morgan: Is Ro Khanna a current client of yours?

Witness: No.

Mr. Morgan: Is there anybody else or any of your current clients, individuals or campaigns, that may challenge Representative Honda in the next congressional election?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Going back to the 2012 campaign, you said it was you and Lamar who worked on finance issues. Is that correct?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: With whom else did you work or interact with as part of the Honda operation during that cycle?

Witness: Jennifer Van der Heide, as his chief of staff.

Mr. Gast: Anyone else?

Witness: Meri Maben as the district director.

Mr. Gast: Any other folks?

Witness: Not that I recall.

Mr. Gast: How would you describe his 2012 campaign? I guess that one question to ask is, do you recall how much Representative Honda raised during that cycle?

Witness: We've always generally raised a million dollars. That's been pretty consistent throughout his tenure as a Member.

Mr. Gast: That's per cycle?

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall his opponent in that congressional race?

Witness: I don't.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall, was it pretty stiff competition or-

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: How about the 2014 campaign? Besides you and the Integrated Fundraising folks, and Sudip, who else in that Honda operation did you have an opportunity to interact with?

Witness: Other than Jennifer and Meri, that's about it.

Mr. Gast: How about the campaign manager, Doug Greven? Did you kind of-

Witness: Yes, Doug.

Mr. Gast: Lamar Heystek, was he involved in the 2014 campaign?

Witness: A bit, but he then left.

Mr. Gast: Alma Castillo?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Who is she?

Witness: She does the compliance.

Mr. Gast: Was she around for both the 2012 and 2014 cycle?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: What about I believe a gentleman by the name of Mehran Khodabandeh?

Witness: Yes, he's Sudip's deputy.

Mr. Gast: So, deputy finance director?

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: How about Kevin Nguyen?

Witness: I don't know that name.

Mr. Gast: It doesn't sound familiar?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Gil Thompson?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: They may have been finance assistants?

Witness: Maybe.

Mr. Gast: Elizabeth Fehr. F-E-H-R?

Witness: She might have sent out clips. I never interacted. I might have got an email from her, but I don't recall her.

Mr. Gast: How about Fiona Zhu?

Witness: Yes. She subcontracted with me.

Mr. Gast: What was her role?

Witness: She was, basically sent out every day the money-in totals, and things like that so that we would know where we are in the finance reports.

Mr. Gast: Who would that go out to?

Witness: It would go to Doug, Sudip, the California finance team. I think also all the consultants on the Honda campaign, whether they did media or research, whatever. It was a pretty substantial list of people.

Mr. Gast: Would Representative Honda have been on that list?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: How about Jennifer Van der Heide?

Witness: Jennifer? Yes.

Mr. Gast: Meri Maben?

Witness: I believe so.

Mr. Gast: How about Representative Honda? How involved was he in managing his campaigns from your perspective?

Witness: We would give him updates, quarterly updates, especially as we were getting into the end of the quarter, try to motivate him to meet the fundraising goals that were set. He always had input for what we were doing events. But a lot of times, everything was basically already structured out and then he was given an FYI. If he had any changes, he could make changes as we were going through briefing or something of that nature.

Mr. Gast: I want to ask you about your interactions with Representative Honda's congressional office. How would you describe the relationship between what you did with the campaign and the congressional office?

Witness: I talked to the scheduler mainly to book events and to see when call time would be scheduled, but I spoke to Eric, the legislative director, when he became deputy chief of staff and Jennifer was, if she was in the district, and Eric was serving in her capacity so that he would he know when we had events coming up, but other than that, I never really spoke to any of them in an official capacity.

Mr. Gast: Just going back, who was the scheduler at that time that you spoke with?

Witness: Daniel Oliver, and then he went on paternity leave, and it was Katherine Brandt.

Mr. Gast: You said you spoke to Eric when he became deputy chief of staff?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Did you speak to him when he was legislative director or just-?

Witness: We would both every once and a while catch up to see what issues were going on, but never on a regular basis or anything like that.

Mr. Gast: I think you said you talked to him when Jennifer was in the district?

Witness: Yeah. If we had events and Jennifer was in the California district office at that time, and there wasn't anyone from the staff going to anything, so then he might show up, so I would send him my briefing notes of who would be attending an event, that sort of thing.

Mr. Gast: Those were for fundraising events held here in Washington?

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: You said you spoke to him every once in a while about what issues were going on? Can you speak a little bit more about that?

Witness: So that I would have a better sense on where the Member was in terms of the work that he was doing, votes that he would be doing, so that when I went to talk to PACs I wouldn't be embarrassing myself by not knowing that he wasn't voting on something or he wasn't supporting something. I try to avoid those people so that I wouldn't be calling them.

Mr. Gast: Besides Eric, did you talk to anybody else in the Washington office about those kind of issue questions?

Witness: No, not really.

Mr. Gast: How often would you talk to Eric about those things?

Witness: Sporadically.

Mr. Gast: Sporadically?

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Gast: Did you speak with Jennifer on regular basis?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: How often would you say you spoke with Jennifer?

Witness: Not very often. We once a year had a sit-down with the Member to go through the finance plan and a recap of how we did. That was the one meeting I can count on every year, but throughout the year, it was never a regular scheduled time for us to have any weekly updates or monthly updates. I sent monthly to quarterly updates to her throughout the period of time, but we never sat down and went through anything together.

Mr. Gast: She would attend that meeting that you would have, that once a year meeting to go through the finance plan with Representative Honda?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Would it be the three of you?

Witness: Yes, and Meri on the phone.

Mr. Gast: And Meri on the phone?

How about Meri Maben? How often would you interact with her?

Witness: Not very often either because I only went out to California at least once or twice a year, so I never really saw her or communicated with her very much.

Mr. Gast: Phone calls or emails?

Witness: Phone calls and emails just to basically check in. If there was a person who was interested in participating, I would want to check in with her to make sure that the person was not politically ... I didn't know the politics over there, so I didn't want to just incorporate someone into a fundraising or a fundraiser if I didn't know if there was some sort of issue that that person had that that office had problems with or something. I would check in with her to see if there was any issues before I moved forward.

Mr. Gast: Did the congressional office ever provide you with information for you to use, like issue papers or statements, or things like that?

Witness: No. The campaign would send over information. We would just go through the communications person.

Mr. Gast: Who was that?

Witness: Vivek Kumbhakar.

Mr. Gast: V-I-V-E-K?

Witness: V-I-V-E-K.

Mr. Gast: Okay, a long last name.

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Gast: What about, did you ever get from the congressional office the names of potential contributors?

Witness: Not really because I've never ... We would get lists of people who visited the office, but not ... I mean, because I'm on his schedule on a congressional, like a Gmail, schedule, but oftentimes, I wouldn't get that just because I never ... My being on the schedule is just so that I can see when I would have call time. The other parts of, I never knew if he actually ever made it to see the people who were on his schedule because he's always running late.

Mr. Gast: You had access to his schedule and you said that was through a Gmail account?

Witness: Yeah, so we just had a Gmail account during the congressional campaign, during the 2014 cycle, so that I can check to see when he was supposed to be, when I could send him to his next event or whatever like that.

Mr. Gast: Do you know who maintained that schedule?

Witness: I don't.

Mr. Gast: Did you ever give the congressional office any information that you thought they could use? Maybe use for events, use for outreach?

Witness: I would always talk about, we would do industry-related events, but that was it.

Mr. Gast: What do you mean by industry-related events?

Witness: We do events according... Most people like to talk about their industry, so you would have labor-related, tech-related, environment.

Mr. Gast: What kind of event?

Witness: Just a fundraiser.

Mr. Gast: A fundraising event?

Witness: Right.

Mr. Gast: What kind of information would you share with the congressional office about those events?

Witness: They would see who is coming because I would do the outreach to the PACs.

Mr. Gast: You would let the congressional office know who RSVPed to attend the fundraising events?

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: Did you ever attend any staff retreats with the congressional office?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Did you ever get any training about interacting with congressional staff or did anyone ever give you any policies that the congressional office had about congressional staff doing campaign work?

Witness: Not through the Honda office. The DCCC offers ethics classes.

Mr. Gast: Did you take any of those classes?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Morgan: Do you recall who was instructing, who was teaching the classes?

Witness: Perkins Coie does the training, but I don't know. It was probably Marc Elias or someone else from the FEC Team.

Mr. Gast: I want to talk to you about a few examples of documents and this one first. This is, for the record, THMH 1170. I want to ask you about the first email at the bottom half of the page, which appears to be an email from Jennifer Van der Heide's Gmail account to Shari Rubin-Rick, you, and Brittany Kneebone Feitelberg, copied to Lamar Heystek. Do you recall this email?

Witness: I do not.

Mr. Gast: It says, in the subject, it looks like she's forwarding some documents. She says "Do not forward this email: Accomplishments and agenda documents." Do you know what documents she is referring to you there?

Witness: I don't.

Mr. Gast: Was there an accomplishments document maintained by somebody about all of the things that representative Honda had accomplished?

Witness: There might have been.

Mr. Gast: Do you ever recall seeing that document?

Witness: I might have seen it. I don't recall.

Mr. Gast: Do you know who would have prepared that document?

Witness: I don't.

Mr. Gast: Were you aware of a Google Drive or a Dropbox program where documents were kept and shared?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: What was that?

Witness: It was basically for the campaign team to access information if people were asking about issue papers or white papers about the work that the Congressman's done.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall if it was a Google Drive or it was a Dropbox folder?

Witness: I think it's Google.

Mr. Gast: You think it's Google. Do you know who maintained or who was in charge of that Google Drive?

Witness: I don't.

Mr. Gast: Do you know who have access to it?

Witness: I don't.

Mr. Gast: You said it was a place where you could go access issue papers, white papers about issues that people were asking about. Do you know who created those issue papers and white papers?

Witness: I don't.

Mr. Gast: Did you ever have any questions about any of the materials in that Google Drive?

Witness: If I did I would go to Doug or the communications team, to Vivek.

Mr. Gast: Before getting to that next document, I wanted to ask you, have you ever come across stakeholder lists?

Witness: I don't recall.

Mr. Gast: Is that a term that sounds familiar, stakeholders?

Witness: Stakeholders in general in most campaigns, yes. I don't recall specifically for the Honda campaign.

Mr. Gast: Would that have been something that it [inaudible 00:24:56] on this Google Drive?

Witness: I don't recall.

Mr. Gast: I'm going to ask you about this. This is for the record THMH 1154 through 1157. Starting at the end and working forward. This appears to have started with a request that Representative Honda attend an event for the American Psychological association.

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall this event and these emails?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: What was the event that's discussed?

Witness: The American Psychological Association had a conference in DC, and then afterwards, they held a fundraiser for him.

Mr. Gast: Was this an official event or a campaign event?

Witness: The fundraiser was in a campaign event.

Mr. Gast: What about the conference beforehand?

Witness: That wouldn't have been an official event.

Mr. Gast: Do you know if Representative Honda spoke at the conference?

Witness: He did.

Mr. Gast: Then, did he attend the fundraiser afterwards? Did that actually go through?

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: If you look on Page 1156, a third of the way down, there's an email from you on July 17th at 2:53 pm: "We worked out the timeline for MHS' participation at

their conference. They requested a list of MHS' accomplishments from mental health. Can you let me know if we can provide to them?" Do you recall that email?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall who you sent that to?

Witness: To Jennifer.

Mr. Gast: Jennifer? She replies, "We will work on something. Let me know who needs to be sent to and by when." It appears that she copies Eric Werwa, and he is the one who you discussed being deputy chief of staff. Is that correct?

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: Do you know what this list of accomplishments was to be used for?

Witness: I don't. Brent, who's the lobbyist, was the one who had requested it.

Mr. Gast: Did you eventually get such a list of accomplishments?

Witness: I don't recall if they sent it to me or if I sent it to Brent directly, so I don't recall if I actually have received it.

Mr. Gast: Would this kind of request be a common thing where you would reach out to the congressional office for background information or accomplishment list?

Witness: Yes, because I don't know exactly what he's done, so I wouldn't be clear to be able to answer that question.

Mr. Gast: Who would you generally reach out to in like-

Witness: Jennifer.

Mr. Gast: Jennifer? Then, once you reach out to Jennifer, how did you generally get the information back to you?

Witness: She would usually just email it to me or she would send it directly to the person who is asking for it.

Mr. Gast: This you understood to be prepared by the congressional staff?

Witness: I don't know who she assigns or who prepares them. I just send it to her.

Mr. Gast: You would go to her, send a request to her, and then you would get the work product back?

Witness: Right.

Mr. Gast: From her or-

Witness: Generally, because I never really knew who handled anything in the office, so I just, in all issues, I always communicated with Jennifer.

Mr. Gast: I'll show you this next document which kind of touches on what we talked on before. I apologize for the really tiny writing on this one. For the record, this is not Bates labeled, but it's an email, starts with an email from Jennifer Van der Heide, to her attorney, at the top, dated March 9, 2015.

Witness: Where am I starting now?

Mr. Gast: If you just want to take a minute to look through from bottom up. I want to ask you about the last email from Meri Maben to you, Shari, and Jennifer.

Witness: Okay.

Mr. Gast: It looks like Meri Maben, on May 17, 2013, emailed you and Shari, at Integrated Fundraising, and also Jennifer Van der Heide on her Gmail account with the subject "McEnergy" – it says "I know we've tried with him before, to no avail, but once again, we responded to Tom's request. Please ask Tom to come to birthday event and bring sharks people. Women below appears to be one of the owners." Do you recall this email and the chain leading up to it?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Do you know who Tom McEnergy is?

Witness: No. I'd have to go look in a database for people to be sure that I would know who they are, so no.

Mr. Gast: Based on looking through this email, does that help refresh your recollection at all about who Tom is?

Witness: Possibly related to the Sharks hockey team.

Mr. Gast: What did you take Meri to mean when she said, "I know we've tried with them before, to no avail"?

Witness: We have always asked the Leadership to ... of all the sports arenas to participate in the in-district fundraising.

Mr. Gast: Was she asking then, you have tried to raise money from the Shark's leadership, but have not been successful in the past?

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: When is that birthday event that she refers to?

Witness: The Congressman has an annual birthday fundraiser. He used to have an annual birthday fundraiser.

Mr. Gast: It appears, and tell me if I'm reading this wrong, that this is Meri referring to you a possible perspective donor to the campaign, someone who they've just assisted on a case-work matter.

Witness: I have not seen any of these other emails. So this is the first time I've seen everything else to my knowledge. So I don't remember this email chain at all, but, I mean, it looks like it. At this time I wasn't doing the in-district fundraising either, because it was Shari and Brittany.

Mr. Gast: Did you have any conversation subsequent to receiving this email with Shari, with Meri?

Witness: I mean, in terms of historical background, we've always reached out to the Sharks and we've never been successful. We've had conversations with them about supporting the Congressman but they've never given.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall if there was another effort to reach out to them after you received this email?

Witness: I don't know.

Mr. Gast: In the May 2013 timeframe?

Witness: I don't know because at that point I wasn't doing the in-district, so I don't know who Shari or Brittany might have reached out to after the fact.

Mr. Gast: Was this a regular occurrence where you would get names like this from congressional staff, potential contributors to the campaign?

Witness: Sometimes. Meri was very active in local politics so she would be at maybe Zoe Lofgren's events and say, "Oh, so and so came to this event. You might want to

check." Zoe Lofgren has an annual fundraising picnic. She would often make suggestions.

Mr. Gast: Do you know whether her suggestions were sometimes generated by work that was done on individuals' behalf through the congressional office like this?

Witness: I don't know. I'd have to see an email to jog my memory.

Mr. Gast: I want to ask you now about a South Asian State Department Round Table event. Does that sound familiar?

Witness: Only because I saw it in the paper.

Mr. Gast: In the paper. What do you recall about that event?

Witness: I actually don't. When I saw it in the paper, I had to go back and look through emails and I realized that I didn't respond to any of the emails that were there. I don't even know what event they were talking about specifically.

Mr. Gast: Were you involved in helping them plan the event or organize it?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Let me show you a couple of emails relating to this event, starting off with this one, which is RA 22. This appears to be an email from Jennifer Van der Heide's Gmail account to the Gmail account of gentleman named Ruchit Agarwal with a copy to Meri Maben's Gmail account and to you, to your email. It looks like it's a Google Drive, sharing a document, it says "I've shared an item with you," the item being "Suggested South Asian (and non South Asian) invitees for state department round table." Do you recall getting this email?

Witness: I don't.

Mr. Gast: Do you have any idea why Jennifer would share this document with you?

Witness: I don't.

Mr. Gast: Did you do anything subsequent to receiving this email?

Witness: I don't recall.

Mr. Gast: Did you take any action with respect to the document?

Witness: I might have opened it, but I don't even remember anything that, I don't know. I wouldn't remember. I don't remember how many names are on that. I don't remember what it looks like, the formatting of it, so no, I don't.

Mr. Gast: Did you have a conversation about the list with anybody on this email?

Witness: No. I don't even know who Ruchit is.

Mr. Gast: No conversation with Jennifer? What about Meri?

Witness: Uh-uh [Negative].

Mr. Gast: I'll show you this email now. This is a longer, jumbled up string, but I want to focus on that first page. Take a minute to look through there.

Witness: Okay.

Mr. Gast: This starts out when I look at the February 8, 2013 email from Lamar Heystek. It looks like another Google Drive share where it looks like he sent it to Jennifer Van der Heide. It says, "Hello, Jennifer. Here is a list of South Asian tech/investment folks who've donated to candidates in the past (none to MH). See the donation history in the notes column." It goes on from there.

Then, it appears that Jennifer response to Lamar's email the next day, adds you and Ruchit Agrawal, and Meri Maben copied. You can see there at the top, she says, "Great lists. How are we doing outreach to them for \$? Can we at least collect emails and send newsletters or something if we can't do straight asks electronically now. Also do you have the list of South Asians that are endorsing/supporting MH? I just want to make sure we are including all of them. Invites going out first thing Monday morning." Do you recall these emails?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall any conversation with Jennifer or Meri or Lamar -- you said you don't know Ruchit -- about these emails?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: What did you take it to mean when Jennifer says, "Great lists. How are we doing outreach to them for \$?"

Witness: I don't know. I thought this was a project that Lamar was working on, so I didn't do any action to it.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall doing any fundraising off of a list associated with this South Asian State Department round table?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Using this suggested invitees-

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: What about when Lamar notes in his email sharing the document that there's a donation history in the notes column. These are folks who have donated candidates in the past and MH. What did you take that to mean?

Witness: That he was just doing donor research.

Mr. Gast: Can you think of a reason why Jennifer would include you on this list, would share this list with you?

Witness: I don't.

Mr. Gast: Did you do anything for the campaign or for the congressional office other than the fundraising aspect?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: What about aside from these emails or this list, did you have any conversation to Jennifer or Meri or anyone else about trying to raise money from people who went to an official event involving the state department?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Let me show you this. This is for the record THMH 1093 and following, and it looks like a chart and it has a handwritten note at the bottom: "From Madelene, to JVH, re: Indo-contribution, arrow targets. Folks who have contributed to MH." Are you familiar with this document?

Witness: I'm not.

Mr. Gast: Is that your handwriting at the bottom?

Witness: It isn't.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall having sent any document like this to Jennifer Van der Heide.

Witness: I don't, but we do a lot of donor research, so what we do is we look at who has been giving to like minded candidates in campaigns. If we have constituency fund raising, we look through within our own database to make sure that there are bios for everyone as well as their donor history from other candidates and campaigns so I would ... If this is a ... we don't do things normally in Excel to send out because it's just too big. We usually do everything from call sheets. I don't recall doing this myself, so no, I don't actually remember this list.

Mr. Morgan: Did you create call sheets for Representative Honda?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Morgan: Can you sort of walk us through the process of creating a call sheet for him?

Witness: Donor history. Someone who they've given to. They're bio, if they ... When was the last time he might have seen them or talked to them to refresh his memory, but that's basically the gist of the call sheet.

Mr. Morgan: How would you determine when he might have seen them, interacted with them?

Witness: Only when I'm with him. When I'm with him. So if I'm with him, and he's had a conversation with him, I will write "last spoke to on whatever date that was, invited to whatever event," so then he would have a little bit of a memory. If I was there at an event with him, and it's a fundraiser, I would say "attended that event." So that he would know that they showed up to something.

Mr. Gast: Where would you get the names for prospecting?

Witness: We would have to look for that. We would look at other donors, the presidential geography, looking at other Members, basically looking through their donor lists to see who's supporting them and work from there.

Mr. Gast: Would you ever get that kind of information from the congressional office?

Witness: Jennifer would sometimes make suggestions.

Mr. Gast: Did you ever get lists from events that the official office had held, people who attended those events?

Witness: No. I normally never knew when he was doing a round table or when they were doing any sort of official event, so I'd always have to sort of work off of my own resources.

Mr. Morgan: How would Jennifer give you a name? Will it just be a text message or an email out of the blue saying, "Here's a person you should think about or-“?

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Morgan: When did that happen?

Witness: Yeah, she would just send me an email and let me know, and then I'd have to go do research on them and figure out was there a donor history? She would sometimes ask me to look up someone for her, but that was about it.

Mr. Gast: Did she ever give you context for the names?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Do you ever work on, besides the state department event which you said you got these emails, but don't really recall doing anything for the event. Did you ever work with the congressional office, either the district office or the DC office, on events the office was holding?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Ever suggest people to invite to events?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Ever suggest events that might appeal to a particular constituency?

Witness: No, because I wouldn't know what the office is doing. All my events I would generate saying "I ... You know, we're doing his birthday event, or doing something here. Any suggestions would be helpful," or something like that and she might send me names, but I never knew what the official office was doing in timing events. It never looked like they did something and then I did something right on top of it.

I never knew, I would find out after the fact and that would only be because maybe a donor who was coming to my fundraiser said, "Oh, I saw your boss at the round table," but I never knew when they were actually scheduled to do any type of legislative events.

Mr. Gast: How often would that kind of thing happen where somebody who attended one of your fundraising events said "Oh, I wish just at an official event?"

Witness: Very rarely, because they never really coincided with each other.

Mr. Gast: What about in your dealings with the congressional staff and the district office, the DC office, were you aware of instances where official resources were being used to help the campaign – phone lines, computers, staff time? Did you ever see any of that?

Witness: No. I was hardly ever in the official office.

Mr. Gast: I think those are all the questions I have.

Exhibit 9

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

FOR THE OFFICE OF

CONGRESSMAN MIKE HONDA



Revised July 2014

PURPOSE OF THE HANDBOOK

This handbook has been prepared to summarize the personnel policies and procedures that are applicable to employees of the Office of Congressman Mike Honda ("the Office"). You should read the information in this handbook promptly and thoroughly so that you have an understanding of the policies and procedures of the Office. This handbook, however, cannot anticipate every situation or answer every question about your employment; it can provide only an overview of policies and procedures.

This amended handbook is effective as of August 2011, and it supersedes any and all prior employee handbooks and personnel policies.

Policies and procedures are subject to interpretation by the Office, and exceptions may be made in individual cases at the discretion of Congressman Honda or the Chief of Staff.

In addition to the policies contained in this handbook, every employee of the Office has a duty to comply with all applicable Federal laws, Rules of the House of Representatives, the mandates of the of the House Ethics Manual, and Regulations of the Committee on House Oversight (including those contained in the *Members= Congressional Handbook*).

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MISSION

The mission of the Office of Congressman Mike Honda is to serve the constituency of the Fifteenth District of California and to advance the legislative work of the Congressman. The efforts of the District and Washington Offices complement each other in this regard, and both offices serve an equally important function. All actions taken by members of this staff are to be with this mission in mind.

This Congressional office is the personal link between the Congressman and the people of the Fifteenth District of California whom this staff serves on his behalf. How we perform will have an important effect on constituents' perception of their government and the Congressman's ability to be an effective and responsive Congressman.

Make every minute count. Perform your work with great care. Seek and give help. Take pride in working for one of the best Congressional offices in the country.

Be kind to one another. How employees treat each other is a critical component of how the office is perceived by others, and of the environment which employees are entitled to expect in their workplace. Employees of this office should at all times respect each other's work, be kind to one another, and operate in a team manner. All else flows from this.

STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT

The employees of this office must comply with the Standing Rules of the House of Representatives and obey all applicable federal, state and local laws. You must be familiar with ethics rules as they pertain to your conduct. A copy of the Code of Official Conduct, House Rule XLIII, and the Code of Ethics for Government Services should be reviewed. A copy of the House Ethics Manual is available in the office of the Chief of Staff and District Director. These rules can be complicated. Periodic ethics training may be provided by this office, and Staff are required to complete Ethics Training on an annual basis. Senior Staff have additional requirements per office and House policy.

All employees are obligated to report immediately any suspected illegal activity or behavior contradicting these policies by any other employee to the Chief of Staff, and, if such suspected illegal activity involves the Chief of Staff, to the Congressman.

I. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Management Rights

The Office will strive to serve the Member's constituents with professionalism, quality, and dedication. To reach its goals, the Office reserves its prerogatives as an employer to, at any time without prior notice, establish, administer and change wages, benefits, practices and procedures; direct and discipline the staff; make decisions regarding recruitment, hiring, training, assignment, transfer, promotion, demotion, layoff, recall and retirement of employees; establish the services to be rendered, and who shall perform the work and at what rate; take action to maintain the security of employees, facilities and property, including without limitation, inspections, searches and investigations in accordance with applicable laws; establish starting and quitting times, the number of hours, shifts and overtime to be worked; discontinue or close down any part of or all of the Office; expand, reduce, alter or combine any one or more of the Office operations; and take whatever other action is necessary in the Office's judgment to operate efficiently and effectively.

The failure to exercise these or other management prerogatives shall not waive the Office's right to do so at any time in its discretion, or preclude the Office from exercising any management prerogative in ways other than those described above.

Statement of Equal Employment Opportunity Policy

The Office is an equal employment opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of an individual's race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, veteran's status, age or any other factors prohibited by federal law. This includes all hiring, discharge, promotion, pay, benefits, reassignment, and other personnel actions affecting the terms, conditions, and privileges of employment, however, the Office may consider party affiliation, domicile and political compatibility in making employment decisions.

Personnel Records

It is the policy of the Office to keep personnel-related information maintained in confidence to the greatest extent practicable. Information from employee files will be released only as follows:

- ! to the employee at his or her request
- ! to third parties, where required by judicial orders, subpoenas and law enforcement requests;
- ! to management with a need to know

Each current employee may review his or her own file upon request and may request copies of any or all information contained therein.

It is important that the Office and the House Finance Office be informed on a timely basis of any change with respect to the following:

- ! Name
- ! Address
- ! Telephone number
- ! Whom to contact in case of injury or illness
- ! Employment Eligibility (Form I-9)

It is your responsibility to inform the House Finance Office on a timely basis of any change with respect to the following:

- ! Beneficiary designation (for insurance and other benefit plans)
- ! Number of dependents (for income tax withholding and insurance status/eligibility purposes)
- ! Marital status (for income tax withholding and insurance status/eligibility purposes)
- ! Any change in the number of exemptions you intend to claim on your taxes.

Nepotism

Per House rules, Members and employees are prohibited by law from appointing, promoting, or recommending for appointment or promotion, their relatives, except as discussed below. Individuals with the following relationship to a Member may not be employed by the Member:

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| ! aunt | ! half-sister | ! son-in-law |
| ! brother | ! husband | ! stepbrother |
| ! brother-in-law | ! mother | ! stepdaughter |
| ! daughter | ! mother-in-law | ! stepfather |
| ! daughter-in-law | ! nephew | ! stepmother |
| ! father | ! niece | ! stepsister |
| ! father-in-law | ! sister | ! stepson |
| ! first cousin | ! sister-in-law | ! uncle |
| ! half-brother | ! son | ! wife |

If, however, a House employee becomes related to the employing member (by marriage), the employee may remain on the Member's personal or committee staff. Similarly, if a Member becomes the employing authority of a relative who was fired by someone else (e.g. the Member ascends to the chairmanship of a

Committee or subcommittee for which the relative is already working), the relative may remain on the payroll. However, the Member may not then give that individual further promotions or raises, other than cost-of-living or other across the board adjustments. The statute does not prohibit a Member from employing two individuals who are related to each other, but not to the Member. (See House Ethics Manual at pp. 186-88). Contact the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct for further information at x5-3787.

Every employee must certify relationship to any Member of Congress on a certificate of relationship form, available from Human Resources. If, at any time, the relationship of an employee to a Member of Congress changes, the employee must file an amended certificate of relationship with the employing office.

Payroll

Employees are paid on a monthly basis, generally at the end of each month worked. Paychecks are issued on the last business day of each month

Checks will be mailed to the address you supply to the House Finance Office. To prevent lost checks and to guarantee receipt on time, you may prefer to have your paycheck deposited directly into a bank or savings account. To do so, contact the House Finance Office, 263 Cannon HOB, x56514.

Attendance Policy

Attendance and punctuality are essential to the efficient operation of the Office. It is recognized that there are situations beyond an employee's control that may create absenteeism or tardiness. However, the Office cannot tolerate frequent unauthorized absences from work or tardiness in reporting to work because such actions disrupt schedules and create a burden on fellow employees and the Office. Moreover, a Member may not retain an employee on the payroll who does not perform official duties commensurate with the compensation received (See House Rule XLIII paragraph (8)).

If you are absent from or tardy for work for any reason, you must communicate with your supervisor or Office Manager (or if the supervisor is unavailable, some other management employee), as early as possible before the beginning of the workday or shift. An employee who arrives more than 15 minutes after his or her designated starting time is considered tardy.

If you must leave work early, because of illness or other unavoidable reasons, you are responsible for personally notifying your supervisor and obtaining approval before departure. Absenteeism or tardiness that is

considered to be excessive, or failure to follow reporting procedures, may subject an employee to appropriate disciplinary action up to and including termination.

The Office Managers will track attendance and will keep the Chief of Staff informed regarding the above matters.

Job Abandonment

If you anticipate an absence from work, you should notify the Office as far in advance as possible, so that work schedules and assignments can be adjusted accordingly. If an employee is absent from work for three consecutive work days without notifying or obtaining advance approval from his or her supervisor, it will be presumed that the employee has abandoned his/her position and his or her employment will be terminated, except under extenuating circumstances.

Office Hours

Regular hours of operation are from 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday in the District Office. Regular hours of operation in the Washington Office are from 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Telephones must be fully staffed during Office hours. The Office reserves the right to establish additional or modified hours of operation depending on the schedule of the House.

Lunch Period

Lunch periods will be no longer than one hour, without prior approval from the employee's supervisor. Exceptions to this policy will be granted consistent with the Office's leave policy, as discussed later in this handbook, or in cases where a staff member is requested by his or her supervisor to attend a function. Lunch periods for employees are rotated to ensure coverage of the telephones at all times.

Staff Whereabouts during the Workday

It is important for the office staff to know the whereabouts of all staff members during the workday. Please use the sign-in/out boards in each of the offices. If detained, please notify the office or your supervisor and advise of your whereabouts and expected time of return.

Snow Days and Other Contingencies

Employees are required to be at work whenever the Office is open. When weather conditions or other emergencies make it unsafe to travel to and from work, the Chief of Staff will determine if it is necessary to close the office. In such circumstances, leave will be granted to those employees who, due to unsafe weather conditions, are unable to report to work.

Time and Attendance Records

Time and attendance records will be kept for each employee. Office Managers shall track attendance and shall report such attendance to the Chief of Staff who is responsible for maintaining proper records for all categories of leave and ensuring that time and attendance are recorded and reported properly by the employees.

Employee Classification

Employees are classified into one of the following two categories:

1. Employees who are *Exempt* from the overtime requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act as incorporated by the Congressional Accountability Act: Those who are not required to be paid overtime for all hours worked in excess of 40 hours in one workweek. Exempt employees are expected to work whatever hours are necessary to meet the job responsibilities and needs of the Office.
2. Employees who are *Non-Exempt* from the overtime requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act as incorporated by the Congressional Accountability Act: Those who are required to be compensated for all hours worked in excess of 40 hours per week.

The employee classification determination is based on the actual job duties and responsibilities of the employee. The COS is responsible for the classification of the position.

The workweek for the Office begins 12:01 a.m. Sunday and ends at 12:00 a.m. Saturday.

Overtime for Non-Exempt Employees

The basic workweek will consist of 40 working hours for non-exempt employees. However, your supervisor may ask you to work overtime or to be available for duty other than during normal work hours. Scheduling additional work hours requires the approval of your supervisor or other appropriate management personnel and an overtime preauthorization form must be completed prior to working overtime. Failure to secure permission from the appropriate supervisor prior to working overtime may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

Interns

Interns are required to perform services in the employing office as part of a demonstrated educational plan which should be in writing and signed by both the intern and a representative of the office. The requirement is satisfied when the intern is enrolled in a degree program at an educational institution, or when the

intern's employment is part of an educational program or plan agreed upon between the employing office and the intern.

Interns are not covered under the CAA or the Fair Labor Standards Act. Interns are not eligible for overtime pay or time off. It is the policy of this office that all interns shall be given a substantive work assignment during the internship period to promote their learning experience. Interns shall provide assistance to staff as directed by the Chief of Staff/District Director or immediate supervisor.

Interns shall be selected by the Chief of Staff or District Director.

Conflicts of Interest/Ethics in Government Act

An employee should never use the prestige or influence of a position in the Congressional office for personal gain. Employees should consult the Chief of Staff if you believe that you have a conflict of interest that will affect the way in which you carry out your job in the office.

All employees of the Office must strictly comply with the provisions of the Ethics in Government Act, House Rule XLIV and other applicable House Rules regarding outside income, gifts, and personal financial disclosure, if required. **Moreover, it is the responsibility of the employee to become familiar with the requirements of House Ethics rules, as well as the requirements of House Rule XLIII and to complete the required ethics training for the House.** Failure to comply may be grounds for dismissal.

The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct has prepared forms for financial disclosure, together with a detailed explanation of requirements of the Ethics in Government Act. Questions regarding financial disclosure may be directed to the Committee, HT-2 The Capitol, x 57103.

Employees of the Office are not to engage in conduct that constitutes a conflict of interest or a potential conflict of interest. In general, a "conflict of interest" is any situation in which an employee's conduct of his or her job conflicts with his or her private economic affairs. In addition, page 87 of the House Ethics Manual extends the definition to situations and circumstances which post a "risk of impairment of impartial judgment." Generally, acceptance of gifts, other than from family and close personal friends, is prohibited by House Rule LII. Therefore, you must contact the Chief of Staff regarding any offers of gifts, money, or other benefits offered by a lobbyist or anyone that has dealings with the Office.

Contact the Office of Advice and Education of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct at x53787 if you have even the slightest concern that particular conduct, including the acceptance of any gift, might constitute a conflict of interest or a violation of House Rules or Federal law.

Employees should err on the side of caution when confronted with a potential conflict of interest and discuss the matter with their supervisor and/or the Office of Advice and Education of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

Outside Employment

Employees of the Office may not secure employment outside the House that conflicts with the performance of their official duties. Further, House employees who engage in private employment may not do so to the neglect of their congressional duties, on 'official time' for which a salary is received from the United States Treasury, or if the employment is gained through the improper use of their official positions. **It is the responsibility of each employee to notify the Chief of Staff of all outside employment.**

In addition, certain employees face limitations on outside employment and earned income under House Rule XLVII. All employees assume full responsibility for complying with House Rules and federal law. Contact the Office of Advice and Education at the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct at x53787 if you have any questions about outside employment.

Upon separation from employment with the Office, certain employees are prohibited from lobbying certain Members of Congress or their staff for a period of at least (1) year. For more information contact the Office of Advice and Education of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct at x5-3787.

Political Activities

Employees of the Office may engage in campaign work only on their own time. The time shall be outside office hours, or during periods of bona fide vacation or leave time. Employees should always identify themselves at such functions or while participating in such activities in their individual capacities.

Official House property, equipment and resources may not be used for campaign activities. Campaign contributions may not be solicited on, or for delivery to, House property.

No employee has an obligation to participate in political activity for Mike Honda or any other candidate running for political office. Employees are prohibited from making any financial contribution to Congressman Honda's re-election campaign.

Contributors may on occasion forward campaign contributions to either Congressional office, in person or by mail. In accordance with the House Rules, any such contribution should be sent immediately to the Congressman's political office, and shall not be acknowledged by the

Congressional office. If an employee is contacted or visited by someone who references a campaign contribution to Congressman Honda, the ONLY appropriate action is to advise the donor that, as a federal employee, and pursuant to Congressman Honda's rules, you are unable to discuss or take into account campaign matters. For political inquiries (other than fundraising), provide the inquirer with the Chief of Staff's personal email.

On occasion, the office receives inquiries as to how to contact the Congressman's political office. The only appropriate action is to provide the name and contact information of the political office and advise the person making the inquiry that as a federal employee, and pursuant to Congressman Honda's rules, you are unable to discuss or take into account campaign matters.

Any correspondence of a political, campaign, or fundraising nature shall be referred without response to the Congressman's political office. All correspondence of a dual legislative/constituent services and political, campaign or fundraising nature shall be returned to the correspondent with a polite response requesting that the legislative matters be submitted separately from non-legislative matters and addressed to the appropriate office.

Materials relating to laws, rules and standards of conduct on campaign activity and related topics can be found on the Committee's website at: <http://ethics.house.gov/campaign-activity/campaign-work-house-employees>

Domestic/Foreign Gifts and Travel

Rules of the House and the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act govern your conduct relating to travel to foreign countries and the acceptance of gifts or hospitality from foreign nationals or governments. Staff members are required to consult with the Office of Advice and Education at the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct at x53787 regarding those laws and rules.

All official business travel must be approved in advance by the Chief of Staff. Additionally, the Chief of Staff shall be notified before accepting gifts from foreign nationals or governments.

Reimbursement for Official Expenses

No employee may incur official expenses without the prior approval of either the Chief of Staff or the District Director. Requests for reimbursement for official expenses shall be on vouchers provided for such purposes by the House Finance Office. Only requests for reimbursement submitted in accordance with the Regulations of the Committee on House Oversight as reflected in the Member's Congressional Handbook will be processed for payment.

The Frank

The "frank" is the term applied to the use of the signature of a Member of Congress on mail in lieu of postage.

All staff of the Office should review the publication Regulations on the Use of the Congressional Frank, published by the Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards (Franking Commission), before sending any mail for the Office.

The frank is to be used only for official business. Under no circumstances should the frank or other official resources be used for an employee's personal mail. This rule applies to "inside mail" as well. Improper use of the 'frank' may result in personal fines to the employee and public action taken against the Congressman by the House Ethics Committee.

The frank cannot be used on mail to foreign countries (other than via APO or FPO boxes). Letters or documents to foreign officials should be sent in care of the country's consulate in the United States. If that is not possible, weigh the letter/document and obtain the proper amount of postage from the Office Manager.

For more information on franked mail, see Official Mail Expenses, in the *Members' Congressional Handbook* as well as the House Ethics Manual's discussion of the topic.

Questions regarding use of the frank, and requests for advisory opinions on the frankability of mail, should be submitted to the Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards (Franking Commission), 140 Cannon HOB, x59337.

Mass Mailings

The Office is required by House Rule XLVI and 2 U.S.C. 59e(f) to seek an advisory opinion as to whether proposed mass mailings are in compliance with all applicable laws, rules and regulations, from the Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards (Franking Commission).

A mass mailing is generally defined as any mailing of 500 items or more of substantially identical content within any session of Congress.

Compliance with these requirements is extremely important because the Office is responsible for complying with all applicable provisions of Federal law, House Rules, and Regulations of the Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards and the Committee on House Oversight.

The Chief of Staff must approve each mass mailing, robo-call, script, or other communication prior to dispatch.

Drug and Alcohol Abuse Policy

Purpose: Members of the House and their staff occupy sensitive positions requiring a high degree of trust and confidence. In addition, the Office has a responsibility to protect its employees, the public, Members, and all other persons who interact, directly or indirectly, with the Office's employees.

The Office strictly prohibits the unlawful manufacture, sale, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of controlled substances in the workplace or while on paid time. This policy also prohibits all employees from being under the influence of drugs (see discussion below for prohibited drug use) or alcohol while on paid time.

Prohibited drug use includes any and all controlled substances except those taken pursuant to a prescription. It also includes the medically unauthorized taking of any prescription drug, as well as the use of prescription medications illegally obtained or used in a manner inconsistent with the direction of the prescribing physician. Finally, prohibited drug use includes the abuse of over-the-counter medications used in a manner inconsistent with its intended purpose so as to affect the performance of the employee.

Voluntary Treatment and Counseling

The Office encourages all employees who need assistance in dealing with alcohol or drug dependency problems to seek counseling through the various private and public agencies and programs that exist in their communities. Employees may also seek assistance by contacting the Office of Employee Assistance, x52400. Requests for voluntary treatment and related matters will be kept as confidential as possible, and, in accordance with the law, the Office will reasonably accommodate an employee's attempt to deal with dependency problems. Employees may not, however, escape discipline by requesting treatment or leave only after having been notified of disciplinary action for violating the Office's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Policy.

Non-Discrimination Policy

The Office complies with all provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA"). No employee or applicant for employment who is currently drug-free will be denied employment or otherwise discriminated against solely because of the individual's prior abuse of drugs, prior treatment for drug abuse, or status as an alcoholic or a recovering drug addict. However, the ADA does not protect employees who are current illegal users of drugs.

Fitness for Duty

Employees are responsible for notifying the Chief of Staff or District Director of any conditions, including but not limited to the taking of medically authorized prescription drugs, that may impair the employee's ability to perform his or her job in a safe or effective manner. The Office will attempt to ensure that the disclosure and substance of such information is kept confidential and that it will be disclosed only to individuals with a legitimate need to know. No employee will be discriminated or retaliated against as a result of his or her disclosure of such information. The disclosure is required only to ensure safety in the Office and to protect the employee against any inaccurate assumptions that might otherwise be made about the employee's performance.

Discipline for Violation of This Policy

Employees who violate this Drug and Alcohol Abuse Policy may be disciplined, up to and including immediate termination, at the discretion of the Office.

Smoking Policy

To provide a safe and healthy working environment for all employees, smoking is prohibited in the office. Employees who violate this policy may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination. All employees share responsibility for maintaining a smoke-free workplace.

Employees interested in attending a smoking cessation program should contact the Office of Employee Assistance at (202) 225-2400.

Recycling Policy

The Office cooperates fully with the House of Representatives Recycling program. Labeled recycling bins are located throughout the D.C. office. Please take note of the locations of these bins and make every effort to recycle materials accordingly.

Use of Official Stationery

Use of official stationery of the Office by staff members is strictly limited to correspondence relating to the official capacity or responsibilities of the staff member. Use of official stationery for personal business or matters unrelated to the Office is strictly prohibited and subjects such users to appropriate discipline up to and including termination. For guidance on this issue, please refer to the House Ethics Manual and call the Office of Advice and Education of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct at x5-3787.

Safety and Security Policy

It is the policy of the Office to maintain safe working conditions for its employees. Accordingly, all employees are expected to abide by applicable safety and security rules and regulations within House Facilities. Failure to observe general safety procedures, neglect of the safety of others, or the commission of unsafe acts is unacceptable.

Visitors who are uninvited and unwanted in the D.C. office, in circumstances where an employee of the Office is unable to speak freely, can be removed from the Office by calling the U.S. Capitol Police at x45151 and stating “the books are ready to be picked up in Room 1703.” District office staff should call building security at 877-367-0006 or dial 911.

Bomb threats should be reported immediately to x5-0911. A Bomb Threat Checklist is available from the House Sergeant-at-Arms at x52456. District Office staff should call building security or 911.

Threats to the physical safety of a Member or employee of the Office should be reported to the House Sergeant-at-Arms at x52456.

If you are injured while at work, you must report the injury immediately to the Chief of Staff or District Director. You must complete a notice of injury report (Form CA-1), which is available from the House Finance Office, 263 Cannon HOB, x56514.

All employees are issued identification cards that allow access to the House office buildings. You must immediately report lost or stolen I.D. cards and keys to the Sergeant-at-Arms Office of Identification Services, 321 Cannon HOB, x53820, and a new I.D. card will be issued to you. Because an I.D. card is House property, it must be returned upon termination of employment.

Loaning or sharing of I.D. cards and office keys is a serious safety breach. Employees who engage in such behavior may be subject to discipline, up to and including termination.

The nature of employment on the Hill is such that it may require you to work late hours. In the event that an employee is in a position in which he or she is going to be walking to his or her car or the Metro station alone, the employee is encouraged to contact the Capitol Police for escort. The number for Escort Assistance is x4-5151.

Office Property

All staff members play an important role in the political process, and enjoy a relationship of trust and confidence with the Member. Inherent in this relationship is the expectation that staff members understand the need to protect sensitive and confidential information, and work at all times for the good of the Member and his/her constituents.

To assist the Member in performing his/her duties most effectively and efficiently, it is imperative that the Office have immediate access to all Office files and other property. For example, in an employee's absence, the Office may need to enter and search an employee's work area to retrieve work-related materials. The Office also must retain its ability to locate missing property promptly and to investigate suspicious activities in the Office. Therefore, the Office reserves the right to inspect and search all areas and property in the Office at any time, for these reasons, or any others within its discretion, without notice or consent.

All inspections and searches must be preauthorized by a supervisor. Inspections, searches and investigations can include, without limitation, the examination of physical files, computer files, e-mail, voice mail, file cabinets, desks, work stations, closets, storage areas, manuals, equipment, and all other Office property and areas. For these reasons, duplicates of all keys issued to the staff are maintained, and staff must provide the Chief of Staff or District Director with the passwords for their computers and telephone voicemails. The Office also reserves the right to search purses, packages, parcels and other containers within the Office to investigate suspicious activities.

Employees should leave valuable items at home. The Office cannot be responsible for the loss, theft or damage of any property brought into the Office. Additionally, employees should report any suspicious activity they observe in the Office to a supervisor. As a condition of continued employment, the Office expects each employee to assist with the Office's efforts to maintain the confidentiality of Office activities, and to provide for employee and Office security.

For the reasons described above, employees should not harbor any expectation of privacy in the equipment that is provided to them by the Office.

Emergencies

You will be asked to provide the Office with the name and telephone number of someone to contact on your behalf in the event of an

emergency. Should your "emergency contact" person change, please notify the Office Manager immediately.

If a medical emergency occurs during working hours or on the premises, you should immediately contact the Capitol Police at x55151 or the Attending Physician's Office at x55421. The Physician's Office is open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or until adjournment, Monday through Friday. In the case of a minor injury or illness, go immediately to one of the First Aid Offices, which are in the following locations and are open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday:

H-166	The Capitol,	x55421
110	Cannon HOB,	x53470
1204	Longworth HOB,	x52500
B344	Rayburn HOB,	x57131
H2-145	Ford HOB,	x52442

It is the duty of the employee to inform the Office of any changes of information concerning persons to contact in case of an emergency. Office Managers are responsible for keeping a file of all emergency contact information.

Computer Policy

Employees of the Office are assigned personal computers for use in the conduct of their official duties. Specific guidelines and instructions regarding the use of the Office's computers will be provided by the Systems Administrator to each employee that is assigned a computer.

Under certain circumstances, it may be necessary to access the employee's computer to recover documents. Therefore, the Office reserves the right of access to any computer or file on the Office's computer system. Accordingly, employees should not harbor any expectation of privacy in documents created on the equipment provided to them by the Office.

Computer viruses can be transmitted via software or data files, and have the potential of stopping all work on the Office's computer system. Therefore, employees who are assigned computers must scan all diskettes for viruses, especially if a diskette has been used outside of the Office.

Employees of the Office may not make unauthorized copies of any software licensed to the House or to the Office and remove it from the Office. Employees are also prohibited from using unlicensed software on either individual computers or on the Office's computer system.

No software can be loaded onto any computer or the system without direct authorization from the Systems Administrator. This is to ensure that only

legal copies of software are running on the system and to protect the computer system from viruses.

Employees who access House computer systems remotely are responsible for maintaining the security and integrity of such systems. Passwords and other means of access must be safeguarded, and each employee is responsible for notifying the Systems Administrator of any breach, or potential breach, of security or integrity of such systems.

Employees are prohibited from moving computers, printers, or other computer equipment within the Office without first contacting the Systems Administrator.

Employees are responsible for compliance with all regulations of the Committee on House Oversight, including the Policies and Guidelines on the Official Use of the Internet.

Electronic Mail Policy

Electronic Mail ("e-mail") is provided as a communications tool to all employees of the Office and should be used with the same rules of professional behavior that apply to the telephone. E-Mail may not be used to commit an unlawful act, to harass or annoy another employee, or to advertise or promote outside business or other non-office related activities.

Employees should not read the E-Mail of others. Occasionally, an employee may be assigned to review the E-Mail messages of another employee for legitimate purposes. However, an employee must have approval from the Chief of Staff or District Director prior to reviewing the E-Mail files of another employee.

It is possible that other employees or third-parties may inadvertently view your E-Mail messages. Because there is no guarantee of absolute privacy with E-Mail, it is imperative that all employees use good judgment when using the E-Mail system.

Management expressly reserves the right to review the E-mail files of any employee, with or without notice, for any reason within its discretion, including but not limited to investigating wrongdoing or security breaches, monitoring compliance, or obtaining work product.

Employees are reminded that all personal email is subject to scrutiny and House rules. All emails, including intra-office messages, form a permanent record that may, under certain circumstances, become public. Tone and content should reflect that reality.

Media Relations

Only the Communications Director or the Chief of Staff are authorized to communicate with members of the press without direct clearance otherwise from the Chief of Staff. Staff members receiving requests or contacts from the media regarding any issue related to their employment should report them to the Communications Director or Chief of Staff promptly.

Open Door Policy

The Office recognizes that open communication between employees and management is an essential element of a productive work environment. To that end the Office has adopted an Open Door Policy. The Open Door Policy has been established to enable employees to seek resolution of job-related issues. It is intended to create a process whereby employees can raise any questions or concerns with the assurance that these issues will be addressed promptly and effectively.

Employees are encouraged to discuss job-related concerns or questions with their immediate supervisor. If an employee fails to get satisfaction from his/her immediate supervisor, or the supervisor is involved in the issue or concern, the employee may discuss the issue with a higher-level supervisor, including the Chief of Staff.

It is the responsibility of all management personnel to respond to Open Door Requests in a timely and objective manner. Retaliation is prohibited against any employee because he/she uses the Open Door Policy, as well as participants in any investigation prompted by any such complaint or inquiry.

Confidentiality

During your employment with the Office, you will be exposed to certain information of a sensitive or confidential nature. It is mandatory that confidentiality be maintained by all employees who work for the Office, that no disclosure of confidential information be made to anyone except as required in the performance of work, and that no use be made of confidential information for personal gain or advantage, or for the harm of others either during or after your employment with the Office.

Examples of sensitive or confidential information may include information designated as classified or secret by the government, matters involving the personal or professional lives of Office employees or the Member, internal legislative or political strategy, constituent issues relating to federal agencies, and internal operations of the office, among others.

All communication between any member of the staff and the public reflect upon the Congressman and his office. As such, any communication should be made respectfully and should be reflective of the team-spirit of the office and supportive of each member of the staff.

Employees of the Office have access to confidential and sensitive information and, as a result, have a fiduciary duty to the U.S. House of Representatives to hold in confidence such information in accordance with the Code of Ethics in Government Service found in the House Ethics Manual. Under that section, employees are precluded from using information coming to them confidentially in the performance of their governmental duties as a means for making private profit. Accordingly, it is the Office policy that all staff shall not publish any article, book, transcript, or other written piece or grant an interview or act as an advisor on any such publication without the prior approval of Congressman Honda or the Chief of Staff.

Strict observance of this policy by all employees is of great importance to the effective operation of the Office. Violations of this policy may result in discipline, up to and including immediate termination.

If you discover a violation of this policy, you have the responsibility to notify your supervisor immediately.

Anti-harassment and Anti-discrimination Policy

This office is an equal employment opportunity employer in accordance with all applicable federal laws. As an equal opportunity employer, the Office of Congressman Honda is firmly committed to providing a work environment free from discrimination, harassment or intimidation on the basis of race, sex, age, religion, sexual orientation or appearance, disability, color, national origin, military status, or any other basis prohibited by law. This commitment applies to all hiring, discharge, promotion, pay benefits, reassignments and other personnel actions affecting the terms, conditions, and privileges of employment. This commitment extends to making reasonable accommodations that enable qualified disabled individuals to perform the essential functions of their jobs.

All employees will be treated, and are to treat each other, fairly and with respect. Employees will not be subjected to, and will not subject each other to discrimination or harassment of any kind.

The Office will not tolerate any of the following actions:

- ! making any employment decision or taking any employment action that is based on race, sex, age, religion, disability, color, national origin, sexual orientation, military status or any other basis prohibited by the Congressional Accountability Act;
- ! acting in a way that may create a hostile, offensive, intimidating or demeaning environment on the basis of an employee's race, sex, age, religion, disability, color, national origin, veteran status, or any other basis prohibited by the Congressional Accountability Act.

Definition of Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment of employees is unacceptable, illegal, and will not be tolerated. There are two basic forms of sexual harassment.

Prohibited 'quid pro quo' sexual harassment occurs when a supervisor or manager makes unwelcome sexual advances, requests sexual favors, or engages in other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, if the implication is that submission to such conduct is expected as part of the job. It would also be unlawful for a supervisor or manager to make employment decisions affecting the individual on the basis of whether the individual submits to or rejects sexual conduct.

Prohibited 'hostile work environment' sexual harassment occurs when unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment. This includes, for example, displaying sexually suggestive material in the workplace, unwelcome flirtation or advances, requests for sexual favors, or any other offensive words or actions of a sexual nature.

Other Kinds of Harassment

In addition to the sexual harassment discussed above, harassment on the basis of race, color, sex, disability, religion, sexual orientation or national origin can constitute unlawful employment discrimination. Insults, jokes, slurs, or other verbal or physical conduct or activity relating to race, color, sex, religion, or national origin are unlawful if they create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment; or if they unreasonably interfere with an individual's work performance.

Employee's Responsibility

Personal behavior and language that are 'acceptable' to one individual may be 'offensive' to another. All employees must recognize that the focus of this prohibition is on the effect of one's action, not the intent. Even an employee who believes he or she is 'just kidding around' or didn't mean any harm may act in ways that have the effect of intimidating or demeaning another employee, and thereby violating this policy.

Procedures

It is the intention of the Office to stop harassment before it rises to the level of a violation of law. As part of this effort, any employee who believes that he/she has been subjected to, or has witnessed actions that violate this policy, should promptly make a report to management in order for management to immediately investigate and take corrective action where appropriate. The employee should

not wait until the actions become severe or pervasive, but should report such activity immediately. The employee may advise his or her direct supervisor, the next level supervisor, or any other management official with whom the employee feels comfortable discussing such issues. The office will protect the confidentiality of harassment allegations to the extent possible. The conduct of an effective investigation requires sharing information with those who have a 'need to know.' Any documents created or obtained concerning the harassment investigation will be treated with the same degree of confidentiality. Anyone who in good faith brings such a matter forward is assured that he or she will not suffer any retaliation, discrimination, harassment, or reprisal for having done so. The Office strictly prohibits retaliation against anyone who reports an incident in violation of the anti-harassment/anti-discrimination policy or anyone who participates or aids in an investigation of a complaint.

Any employee who violates any aspect of this policy, including the prohibition against retaliation, will face appropriate discipline, up to and including termination.

Performance Reviews

The Office may periodically review with the employee his/her job performance and discuss his/her job interests and career goals. The Office does this to bring to the employee's attention both areas in which he/she is performing well and those that need improvement. Performance evaluations can also influence decisions regarding any pay increases. Please understand, however, that a performance review does not mean that an employee is guaranteed or entitled to a pay raise.

The Office will provide each employee the opportunity to comment on the evaluation. Employees should understand that an evaluation does not alter the employee's at-will relationship or create a contract with the Office as described elsewhere in this Handbook.

Employee Conduct and Discipline

To ensure that all employees are working in a safe, productive and harmonious environment and that the Office is able to operate at optimum efficiency, certain general standards of personal conduct and job performance have been established.

Your actions are a direct reflection on the Member, the Office and the House of Representatives. Actions that reflect poorly on the Member, Office or House are grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

Standards of job performance are determined by the employee's position. Standards of personal conduct, however, are uniform throughout the Office. Employees are expected to be courteous and respectful, and to

conduct themselves at all times in a manner which shall reflect creditably on the House of Representatives.

Dress Code

All employees are expected to dress in attire appropriate to their position and duties.

When Congress is in session, including days with first night late votes, it is expected that all employees are in professional dress.

If Congressman Honda is in town, regardless of whether Congress is in session, you should be dressed as business casual. This does not include jeans.

If Congress is not in session but it is anticipated that most Members will be around, you should be dressed as business casual. This does not include jeans.

If Congress is not in session and Congressman Honda is not around, BUT you have meetings, you should dress appropriately.

If Congress is not in session and Congressman Honda is not around, jeans are permitted, though all employees must still be dressed in a presentable manner.

The District Director may set a policy in the District Office, commensurate with constituent interaction.

Discipline

While it is anticipated that most problems will be resolved through the cooperation of employees, there are times when inappropriate conduct or inadequate performance may result in disciplinary action. While this office does not employ mandatory progressive discipline, appropriate disciplinary action may, at the Office's sole discretion, include probation, suspension (with or without a pay reduction), demotion, or other actions, up to and including termination. It is within management's sole discretion to determine appropriate measures based upon the circumstances of each individual disciplinary matter.

Insubordination

Employees are expected to follow directions given by a supervisor or a person in authority. Failure to perform or unreasonably delaying the performance of instructions given by a supervisor or person in authority is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

Misconduct

The following actions are unacceptable and may result in appropriate disciplinary action. The misconduct identified below is merely illustrative, is not intended to be a complete list of misconduct, is not intended to be listed in order of severity of the conduct, and does not alter the Office's at-will employment policy:

1. Misrepresenting or withholding information on an employment application or House records, including time cards, injury reports, leave reports, personnel documents, etc.
2. Removing House property, records, or documents without proper authorization; releasing sensitive or confidential information without proper authorization; allowing access to such information by unauthorized personnel; or using such information or property for personal reasons.
3. Unauthorized possession, willful destruction or abuse of House property or the property of any individual on the premises.
4. Entering a restricted area or allowing another person to enter a restricted area without proper authorization.
5. Excessive absenteeism or tardiness without proper authorization.
6. Unexcused absence from work.
7. Sleeping on the job, unless authorized to do so in unusual circumstances.
8. Use of abusive, threatening or obscene language; using language that adversely affects morale, production, or maintenance of discipline.
9. Engaging in any type of harassment.
10. Performing personal or campaign business during working hours or using the frank, official stationary, or other official resources for personal benefit.
11. Violating the Office's alcohol and drug abuse policy.
12. Possessing dangerous weapons on the premises.

13. Illegal or disorderly conduct of any kind such as fighting, wrestling, roughhousing, or any other activity hazardous to life, limb or property.
14. Failure to abide by the leave policies of the Office.
15. Failure to follow House Rules and federal statutes concerning the acceptance of gifts, and the reporting of financial interest, employment or conflicts of interest.
16. Failure to observe general safety procedures, neglect of the safety of others, or the commission of unsafe acts.
17. Reviewing the E-Mail files of another employee without appropriate authorization.
18. Failure to follow the Office's computer and Internet policies.
19. Unauthorized communications with members of the press, written statements, personal appearances, testimony, articles or comments on any aspect of the employee's official responsibility as an employee of the Office or relating to matters of the House without direct clearance from the Chief of Staff.
20. Any other action that is deemed to be inconsistent with the standards and expectations of the Office or to show a disregard for the House's interests or the employee's duties and obligations to the House.

Termination of Employment

The Office desires that your employment in the House be a rewarding and successful experience. However, it is conceivable that circumstances may arise that will make it advisable for you to end your employment with the Office.

Should you decide to terminate your employment with the Office voluntarily, you are requested, but not required, to provide adequate notice. Adequate notice is customarily two weeks, and may be longer depending on your particular responsibilities. The request that you provide notice of your intent to resign is not intended to alter the fact that either you or the Office is entitled to terminate your employment relationship at any time without notice.

Each employee must return all House property, including his or her I.D. card and keys to the Office Manager. Failure to do so may result in the withholding of your final paycheck. Employees who have group medical

and life insurance will continue to receive coverage during the period in which the employee remains on the payroll as provided for by the individual employee's health or life insurance policies and applicable federal laws.

Upon termination certain employees are prohibited from lobbying certain Members of Congress or their staff for a period of at least one (1) year. For more information, contact the Office of Advice and Education at the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct at x5-3787.

References for former or current employees of the Office are to be given only by the Chief of Staff/ District Director (in consultation with Legislative Director with respect to Legislative Staff) and only in accordance with the Hatch Act Reform Amendments of 1993 and the Office of Advice and Education at the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct at x5-3787.

II. LEAVE POLICIES

Leave Policy

The leave policy of the Office is designed to provide benefits to employees, while maintaining enough flexibility to allow the Office to perform its functions. The Honda office continues to offer some of the most generous benefit packages in the House.

Holidays

The Office will observe the following holidays IF the House is not in session:

- New Year's Day
- Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday
- President's Day
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Columbus Day
- Veterans' Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Day after Thanksgiving
- Christmas Eve (if Christmas falls on weekend)
- Christmas Day
- New Year's Eve (if New Year's falls on weekend)

Vacation/Annual Leave

Annual leave is based upon each calendar year and determined by an employee's tenure in the office. Employees hired after January 1, of any given year, are eligible for pro-rated vacation leave based upon their appointment date.

Part-time employees are also eligible for pro-rated vacation time based upon their work schedule as agreed upon between the Chief of Staff and the employee.

No more than 20 days of vacation leave may be carried over from one calendar year to the next. **Any balance beyond 20 days will be lost.** Upon separation from employment, vacation leave will be pro-rated for the current calendar year and the Office will pay the employee a lump sum equal to the number of days of unused vacation leave, provided that such a sum does not exceed the employee's monthly pay and/or 1/12th of the maximum rate of pay specified on the Speaker's Pay Order.

Because of the prohibition against dual compensation, an employee cannot be retained on the House payroll after reporting to another federal job.

If an employee has taken more annual leave than he or she has earned, the Office will, at the time of separation, deduct the excess annual leave from the employee's final paycheck or seek reimbursement from the employee.

All requests for vacation must be submitted in writing using the Leave Request Form to the Chief of Staff or District Director at least two weeks in advance. Requests for vacation leave will be honored at the discretion of the Chief of Staff, and after approval from the District Director for district staff.

Depending on tenure with the Office, full-time employees will receive additional days of vacation leave per year. Tenure is calculated and vacation days granted based upon an employee's appointment date. All vacation accrues as tenure progresses.

- Start date through completion of 2 years – Vacation is 14 days per year.
- Start of 3rd year through completion of 5 years – Vacation is 20 days per year.
- Start of 6th year through completion of 10 years – Vacation is 24 days per year.
- Start of 11th year and beyond – Vacation is 28 days per year.

Sick Leave

The Office provides paid sick leave per year to all full-time employees for periods of temporary absence due to illness or injury of the employee. Employees hired after January 1, of any given year, are eligible for pro-rated sick leave based upon their appointment date. Sick leave will accrue based on each employee's tenure in the office. All sick leave accrues as you go. A total of 15 days of sick leave may be carried over into the next year. **Any balance beyond 15 days will be lost.**

- Start date through completion of 2 years – Leave is 15 days per year.
- Start of 3rd year through completion of 6 years – Leave is 18 days per year.
- Start of 7th year and beyond – Leave is 28 days per year.

No payment will be made for unused sick leave upon separation or termination of employment. Eligible employees who suffer from a serious health condition are entitled to leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act as discussed below.

Employees who are unable to report to work or who must leave work because of illness or injury must notify their immediate supervisor at once (Chief of Staff or District Director) or leave a message with either the Chief of Staff or District Director no later than 8:30 a.m. The Chief of Staff must be notified of all sick leave absences of any employee.

In addition, the Chief of Staff/District Director must be contacted on each additional day of absence. Failure to follow these procedures may result in the treatment of the day as an unexcused absence, which may be subtracted from the employee's annual leave allotment, and can also result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

If an employee has taken more sick leave than he or she has earned, the Office will deduct the excess sick leave from the employee's final paycheck or seek reimbursement from the employee.

Sick leave may be used for scheduled medical and dental appointments. All full-time employees must submit a Time-Off Request Form for an appointment that keeps an employee from the Office for more than 1 hour.

For non-scheduled sick leave, a Leave Form covering the period of absence must be submitted to the Chief of Staff/District Director promptly upon return from sick leave.

Religious Holidays

The Office seeks to accommodate reasonable requests for leave for religious observances. Employees may elect to take annual leave or unpaid leave (if the employee has exhausted his or her paid leave) for such purposes. The availability of such leave depends on the operational needs of the office and will be honored at the discretion of the Chief of Staff. Accordingly, employees should request submit a written request two weeks in advance as far in advance as possible to allow for appropriate scheduling by the Chief of Staff.

Bereavement Leave

Employees are entitled to up to five (5) days of paid bereavement leave for the death of an immediate family member. An "immediate" family member includes an employee's parent, step-parent, spouse, child, stepchild, brother, stepbrother, sister, stepsister, grandchild, grandparent, mother-in-law, father-in-law, son-in-law or daughter-in-law. Personal leave for the death of friends or other relatives are deducted from annual leave.

Military and Federal Emergency Task Force Duty

An employee who is a member of a National Guard or Armed Forces Reserves unit and is required to attend a two-week (not to exceed 15 consecutive days)

training session annually will be given paid leave for that purpose. Any compensation provided by the National Guard or Reserves may be retained by the employee. An employee who is a member of a Federal Emergency Task Force and is called to duty will be given paid leave for that purpose. To apply for the leave, appropriate documentation (e.g., a copy of the orders) must be submitted to the Chief of Staff as far in advance as possible.

Employees who require absences for military duty (including long-term absences for active duty) will be accorded all benefits provided by law. Any employee who is required to take a leave of absence for military duty must notify the Chief of Staff immediately.

Jury and Witness Duty

An employee who is summoned for jury or witness duty and must be absent from work will continue to receive full pay and will not be charged annual leave. Upon receipt of such summons, the employee must notify the Chief of Staff immediately and must provide a copy of the summons or other written documentation requesting jury or witness duty.

Certain courts require only that a juror telephone the court each morning to determine whether the juror must report to court. Under such circumstances, when not needed by the court, the employee must report to work.

As provided by law (2 U.S.C. 130b(d) and (e)), any fee paid to an employee for jury or witness duty shall be turned into the Office, and the entire amount will be remitted to the House Finance Office. Any reimbursement made to an employee for expenses incurred in rendering jury or witness service may be retained by the employee. Upon returning to work from jury duty, an employee shall provide the Office a certificate of attendance from the Clerk of the court or similar court official for each day of absence.

Leave Without Pay (LWOP)

Requests for leave without pay other than unpaid FMLA may be granted at the discretion of the Chief of Staff.

As a basic condition for approval of LWOP, the Office must have a reasonable assurance that the employee will return to duty at the end of the approved period. LWOP status must be requested in advance of the period of absence.

Furlough

Furlough is an absence without pay initiated by the Chief of Staff. Placement in a furlough status is at the discretion of the Chief of Staff, unless placement in such leave status is otherwise required by law.

Family and Medical Leave (FMLA)

Under the applicable provisions of the FMLA, any person who has worked as an employee of the House for at least one year¹ and for a total of at least 1,250 hours during the previous 12-month period is entitled to up to:

- 10 weeks paid for birth parent caring/bonding with newborn; adoption of a child or foster care. Maternity/paternity can be combined with sick and vacation leave as well.
- 10 weeks paid leave for caring to care for a spouse, son, daughter, or parent who has a serious health condition
- 12 weeks paid for employee's own serious health condition, which makes the employee unable to perform the functions of his or her job.

The FMLA defines the term "serious health condition." 29 U.S.C. ' 2611(11). When requesting leave, an employee must explain the reason for the leave to allow the Office to determine whether the leave qualifies as FMLA leave.

Calculating the Leave Year: For FMLA purposes the 12-month period during which an employee is entitled to unpaid FMLA leave is calculated on a rolling 12-month basis measured backward from the date the employee uses family and medical leave.

Notice of FMLA Leave: If the need for leave is foreseeable, an employee must provide at least 30 days notice (written or verbal), or otherwise as much advance notice as practicable. If an employee fails to give 30 days notice, with no reasonable excuse, the Chief of Staff may delay the taking of FMLA leave.

Any employee who takes FMLA leave for any reason must submit a written request for leave, even if the request is filed after the leave has commenced. Such written notices must be submitted to the Chief of Staff and shall include the date(s) and the reason(s) for the requested leave. Failure to provide a written request for leave may also result in a delay or denial of leave.

For leave requested for care of a family member with a serious health condition or for the employee's own illness the employee shall make a reasonable effort, after consulting with the Chief of Staff to schedule leave so as not to unduly disrupt office operations (subject to approval of the health care provider).

Substitution of Paid Leave for FMLA Leave: An employee may substitute his or her accrued annual leave for FMLA leave for the care of a newborn or newly adopted or newly placed foster child or for the care of a family member's serious health condition. An employee may substitute his or her annual or sick leave for FMLA leave for the employee's own serious health condition (including complications associated with childbirth). Any paid sick leave and/or other paid time off taken for the employee's serious health condition may count toward an employee's FMLA entitlement.

¹ Under House provisions employees who have been continuously employed since the effective date of the Congressional Accountability Act on January 23, 1996, are FMLA eligible.

FMLA leave will be designated as such retroactively upon an employee's return to work where the employee does not inform the Chief of Staff in advance of the reason for the leave and the Chief of Staff discovers upon the employee's return that the reason for the leave falls under the FMLA.

Intermittent or Reduced Schedule Leave: When an employee seeks to take FMLA leave intermittently or on a reduced schedule basis, the employee must comply with the following guidelines:

Leave may be taken intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule to care for a seriously ill family member or for the employee's own serious health condition.

Leave shall not be taken intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule to care for a newborn or a newly adopted or newly placed foster child without the agreement of the Office.

When leave is taken intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule, the Chief of Staff may require that the employee transfer to an alternative position which has equivalent pay and benefits, and which better accommodates recurring periods of leave.

Medical Certification: An employee who requests FMLA leave for his or her own illness or to care for a family member is required to provide a medical certification from the health care provider that the leave is due to the serious health condition of the employee or the employee's immediate family member. The employee must have the health care provider complete and return the certification form within 15 days, where possible.

The Chief of Staff may also require an opinion by a second health care provider designated by the employer. If there is a conflict between the first and second certifications, the Chief of Staff may require and pay for a third opinion by a health care provider jointly approved by the Chief of Staff and the employee. The opinion of the third health care provider is final and binding.

The Chief of Staff may also require that an employee present a fitness for duty certification upon return to work when the absence is caused by the employee's own serious health condition. The Chief of Staff may seek such certification only with respect to the particular serious health condition that was the reason for the employee's request for FMLA leave. The employee is responsible for the cost of such certification. The Chief of Staff will notify the employee whether a fitness for duty certification is required as soon as possible after the employee notifies the Chief of Staff of the reason for FMLA leave. The Chief of Staff may delay or refuse to restore an employee to duty if the Chief of Staff has requested and the employee has failed to provide the appropriate fitness for duty certification.

Periodic Reports: The Chief of Staff may also require periodic reports from an employee on leave regarding his or her status and intention to return to work.

Continuation of Benefits: While on FMLA leave, whether paid or unpaid,

employees will continue to be enrolled in their health insurance plans. As long as the employee remains enrolled in health benefits, the U.S. House of Representatives will continue to pay the Government contribution for employees on Leave Without Pay. The employee is responsible for payment of the employee share and will be contacted by the Office of Personnel and Benefits to arrange for monthly payments. Under federal regulations an employee whose enrollment continues for a period of time without payment is deemed to have consented to recovery of indebtedness for past-due health benefits premiums from future salary, or from any other moneys owed to an employee by the Federal Government.

Reinstatement from Leave: Upon return to work after taking FMLA leave an employee generally will be entitled to be restored to the same position or an equivalent position to that which the employee occupied before taking FMLA leave. If an employee is unable to perform the essential functions of his or her job because of a mental or physical condition, the employee has no right to restoration to another position under the FMLA.

If an employee is on family and medical leave in excess of 12 weeks within a 12-month period, the employee will not be guaranteed reinstatement. The employer has the right to determine whether an employee will be granted reinstatement.

Except for employees on authorized active military duty, if an employee accepts other employment while on leave, the employee will be deemed to have terminated employment with the Office on the first day of the new employment.

Employment of Spouses: Spouses employed by the same employing office may be limited to a combined total of 12 work weeks during a 12-month period of family and medical leave when the leave is taken for the following purposes: (1) the birth and/or care for such newborn child; (2) the placement of a child for adoption or foster care; or (3) the care of a parent who has a serious health condition.

Performance and Merit Reviews: Performance reviews may be delayed for a period equal to the length of the FMLA leave.

Misrepresentation: If an employee misrepresents the reasons for requesting FMLA leave, the employee may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

Intimidation and Retaliation Prohibited: An employer may not use the taking of FMLA leave as a negative factor in employment decisions such as promotions or disciplinary actions. Retaliation of any kind is prohibited.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT OF

**EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK FOR THE
OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN MIKE HONDA**

I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Employee Handbook for the Office of Congressman Mike Honda, and that I have read and understand the contents of the handbook. I understand the handbook is intended to provide me with general information about policies and procedures of the Office that govern my employment.

I acknowledge and understand that employment with the Office is at-will and that all employees serve at the pleasure of the Office. Accordingly, I have the right to resign from my position, at any time, and the Office can terminate my employment relationship, with or without cause, or with or without notice, at any time, except, of course, the Office cannot terminate my employment for discriminatory reasons in violation of applicable federal law or Rules of the House of Representatives. I understand that by signing this Acknowledgment I do not waive my rights under applicable federal law or the Rules of the House of Representatives.

I also understand and acknowledge that the office may unilaterally change or revise, with or without notice, its policies and practices, and such changes may affect the benefits provided therein. Moreover, I understand and acknowledge that the contents of employee handbooks, personnel manuals, benefit plans, policy statements, and the like as they may exist from time-to-time, or other employment practices, shall not serve to create an actual or implied contract of employment, or to confer any right to remain an employee of the office, or otherwise to change in any respect the employment-at-will relationship between the office and myself.

I acknowledge that no one in the Office is authorized to make exception to this understanding, except Congressman Honda or the Chief of Staff, who must do so in writing.

(Signature of Employee)

(Date)

(Member or Designee)

Exhibit 10

**Interview of Former District Director
April 21, 2015**

Mr. Gast: This is Scott Gast, with the Office of Congressional Ethics, with my colleague, Mr. Paul Solis. We're joined by Former District Director, who has agreed to sit with us for an interview. She is accompanied by her attorney, Stan Brand. We've provided Former District Director with a copy of the Federal False Statements Act. After consulting with her attorney, she has declined to sign the Acknowledgement Form.

We want to thank you for being here today. We'll just dive right into the questions. A little bit of background to start, if you could tell us your current position, how long you've been in the position, and what some of your duties are in that position?

Witness: Do I need to look at this?

Mr. Solis: It's pretty ... It will pick it up.

Mr. Gast: We ask you to keep your voice up nonetheless, just to be sure.

Witness: Okay. My name is [REDACTED] Currently, I serve as Chief Education Advisor to Congressman Honda. I've been in that position since the beginning of February 2015.

Mr. Gast: What do you do in that position as Chief Education Advisor?

Witness: I advise the Congressman and our education team as to matters that deal with the Congressman's education policy and gather information from the community as to which education issues are most prominent. I attend meetings and events that are education-issue based within the community. Occasionally, I come out to DC because of education conferences or hearings.

Mr. Gast: You said you have been in that position since February?

Witness: Right.

Mr. Gast: What did you do prior to that?

Witness: Prior to that, I was District Director.

Mr. Gast: How long were you in that position?

Witness: About 14 years, since the Congressman got elected. I started in, I think it was the end of February, in the year 2001.

Mr. Gast: Generally what were your duties as District Director?

Witness: Manage the office staff, be the liaison to the Chief of Staff, operationalize the Congressman's agenda within the District, to serve as the eyes and ears of the Congressman.

Mr. Gast: Who has succeeded you as District Director?

Witness: Edwin Tan.

Mr. Gast: I want to ask you about your interaction with Representative Honda's campaigns, primarily the last two cycles, the 2012 and 2014 cycles. What kinds of interactions, how would you describe your interactions with his campaign?

Witness: I was a volunteer.

Mr. Gast: What kind of things would you volunteer to do?

Witness: Close to the election, I took vacation time and volunteered, mostly precinct walking. Prior to that, I don't recall specifically how I volunteered. I spent time at the campaign office after hours or when I wasn't working my official job. In advisement.

Mr. Gast: How would you describe the interaction between the campaign and the congressional office, the district office?

Witness: It was an interaction where staff occasionally volunteered, particularly at election times. There was an interaction regarding scheduling.

Mr. Solis: Could you explain that a little more, what scheduling means?

Witness: We were both competing for the Congressman's time, so we needed to know what was on the docket with them versus what was on the docket for us.

Mr. Gast: Would you, beyond scheduling, would there be other kinds of information the two offices would share?

Witness: There were times when issues arose, perhaps at a campaign event, and that information, which would be important to the way we conduct our official business, that issue would be related to our staff. There were times when, at a campaign event, a constituent would ask, and what I can specifically recall, are

immigration issues. Although told to call the official office, the person could be very demanding and say, "I want you to relay my mother's visa problem to the official office."

Mr. Gast: What about, was there any information that would come from the congressional office to the campaign?

Witness: What I remember mostly is scheduling.

Mr. Gast: Anything else?

Witness: Mostly scheduling related, like the logistics of moving the Congressman from one place to the other. There was, not during congressional time, but a request for official staff to volunteer on their own time, in which case we needed to schedule that for vacations so that not everyone was out of the office at the same time. We had a schedule, a specific schedule, as to who would be out when to record vacation time and also to assure that our constituents would be served.

Mr. Gast: Who in the district office would work with the campaign, volunteer with the campaign?

Witness: I think that everyone volunteered at the campaign, close to the election.

Mr. Gast: What kinds of things would they do?

Witness: Phone banking, precinct walking.

Mr. Gast: How would you, you said that you coordinated vacation time. How would you keep track of the time where congressional staff did campaign work versus official work?

Witness: Staff would submit a vacation request to me. I would sign that request. I would check in with our scheduler on a master calendar, again to assure that we had enough people in the office for walk-ins and phone calls to do our regular constituent services. From that, the scheduler would form another schedule so we knew when official staff would be out on vacation to do campaign work.

Mr. Gast: Did staff ever do campaign work during the workday?

Witness: Not that I recall.

Mr. Gast: Were time records kept delineating when folks were working in the congressional office or working on official matters versus working on campaign matters?

Witness: Aside from the vacation, I am not aware of staff working on the campaign, unless they worked after hours at a phone bank as volunteers. It was not our practice to have staff, during working hours, do anything for campaign.

Mr. Gast: What about in the case of, I understand Ashley Roybal and Mark Nakamoto were in unique positions at different times when they were 50 percent campaign, 50 percent congressional staff. Is that right?

Witness: I don't recall if it was 50 percent. I do recall they had dual roles.

Mr. Gast: How was that dual role handled?

Witness: It was delineated how many hours they were to be in the official office. I don't recall what the agreement would have been in terms of time for campaign.

Mr. Solis: Who would have made the decision about that delineation?

Witness: Jennifer would have made the ultimate decision, as Chief of Staff. She would have consulted with me to see what hours were needed in order for us to continue our official business within the district office.

Mr. Solis: What about the specific issue of the hours those two individuals would spend on the campaign? Would you and Jennifer also weigh in on that? I understand the official side. Would you weigh in on what was needed for Ashley and Mark in terms of hours on the campaign side?

Witness: I don't recall what hours were needed or what the ... What I do recall is with Ashley was more on an as-needed basis, whereas with Mark, it seemed like more regular hours that he would be at campaign.

Mr. Solis: You recall for Ashley, it was as needed on the campaign and for Mark there were determined hours?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Solis: Okay.

Mr. Gast: How would those hours then be tracked?

Witness: We tracked Mark's attendance in the district.

Mr. Solis: At the district office? The congressional district office?

Witness: Yes, as we do with other employees.

Mr. Gast: Then who would sign off on him meeting his target number of hours per week?

Witness: I don't think there was a sign off. Every day, a schedule would come out. It would have what was expected of Mark. If he were not showing up, then I would ask the scheduler, "Did he call in? Is he absent?" and question it. He's a very diligent, dedicated person. If he was assigned to a certain amount of hours, my expectation was that he would be in the district those hours. If, for some reason, he wasn't, I would ask the scheduler, who keeps track of our records.

Mr. Gast: Was there some check to make sure that he actually worked the number of hours he was supposed to in the official office?

Witness: The check would have been the attendance sheet.

Mr. Gast: What is that attendance sheet?

Witness: It's a record of who showed up to work that day, whether they were sick or taking a vacation day, or present.

Mr. Gast: Who put together that attendance sheet?

Witness: Our scheduler.

Mr. Gast: That was Charlene Loomis?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: At any time during the arrangement with Mark, did Charlene or any other employee bring to your attention that Mark was not meeting his official hours?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: When Ashley and Mark would be doing their campaign roles, where would they do that work?

Witness: To my knowledge, they did it out of the official office. I was not aware of either one of them doing campaign work during the time they were within our office.

Mr. Gast: Do you know where they would have done it if it wasn't in the official office, where they would go?

Witness: Mark would go to the campaign office. Ashley did work from home. I don't recall whether we had an office space. At one point we had an office space rented in the building for campaign to use. I don't recall whether that was during the time that Ashley was doing campaign work.

Mr. Gast: You said that you're not aware of either Ashley or Mark doing any campaign work while they were in the congressional office?

Witness: Right.

Mr. Gast: Did you ever see Mark making campaign phone calls using the congressional office phones?

Witness: No. Our office layout is in a U. I was over here, in an enclosed office. Our scheduler was next to me. Then the Congressman's office and then the field reps were all out here, with the reception out here. For me to see or hear a call out there would have been very difficult. I would not have seen it. That's for sure.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Did anyone bring to your attention any instances of either Ashley or Mark making campaign calls in the congressional district office?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Did anybody bring to your attention any occasions when either Ashley or Mark were doing campaign work in the congressional office?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Using computers to do campaign work, anything like that?

Witness: Not that I recall.

Mr. Gast: How involved was Representative Honda in his campaigns?

Witness: Could you define involved?

Mr. Gast: I leave that up to you. Was he an active person running his campaigns? Did he leave it more to staff? How would you characterize his participation running the campaign?

Witness: I would characterize it as something happening to him versus he being really active in campaign.

Mr. Gast: Did you discuss his campaigns with him?

Witness: Yes, upon occasion.

Mr. Gast: What kind of discussions would you have?

Witness: As I recall, it was mostly, "How are you feeling about the campaign? Are you finding time for personal matters?" My recollection, it was more on a personal level.

Mr. Solis: Anything about strategy or events or people who he should be contacting for fundraising opportunities or anything like that?

Witness: I don't recall specifically.

Mr. Gast: Who else would Representative Honda discuss his campaign with?

Witness: I wasn't present when he would discuss his campaign. I recall an instance on Saturdays, when we were all in the meeting, and he would discuss his campaign with his manager and his consultant, a meeting that I was in attendance.

Mr. Gast: Was this a regular meeting?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: You said this was on a Saturday?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Where was this?

Witness: At campaign headquarters.

Mr. Gast: Was this something that was just a one-time deal that you were there or was this on multiple occasions?

Witness: I recall one Saturday meeting and one large meeting with the entire campaign staff.

Mr. Gast: How did you come to be at these meetings?

Witness: I was invited in my district director position.

Mr. Gast: What was the discussion at these meetings?

Witness: The original meeting was campaign strategy.

Mr. Gast: Was that the Saturday meeting or the larger meeting?

Witness: The larger meeting. The Saturday meeting was to resolve some disputes.

Mr. Gast: What kind of disputes?

Witness: It was a dispute with the Congressman and the consultant.

Mr. Gast: Who was the consultant?

Witness: Barry Barnes.

Mr. Gast: You said the campaign manager was also there?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Who was that?

Witness: Doug Greven.

Mr. Solis: Is this in 2012, these meetings?

Witness: I don't recall if it was in ... I think it would have been 2013, versus 2012. He was re-elected in 2012. These meetings took place in 2013.

Mr. Gast: Beyond those two meetings that we just talked about, were you invited to other campaign meetings similar to those?

Witness: Where the Congressman was there?

Mr. Gast: Or general strategy type meetings with the campaign manager, or the consultant or the Congressman were there.

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: How often would those meetings take place?

Witness: A rough estimate would be once a quarter.

Mr. Gast: How often would Representative Honda participate in those meetings?

Witness: I don't recall him being at those meetings.

Mr. Gast: It would be the campaign manager and the consultant?

Witness: Myself and Jennifer.

Mr. Gast: Then Doug Greven?

Witness: Right.

Mr. Gast: And the consultant, Barry?

Witness: It could have been the finance person.

Mr. Gast: Who was that?

Witness: Sudip Dutta.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Was there anyone else?

Witness: Not that I remember. Oh, it may have been the press person, Vivek ... I'm not remembering his last name.

Mr. Gast: Is it Kembaiyan, or something similar?

Witness: Right.

Mr. Gast: Is it safe to say that was a campaign brain trust?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: You would meet on a quarterly basis to-

Witness: That's a rough estimate.

Mr. Gast: Sure.

Witness: I don't recall any specific meetings. I do recall meeting with them on occasion.

Mr. Gast: I want to ask you briefly about Google Drive and Dropbox. Do you recall those programs, those accounts?

Witness: I need to preface this by saying I am not technologically literate. I am more concerned ... I gave directions, but familiarity with them is not a skill that I have.

Mr. Gast: Did you use them yourself or direct other people to use them?

Witness: I would have asked staff to use them.

Mr. Gast: What are those accounts?

Witness: I think we've had many during the years. I don't recall specific ones.

Mr. Gast: What were they used for?

Witness: It could be used for an invitation list. It could be used to identify stakeholders involved in an issue.

Mr. Solis: By invitation list, invitations for what?

Witness: Any kind of district office event. It could be also used as an RSVP for checklist.

Mr. Solis: You mentioned stakeholders, lists of stakeholders. What do you mean by that?

Witness: People who had an interest in a particular issue.

Mr. Gast: What were those lists used for?

Witness: They were used to assist us in invitations to events that were issue-oriented. They were used to send thank you notes.

Mr. Gast: Who used these accounts, the Google and the Dropbox accounts?

Witness: I recall if there was a specific event, like we did a STEM education event, the person in charge of that event, field representatives, congressional aides, would use those lists. The staff assistant may use those lists if they were helping to keep track of RSVPs for the event.

Mr. Gast: Did campaign staff use materials that were on the Dropbox or Google accounts?

Witness: I don't recall that. Not to my knowledge.

Mr. Gast: What about Representative Honda?

Witness: I don't recall him using Google Documents. I recall him asking for briefers to be placed in the Dropbox.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Mr. Solis: Were there ever invitation lists for campaign events, based on those accounts?

Witness: I don't recall that happening.

Mr. Solis: Who developed the lists of either the invitations or the stakeholders?

Witness: The stakeholder list was assigned to the field rep, congressional aide, who was in charge of that issue. The invitation list was also assigned to the field rep and whoever they were partnering with to assist in the production of an event.

Mr. Gast: I want to offer you some specific examples of the interaction between the campaign and the congressional office with this email. Take a minute to look through that.

Witness: Sure.

Mr. Gast: I want to ask you about that initial email from Jennifer Van der Heide. Do you recall this email?

Witness: As I see it today, now I remember it.

Mr. Gast: For the record, this is RA-0033. Do you recall receiving this email?

Witness: As I see it today, I recall seeing it.

Mr. Gast: It appears that, other than Lamar Heystek, the recipients on this email are all members of the congressional staff. Is that correct?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: This is an email from Jennifer Van der Heide's personal account to the personal accounts of all of the folks listed there, primarily congressional staff. It's entitled, "Required reading. Entrepreneurial national" -- I think that's nation -- "by Ro Khanna." Would Jennifer typically assign campaign work like this?

Witness: Not typically.

Mr. Gast: What was your reaction when you received this email?

Witness: Honestly? I'm not going to read the book, and I didn't.

Mr. Solis: What would you call this? Would this be a campaign assignment or an official assignment?

Witness: As I read this, it implies both because there is a discussion of issues key to our district. It also mentions a challenge by a political opponent.

Mr. Solis: Is that person Ro Khanna?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: When Jennifer says "required reading" here, is this something that the recipients are free to say no to?

Witness: I can't speak for them. I can speak for myself. I said, "No."

Mr. Gast: Did you have any discussions with any of the other folks on the email, any of the other recipients, about the instruction to read the book?

Witness: I don't recall.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Mr. Solis: Why did you say no to reading the book?

Witness: I wasn't interested. I didn't feel it was a requirement of my job.

Mr. Solis: Why didn't you feel that way?

Witness: I don't recall the why, just a gut reaction.

Mr. Solis: Are there ever instances of strictly official assignments that Jennifer would assign, put out there, where staff could say, "I don't feel like doing that."

Witness: The only ones that I remember were in the confines of discussing the ethics rules, the rules of ethics, in terms of volunteering. Near campaign time, I recall her sending the ethics guidelines. I recall making it clear that it was volunteer, and not expected. That was my interpretation and the way that I tried to express it to my staff. I had no expectations that staff members would volunteer, particularly as we were responsible for maintaining business as usual in the office, during office hours.

Mr. Solis: Was this a surprise to you when you got this email or did you have a prior discussion with Jennifer that she would be sending this email to the staff?

Witness: I was surprised.

Mr. Gast: Why were you surprised?

Witness: I don't recall. I didn't have prior knowledge of it, so it came as a surprise.

Mr. Gast: Were you surprised by some of the language that Jennifer used "required reading?"

Witness: I don't recall how I felt more than what I told you.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Let's jump ahead to this email. This, for the record is THMH 1405.

Mr. Solis: We'll pause for a little bit.

Witness: Okay.

[Break]

Mr. Gast: Do you recall this email?

Witness: Through the process of collecting documents, I saw it and recalled it.

Mr. Gast: What do you recall about the circumstances of this email?

Witness: A lot of frustration. The Congressman asks, "Why? Why? Why?" I get irritated at times and respond sometimes out of frustration, sometimes out of irritation. I do recall this was a moment when I was irritated.

Mr. Gast: What prompted you to send this email?

Witness: He had, here's his question, "Purpose?"

Mr. Gast: Is this something that the congressional office would schedule, campaign events, like this?

Witness: We didn't schedule campaign events, except at the request of campaign that the scheduler put something on the schedule.

Mr. Gast: When you respond here that the purpose of the event is to build momentum for your campaign and certain club members are supporting your opponent, does that suggest that one of the things the district office was doing was seeking out and scheduling events that could be beneficial politically?

Witness: This email was done out of frustration. When I saw it in the collection, I was surprised and understood this was a mistake to send it from an official document.

Mr. Gast: I guess that's my question, is why, given that this appears to be an event with the Sunnyvale Democratic Club and a political event, that you would be discussing it as district director, using an official email, with a number of other congressional staff members included on the email.

Witness: It was done out of irritation and frustration in a moment of pressure. It was not my practice to do this. I do recall this situation.

Mr. Gast: Why didn't this come from the campaign?

Witness: It should have come from the campaign. There was overlap in my duties with scheduling, so something would show up on the campaign and the Congressman would respond to me. I would most often say, "Ask campaign." He would ask questions of me regarding the schedule, not differentiating sometimes what. He was asking, "Where? When? Why am I going here?" In the day, there may have been another event that was official. In his mind, he was laying out, I'm guessing, "What am I doing and what are the purposes?"

Mr. Solis: I had a question based on something that could have preceded Representative Honda's purpose question to you. I assume that by raising that question, there was a preceding conversation or there was something that led Representative Honda to ask that question. Do you know what that would have been?

Witness: He asked why. He responded this way to a multitude of events.

Mr. Solis: Would there have been an email from you or Jennifer or anybody else preceding this question from him?

Witness: Not necessarily.

Mr. Solis: He could have just seen it on the calendar and asked you?

Witness: Right. That was common. It would be one word, purpose, or a question, "Why am I doing this?"

Mr. Solis: Okay.

Mr. Gast: Who set up this particular meeting?

Witness: As I recall, it was campaign.

Mr. Gast: Did you have any input on that decision?

Witness: Not that I remember.

Mr. Solis: When you say campaign, who is that?

Witness: What I see here is Lamar Heystek. He was campaign manager.

Mr. Solis: What about Jennifer?

Witness: Can you...?

Mr. Solis: We asked the question, who would have put this together. You said campaign in speaking about the Sunnyvale Democratic Club event. You said that would have been campaign. I asked you, when you say campaign, who do you mean? You mentioned Lamar. Would Jennifer be considered in that-

Witness: Campaign?

Mr. Solis: ... in that definition of campaign?

Witness: No, it was ... This was Lamar. He was on the ground. It was something he would have done.

Mr. Gast: I want to move onto this email. I apologize for the small font on this. If you want to take a minute to look at that. For the record, this is THMH 1297. Let's walk through a couple of these. First, who is Cathy Ming Hyde?

Witness: She is our constituent services director.

Mr. Gast: How about Tom McEnergy?

Witness: He is a constituent in the district.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall getting a request from Mr. McEnergy at the congressional office?

Witness: When I read this email yes, I did.

Mr. Gast: What was he, why was he contacting the office?

Witness: He was seeking assistance for the Sharks I take it, whom he has some involvement with. I don't recall the exact relationship.

Mr. Gast: Did the office help him with that request?

Witness: When I read this email, yes we did.

Mr. Gast: Then I want to ask you about the email at the top of the page here. It appears to be an email from you to Madalene Mielke, Shari Ruben-Rick and Jennifer Van der Heide. First, who is Madalene Mielke?

Witness: She was our finance director in DC.

Mr. Gast: For the campaign?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Shari Ruben-Rick?

Witness: She was involved in the finance process for the campaign.

Mr. Gast: When you say, "I know we've tried with them before to no avail" what did you mean by that?

Witness: I don't recall specifically, tried with Tom to fulfill his requests. Reading the email, I can now look at it and say it looks like we tried to get Tom or the Sharks to come to a campaign event.

Mr. Gast: That reference to "we've tried with them before but to no avail" is that, you've tried to get them to make campaign contributions to Representative Honda's campaign?

Witness: Yes, to come to a campaign event.

Mr. Gast: What is the birthday event that you reference in that next sentence?

Witness: Congressman Honda has a birthday fundraiser in June.

Speaker 3: That's for his campaign?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Is it fair to say that you were forwarding this email to two of the finance people on the campaign in an attempt to see if they could get campaign contributions from either Tom or some of the Sharks ownership group?

Witness: As I read it now, yes. That's a fair statement.

Mr. Gast: Were there other occasions on which you forwarded names to the campaign as potential campaign contributors?

Witness: Not that I recall.

Mr. Gast: I want to ask you about, are you familiar with this chart? For the record, this is THMH 253.

Witness: No. I don't recall seeing this, even seeing it right now.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Are you aware of who prepared the chart?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Okay. We'll move on to this email. Take a look at that.

Witness: What is this referring to?

Mr. Gast: This email? I don't know if I understand your question.

Witness: It says, "Can you send me the corrected version?" The version of what?

Mr. Gast: That's what I was going to ask you. It appears that this is discussing what is listed at the bottom as an attachment, "Honda top accomplishments 2-13-2013" document.

Witness: I'm not recalling that specific document.

Mr. Gast: Is there a "Honda accomplishments" document that you're familiar with?

Witness: Not specifically. I remember at the end of the year, we would put our yearly report with his top accomplishments.

Mr. Gast: When you say we, is that the congressional office?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Could that be what's being discussed here in this chain?

Witness: I don't know.

Mr. Gast: Who would have drafted that document?

Witness: Honda top accomplishments? I don't know.

Mr. Gast: Would that have been something drafted by somebody in the congressional office?

Witness: The usual practice was the DC office because they're more directly involved or legislative issue experts. That would be their part in the contribution. Ours would be more events-related.

Mr. Gast: Were those documents used by the campaign as Jennifer seems to suggest here?

Witness: I don't know.

Mr. Gast: Were you ever aware of the campaign using accomplishments docs that were prepared in either the DC or the district congressional office?

Witness: Not that I recall.

Mr. Gast: Okay. You don't recall the corrected version that was sent to you, that you asked to be sent to you?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Mr. Solis: Mr. Gast, that was THMH 1452.

Mr. Gast: Thank you. This is, for the record TH-MH 930.

Witness: I recall this.

Mr. Gast: What was that Labor Breakfast that is discussed in the email?

Witness: As I remember it, it was a breakfast of labor leaders to discuss labor issues.

Mr. Gast: Was this a campaign or an official event?

Witness: I don't recall because I was confused when it came to labor as to what was sometimes official and sometimes campaign, in particular with issues. As I read this, he is doing things as a Member of Congress.

Mr. Gast: Does the fact that Lamar Heystek is included in the email suggest that it was a campaign event?

Witness: I don't remember. I remember in my mind being confused with the issue of Labor. Other issues were clear, like education. With labor, he's right now responding to the President's request on trade. He's doing that in his official capacity. Does it impact labor? Yes, so there was confusion in my mind.

Speaker 3: Would Lamar be cc'd or copied on official emails?

Witness: Not as a practice.

Speaker 3: What about every once in a while?

Witness: It could happen, but it wasn't a practice.

Mr. Gast: What would be the reason for including him on such an email about an official event?

Witness: There wouldn't be a reason unless this were a campaign event.

Mr. Gast: Would congressional staff draft background memos or briefings for campaign events?

Witness: That's not my memory. It happened here, in looking at this. That is congressional staff. Lamar's name on this would indicate that it was a Labor campaign event.

Mr. Gast: Are you aware of other instances where congressional staff put together talking points or background memos or briefers for campaign events?

Witness: What I remember is discussions regarding ethics, trying to be aware of issue knowledge for campaign events.

Mr. Gast: Can you explain that a little further?

Witness: In other words, the Congressman is going to a campaign event where it was constituent-related, like a Bangladeshi event, and he would need to know what the stance is with the US government. That would be official. He needed that preparation, but the event could have had a campaign purpose. I don't recall, but this is a hypothesis where I could see questions arising.

Mr. Gast: How would you handle those situations?

Witness: In general, the purpose of the congressional aides in the district is to gather knowledge from the community, not provide the expertise in content.

Mr. Gast: In that hypothetical situation that you gave us of a Bangladeshi event that might have a campaign purpose, but he would need that knowledge, how would those situations be handled generally?

Witness: Our role in district office was mainly the scheduling of the event, the timing, the logistics of who was picking him up, what else did he have on his schedule.

Mr. Gast: Were there occasions when the campaign would reach out to the folks in the district office and ask for background material for events?

Witness: I don't recall specifically.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall that as a general practice?

Witness: No, it was not a general practice to my knowledge.

Mr. Gast: I want to ask you about "coffee breaks." Are you familiar with the idea of coffee breaks?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: What are these "coffee breaks"?

Witness: It's been an item on the agenda for about 10 years. It's an opportunity to talk about information that's incidental, anecdotal, that wouldn't be captured in our official weekly report, in order to gather information from the community. It was also a personal time to discuss any personal matters. The district office, I liken to a train station where people are coming in and out unexpectedly, the phones are ringing. This was more water cooler kind of discussions.

Mr. Gast: When you say an item on the agenda, what agenda?

Witness: A staff meeting agenda.

Mr. Gast: Who would attend these staff meetings?

Witness: District staff.

Mr. Gast: Was this a mandatory meeting? Were staff required to attend?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Did Representative Honda ever attend these staff meetings?

Witness: Not to my knowledge. We had them most of the time ... We had staff meetings when he was in DC. They weren't weekly because of the congressional calendar. If I had an event that I had to attend, if certain people were sick, if we couldn't cover the office because we didn't have enough interns, there were other factors as to when or where or when we had these meetings.

Mr. Gast: Was the aspiration to have them weekly?

Witness: Yes. I asked people. I call them weekly so that people wouldn't schedule other meetings in the office at that time and that they wouldn't schedule meetings out of the office at that time.

Mr. Gast: Did campaign staff ever attend? Did Lamar ever attend any of these meetings?

Witness: I don't remember him attending any meetings.

Mr. Gast: These were held in the district office?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Was Representative Honda's campaign ever discussed?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: What kinds of conversations would you have about the campaign?

Witness: I don't recall specifically. What I remember is if an editorial would come out or a letter to the editor, then we would discuss the campaign.

Mr. Gast: What about events coming up or?

Witness: Events as part of the schedule. A standing item on the agenda was the Congressman's schedule.

Mr. Gast: When you would say, we're going to have this coffee break now, was that an attempt to, in effect, go off the official clock?

Witness: Yes. I mean just like you're discussing personal things, would you count that as official? No.

Mr. Gast: When you were off the official clock then, was that then considered okay to discuss campaign matters at that point?

Witness: It was okay to discuss the election and personal matters.

Mr. Gast: Did the fact that you were still in the district office factor into that decision about discussing those matters?

Witness: I designated as coffee break because I knew that my staff worked more than 40 hours a week. This was an opportunity to be more private than with constituents in ear shot and interruptions of phone.

Mr. Gast: Let me ask you this. Had you not taken a coffee break, would it have been appropriate to discuss the things you discussed during the coffee break?

Witness: I'm fuzzy on the ethics rules right now if somebody's in the kitchen, can you talk about, "Hey what's going on in the election," when you're obviously preparing lunch, or would you need to go out of the office to say, "What's happening in the election?" I know my practice was I designated places in the building to go to take campaign calls, to take my laptop out.

I had very specific places where I would talk; in front of the elevator pacing, so as not to have, be outside somebody's specific office. I sat on the floor outside the office, with a laptop. I went down to the lobby and found chairs that were not in where most of the traffic was going. There was a coffee shop in the building that had both outside and inside space available. It was my attempt to be conscientious and conform to the rules of ethics.

Mr. Solis: Did you ever talk about fundraising during the coffee breaks?

Witness: It could have happened.

Mr. Solis: What about Representative Honda's challengers, anything they were doing in the district?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Solis: Do you recall specific incidents where a challenger was discussed at a coffee break?

Witness: I recall more the feeling of anguish or anticipation or discouragement than specific situations.

Mr. Solis: Those feelings were based on campaign activities?

Witness: Actions that were ... We were in a fishbowl. We were the ones out in the district and, because it was a nationally profiled race, whether you were a constituent or not, we were constantly being asked about it. Staff needed to be prepared on how to answer. They were instructed, "When you get questions and calls, you refer to campaign."

Mr. Gast: I want to ask you about district office staff retreats.

Witness: Okay.

Mr. Gast: Let's walk through a couple I've seen of these notes from these retreats.

Witness: Okay.

Mr. Gast: The first is a retreat held in February 7th, 2012. For the record, this is JVH-OCE 1351. I want to just ask you about the first couple of pages.

Witness: Okay.

Mr. Gast: First, what was your general practice about district office retreats?

Witness: District office retreats were usually held off-site. The purpose of them would be to build the Congressman's action plan to meet his goals for the year. The purpose was always to bond. Perhaps there were new people coming into the office. It was to do a major planning, for example, we were redistricted twice while I was the district director. It may also have involved very heavily the logistics of moving.

Mr. Gast: Who would attend these retreats?

Witness: District staff.

Mr. Gast: Was this a mandatory thing for district staff?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Would Representative Honda attend?

Witness: He didn't attend the district office retreats.

Mr. Gast: Would the DC office ever attend these?

Witness: Not that I recall.

Mr. Gast: What about campaign staff?

Witness: I invited campaign staff to attend.

Mr. Gast: Were these official activities?

Witness: The retreat itself was an official activity. The campaign portion, in my mind, was a break from official.

Mr. Gast: On this document, the first page, you see under Summary Notes, the second bullet was "Overview of new district, Lamar." Was that Lamar Heystek?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Was he invited to participate in the staff retreat as we just talked about?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: What was the general thrust of his presentation?

Witness: The thrust of his presentation was to discuss information that he knew regarding the part of the district that was going to be new to us in a new session.

Mr. Gast: Did he discuss campaign plans or strategies or opponents, fundraising, anything like that?

Witness: I don't recall the request, but looking at this, he discussed campaign matters.

Mr. Gast: Do you know who prepared these notes?

Witness: I don't recall.

Mr. Gast: Did you prepare these notes?

Witness: I would not have prepared the notes as it occurred. I may have read them and added notes afterwards, reviewed them.

Mr. Gast: These appear to be edited with track changes. Could those be your edits?

Witness: It's possible.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall whether that is your work?

Witness: I don't recall specifically if it was me or other people too. I would say this is me.

Mr. Gast: Doing the track changes?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Okay. I want to ask you about the next topic down, "2012 challenges, impacts and attributes skills, MM." Does that MM refer to you?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Would this have been a part of the program that you were responsible for?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Then it looks, around number 3, it says, "Our voters are primarily in Santa Clara County. Getting MH's name out there (campaign new voters)." What were you discussing there?

Witness: Which number 3 is that?

Mr. Gast: I'm sorry. This 3, those two lines next to it.

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: What was it that you were discussing there?

Witness: We were discussing campaign matters. It was, in my mind, it was an official break. I was discussing campaign matters, how to reach new voters.

Mr. Solis: Did you declare an official break?

Witness: I don't recall specifically but it would be my practice to do so.

Mr. Solis: How would you do that?

Witness: I would say, "Now we're going to discuss campaign." Within that discussion, the rules of ethics would arise. I would tell people, "We are on a break."

Mr. Gast: Were people free to leave at that point?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Did anybody ever exercise that option to opt out of that part of the discussion?

Witness: Not that I remember.

Mr. Solis: When you say the rules of ethics would arise, did you verbally articulate them or they would arise in your mind?

Witness: I would announce to the staff, "As we do these campaign discussions, it is important to keep in mind what is ethically we are bound to ethically as official staff."

Mr. Solis: You said that every time the campaign was discussed?

Witness: In the retreats? I don't recall specifically. I know that would have been my practice. We didn't have that many retreats.

Mr. Solis: Going back to coffee breaks, would you verbally make that same declaration?

Witness: No. What I did was many times is raised my coffee cup as a signal and say, "Coffee break."

Mr. Solis: The ethics statement wouldn't have come during coffee breaks?

Witness: No, not as a matter of general practice.

Mr. Gast: Would the discussion include ways in which district office activities could support the campaign or be beneficial politically?

Witness: During this discussion?

Mr. Gast: During generally those discussions.

Witness: At the retreat, it could be interpreted that way because we wanted to reach all of our constituents. It was both an official obligation and something that the campaign would be doing too.

Mr. Gast: Was that tie ever made explicit, that the district office activities could be beneficial to the campaign?

Witness: I don't recall that specifically, but again, in my mind, this was a break. It's possible.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Let's jump ahead to another retreat. This was held on September 13th, 2010. I'm sorry, 2012. While you look that over, I'm going to run to the restroom.

Witness: Okay.

Mr. Solis: Pause again.

[Break]

Mr. Gast: All right, back on the record with [REDACTED]. We had a chance to review the notes from this staff retreat. Does that look like an accurate summary of what was discussed at the retreat?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: I want to ask you, is this similar to the retreat we just discussed, held offsite?

Witness: Right.

Mr. Gast: All district staff?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Did the DC staff attend?

Witness: Not that I recall.

Mr. Gast: How about Representative Honda, did he attend?

Witness: He was not there.

Mr. Gast: Okay, and was this considered an official event?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Okay, I want to ask you about a couple of items from these notes. First, under II, on the first page of the notes, the first point there says "New Cities, how to transition info from campaign to," I believe that's "DO," the District Office "(ethically and practically)." What was meant by transitioning info from district office?

Witness: In other words, in my mind, it was if an issue came up at a campaign event that was important for the district office to understand better, that information, in order for us to do our jobs better, would be important that we knew a little more about the constituency or the issue.

Mr. Gast: When that subject was discussed, did the issue of how the campaign's goals or strategies were communicated to the district office, so the district office could help advance those goals or advance those strategies?

Witness: It could have.

Mr. Gast: Were ways in which the district office could kind of help the campaign discussed?

Witness: I don't recall specifically.

Mr. Gast: Let me jump to second page. You will see a heading "A Thousand Crane"?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Right above that, it says, "DO? Chinese Language Outreach Cupertino." You see that?

Witness: Uh-huh [affirmative].

Mr. Gast: What was meant by that point?

Witness: I don't understand it completely now.

Mr. Gast: It looks like coming in a presentation, conversation led by Lamar and Mark, two folks with campaign roles, involving voter identification, voter turnout, that this was a way that the district office might assist with that voter ID, turn out, persuasion.

Witness: It could have been. It's not explicit to me there.

Mr. Gast: I had asked, what are ways in which the district office can help the campaign, was that discussed? Is this an example of something that was away in which the district office can help the campaign?

Witness: It could have been.

Mr. Gast: What about under this "Thousand Crane" fundraising idea which I understand was about getting 1,000 people to donate 1,000 each to raise \$1,000,000?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: There's a line there at the end, the last arrow, "also will likely be transactional, i.e. 'Help me with this visa for my grandma.' Donors are not going to be interested in the public affairs and federal government policy."

Witness: Where is that again? I'm sorry.

Mr. Gast: It's the last paragraph in the "Thousand Crane," yes.

Witness: Okay. Yes, that's right.

Mr. Gast: What was that? What was meant by it's "likely to be transactional"?

Witness: From the campaign perspective, there were times when a constituent would seek help from the official office in return for a donation to the congressman's campaign.

Mr. Gast: Can you think of examples of when that happened?

Witness: Not specifically, but it's my general memory at being at events and people bringing it up to me. I also recall training in terms and staff to expect those kinds of calls coming in to the district office and laying down the rules of ethics.

Mr. Gast: When you say people will bring it up to you in events, what would they bring up? What would they say?

Witness: I'm a big contributor. This is an example. Can you help me get my mother over here for my son's wedding?

Mr. Gast: You said training in terms of others about the appropriate way to handle that?

Witness: Right.

Mr. Gast: What was that?

Witness: To refer to campaign, to state that we are an official office that is not part of the official business, and that we serve all constituents.

Mr. Gast: Was the "transactional" meant in a sense that people who approach the district office for help might be potential campaign contributors?

Witness: That was a possibility.

Mr. Gast: What was the discussion about that?

Witness: From my memory, it was regarding how to handle that as a district office employee in terms of referring a person to campaign.

Mr. Gast: If the district office help somebody with a constituent matter to refer that person to the campaign as a potential donor?

Witness: No, only if the person said, "I am a contributor," or "Thank you, I would like to contribute to the congressman's campaign."

Mr. Gast: Is that similar discussion surrounding that next line? "What about managing those kind of DO handle requests by a crane? What about questionable requests?"

Witness: Request and discussing as to what our role would be concerned about in the expectations that could come from donors.

Mr. Gast: Was there any discussion of people who the district office has helped being the potential source of campaign contributions?

Witness: In general, I would say anybody could be whether they were a constituent or not.

Mr. Gast: Specifically though as to people who the district office had helped, was there any discussion about referring names to the campaign?

Witness: Not that I recall.

Mr. Gast: Okay. I want you to jump to that next subject, "Transitioning info from campaign to official." Was that Mark Nakamoto who led this particular discussion?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: The first line there, "how does official use intel from campaign? Outreach, learning." What was meant by that?

Witness: I don't recall specifically, but again, this was in my mind within the confines of non-official time discussing campaign, that the intel from campaign was something that specifically issue-related, would be important for district staff to be able to do their job. This was again speculative in nature.

Mr. Gast: Can you give me an example of intel from the campaign that would be useful for the district staff to do their job?

Witness: Yes. We had inherited a new district with a larger South Asian population than we had had in the past and an issue came up regarding this head of state of, in India, Mr. Modi, and an issue came up in a campaign related event: what is the congressman's stance on getting Mr. Modi a visa from the state department.

I don't recall who passed on that information to me, but I do recall that it came up in a campaign-related event and it impacted the district office in terms of how we viewed our constituency and how the congressman's and the US's Mr. stance on issuing a visa to Mr. Modi would impact our constituency.

Mr. Brand: Can I ask you about timing because I see you have quite a few more things to go through and I'm turning into a pumpkin at 2 today, I have to teach, and we still have Jennifer.

Mr. Gast: We still have Jennifer.

Mr. Brand: So-

Mr. Gast: We'll try to-

Mr. Brand: I know. I don't want to make you rush or not do things you want to do.

Mr. Gast: Sure, we'll try to move through this a little more quickly. Hopefully, we'll be able to get this done by 2.

Mr. Brand: Witness or both?

Mr. Gast: Both.

Mr. Brand: Oh, okay.

Mr. Gast: Hopefully.

Witness: That's good news.

Mr. Gast: Yes. Would any of that intel from the campaign have to do with the campaign strategy for winning re-election and the ways the district office could help with that?

Witness: It could have. I don't recall specifically.

Mr. Gast: Did you see that as a role of the district office?

Witness: Not an official capacity.

Mr. Gast: Would you discuss ways in which the district office may be able to do things to complement what the campaign was doing?

Witness: In this time period, when we were doing goal setting and my impression was that having a campaign person come to an offsite retreat to discuss the holistic view of the congressmen where campaign activities would impact our official schedule, those matters would be discussed.

I didn't know that having a campaign person come and do, take a break during retreat, was not complying with ethics until we had our office staff retreat recently in March and there was a campaign portion on the all-staff retreat, and so, Jennifer and I said maybe we should call Ethics, and we did, and the person said, "Yeah, you probably shouldn't have someone come to an official event." At that point, it triggered my memory that I had done this for two retreats, and so, I produced these notes.

Mr. Gast: Just going back to your discussion about goal setting and kind of this holistic approach, was re-election one of the goals?

Witness: Yes, people wanted to continue their job. We have a shared mission although we worked independently. We try to and we were on different teams. Yes, people love the congressman and wanted to make sure that he would be able to, or at least have the hope that he would be able to serve in congress beyond the election. I don't know how you wouldn't have people working for you that wouldn't hope that.

Mr. Gast: One last thing on these notes before we move on. There's discussion of the Google doc of stakeholders for CA17. What was that document?

Witness: I don't remember.

Mr. Gast: You had earlier discussed that was something that the district office staff put together. Is that the same document?

Witness: I don't know if it was the same. It was, we did put together Google documents in our official capacity listing stakeholders. It could be nonprofits. It could be elected officials who had championed an issue. It could be foundation leaders. It could be anybody, individual constituents who have interest in a particular issue.

Mr. Gast: Did the campaign use those documents?

Witness: I don't know. This isn't, "I don't recall," this is "I don't know."

Mr. Gast: Then, this discussion about "one-pager per issue important as anecdotal info like we supported this stakeholder was happy, tells us who to go to if we have event x or issue y. one-pager only for big issues." Who prepared those one-pagers?

Witness: I don't know if those one-pagers were ever prepared. This, again, wasn't definitive in terms of, it was speculative and questioning how do we or is it, it was more a brainstorm, or people were encouraged to ask all questions.

Mr. Gast: What was the plan for the one pagers, just the kind of the idea behind that?

Witness: If I read it here, would be like a one-pager on an issue like, for example, the Modi situation. I do not recall those one-pagers ever being produced. Again, I saw this as more of a brainstorm, whether any of this happened, I don't recall and I don't think that it was directive in any way.

Mr. Gast: Let's move on to an October 22, 2013 staff retreat, and I really just want to ask you about, at the bottom of page 2, "Campaign Update Presentation." Feel free to look through there.

Witness: Okay.

Mr. Gast: Again, on this retreat, was this for district staff, as an official event?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Did the Congressman attend?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: What about DC staff?

Witness: Not that I remember.

Mr. Gast: Where was this held?

Witness: This was held at my house in Aptos, California.

Mr. Gast: It appears, based on this section of the notes here, that Doug Greven, who is the campaign manager, gave a campaign update/presentation. Is that correct?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: I want to ask you about that first bullet there, "DC makes policy, we do events, campaign takes DO events and uses them to raise dollars." What was meant by that?

Witness: That's something that was part of Doug's presentation and that was something that he said, as to how it was to occur, whatever. I don't recall there being a discussion, but it was his perspective in something that he said.

Mr. Gast: Did he explain how the campaign will take DO events and use them to raise money?

Witness: Can I take a break right now? I'd like to ask my attorney something.

Mr. Gast: Is it possible to answer the question and then take a break?

Witness: Okay. All right, so Doug asked that I collect business cards from individuals and, on my own time, give those cards to campaign.

Mr. Gast: When you say "to collect business cards," would that be from official events?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Okay, thanks. Did he say why he wanted those business cards?

Witness: To build a database whatever. I don't recall.

Mr. Gast: Did he do so?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Okay. If you want to take a break now-

Witness: Yeah.

[Break]

Mr. Gast: Anything you wanted to add? Okay.

Let's jump ahead to a State Department roundtable event in the district, at Santa Clara University.

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Are you familiar with that event?

Witness: Yes, I am.

Mr. Gast: Can you give us just a quick thumbnail about what that event was?

Witness: We had a new constituency, a larger constituency, in our district of South Asians, and we wanted to outreach to them, to include them in our communications, and to expand our outreach to them as members of our new district.

Mr. Gast: Was this an official event?

Witness: Yes, it was.

Mr. Gast: Who was involved in putting the event together?

Witness: It was members of the district staff, and ... whoever was the district staff counterpart, this is the way we usually do it, in the D.C. office, would've been involved, and Jennifer, as chief of staff.

Mr. Gast: Who in the district office?

Witness: Originally, the event went to Ruchit Agrawal, but he quit during that time. So the event responsibility was transferred to Mark Nakamoto.

Mr. Gast: How about in D.C.?

Witness: The only person I remember is Jennifer.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Was Representative Honda involved in the planning of the event?

Witness: I don't remember specifically. It is our general practice to prepare him for events. An issue-based event like this, it is our general practice to have that preparation in D.C., with a district office staff member on the phone during that preparation time.

Mr. Gast: How were the invitees to this event selected?

Witness: From the district office. I remember that we were uncertain as to how many people were coming because of, at that time, Ruchit was lessening his responsibilities and not working up to capacity, so we had to fill the event quickly. I instructed Mark Nakamoto to ask interns to help us Google names of South Asians who would have an interest in the topic presented at this event.

Mr. Gast: Was Representative Honda's campaign involved in selecting invitees to this event?

Witness: Not as I saw in the district office. I did not communicate with campaign regarding invitees to this event.

Mr. Gast: Let me walk through a couple of emails with you.

First, this one, for the record, is THMH 1895. This appears to start with an email from Ruchit to Jennifer about the S.V. Gujarat roundtable. Is that the same State Department roundtable event that we're talking about?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Then Jennifer responds to Ruchit's initial names, and adds you as a cc on the email. Do you recall that?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Jennifer then further responds, including you, and says "Also I asked Lamar for a list which was due tonight." Is that Lamar, Lamar Heystek, is that you understand that to be?

Witness: I understand that to be Lamar Heystek.

Mr. Gast: What did you understand Jennifer to be telling you there?

Witness: That she was asking Lamar for people that he may have encountered during the campaign, as a source to fill up the room.

Mr. Gast: So the campaign was involved in selecting invitees?

Witness: I don't know whether they did or not. Obviously this asks for them. What I recall is my part in the official office, which I just described to you.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Let's show you this series. I really want to focus on the first page, the February 8th, 2013 email from Lamar, and then Jennifer's.

Witness: What day is that? Is that February 9th?

Mr. Gast: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Witness: Where's February 8th?

Mr. Gast: This right here.

Witness: This one that says, "I've shared an item with you"?

Mr. Gast: Yes, mm-hmm (affirmative).

Witness: Okay.

Mr. Gast: And then the one from Jennifer, which ...

Witness: Is right above it.

Mr. Gast: Is right above it, correct.

Witness: Okay. Yes, I just read it.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall getting this email from Lamar? It's not clear who the recipients were.

Witness: When it came out in the newspaper, and since then, yes.

Mr. Gast: You do recall getting that?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: What did you understand him to be emailing you?

Witness: Are you referring to this line now, or what are you referring to?

Mr. Gast: The "I've shared an item with you," where he says, "Hello Jennifer, here is a list of South Asian tech investment folks..."

Witness: Oh, so this is part of the same email?

Mr. Gast: Yes.

Witness: Okay.

Mr. Gast: It appears that in this email from Lamar, he sent this text with a Google document.

Witness: Okay.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall that email from Lamar?

Witness: I recalled it when it became a press item, and since that time, in the phase of finding emails.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall receiving it at the time it was sent?

Witness: There was so much going on, I don't recall this one specifically.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall the reference to "folks who've donated to candidates in the past, none to MH"?

Witness: I don't think I was paying that much attention.

Mr. Gast: What about his reference to the donation history of the people on this list?

Witness: I didn't recall that until I saw this in the newspaper, or wherever it was. My focus was on getting the names from the interns through Mark Nakamoto.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall working with this list from Lamar at all?

Witness: No, I don't recall that. Until it became ... it got in the newspapers and then I looked through, or Jennifer sent me the Google document, and I think my name was shared on there so that I would have received it.

Mr. Gast: But sitting here today, you don't recall receiving it at the time?

Witness: Not specifically.

Mr. Gast: Or working with the list that Lamar attached?

Witness: I don't recall that. Again what I specifically remember was dealing with Mark Nakamoto, and Mark Nakamoto was acting in his official capacity, and we were doing event building in the way that we usually do.

Mr. Gast: What about the subsequent email from Jennifer, in which she says, "Great lists. How are we doing outreach to them for 'dollar sign'?" Do you recall that, receiving that email?

Witness: I didn't recall it until I saw it in the newspaper. There were many, many emails. I didn't respond. I just didn't respond.

Mr. Gast: At the time of the event, did you have any conversations with Jennifer about seeking campaign contributions from the folks involved with the event?

Witness: I don't recall having any such conversations with Jennifer.

Mr. Gast: With anyone?

Witness: I don't ... I really don't remember that. My focus, I remember, was on the logistics and who was going to come, in terms of the elected officials. It was a complicated agenda, because we were meeting with the speaker ahead of time and all of that. So it was a very busy time. I do not recall much of what happened here.

Mr. Gast: Let me ask you, if this was an official event, why are personal emails being used on these emails to talk about putting it together? Looks like it's sent to your Gmail account.

Witness: I didn't write this email, so ... I don't know. Don't recall. I didn't have this conversation.

Mr. Gast: Were there other occasions in which Lamar or other people associated with the campaign had input on who would be invited to official events?

Witness: Not that I recall today. Again, my focus for official was serving our constituents out of our database within the district office.

Mr. Gast: How about input on what kinds of events to hold?

Witness: That conversation could have come up in a planning meeting. It could have come up, I remember specifically, as a scheduling item. We wanted to do a social security event, campaign was going to do a social security event, so we discussed the situation. As a volunteer to the campaign and as, what I would say, I was responsible for the schedule. Those were discussions that were necessary so that we wouldn't be wasting the Congressman's time.

Mr. Gast: How about going back to that staff retreat suggestion about doing district office outreach to Chinese language speakers in Cupertino. Did you get input like that from the campaign, like "How about doing an event in Cupertino surrounding issues important to the Chinese population there"?

Witness: I don't recall specifically. What I remember is planning events within the official office. I remember the Congressman going to a lot of events in Cupertino, but I do not recall a specific Chinese language event that we scheduled as part of our official capacity, for whatever purpose.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Want to move onto the last subject I want to ask you about, and that's using congressional staff for personal business, personal errands of the Congressman.

Witness: Mm-hmm (affirmative), right.

Mr. Gast: Were you ever asked by anyone, the Congressman or other staff, to assist the Congressman with personal errands or personal business?

Witness: Not that I remember. I was always trying to help him out, given his amount of travel, with time, so ... but I don't remember a specific instance of doing something for him personally.

Mr. Gast: What about, did you ever direct any district office staff members to assist him with any personal matter?

Witness: I didn't personally direct them, but I wasn't involved on that level of the operation as much. Mine was more strategic in terms of actually taking the Congressman from point A to B. Congressional staff had that responsibility, along with the scheduler.

Mr. Gast: So you don't recall any occasion in which you directed somebody to do a personal errand? Go pick up dry cleaning, go ...

Witness: I don't remember directing them. I remember that there were ... I remember discussions regarding picking up the Congressman's medication from Costco. I remember a discussion regarding his dry cleaning.

Mr. Gast: Can you give me a sense of what those discussions were?

Witness: With Costco it was, "Costco is only open until 6:00, his plane isn't arriving until then, and how are we going to get his medicine to him?" The dry cleaning was, "He doesn't have time to pick up his dry cleaning, can you pick it up on the way to an event, or on the way home if you live nearby him, or..." I don't recall the outcome, but I do remember discussing those two.

Mr. Gast: How would you ... How often would that happen, would you have those kind of discussions?

Witness: In my memory, not very often.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Were you involved in setting up the Congressman's Netflix or Apple TV at his home in California?

Witness: The way our district office was structured, there was a deputy district director, and he was involved in supervising the person who was responsible for IT.

Mr. Gast: Who was that?

Witness: That was Ruchit Agrawal. Robert Lucas, during that time.

Mr. Gast: Did they have a role in setting up the Congressman's Apple TV Netflix at his house?

Witness: As I read it in the paper, and have seen it since, yes.

Mr. Gast: Were you involved in that at the time?

Witness: I was not involved, but I would be responsible for actions taken by my staff. I wouldn't ... I don't understand IT and sound systems and how all that works very well, so I would entrust that with someone with more knowledge than me.

Mr. Gast: I believe those are all the questions we have for you. I appreciate your time in sitting down with us.

Witness: Okay.

Exhibit 11

Interview of Former Congressional Aide #1
March 25, 2015

Mr. Gast: This is Investigative Counsel Scott Gast with the Office of Congressional Ethics, here with my colleague Paul Solis, Deputy Chief Counsel. It is Wednesday, March 25th, 2015, and we are here with Former Congressional Aide #1 - am I saying that correctly?

Witness: You are.

Mr. Gast: For an interview regarding matter 15-2070. We appreciate you being here with us today and taking the time to talk to answer our questions.

Witness: What was that number?

Mr. Gast: 15-2070. We'd like to start out with a little bit of background. If you could just give us your current employment situation.

Witness: I'm an LLM student right now at Golden Gate Law School. I'm getting my LLM in taxation.

Mr. Gast: If you could just keep your voice up a little so we make sure we get it on the recording.

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Gast: And you said that was an LLM student at Golden Gate University?

Witness: Yeah, San Francisco.

Mr. Gast: And when did you start there?

Witness: January of this year. I got my bar results in November and then transitioned to that.

Mr. Gast: Okay, are you doing anything else or are you a full time student?

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Gast: Full time. And what did you do prior to starting as a full time student?

Witness: I was studying for the bar.

Mr. Gast: And I assume you took the bar exam?

Witness: Yeah, I took it July of 2014

Mr. Gast: July of 2014. And prior to studying for the bar what ...?

Witness: I graduated law school 2012, worked for the Congressman until February 2013, when I resigned for the reason that we're here. Then I was studying for the bar. Took it July 2013, failed, and then took it July 2014, was able to pass.

Mr. Gast: Okay. So you graduated from undergraduate in the Spring of 2012, is that correct?

Witness: No, law school.

Mr. Gast: From law school in the spring of 2012.

Witness: Yeah, I went to UCLA.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Witness: I do have my resume here if that makes it easier.

Mr. Gast: This should be good. And right after graduating law school did you begin working for Representative Honda at that time?

Witness: There was some little time gap, but yeah.

Mr. Gast: That was your first employment position after graduating?

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Gast: What was your position when you were hired?

Witness: Congressional Aide. I think I gave you a job description.

Mr. Gast: You did. We like to just get this all on the record for keeping it in one place. So Congressional Aide. Was that the same position you had during your entire ...?

Witness: Yeah, it was the same title.

Mr. Gast: Okay. What were your general duties as a Congressional Aide?

Witness: The primary duty ... Nominally or actually? Should we do both?

Mr. Gast: Why don't we start with nominally? What do you mean by nominally first?

Witness: I mean, what was communicated to me or how did it actually play out?

Mr. Gast: Let's start with what the responsibilities for that position were communicated to you.

Witness: Okay. During the interview process it was communicated to me that there would be two roles in the position. Consistent with the job description, those two roles were field representative, which was basically you take a segment of the Congressman's issues -- the main one was education for me -- and serve as a liaison with stake holders and pimp his policies in the district.

Then the second thing would be a case worker, which is, someone comes in with a concern with a federal agency and you try to work with the relevant Congressional liaison on those issues. That was the entirety of what was communicated to me in the interview process.

Mr. Gast: Now let's talk about what your actual duties were when you started.

Witness: I think the best example that documents what I'm saying is, there's an email from January of 2013, which has Meri Maben, my supervisor, showing that the IT role is the number one priority. The last month and a half that was the only thing I was given to do. Case work and field work was given to other people. The number one priority was this sort of, for lack of a better term, personal servant, IT guy for the Congressman's home, Meri Maben's home and the Congressional office.

This is despite, if you look at my resume, I have no background in that area. I was an econ major, went to law school, I bought my first smart phone in 2012. In California there's a case called Lazar v. Superior Court, which is a case of promissory estoppel. I think this is sort of a textbook case of pre-employment fraud. That was the number one priority.

The number two thing was to do field work. The interesting aspect of that for me was the lack of communication that you would have to use your personal car to drive the congressman around. You get compensated but there was no compensation for buying the car. If you're hiring new graduates with no money I don't know where I'm supposed to get the money to buy that car. That was never communicated that there was an expectation that the Congressman would use your car, which was in my

case my parents' car. My parents are Republicans. They don't really appreciate that.

Mr. Gast: Sure.

Witness: Also, going to events and talking about standard field work.

The third thing was case work. Case work is help with a federal agency. The interesting aspect of that is the prioritization of so called "Friends of M.H." That's not to say that if it wasn't a Friend of M.H. you weren't told to do the work, or that even Friends of M.H. you were told to work more time on, but those were the only cases that people up the hierarchy would ever ask about. The designation in and of itself is problematic because if you were starting off in an employment situation you're naturally going to want to impress your boss. There's no reason to communicate that designation.

Mr. Solis: Just to be clear, when you say Friends of M.H. is that the Congressman's Congressional campaign committee?

Witness: No, Friends of M.H. is just sort of designation for Friends of Mike Honda. Not formally, the campaign ...

Mr. Gast: You mean like an informal designation?

Witness: This is a Friend of MH.

Mr. Gast: Like a VIP request that comes in?

Witness: Exactly. I can remember there was an Indian restaurant was one of the cases that I had. If we go through my IQ notes I can go to case work specific but ...

Mr. Gast: How would one get designated informally as a Friend of M.H.?

Witness: I didn't have enough background. I was too low on the totem pole to know that. I don't want to speculate.

Mr. Gast: You were just told ...

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Gast: When a request was given to you to work on, that this person was an FOMH and you should take extra care or ...

Witness: Just that hey, this is a Friend of M.H. That was all that was said.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Witness: I think we're all reasonably intelligent people.

Mr. Gast: When you say reasonably intelligent people, what do you mean by that?

Witness: I think, at least for me, the way I interpret that and I guess I can only speak for that, I can't speak for the way ... I interpret that being this is a case that if I do well on, it would be better for me. It would help me more than another case.

Mr. Gast: Did you ever ...

Witness: Help me in the sense that it would be more impressive for my boss and subjectively that's always ...

Mr. Gast: Sure. Was it ever communicated to you that campaign contributors were designated FOMH?

Witness: That was never ... No, it was not like ... It's not that.

Mr. Solis: [REDACTED] can I just ask you, when Scott asks you a question can you just make sure that he finishes his question first?

Mr. Gast: Yeah, just so it's clear on the tape.

No one ever told you that campaign contributors were given the designation of Friends of Mike?

Witness: No, I think it was just more prominent people.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Witness: They don't have to be contributors, they could be potential ... Not even just potential contributors, prominent people in district are prominent people.

Mr. Gast: Sure. I want to go back to one of the things that you said. We'll probably talk about a couple other things that you laid out. You said that when your primary role was IT, you said something about being the personal servant/ IT guy for the Member and for Meri Maben.

Witness: Charlene Loomis kept a copy of the key to the Congressman's house in the keyboard drawer of her desk. I had a copy of that key if I needed to do work at the Congressman ... The best example I would give of that is this trip that Robert Lucas made in a weekend in January 2013. I was at his house, organizing in his living room, stuff unrelated. You could ...

Mr. Gast: Let me stop you for one second just to make sure we're on the same page. Did you have a copy of the Congressman's house key?

Witness: No, if there was something designated ...

Mr. Gast: You would get it from Charlene Loomis.

Witness: Yeah, I didn't have a copy myself.

Mr. Gast: You said Robert Lucas came from the Washington DC office ...

Witness: DC office to the district.

Mr. Gast: To the district. That was in January 2013?

Witness: Yeah, a weekend.

Mr. Gast: What was Robert's role?

Witness: He was systems administrator.

Mr. Gast: He came from DC to the district. Go on from there.

Witness: He came. There was an initial expectation that my parents would put him up at our house, which was interesting. Not going to happen. He came over. We were switching offices because of redistricting, you had to set up the internet at the district office. Additional to that, we also organized the Congressman's personal house. Robert felt it was really disorganized and was just organizing things in the house. He was higher than me on the hierarchy so there was nothing I could do to not go along with that. I did very little, I actually just kind of sat there and watched football. He did most of it.

Mr. Gast: Who ...

Witness: I could have been studying for the bar at that time.

Mr. Gast: Who asked you to do that? Who asked you to help?

Witness: Meri Maben, as you can see in that email, who is the District Director, says that this is the number one priority that weekend. That's where it starts.

Mr. Gast: That was an email from Meri to both you and Robert?

Witness: It was also an indication of coordination. There's a person in Fremont, Sheryl something-something, who is somebody who participates in local politics. She's a teacher at a high school and she has a "We the People" class. Lamar wanted someone from official staff to come with him to judge the "We the People" event to curry favor with this person. She ended up endorsing the challenger. You could see in that email Meri Maben says whatever Robert's doing, that's the priority. That's the only point I'm making. That was the priority that weekend.

Mr. Gast: When you say whatever Robert was doing, what was he doing?

Witness: He was coming over to help out, work on the district and then I think also to organize the Congressman's house. I don't know why we were there otherwise.

Mr. Gast: When you say organize the congressman's house, was that just related to IT?

Witness: No, we were in the living room. We were doing that, too. You go into his hallway, to the right there's the computer room. We were also in the living room.

Mr. Gast: What were you organizing in the living room?

Witness: It's not the cleanest house.

Mr. Gast: Were you doing cleaning?

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Gast: Vacuuming?

Witness: No. Specifically I remember there was just messes and Robert just wanted to organize them. Try to throw stuff away, etc. Spring cleaning.

Mr. Gast: He was organizing the computer room ...

Witness: Not just the computer room, also in the living room and in the kitchen.

Mr. Gast: Both. In the computer room he was helping to set up the Congressman's personal computer system?

Witness: Yeah. I think it's also linked to the house IT network. It could also be an official thing. There was also work related aspect to the visit to the house.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Witness: It's not exclusively a ...

Mr. Gast: What was the non-work related aspect?

Witness: In the living room, organizing somebody's personal mess.

Mr. Gast: Piles of ...

Witness: Crap.

Mr. Gast: Stuff?

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Gast: Did you work on his cable, internet, Netflix, Apple TV?

Witness: Netflix, yes.

Mr. Gast: Was that during this trip?

Witness: That was in August. That was the older systems administrator.

Mr. Gast: Well, let's stick with this January one first. Did you have to do anything to his Apple or Netflix or cable?

Witness: None of that stuff at the time.

Mr. Gast: Just kind of tidying up the living room.

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Gast: Fixing up the computer in the computer room.

Mr. Solis: Just to be clear, there was actually on this instance a work-related component to it?

Witness: There definitely was, I want to be clear about that.

Mr. Solis: Okay.

Witness: In the computer room, that computer is, as far as I know, a house computer which is completely reasonable.

Mr. Gast: All right ...

Witness: I also don't know whether that was Robert's personal initiative or who directed Robert to do that. That was not communicated to me.

Mr. Gast: Okay, let's put aside the Netflix thing for now. We'll get to that. I just want to ask you, can you just tell us for the record the circumstances of what prompted you to leave the congressional office in February of 2013?

Witness: I resigned. My date of separation, I just got my retirement, my federal TSP thing. My date of separation is 2/10/2013.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Witness: Which is right around when the email that was in the press. I resigned, sort of, as a result of that.

Mr. Gast: Can you explain that for the record, what that is?

Witness: There was an email which, to my perception, indicated an improper linking of ... A state department event can only be an official event. State department can never come to a campaign event. Linking any information exchange should not be occurring between campaign officials on what can only be an official event. On top of that, directly linking ...

Number one, making sure that our donors are going to a state department event is, to my mind, not proper. Then also saying that while we can't do outreach right now, we can't do straight asks, we should sort of use what we gather from the state department event to do outreach and build a relationship where we then later do a straight ask for money. This is actually process, this isn't just speculation. There was an article where a prominent venture capitalist from Silicon Valley came forward, who was invited to the event, had never been solicited for a donation before and then was solicited after the event.

Mr. Gast: Right.

Witness: The exact process that's laid out in the email occurred, if you believe this person.

Mr. Gast: Who did you have the conversation with when you resigned?

Witness: I sent an email where I cited health reasons.

Mr. Gast: Who was that email sent to?

Witness: Meri Maben and Jennifer Van der Heide.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Witness: As far as I recall.

Mr. Gast: Did you cite this?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: You did not cite the state department event as a reason for your resignation?

Witness: I didn't give any indication. Afterwards we met, Meri and I, had coffee, I gave a notification of my real reason for leaving. The reason was just career oriented. If you want to ask for a reference, it's kind of hard to ask for a reference after you tell someone that they did something illegal.

Mr. Gast: Sure.

Witness: It's a little bit awkward.

Mr. Solis: But in your mind that was the sole reason you decided to resign?

Witness: That was the sole reason I decided to resign. In my mind the health concerns were a direct result of the stress induced by knowing that either I do something illegal or I go into a rather challenging job market for newly minted lawyers.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Now we understand that you submitted some information to the Committee on Ethics about your time in Representative Honda's office. When was that?

Witness: That was in December of 2013.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Witness: I have the email thread. I don't have it on me. Do you have wireless?

Mr. Gast: I don't know if we do or not. We don't probably need to get into it now. Given our limited time we'll just kind of work through everything and then follow up. December 2013, what prompted you to make the submission?

Witness: I don't know, I just thought it was important to deal with. I had waited until, it was a volunteer position, but I got a volunteer clerkship with a bankruptcy judge here in San Jose.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Witness: I wanted to have another relationship before I initiated that process. That's why I waited until then.

Mr. Gast: When did you get that volunteer position with the judge?

Witness: In December 2013. Right around when I started.

Mr. Gast: What did you say in the submission, what was the substance?

Witness: There's a letter. Basically, I just submitted that Netflix email. That Netflix email was an indication of doing personal work. There are services like Geek Squad that do that, which you can hire for.

Mr. Gast: Let me, now that you referenced that...

Witness: Yeah, definitely.

Mr. Gast: Let me show you this, what's been marked, for the record as Bates number THMH1816. Is this a copy of the submission you made to the Committee on Ethics, as well as the attachments?

Witness: Yeah, and I say in there, honestly in an abundance of caution I waited until I secured a new job before sending this letter.

Mr. Solis: Did they get back to you at all?

Witness: I called Wendy Smith, who was at the time one of the counsels. She gave me her email. This I submitted directly to her. She didn't get back to me then, but then I submitted later, I want to say Spring of 2014. I submitted just the State Department email thread that was in the first thing that was in the press, to her and she got back to me with a one line email saying thank you and that's it. There was no substantive.

Mr. Gast: In December 2013 you made this submission, which we just looked at. Then you followed up with a second submission in the Spring of 2014. Those were both to Wendy Smith?

Witness: Yeah. I have the email thread here.

Mr. Gast: Okay, and did they ever interview you about either of the submissions?

Witness: No, nothing.

Mr. Gast: Nothing, okay. Going back to this initial submission, who assigned you to do the work on the Netflix/ Apple?

Witness: It's good that I have it actually. Nadir Vissanjy, who was the DC-based system administrator, sent me this email.

Mr. Gast: Did you report to him?

Witness: Not directly but in the context of the IT segment he was my direct supervisor.

Mr. Gast: Did you ever discuss that request with Meri Maben?

Witness: I don't remember.

Mr. Gast: Did you ever discuss the request with Mike Nguyen?

Witness: I don't remember.

Mr. Gast: What about Jennifer Van der Heide?

Witness: I don't remember.

Mr. Gast: I think Robert Lucas is on that email as well, is that right?

Witness: He is on that email, that's correct.

Mr. Gast: Did Robert succeed Nadir as systems administrator?

Witness: Exactly.

Mr. Gast: Was this about the time that that transition took place?

Witness: I don't recall that.

Mr. Gast: Would that have been why both Nadir and Robert were on the email? Just because they're both IT?

Witness: That makes sense. The IT world was Nadir and Robert and myself.

Mr. Gast: Okay. I want to ask you, in this cover letter in this submission you talk about, in January 2013, you were asked to use your own car to transport Representative Honda's computer from his home in San Jose to the district office to do some updates during work hours and then take it back.

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Gast: Can you tell us a little bit about that?

Witness: That exact thing ... It happened after the trip that Robert came for, that we've been talking about.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Gast: Was Robert involved with this updating the personal computer?

Witness: He was the one who told me to put it in my car and drive it to the district office. Yeah, he was directing.

Mr. Gast: He was in DC at the time?

Witness: No, this was happening when he was here.

Mr. Gast: This was when he did the trip, okay. This was Representative Honda's personal computer?

Witness: It was his computer that was in home. I guess I don't know if it was his personal computer. I guess the reason I used the word personal because it was in his house.

Mr. Gast: Sure.

Witness: It could possibly have been provided by the House, I don't know that. I was not there for the...

Mr. Gast: Sure. What were the software updates that you did on the computer?

Witness: I don't remember, honestly.

Mr. Gast: Was it something officially related, something personal, do you recall that?

Witness: What I remember is that, and this is the problem because I also don't know what these words mean because I don't have any background in IT, Robert didn't want to support a certain operating system, an older one, and he wanted to update because a lot of people were running the older operating system.

Mr. Gast: Okay. You also mention in here that Deputy District Director Mike Nguyen asked you to do updates and fixes on Mike Honda's personal technology. Can you tell us a little bit about that?

Witness: Yeah, sure. Anything the congressman had that was technology related I would just do. The example that's come to my head is actually Meri Maben, not Mike Honda. She had a car and she wanted to hook her bluetooth, which I guess is her work bluetooth up to her car and she just called me down to her car to help with it. It turned out I couldn't help because, again, I don't know anything about IT. Mike Nguyen came down and did it in the end. That was the example. There was examples like that with Mike Honda, I just don't remember specifics enough to...

Mr. Gast: Can you think of any specifics about Mr. Nguyen asking you to do updates or fixes on his personal technology?

Witness: For his own personal technology?

Mr. Gast: For the Representative's.

Witness: No, besides the Netflix. It's so long ago. That's a big question with a lot of implications. I don't want to say that unless I have a document for it.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall what you had in mind when you wrote this?

Witness: I do, but I don't have a document for it.

Mr. Gast: Well that's fine, if you have examples that you had in mind when you wrote this.

Witness: Yeah, I guess. I just don't have a document. I think it's an important question, right? I don't want to get creamed if I say something that's incorrect.

Mr. Gast: Well, to your recollection?

Mr. Solis: Yeah, it's not incorrect if it's just something you remember. If it's what you remember, it's a true statement to the best of your recollection.

Witness: So his iPad for example.

Mr. Gast: And this is the Member's iPad?

Witness: The Congressman's iPad. I remember one instance where the word Netgear kept coming up, which is the way wireless networks work. It kept coming up. I think at the time maybe the Congressman's home wireless network was Netgear, too. When he was going elsewhere and seeing Netgear he was thinking that that was his home network.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Witness: I remember sitting there having to explain to him that Netgear is a company . When wireless routers are installed, if people don't set up their own personal name for the wireless network then the company's pre-installed name comes up. So don't make the assumption ... Which is completely reasonable to have because you see Netgear that ...

Mr. Solis: It's your home.

Witness: Netgear may not be the wireless company, too. I just remember him saying this is my home network. I was like no, that's not your home network. Which is a completely reasonable misunderstanding.

Mr. Gast: Was this an iPad that was an official iPad or ...?

Witness: I don't know. I always use the word personal, it was his. I didn't mean personal in the distinction between ... Because I didn't ever do the purchasing so I don't know the chain of ...

Mr. Gast: So obviously you wrote this to the Ethics Committee for something for them to look at because they were violations of ethical rules potentially. We want to make sure we have the right examples where we can go back and research, so if you have them...

Witness: Yeah, I think what I was speaking to was just the Netflix thing. That's what I was talking about.

Mr. Gast: Any other examples that you have, that you can give to us that we might be interested in taking a look at?

Witness: I just don't remember any.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Witness: It's so long ago.

Mr. Gast: In any of your submissions to the Committee on Ethics did you ever mention official staff or official resources being used for campaign work?

Witness: I submitted that email.

Mr. Gast: In 2014?

Witness: Yeah, the Spring one. I don't know if I characterize it, I just submitted the email.

Mr. Gast: Okay, I don't think we have a copy of that. If you can maybe look and see.

Witness: What, the emails to Wendy Smith?

Mr. Gast: The spring 2014 submission.

Witness: I can forward it to you.

Mr. Gast: Okay, that would be great. Switching gears a little, I want to talk about Representative Honda's campaigns. Have you ever worked on any of his campaigns?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Did you ever volunteer on any of the campaigns?

Witness: No, my relationship with the office was sort of disgruntled enough that I would never have volunteered to do anything.

Mr. Gast: Did anybody ever ask you to work on the campaign?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Who was that?

Witness: Jennifer Van der Heide. These February 2013 emails. Working with Lamar Heystek, that's got to be campaign even though it's planning a State Department event.

Mr. Gast: Any other examples?

Witness: Sure, we can go from the trivial up. Being required to read Ro Khanna's book. The email characterized it as beyond any electoral purpose, which means that in part there is an electoral purpose to being required to read this book. Even if there is also value to learning about some expert's views on manufacturing economics.

Mr. Gast: Who assigned you to read Ro Khanna's book?

Witness: I think I sent you these emails.

Mr. Gast: Yeah, I think we do have that email but just to ...

Witness: Yeah, I think it's Jennifer. The subject line is required and it's the title of the challenger's book.

Mr. Gast: We'll take a look at that right now. This is number RA-33. Is this the email you were referring to?

Witness: Exactly.

Mr. Gast: The subject is "Required reading: Entrepreneurial National," which I think should be Entrepreneurial Nation, by Ro Khanna. Did you have any conversations with either Jennifer, who sent the email, or anybody else on that list about this assignment?

Witness: We talked about it in the district office. I remember that people were reading copies of the book in the district office. I remember me and Mark

and Ashley joked that it's hardly original to write a book about bringing manufacturing back to the USA. We've heard that story for the last forty years. Just kind of joking about, why is this book even written?

Mr. Gast: That would have been, just for the record, Mark would be Mark Nakamoto?

Witness: Mark Nakamoto.

Mr. Gast: And Ashley would be Ashley Roybal?

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Gast: Okay. You said people were reading it in the district office?

Witness: Yeah, people were reading it in the district office.

Mr. Gast: Who was that?

Witness: I remember Mark Nakamoto sitting in the Congressman's office and reading the book.

Mr. Solis: Beyond the subject nature of the book, what other discussions did you have with some of the staff members about it? Specifically the request that you read it.

Witness: It was clearly required.

Mr. Solis: Was there any discussion amongst the staff bringing up the question of why we have to do this? This is something we don't want to do.

Witness: No, I think it was very obvious that dealing with Ro Khanna was the number one priority. It was very obvious why we were reading this person's book.

Mr. Solis: Did anybody bring up that topic, that this is a campaign purpose?

Witness: No, I think sort of the working assumption is when you're working for the Congressman you want to keep your job so you're going to support his campaigns. There's no sort of... of course I want the congressman to win. Most of these people, it's very hard for them to get jobs outside of the Congressman's office so it's their vested interest to keep the job.

Mr. Solis: I'm asking specifically was there a discussion about the appropriateness of reading that book?

Witness: No. There was such an intermingling of official and campaign so the notion that we would sort of get surprised that we were doing this such a ... We were having coffee breaks in the district office where we were talking about who's endorsing and how the endorsement's working out. Nobody's going to be shocked that we're going to read the book.

Mr. Gast: I want to talk to you about that stuff but let's just, back to the book. Was there any followup after everybody had read it?

Witness: No. There was no follow up by the time I left. We just kind of read it. I also wasn't on the policy side of things. I was very low on the totem pole. I don't know what's going on. When she said "legislative staff will be discussing" I don't even really know what those discussions would be.

Mr. Gast: Was there any meeting where people got together to discuss the book after it was read?

Witness: No, there was no formal meeting that we're going to sit down and break down the book that I was part of.

Mr. Gast: Did you have any discussions with Jennifer after reading the book?

Witness: No, I did not.

Mr. Gast: How about Meri Maben?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Why do you think you were on this list as somebody assigned to read the book?

Witness: I just assumed it was everybody but it's not actually. My assumption is that Ro Khanna is South Asian, I'm South Asian, so what I noticed was that I suddenly became more important when Ro Khanna came in the picture.

Mr. Gast: So just to walk through these folks on the recipient list.

Witness: These are people who were way above my, quote unquote, pay grade before this.

Mr. Gast: So Eric Werwa, who is he?

Witness: He was Legislative Director at the time.

Mr. Gast: In DC?

Witness: Yeah. He might be a Deputy Chief of Staff now, or something like that.

Mr. Gast: AJ Bhadelia?

Witness: He was a Senior Advisor, DC based.

Mr. Gast: Laura Hatafsky?

Witness: DC based, don't know the title.

Mr. Gast: Michael Shank?

Witness: DC based, I think Communication Director but not sure.

Mr. Gast: Mark Nakamoto?

Witness: He was Senior Congressional Aide in the district office.

Mr. Gast: Meri Maben, obviously the District Director. Lamar Heystek?

Witness: I don't know what his official title would be but he was campaign something.

Mr. Gast: Full time campaign?

Witness: As far as I know, yeah.

Mr. Gast: Mike Nguyen?

Witness: Deputy District Director, and then myself. That's what I'm saying, that everybody was quite senior and in a normal circumstance before Ro Khanna came in the picture, and I think if Ro Khanna's name was Richard Johnson, I would not have been in this email.

Mr. Gast: Everybody on that list with the exception of Lamar was employed by the Congressional office. Is that correct?

Witness: Yeah, except that if you note that Mark Nakamoto's email was [REDACTED] which is the campaign designation. He also would have a [REDACTED] email at the time.

Mr. Gast: He was working half time ...

Witness: I thought he stopped after November 2012, but this email was December and he's on that email. I don't know if he still had access or again, emails were, maybe Jennifer sent it to the wrong email ID, maybe he still didn't have that access.

Mr. Gast: Now let me ask you, despite this being everybody working for the Congressional office except for Lamar, this is all sent to personal emails.

Witness: Yeah. That's an interesting point. For example, it wasn't that I would have gotten up from my house provided IT -- House was paying for my internet service -- and gone and taken out my personal laptop and gone to Starbucks and opened up my personal email to read these emails. I would have read them on my work email.

Mr. Gast: On your work computer?

Witness: Yeah. On my work computer, which is provided ...

Mr. Gast: In the district office.

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Solis: For example this is time stamped at 8:38 AM. If 9 AM is when people started reporting to work ...

Mr. Gast: Then later Jennifer does at ten.

Mr. Solis: She would respond at ten. But that's around the time people started getting into work. Is it a safe assumption that the district people who you worked with, Mike ...

Witness: I don't know where they were. I can't make any assumptions about where they were.

Mr. Solis: Right, but so you would go into the office, you would open up your work computer and then you would see this Gmail, right?

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Solis: That would be in the district office?

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Solis: Okay.

Witness: Also, if you look at the job description it says required weekends and off time so there's no off time. I didn't punch a time card.

Mr. Gast: Let me ask you this. How did Jennifer get your personal email?

Witness: I think when I applied for the job I must have put on my resume ...

Mr. Gast: Why would she pick that then? To send this to your personal email, just pick it off your resume?

Witness: As you can see through the whole emails, there was a standard process of communicating content that was in the campaign bucket over Gmail and were official bucket in mail.house.gov.

Mr. Gast: Were you required to turn over a personal email so the others in the office could communicate with you about campaign issues?

Witness: No. You had your email. You emailed back and forth informally. It gets on to your smart phone. There was no sort of formalized process. Because there was no differentiation between official and campaign.

Mr. Gast: Was official business ever discussed over personal email?

Witness: Yeah, I do. There's an example where we're planning to have the Congressman speak on an event involving nuclear weapons at a retirement home in this area. I have an email that I'm now remembering that has Jennifer saying it'll be a challenge for Congressman Honda to discuss this issue. He needs to know about new policy stuff that's going on in DC. That's legislative work. That email was happening on my Gmail.

Mr. Gast: Any idea why the Gmail was used for that official work?

Witness: I had two phones. I was expected that my personal phone, the Congressman would make phone calls on. My Blackberry didn't have phone service. My personal phone was my work phone also. The Congressman called me on my personal cell phone that I paid the bill for. There was no differentiation of devices.

Mr. Gast: You mentioned that there was this effort to keep official on the mail.house.gov, campaign on the Gmail.

Witness: There was an effort to avoid the recording that would happen if you put it on mail.house.gov. If it's your personal email you can control that flow of information better.

Mr. Solis: What do you mean by an effort to?

Witness: That was why we were doing it on Gmail, so it didn't go into the official server, which has a little more memory.

Mr. Solis: And Jennifer would say that? Somebody would say this is why we're doing this?

Witness: That was clearly. I asked Mike Nguyen, why are we doing this? I asked him like, this is a smart move. We should do it this way so it doesn't stay there. Mike said that's why we do that.

Mr. Solis: I just want to be very clear on this part. You wanted to know, why are we putting officially related discussions on your personal email? Or you wanted to know, why you were putting campaign related discussions on ...

Witness: I asked in the context of the State Department email. I should be more clear. I asked why are we having a conversation about a State Department event, which is an official event as far as I can tell, on my Gmail?

Mr. Gast: Who did you ask?

Witness: Mike Nguyen.

Mr. Gast: What was his response?

Witness: His response was yeah, you're right. That's a smart move. We want to make sure it doesn't stay saved.

Mr. Gast: That it doesn't stay saved?

Witness: As far as I know, and I don't know enough, is that it's easier for investigators to access the mail.house.gov email than it is a Gmail.

Mr. Solis: Did Mike express to you that he felt that these discussions were somehow ...

Mr. Gast: Shouldn't be saved?

Mr. Solis: Improper or shouldn't be saved?

Witness: No, I just said to him hey, it's a smart move we're doing this over Gmail. He said yeah, that's why, so we avoid them getting ...

Mr. Gast: Why would you want to avoid them getting saved?

Witness: It's improper to be linking campaign and donations. You want to avoid a paper trail.

Mr. Solis: Was there anybody else besides Mike who expressed this to you?

Witness: Nobody besides that. I don't know if it was just him saying that in his own mind, nobody besides that ever expressed.

Mr. Solis: Did he express that to you in person, over phone...?

Witness: In person. I prompted it so he didn't come and say ...

Mr. Gast: All right I want to go back, just to go through this campaign. The relationship between the Congressional office and the campaign. You said that you never volunteered for the campaign.

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Were you asked to help with campaign events?

Witness: Yeah, before I even started working there I got an email from Mark Nakamoto saying we're doing a fundraiser. Then I asked hey, it's my first time going, tell me what's going on. Ashley Roybal communicated you wouldn't be going as official staff, you would be going as a volunteer. That was the first time that I even got aware of that distinction. In the initial prompting that I received from Mark, and I didn't provide you that email. There was no communication that you'd be volunteering. It was just hey, we have this thing going on.

Mr. Gast: Do you want to come?

Witness: Yeah, can you help out?

Mr. Gast: Okay, any requests to help with phone banking or going door to door or any of those kinds of activities?

Witness: Yes, I think I provided some documentation of that too. If you have that ...

Mr. Gast: I don't think I do with me, but I remember that.

Witness: Yeah, there was some request to do a language based, so if we have specific language skills.

Mr. Gast: Who would come to you with those requests?

Witness: They would be done over email. Lamar would send them out usually.

Mr. Gast: Did Meri Maben ever ask you to do campaign activities?

Witness: Nothing like phone banking, walking, no.

Mr. Gast: What about Mike Nguyen?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Jennifer Van der Heide?

Witness: Yes, if you look at those State Department emails ...

Mr. Gast: Aside from the State Department, was there anything?

Witness: The emails that I documented, I have to say yes.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall any other paid full-time campaign staff beyond Lamar?

Witness: At this time no, I don't recall anyone else.

Mr. Gast: In the 2012 or the 2014 cycles?

Witness: I left before the 2014 cycle got professionalized, and got the full staff.

Mr. Gast: Okay. So for the 2012 election...

Witness: Lamar and Mark were the only two.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Witness: Mark, who I think was – no, I know was also official at the time.

Mr. Gast: Right. Did any other district office staff work on Representative Honda's campaign?

Witness: I didn't pay attention to what other people were doing.

Mr. Gast: Nobody that often went over to volunteer or attend campaign events on behalf of the Member?

Witness: I don't remember.

Mr. Gast: How involved was Representative Honda in his campaign?

Witness: He was involved. I can give an example. Lamar's wife at the time worked at the Dutch consulate in San Francisco. I drove the Congressman up for an event at a hotel in San Francisco. Me, Lamar and the Congressman met at this office space that his wife had secured for us in the Dutch consulate in San Francisco. This was before the 2012 Democratic Convention because the Congressman was speaking to a Representative in Minnesota, Ellison, on the phone and me and Lamar were there. The binder for what's thousand crane club was on the table. Mike also took a phone call from a journalist. We were doing, in the same office. That's an example. I think the Congressman was involved.

Mr. Gast: When you joined the congressional office, or any time during your service in the congressional office, was there ever any training about campaign activity?

Witness: What do you mean by training about campaign activity?

Mr. Gast: Did anybody give you a presentation or sit down with you and speak to you about the rules that govern campaign activity by official staff?

Witness: The line drawing?

Mr. Gast: About the line, yeah.

Witness: When we would talk about coffee break, Meri indicated the reason we use the euphemism, Meri Maben, was because of this line. That was one indication that there was a line that existed. We were purposefully dancing around the line with the euphemism. Other than that not really.

I went to ethics training after the November 2012 election. I think that's just how it works, nothing would happen in DC before the election if I started in the summer. The ethics training in December, that was the formal ethics training that we [inaudible].

Mr. Gast: Nothing office specific though? Saying listen, we're in the middle of campaign season, we want to give you an idea of what is permissible to do and what is not permissible?

Witness: Not that I recall.

Mr. Gast: Were you given any policies specifically? Any written policies specifically on campaign versus official?

Witness: Not that I recall.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Were you, or are you aware of anyone else in a congressional office, ever asked to provide anything or prepare anything for the campaign? Issue papers, issue comparisons, anything like that?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: I want to ask you about these coffee breaks with Meri Maben.

Witness: Sure.

Mr. Gast: Who organized the coffee breaks?

Witness: We had staff meetings periodically, once a week.

Mr. Gast: When you say we had staff meetings ...

Witness: Sorry, the district office staff, excuse me. Should I go through the names or ...

Mr. Gast: No, just was it the congressional staff in the district?

Witness: In the district office. We'd have weekly staff meetings. There would be the normal official work and then there would be a coffee break portion.

Mr. Gast: This was all the district staff would attend these or most of the district staff?

Witness: Yeah, sometimes the staff assistant may not have been there but everybody else was there.

Mr. Gast: Were these mandatory meetings?

Witness: Yeah, staff, yeah.

Mr. Gast: Who led those meetings?

Witness: Meri Maben.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Did Representative Honda ever attend your staff meetings?

Witness: Not that I recall.

Mr. Gast: And where were these meetings held?

Witness: In the Campbell office they were held in the Representative Honda's office, in the Campbell office.

Mr. Gast: Were you in the new office, the Santa Clara office?

Witness: When the Santa Clara office ... It was actually in San Jose.

Mr. Gast: The new office, that you moved into.

Witness: Yeah, and I think Santa Clara is now recent. The district office that we moved into was in San Jose, near the airport.

Mr. Gast: Okay, were the district staff meetings always held in the district office, wherever it was?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Did the campaign staff ever attend any of your district staff meetings?

Witness: I remember Lamar dropping by for one of them. The reason I remember is because that's when he became aware of the Ethiopian American event.

Mr. Gast: Was that just a situation where he just happened to be stopping by and sat in or was he kind of scheduled to be there?

Witness: I don't know his schedule.

Mr. Gast: Did it look like he had a formal role in the staff meeting, was he presenting something?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: During these district office staff meetings there would be a coffee break. Can you tell us about that?

Witness: Yeah, coffee break was a time when campaign related information would be discussed, such as what's going on, what endorsements are we seeking, sort of generally what's going on politically, locally. Just to focus on sort of local politics, not DC legislative posturing. Local.

Mr. Gast: Was Representative Honda's campaign discussed?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: How would you know you were in a coffee break?

Witness: We would just start talking. But we wouldn't say coffee break is starting. You're done with the work related event then you transition to the next item on the agenda.

Mr. Gast: Were the things you discussed on the agenda?

Witness: I don't remember that. Not usually.

Mr. Gast: I think there was some stuff in the newspaper about Meri Maben would say okay, coffee break time.

Witness: That might have been the other source. I don't ...

Mr. Gast: Does that accurately characterize how that would happen?

Witness: It's not like she would say it's coffee break time. I don't think that's a fair characterization. We just transitioned from one to the other. There was no line. There was no need to ...

Mr. Solis: During a meeting there would be discussion of something official? An official meeting the Congressman was going to take, something like that, and then the next line, item on the agenda would be specifically campaign related.

Witness: Yeah, for example I remember one staff meeting where we discussed whatever we were doing that week and then Mark Nakamoto talked about how one of the interns had done a really great job in bringing his friends or family members in to do phone banking. He knew one of the languages that we were talking at the time.

Mr. Gast: Where does this term coffee break come from?

Witness: I think it comes from Meri Maben.

Mr. Solis: You never heard the phrase coffee break?

Witness: No, I definitely did. There's actually even a video of Meri Maben talking about coffee break. So there was some middle eastern students who came over on a visit. There was a documentary done on their visit. They met with us in the Congressman's office and took video of what we were saying. Meri Maben says in there we have coffee breaks to show the line. There's video of it if you can track that down.

Mr. Gast: You don't have that video?

Witness: No.

Mr. Solis: Do you know about what time, what dates that was?

Witness: Like I said, it was while we were in the Campbell office.

Mr. Solis: Would the coffee breaks happen during specific times? Where there was a campaign event occurring? Closer to an election period? Or did they just happen every time you had a staff meeting?

Witness: Pretty much every time we had a staff meeting. There may have been staff meetings where it didn't happen. It was pretty consistent.

Mr. Gast: Okay. I want to ask you about Google Drives. Are you familiar with Google Drives?

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Gast: Generally, can you explain what a Google Drive is? Simply.

Witness: It's a way to share documents.

Mr. Gast: How does one set up a Google Drive?

Witness: You go into your Google Apps. There's something called Google Documents for creating a word processing document, Google Sheets if you're doing a spread sheet. The way you collaborate using Google Drive is you share whatever you're working on between you and whoever you're trying to collaborate with.

Mr. Gast: Do you then grant access to who can view that document?

Witness: Yes, I think so. Yeah, there's an access granting. You say yeah, share. You say share, it's not grant access. I guess it's the same thing, yeah.

Mr. Gast: Were Google Drives used as part of Honda World?

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Gast: What were they generally used for?

Witness: To sort of keep ...To collaborate on lists of people who outreach, campaign or official, campaign/ official wanted to go register.

Mr. Gast: Were they official docs uploaded to these Google Drives? Were campaign docs uploaded?

Witness: Both. I don't know how to differentiate between those. I'm putting official information in for cam ... I don't know how you characterize that.

Mr. Gast: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Witness: I'm an official staff. I've never been a campaign staff. Anything I work on, even if it's campaign, becomes official.

Mr. Gast: There was no separate Google Drive for official stuff and a separate for campaign?

Witness: We only used the Google Drives system for official stuff.

Mr. Gast: Official stuff.

Witness: To store the constituents' information, IQ has the data base.

Mr. Gast: What's IQ?

Witness: IQ is some acronym for the constituent data ... Basically customer relations management software.

Mr. Gast: For the congressional office?

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Gast: Okay. I want to talk to you about these notes from the district office staff retreat.

Witness: Sure.

Mr. Gast: This looks to be the cover email. You were sending these notes that were attached. Is that correct?

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Gast: You sent it from your official house email to Meri Maben.

Witness: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Mr. Gast: Looks like her official account. Also to "CA-15 District Internal."

Witness: That ... Sorry, I should let you finish questions.

Mr. Gast: Is that "CA-15 District Internal" an email group that included everyone in the district office?

Witness: As far as I recall, yes.

Mr. Gast: I believe we had talked that the district office retreat, in this instance, happened about September 13th, 2012, according to the title of the document.

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Gast: Then about a week later, on September 20th you forwarded these notes to Meri and the entire district staff. Is that right?

Witness: Yeah. Then we turned those notes into action plans. I didn't provide you those emails.

Mr. Gast: If you had the action plans, that would be great.

Witness: I had an email called "Action Plan" or something like that. I don't have the actual action plans. Again, this stuff never matters. At this time we

were planning, Ro Khanna's not in the picture. Pete Stark hasn't lost. This stuff in the end all goes out the wayside.

Mr. Gast: This is roughly maybe a month and a half before the election in 2012, is that about right?

Witness: Yeah. Exactly. This was processing, or communicating the primary results, which was the first election the Congressman had in the new district.

Mr. Gast: Okay. What was the purpose of this specific event?

Witness: It was a district office retreat to set priorities and have a conversation with the campaign and try to collaborate. Make sure everyone's on the same page.

Mr. Gast: Was this an official event? Was this a campaign event?

Witness: It was definitely an official event. I was going as district staff.

Mr. Gast: Were all district staff required to attend?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Where was the retreat held?

Witness: Meri Maben's, she has a second home in Aptos, California. Beach house. It's not actually by the beach.

Mr. Gast: How long was the event?

Witness: It was full day.

Mr. Gast: Full day. From 9-5ish?

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Gast: Okay. You said all district staff attended. Anyone from the Washington office attend?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Jennifer Ven der Heide, was she there?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: What about anybody from campaign staff?

Witness: Lamar was there. Mark Nakamoto was wearing both hats. In his capacity as campaign he was presenting.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Did Representative Honda participate in this retreat?

Witness: No, he did not.

Mr. Gast: What was generally discussed at the retreat?

Witness: We first talked about the results, analyzed the results. Set priorities for the office.

Mr. Gast: Want to kind of walk through some of these notes. Just ask you about it. If you look at Roman Numeral II on the first page of the notes, under "Overview of CA17, (Lamar/Mark Nakamoto)", does that mean Lamar Heystek and Mark Nakamoto presented at this point?

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Gast: Was this Mark in his campaign capacity?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: That first bullet says "New cities. How to transition info from campaign to do," or it might be "campaign to D.O." meaning district office.

Witness: Yeah, it's D.O.

Mr. Gast: It's D.O. "(ethically and practically)". Do you recall what you meant when you put that note in there?

Witness: What I was trying to say was I was taking notes on what Lamar and Mark were saying. Someone, I don't know who, I didn't...so Lamar or Mark, said the purpose of this is to think about how to use what we learn from campaign to help the district office achieve its objectives and vice versa.

Mr. Gast: What kind of info would be transitioned?

Witness: The big thing if you go to the bottom, if you go to page two, somewhere Mark says, "What's the important stuff?" I can find it for you.

Mr. Gast: Is it at the bottom of page two? Transitioning data?

Witness: Yeah. The important information was bottom of page two. The really important information is the anecdotal information that this important person felt this way when we supported this issue and didn't feel this way when we supported this. I think everybody is very intuitive with data analysis or demographics. The important thing, is this specific person. For example, if you go to the next page, Carl Guardino was very important in this area.

Mr. Gast: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Witness: That kind of thing. How does he feel actually about the Congressman? How does the Congressman feel about him? How can we be sure that the Congressman understands that Carl's doing a favor to him? And so the Congressman changes the way he speaks to this person. That kind of stuff is really valuable, understanding the interpersonal dynamic.

Mr. Gast: I want to also go onto on page 2, kind of the middle of the page, right above, "thousand crane." That last bullet says "D.O.? Chinese Language Outreach in Cupertino." That comes after an analysis of the Chinese vote in the district.

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Gast: What was meant by "D.O. Chinese Language Outreach in Cupertino"?

Witness: I don't remember. Generally, it was can we get pamphlets, can we translate our information? Think about Chinese.

Mr. Gast: That coupled with transitioning intel from the campaign to the district office, was this an effort to use the district office to support Representative Honda's campaign?

Witness: Yeah. The district office was ... Yes, one of the purposes of the district office was clearly to help the Congressman's campaign, which I think is pretty standard practice.

Mr. Gast: These were campaign considerations driving official actions?

Witness: Yes. The priority of high tech is a campaign consideration. Also it's important in the district, but that's a campaign consideration. I don't know. It's also an official consideration. It's an important constituent industry as well.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Can you tell us about this thousand crane idea that's on the ...

Witness: Yeah. As far as I know, it's the Congressman's idea. It's a thousand people give a thousand dollars that's a million dollars. A social network to provide a club for the cranes. Also to provide an ability for them to do the transactional work that's necessary. Hey, my relative needs a visa, I'm interested in this public policy. It's a place to keep the donors, they can talk. I don't know if formalized or not, if it was just an idea, but there definitely was a binder for it I saw.

Mr. Gast: When you say there was a binder, who kept that binder?

Witness: Lamar had a binder.

Mr. Gast: Was that a binder of who was in the club?

Witness: I don't know. It was just "a thousand cranes" on the top of it.

Mr. Gast: Okay. When you say this was a place where there would be this transactional nature, can you talk a little bit more about that? What that meant?

Witness: I think exactly what I said in these notes. The idea was a crane could say hey, I need this help.

Mr. Gast: Was this a special level of care given to the members of this thousand cranes club?

Witness: Yeah, but not really. I never got a casework from anyone. I never received any like, "this is a crane." The only designation I ever received was Friends of MH.

Mr. Gast: Could it have been the same thing?

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Gast: A Friend of MH being a crane? Could that have been a possibility?

Witness: I don't know either way. I can't say no, either.

Mr. Solis: Did Jennifer or Meri ever discuss the cranes in terms of, as you put it, something they might need? Constituent help? Did they ever discuss the cranes and their contributions in connection with official work?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: What about under this “transitioning data” heading. It talks about a Google Doc of stakeholders for CA17, what is that?

Witness: I don't remember that, actually.

Mr. Gast: Was there some kind of list of stakeholders?

Witness: There were stakeholders lists on Google Drives.

Mr. Gast: Who maintained those lists?

Witness: I don't know that.

Mr. Gast: You know who put them together?

Witness: No. Official and campaign staff. I don't know who specifically. I know Lamar would have worked on them and official staff would have worked on them. I think I provided one of those examples. The State Department thing and also the Sikh, the list of people.

Mr. Gast: What does that mean to be a stakeholder?

Witness: It's a constituent, but a constituent who is a little more active.

Mr. Gast: You said both the ...

Witness: Not necessarily in the district, it could just be someone who was active locally and could have a house.

Mr. Gast: Both the campaign and the official office would have access to those documents, to those lists?

Witness: When it was relevant. I didn't look it up every day. If I got a casework, it wasn't like I looked up in there. It wasn't anything like that.

Mr. Gast: Okay. I want to talk briefly about the State Department round table. I think we ...

Witness: Beat that like a dead horse.

Mr. Gast: Yes. I've got a lot of documents and that helps spell things out. This is kind of a compilation of a bunch of different documents stapled together. These are RA-49, THMH1895-96, RA-39-43. Three different docs. Take a minute to look through that.

Can you tell us, again for the record, what was the purpose of this event?

Witness: The context of the event was the Congressman had written a letter indicating that he didn't support Narendra Modi getting a visa to come to the United States. As a result of that, there was some backlash in the Hindu community. The segment of the Hindu community that supports the BJP. Jennifer Van der Heide, this is based on a phone conversation I had with her. There was a concern that the relationship with that community wasn't as strong as it needed to be. Especially given that was a key political base for the challenger, we needed to do outreach.

I'm not indicating that I don't think this was the silver bullet that was going to fix all the problems of the South Asian community, as I think it came out. I didn't raise any money from any of the people I invited to that.

Mr. Gast: You did not?

Witness: That's as far as I know. That's the funny part. It's okay to be corrupt, but it's kind of sad to be corrupt and bad at it.

Mr. Gast: Was your conversation with Jennifer, was that kind of the initial idea for this event?

Witness: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Mr. Gast: Did she propose having the event?

Witness: Yeah, I wouldn't have. It was not my idea. She was the one who was driving the bus.

Mr. Gast: Did she call you to talk about putting this together?

Witness: She and Ahmed, AJ is what he went by.

Mr. Gast: AJ Bhadelia?

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Gast: In your initial call with Jennifer that you mentioned, did she discuss with you this was a key political base for the challenger?

Witness: You don't have to say it. Yeah. We had talked about ... When I went over in December, when I referenced we had lunch together. We talked about

how there were challenges. I remember specifically saying that my family friends and my parents would donate to the challenger before they donated to the Congressman, even though I worked for the Congressman. We'd definitely talk about, this was a concern.

Mr. Gast: You said you had lunch with Jennifer at some point?

Witness: Yeah, I went over for the new staff ethics training.

Mr. Gast: You went over to DC?

Witness: DC, sorry.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Witness: That was paid for by the...out of the MRA.

Mr. Gast: Sure.

Witness: We had a lunch in the downstairs cafeteria of the House office building or whatever. We talked about Ro Khanna issues. Also just other stuff, too.

Mr. Gast: Anybody else with you at lunch?

Witness: No, just me and her.

Mr. Gast: Roughly when was this?

Witness: December timeline. You can see when the new house ethics training happened that time.

Mr. Gast: December of 2012?

Witness: 2012.

Mr. Gast: She called you and said it would be a good idea to put together this event with this group because they were so ...

Witness: She didn't like putting together stuff.

Mr. Gast: Putting this group together. Who else did you work with on this event?

Witness: AJ, Ahmed I said his name was, I never communicated with but I was on emails with Lamar and that's it, actually. I never communicated with Madeline Mielke or Meri Maben about this event.

Mr. Gast: You did not?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: No conversations with Meri?

Witness: No, Meri didn't ... This wasn't ...

Mr. Gast: Even though she was District Director?

Witness: We had conversations about the backlash with Narendra Modi issue, but the State Department planning, that was Jennifer doing that.

Mr. Gast: What about Mark Nakamoto? Did you work with him on the event?

Witness: I didn't. It was communicated to me afterwards by Ashley Roybal that he took over when I quit.

Mr. Gast: What about Mike Nguyen?

Witness: Not that I remember.

Mr. Gast: Did you work with Representative Honda at all?

Witness: Not at all.

Mr. Gast: Is this the same event as the SV Gujarat?

Witness: I think so. It started as a Gujarat. Narendra Modi used to be the equivalent of Governor over in India.

Mr. Gast: The Gujarat? I just saw references to ...

Witness: Yeah, he is Gujarat. His electoral premise is the Gujarat. Meri knew all that stuff.

Mr. Gast: There was just one event?

Witness: What are you ... Sorry?

Mr. Gast: When I saw references to the State Department event and to the Gujarat ...

Witness: Yeah, that was one event.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Mr. Solis: Should I go see if Albert is outside just to let him know?

Mr. Gast: I think we have some time.

Witness: I'm sorry. I ran long.

Mr. Gast: Yeah, let's just try to get through this to make sure we can. How were the invitees to this event selected?

Witness: Prominent South Asians in the tech investment world.

Mr. Gast: How were those picked out?

Witness: I think Jennifer's network, our donors if there were any, there was sort of a limited number as Lamar indicates. Just prominent people in the South Asian community.

Mr. Gast: Who put the list together? Who was responsible for putting the list of invitees?

Witness: As far as I know, Lamar put together the suggested South Asian invites that's referenced in this email.

Mr. Gast: The email you're referring to ...

Witness: The one I was just looking through, the February 8th, 2013, the Google Drive document that says suggested South Asian invites.

Mr. Gast: Was that the first list you saw of proposed invites?

Witness: No, I believe I showed there was documents that the list was being shared before that by Jennifer, if I remember correctly.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Jennifer apparently had a list she was sharing with you, Lamar sent his own list?

Witness: I think it's the same list.

Mr. Gast: Who initiated the list? As far as you know.

Witness: Lamar.

Mr. Gast: Jennifer took that list and made edits, changes, additions, subtractions?

Witness: Yeah, Lamar initiated it, and then she went through and culled it.

Mr. Gast: Okay. How did it come to you?

Witness: I mean I was on it I think the whole time.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Let me show you this document. This is a little tricky of a document. It's such a long ... This would be page one of this spread sheet. Does this spread sheet look familiar to you?

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Gast: What is this spread sheet?

Witness: This is the suggested South Asian invitees spread sheet I'm pretty sure. Yeah.

Mr. Gast: Was this the one Lamar sent to Jennifer?

Witness: I don't know which version. There were so many versions that went around.

Mr. Gast: It went through several iterations.

Witness: I don't know which print out this is.

Mr. Gast: This is the list that you, Jennifer, and Lamar worked on?

Witness: I never worked on this list. I never did anything with this list.

Mr. Gast: You were just the recipient?

Witness: Yeah. I was asked to work on it and I refused.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Can you tell me why there is a column for giving history 2014?

Witness: The purpose of the event was donors, or potential donors, and one of the ways to indicate potential donors is that they donate to other politicians, to prioritize them to do outreach to this event.

Mr. Gast: Was that a specifically discussed purpose of the event? To seek out potential donors of potential?

Witness: Yeah, it's laid out in the email.

Mr. Gast: Who talked about that?

Witness: Jennifer Van der Heide.

Mr. Gast: Anybody else?

Witness: Lamar Heystek.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Mr. Solis: Again, you didn't create this chart, but when Scott asked you about giving history that doesn't necessarily mean giving history to Representative Honda, it could mean giving history to any Member of Congress.

Witness: Also, giving history to the challenger. For example, Karl, this person was specifically, he had giving history to the challenger. We had to try to convert him.

Mr. Solis: You're assumption could be completely correct, it's just I don't see anything in this chart ...

Witness: You don't see Karl Mehta?

Mr. Solis: That would reflect the challenger receiving any ...

Witness: Karl Mehta? I have that.

Mr. Gast: Page through it, but ...

Witness: You want me to do it? His number is 40 something.

Mr. Solis: That would reference the giving history to the challenger?

Witness: Yes. I can pull it up on my computer. It's there.

Mr. Solis: Okay.

Mr. Gast: All right, let's go back to these emails real quick. You want to pull your copy up so we can walk through. This initial one is dated February 7th, 2013 from Jennifer to Lamar, copied to you.

Witness: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Mr. Gast: She asked, "Do you have the list of proposed invitees to the Indian round table with state ready? We need to start sending out." It appears as if she's asking Lamar to put together a list of people that they're going to invite.

Witness: Also me. I was also asked to contribute to that list somehow with the constituent information that we have.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Were you asked to put together a list from the official files and Lamar asked to ...

Witness: No, I was asked to take whatever official information we had and put it into the Google Drive that Lamar had started.

Mr. Gast: Okay. He got that from campaign?

Witness: Yeah, I think he lays out how exactly he generated the list.

Mr. Gast: Okay. If you look at the next email, THMH-1896 ...

Witness: Yeah, right here he lays out how he did it.

Mr. Gast: Let's go back to THMH-1896 real quick.

Witness: Where's that?

Mr. Gast: On the bottom right corner. THMH-1896.

Witness: Oh, I see. I got that email. Okay.

Mr. Gast: Flip that one more page. This looks also like on February 7th you sent an email to Jennifer regarding this round table event: "Here is the list with 16 people in organizations. Please tell me if I should drop this law firm. Any ideas who we can contact?" Can you tell me about this list of 16 people, how that came about?

Witness: I don't remember, actually.

Mr. Gast: Do you remember Jennifer asking you to put together a list of potential invitees to this event?

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Gast: Could that have been what this is?

Witness: I think so.

Mr. Gast: Where would you have gotten that information?

Witness: That's what I don't remember.

Mr. Gast: Then it looks like she replies to you that she'll keep randomly sending names as she thinks of them, asks if you've searched through the IQ and stakeholder lists, looks like she has a couple other names.

Witness: Yeah, it looks like she asked me. I wouldn't have done that. To go through the official list.

Mr. Gast: She also copies Meri Maben on this email. Did you have any discussions with Meri on this?

Witness: Not that I recall.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Then she emails again to you, herself, cc to Meri that she asked Lamar for a list which was due tonight. Is that the list we have been talking about?

Witness: I see what you see. I don't remember, but based on the documents it seems correct.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Then we see, like we've discussed, on February 8th at 9:25am, Lamar shares his list as a Google Doc with you and Jennifer.

Witness: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Mr. Gast: Jennifer responds on Saturday February 9th: "Great lists. How are we doing outreach to them for \$? Can we at least collect emails and send newsletters or something if we can't do straight asks electronically now? Also, do you have a lists of the South Asians now endorsing/ supporting

MH? Want to make sure we are including all of them. Invites going out first thing Monday morning." You remember that email?

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Gast: Can you give us a little context of that email and what she was talking about?

Witness: She's talking about the list we've been discussing, then talking about how to build relationships for fundraising.

Mr. Gast: Did you have any discussions with Jennifer about that?

Witness: The fund raising aspect? No, I just had discussions with her about hey, there's sort of this backlash that's happening around Narendra Modi.

Mr. Solis: That's another question. If you're not helping to develop the list and you're not volunteering for the campaign, why is she sending this to you?

Witness: Because I was putting together the official event.

Mr. Solis: The official event.

Witness: The booking, where it happened, speaking points for the Congressman if I had stayed on for that event, biographies for people who'd be coming. That sort of stuff.

Mr. Gast: Did you and Lamar ever discuss the fundraising aspect?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Okay. You and Meri?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Who is Madeline Meilke?

Witness: Consultant.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Beyond Jennifer and beyond Lamar, any other conversations you had with anyone about the potential for getting contributions out of these folks?

Witness: No. Not at all.

Mr. Gast: Okay. I'm going to this Ethiopian event, which we talked about. You had said this was a September 2012 event. It was kind of an Ethiopian award ceremony held at the Los Gatos town hall. Is that correct?

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Gast: Did you work on this with Mr. Nguyen?

Witness: Yeah, exactly.

Mr. Gast: In this email, Lamar Heystek forwards to you and Mr. Nguyen a name, "Perhaps you would like to invite him to MH's Ethiopian event." Do you recall that?

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Gast: Was Lamar and the campaign involved in selecting invitees for this event?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Where did this email come from?

Witness: I think I discussed earlier, Lamar at some point had dropped by the office and was talking about what was going on in the office.

Mr. Gast: Did he say this was somebody that they wanted to recruit to the campaign, to seek money from, to seek an endorsement?

Witness: No, it was also a prominent person who was Ethiopian and has invented an interesting item. It also could be completely innocuous.

Mr. Gast: Okay. I want to ask you about this Sikh stakeholders list you briefly mentioned as well. We talked about this list of stakeholders, that there were various lists maintained, on the G Drives, with access by the official and the campaign.

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Gast: Given that context, can you tell us about this email from Lamar?

Witness: Sure. So what happened this time, there was a shooting tragedy in, somewhere in the Midwest at the time.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Witness: So here in the county, they had a rally in the county government office that we went to. There was sort of a, how do these things happen? For a couple weeks, everybody got very interested in the Sikhs, before they moved on to something else.

Mr. Gast: Sure.

Witness: Jennifer then communicated to me that, "Hey, we're trying to develop of a list of stakeholders in the community." I was like okay, yeah, we have some lists. Do you have any ideas of where we can go elsewhere? She's like of course, make sure you reach out to Lamar. Is there anything else?

I wouldn't have known about, for example, the recent fundraiser. It wasn't on my calendar. She communicated that to me. She said hey, let's try to get this done by the end of the day.

Mr. Gast: It appears from the email, you did reach out to Lamar.

Witness: Yeah. At her direction.

Mr. Gast: At her direction. And he gave you some names?

Witness: If I sent Lamar an email saying, "Get this done by the end of the day," Lamar would not...that would not go well.

Mr. Gast: Right. Were you ultimately the one who developed a stakeholder list for the Sikh?

Witness: No, I didn't. I was in training, but this didn't sit right with me. What I did...I just forwarded it on at some point.

Mr. Gast: Who did you forward it on to?

Witness: To the district; to DC.

Mr. Gast: You recall who you did DC?

Witness: No. Actually, this one I might have just not done anything with. I might have just sat on it. I don't actually remember what happened after this.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall what you did with the names that ...

Witness: I don't actually. I remember I was weirded out by this.

Mr. Gast: Why were you weirded out?

Witness: It's kind of strange to use the ... There's a line between campaign and official. I would never have personally, unless someone had prompted me to, if I was planning invites, reach out to Lamar for that. That doesn't make sense to me.

Mr. Gast: Okay. We talked about the Netflix account. We have about 10 minutes before we need to end. I just briefly want to go over the emails. You said this was an email request from Nadir, who is the IT guy in DC.

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Gast: Robert Lucas was included because he also did IT work based in DC. You had the IT responsibilities put on you. In the initial email from Nadir he says, "Yes. That's a request boarding personal, but such is life." Did you ever discuss that little thought at the time he sent the email?

Witness: No. It's kind of weird and unprompted. I had never, at that point complained or anything. It was kind of weird and just unprompted.

Mr. Gast: Did that strike you as odd?

Witness: Yeah. Just the such is life. It's bullying language. It's not necessary, also.

Mr. Gast: Did you discuss it with anybody? Discuss it with Meri? Or discuss it with Mike Nguyen?

Witness: I discussed it with Mike Nguyen. This is kind of an odd tone. Mike Nguyen said this is how it is. Take it or leave it. I had a similar complaint about the car. I shared my car with my sister at the time. I was like I would have liked to have known because my older sister gets priority. I would have liked to have known. He was like just figure out a way to fix it. That's how it is.

Mr. Gast: Speak to anybody else besides Mike? Did you speak to Jennifer?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Not about that. Speak to Representative Honda?

Witness: I did.

Mr. Gast: You did?

Witness: I did.

Mr. Gast: What was that conversation?

Witness: I did. I said, "hey, Congressman...", I told him I never would have joined working for you if I would have been doing tech support. I have a law degree. I had a great opportunity at a ... Otherwise. I definitely would not have been doing stuff like this for you.

Mr. Gast: What did he say to you?

Witness: He said it's just early. It's important. You're just getting started. Be patient. Which is understandable, too.

Mr. Gast: Did you discuss this ...

Witness: It was August, I think I started in July.

Mr. Gast: Was that the time you spoke to the Member? Was around this email?

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Gast: Did you specifically raise the Apple TV/ Netflix issue, or just the IT issue?

Witness: Just the IT in general.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Witness: I didn't want to accuse him personally. Didn't seem like it would make him more receptive if I accused him personally.

Mr. Gast: After you got this email, what happened?

Witness: I never did anything with it.

Mr. Gast: You never did anything?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Did anybody else?

Witness: I'm not going to do crap like that.

Mr. Gast: Did anybody else fix the Apple TV and the Netflix?

Witness: I don't know.

Mr. Gast: Did Robert?

Witness: I don't know.

Mr. Gast: I'm sorry?

Witness: I don't know.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall Robert being in the district around the time of this?

Witness: I don't remember. Nadir was in the district around this time. Towards the end of his tenure, he came to the district.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Were there any other instances when you were asked or directed to help with personal...?

Witness: I gave the instance with Meri Maben's Lexus... inside her car. Everybody's personal phone was used for official work. All the lower level staff didn't get their phone service paid for by the office. All that stuff would have been under my jurisdiction.

Mr. Gast: Okay. I have one other topic to go through briefly. Do you have any other questions at all? Obviously, there have been news reports about protective orders and threats. I just want to give you an opportunity to, if you would like, give us your version of the events surrounding that.

Witness: It's not relevant to this.

Mr. Gast: There are some who say this might be prompted or inspired by those events, that you might see this as a way to get back at folks.

Witness: The letter to the House Ethics Committee pre-dates the events.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Witness: Unless I was Nostradamus, how could I be inspired by something that hadn't happened?

Mr. Gast: Okay. I just wanted to give you a chance to address that if you wanted.

Witness: I just don't think it's relevant. I don't see the relevance at all.

Mr. Gast:

Okay. I think those were all the questions we had for you. We really do appreciate you taking the time to go through this with us.

Exhibit 12

Interview of Former Congressional Aide #3
March 25, 2015

Mr. Gast: All right. This is Scott Gast, Investigative Counsel at the Office of Congressional Ethics, with my colleague Paul Solis, Deputy Chief Counsel. It is March 25th, 2015, and we are here with Former Congressional Aide #3, who has agreed to sit with us, talk with us about a matter that our office has undertaken.

He has received a copy of the False Statements Act and signed an acknowledgement, and we appreciate you being here with us. We generally like to start with a little bit of background... as the windows get washed.

Witness: How good is the tape recorder?

Mr. Gast: Yeah, exactly. Can you just tell us your current employment situation?

Witness: Sure. I'm currently a full-time employee with the San Jose School District as an internal audit specialist.

Mr. Solis: I think I will stop you real quick and pause to see, because this, this microphone is very sensitive so we'll stop for a moment.

Witness: All right.

[Break]

Mr. Gast: Okay, back on the record. So you say your current employment, you're full-time at the San Jose School District, and I missed that, as an audit specialist?

Witness: Yeah, internal audit specialist.

Mr. Gast: Okay. How long have you been in that position?

Witness: Since November 3rd of 2014.

Mr. Gast: What did you do prior to that?

Witness: I did a couple of different things, was and independent contractor, did some consulting with SBDC, a business development center in this area.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Witness: As well as doing contract work with a technology start-up company.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Prior to that?

Witness: I was with Congressman Honda's office.

Mr. Gast: Okay. When were you with the Honda office?

Witness: I think it was July 6th or 7th, 2006, until June 26, I think it was June 26th or June 27th of 2012.

Mr. Gast: What was your position while you were at the office?

Witness: When first started, our title was field rep/caseworker, and then probably halfway through it changed to congressional aide. Similar functions, just title change.

Mr. Gast: What were those similar functions, what were those functions?

Witness: Basically, every field rep/caseworker obviously handles casework, and then the field rep part was mainly just staffing the congressman, preparing briefers, whatever else they needed for particular events. Managing our issue areas. I was also, I came in, because I'm comfortable with tech, I was also responsible for a lot of the tech issues, in the office and out of the office.

Mr. Gast: What prompted your leaving the office in June of 2012?

Witness: I had been looking for a job for a couple of years, was dissatisfied with what I was doing with the office, and it was finally, I think from low morale and low performance from just not wanting to be there anymore, my district director came in and basically called me in one day and said, "You're leaving the office in three months." I said, "Okay."

Mr. Gast: That would have been three months before the July thing?

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: Who was that at the time, was that Meri ...

Witness: Meri Maben.

Mr. Gast: Okay. All right. While you were employed in the congressional office, were you ever asked to help out with Representative Honda's campaigns?

Witness: That, so when we were asked to volunteer, it was more in the context of, "It's campaign season, if you need extra vacation days, we can give you extra vacation days, but who would like to go out and use their vacation to volunteer on different campaigns?" I was flown to Chicago for one campaign, and staff was just flown all over the country for different campaigns, all on technically vacation time.

Where it got confusing for staff, well, for me, let me just say for me, was when we would have staff, weekend staffing responsibilities, and we would be on call for the entire weekend. Generally, if we were with the congressman at an event, we would typically follow him, and it was sort of expected that we, I felt that I was expected to go with him the entire weekend and be with him, and sometimes we were told to be at certain events with him, whether it was for the whole weekend, so whether it was campaign or office or not, whatever the event was, we were going, because we were assigned staff what weekend.

Mr. Gast: Would you drive the member?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Okay. You were with him for the entire weekend schedule, whether it was campaign or official.

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: Let me touch back on this volunteering prior to the campaign.

Witness: Sure.

Mr. Gast: Were you asked, encouraged, offered, directed? How would you characterize that?

Witness: Not directed, it was definitely asked, it was definitely encouraged. In a "Hey, we would love for you guys to go out," not more of a "Your job is dependent on it." It wasn't anything like that, it was more of, "Hey, here's the opportunities, who would like to go where? We can help make that happen." Because the more that other elected officials around the country see that we're helping, it just is more beneficial for the congressman and whatever else. Like I said, we were, if we didn't have

enough vacation time to go out for a week or two weeks, then we were allotted extra vacation time. Or our sick days were transferred to vacation time. They just found a way to give us that time off.

Mr. Gast: Did you feel any pressure to do that?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Okay, so it was completely voluntary?

Witness: Correct, the campaign season stuff was ...

Mr. Gast: Okay. You said you at one point went out to Chicago to work on a campaign?

Witness: Correct, or Chicago area.

Mr. Gast: Chicago area. You would have been through several cycles during your time in the office.

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: Was it just the one time that you volunteered for another campaign or were there others?

Witness: I think that was the furthest I went, only because at that time I wasn't married, so I didn't have any responsibilities here. But the other times I was actually local, I stayed, but took some time off, went to Morgan Hill, did some stuff there. But yeah, that was the biggest trip that I can remember.

Mr. Gast: It sounds as if you did the volunteer thing, vacation thing, several times during your stay?

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Who would ask?

Witness: Well, it was Meri.

Mr. Gast: Meri?

Witness: Yeah, it was Meri. And then sometimes we got the staff phone call, and it was, hey, everybody, we're just going to have, phone call in D.C. and talk to Jennifer. But it was mostly Meri.

Mr. Gast: Mostly Meri, sometimes Jennifer, Jennifer Van der Heide, the chief of staff.

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: Who did the arranging of the vacation/sick days?

Witness: Whoever was in D.C., I think whoever was the scheduler in D.C.

Mr. Gast: Who was your point of contact in making sure that that was taken care of?

Witness: I forget who the person before Daniel Oliver was, but it was whoever was in that role.

Mr. Gast: It wasn't Meri or anybody in the district office?

Witness: Well, no, I think because of the all the HR, personnel, payroll aspect of it, that was all handled in D.C. Whoever arranged the vacation days, and all the flight was handled out of there, I don't know if it was handled in the D.C. office, but all the arrangements were taken care of by D.C., we just, in the district we just said, who wants to go? And things were set up by whoever was, whoever Jennifer had asked or assigned to make those arrangements.

Mr. Gast: Okay. In that shuffling around of vacation times and days, were you adding, were you kept whole with your vacation so that you could still go to Disney World or something else?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: They just added in extra time.

Witness: Yes, whatever they did, they just found a way to give us extra vacation days. Yes, in other words, I felt I was made whole, I never felt that I was missing out on personal vacation, to take the extra vacation.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Before getting into the issue of staffing, staffing the member on weekends, were you ever asked to do campaign work on your personal time, say, march in a parade, or help us with a phone bank?

Witness: We were asked, yeah, I wouldn't, yeah, we were asked, I think it was, especially later on, we were asked more, when he was more active. But I mean, it was one of those things, where if I didn't have to go, I didn't want to go, or if I didn't want to go, I didn't have to go. But yeah, we were asked.

Mr. Gast: It looks like you would have -- would the 2012 cycle have started, the 2012 election cycle, by the time you left?

Witness: It did start, but it obviously didn't finish.

Mr. Gast: Right. Who in that cycle would have asked you if you wanted to participate in the campaign?

Witness: So in the '12, in fact I was looking at some e-mails, and so in 2012, from March, May, June, it was Mark Nakamoto was organizing locally. I looked at, I received several e-mails, not on the government e-mail, but on the personal e-mail side, from him. Also Lamar Heystek was active.

Mr. Gast: Who was Lamar?

Witness: Lamar was the first campaign manager, for that season.

Mr. Gast: For that cycle?

Witness: Correct, for when we transferred over to the 17th.

Mr. Gast: Who was Mark?

Witness: Mark Nakamoto, a long-time staffer, long-time intern. He was in D.C. for a long time and then came out to the district for a stint, for a summer, I think in '10 or '11, and then he came out here officially, right before the campaign.

Mr. Gast: Was he a campaign employee, or an official employee?

Witness: My understanding was he was half-time campaign, half-time official.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Did Representative Honda have a campaign office in that 2012 cycle?

Witness: Yes, I believe so. I believe so, the campaign office was always out of the SEIU building, out, further up First Street.

Mr. Gast: Is that where Lamar would have worked out of, and Mark, when he was campaign ...

Witness: I think primarily yes, yeah.

Mr. Gast: Okay. All right. You said you generally did not accept the invitation to work on the campaign?

Witness: Sometimes I did, yeah, sometimes I did. But yeah, just because mainly, I'm like, well, even though I don't really want to be here anymore, I might as well still keep some friendships and the relationships going.

Mr. Gast: Any pressure to help out with the campaign?

Witness: By that time, I was done with the office. I was like, even if, the pressure that I felt was more to keep the relationships, versus to please my supervisor type of thing.

Mr. Gast: What about earlier on, to previous election cycles?

Witness: No, well, I mean, just because he didn't really have any opposition, there wasn't really a whole lot of asking to do that. It was just, like I said, later on, we were asked to do that.

Mr. Gast: Was the 2012 race the first significant effort that he expended in a campaign?

Witness: Yes, as far as my understanding, yeah, while I was in the office, yeah.

Mr. Gast: That was in a new district, a redrawn district?

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: Okay. All right. Did other district staff work on the campaign?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Who?

Witness: Well, Ashley Roybal for a long time was doing, was paid to do the campaign work, and she was a staffer. Before that it was Chris Schwarz.

Mr. Gast: Chris Shores?

Witness: Chris Schwarz. S-C-H-W-A-R-Z.

Mr. Gast: Okay, and were they also congressional staff members?

Witness: They were, they were full-time congressional aides as well.

Mr. Gast: Okay. How about unpaid folks? Were any of the district staff helping out on an unpaid basis, regularly?

Witness: Kind of all of us were, to some degree. I mean, I just felt, after thinking about it for a while, I just felt that every time we went on the weekend trips, and we were asked to go to a campaign stop, I'm like, well, I'm not being paid to be here. In that sense, yeah, we were all assigned weekend staffing duties. Mike Nguyen was very active, very active on the congressman's personal business in general, which I'm just assuming ran into the campaign side.

Mr. Gast: Tell me a little bit more about that, about active in the personal business.

Witness: It was picking up laundry, going to the house and making sure that his bookcase designer was let into the house, so, you know, whether that happened during lunch, before work, after work, or whether that was justified by picking up mail for something or other. It was all that, that's what I mean, it was literally, it was, yeah, it was just that type of level of service that Mike Nyugen provided to the office.

Mr. Gast: Who was Mike?

Witness: Mike Nyugen came in, I don't really know when he started, actually, but Mike Nyugen was a staffer, came in probably a couple of years after I did, and I guess, came from the private sector, was always real fond of Asian Americans in politics, and so when he got a chance to work for Honda's office, he took it, and just loved it to death, from what I can tell. He made that very well known, and made it known his commitment to the office and the congressman.

Mr. Gast: Did it ever appear that he was reluctant to help with all of this?

Witness: Not at all. He was always offering and willing, so whether that was during the day or after work or on the weekends.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Aside from the weekend events, were there ever evenings that you staffed the member?

Witness: Yes, yeah.

Mr. Gast: Any campaign events during the week in the evenings?

Witness: I'm sure there were, but I'd have to go through my calendar.

Mr. Gast: How about during the day, like a lunch or anything?

Witness: Not that I can remember specifically.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Can you think of any specific examples on the weekends where you were staffing the member and there were campaign events?

Witness: We went up to, one weekend we went up San Francisco for a Leland Yee campaign event, with some, I forget who it was exactly, but I probably have the briefer or some materials in my e-mails.

Mr. Gast: And that was Leland?

Witness: Leland Yee, yeah, the guy who just got ... He knows.

Mr. Gast: Mayor?

Mr. Solis: He's a state senator who ...

Witness: State senator, or was a state senator.

Mr. Solis: Who was indicted for various charges, couple of years ago, I believe.

Mr. Gast: What kind of event was that?

Witness: It was a fundraising event.

Mr. Gast: Fundraising event. Did you ever discuss with Representative Honda why you were going to these events, you know, about the appropriateness of attending?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Did you ever discuss it with anyone else?

Witness: It was more just sort of one of those, with coworkers, it more from like a, "Oh, we really shouldn't be going to this campaign type of thing," but it wasn't ever, "Hey, Meri, we have a concern, a serious concern, I don't

really want to go to these." We never had that discussion, it was just not a discussion you wanted to have when you're junior level staffer, yeah.

Mr. Gast: Sure. No conversations with Meri about it, Jennifer?

Witness: Not that I can remember, no, not that I can remember. Jennifer and Meri, they did the, you know, at all staff stuff, they did the general blanket, "Come talk to us, this is campaign or volunteer time, XYZ." When it came to doing things, it was just sort of, well, matter of a fact, you're staffing this weekend, here are the events that you go to. And that was it. It wasn't, "This is campaign, this is not, do you feel comfortable?" There was never that explicitness with the weekend events.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Witness: With me.

Mr. Gast: Sure. Were you ever given any training about separating campaign and official ...

Witness: Just the typical CRS, or whatever the congressional ...

Mr. Gast: Kind of the annual training?

Witness: Yep.

Mr. Gast: What about any written policies in the office, about campaign activity, campaign work?

Witness: Yeah, I think it would just be the typical paperwork you had to sign. Every once in a while, they would send out e-mails reminding everybody, "Hey, everybody, just a reminder, this is campaign, this is not. Make sure you use your personal e-mails."

Mr. Gast: I want to ask you about the e-mails. Were you required to have a personal e-mail for the office to use?

Witness: They asked for it, and they would send all staff announcements.

Mr. Gast: Who was "they" that asked for it?

Witness: Well, I mean, it's on file, right? So "hey, everybody, just make sure," it would be different staffers for different things. Okay, did so-and-so have, so-and-so is organizing this particular thing for staff or for whatever, so

make sure you give them your e-mail. Or "hey, everybody, I gave your e-mails," so I mean, just people found a way to get your e-mail, but it was never, you don't have to if you don't want to, let us know if you want to be on the e-mail chain, it was just sort of, you're expected to be a part of it.

Mr. Gast: But they would say, you don't have to if you don't want to.

Witness: No, they would not say that. There was never, never anything like that.

Mr. Gast: There was never anything like that.

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: There was, give us your e-mail and we'll ...

Witness: Yeah, so-and-so is organizing it, make sure she has your e-mail. Or he has your e-mail.

Mr. Gast: What kind of things were the personal e-mails used for?

Witness: Just this morning, again, I was looking through stuff, and it said, Lamar Heystek sends an e-mail to Meri, saying, "Campaign kindly requests official staff support in Facebook liking." So Meri sent out to all the staff on their personal e-mail, saying, "Lamar is asking us as staff if we could 'like' the Facebook page and help with the, at least the networking, social networking side of the campaign."

Mr. Gast: Did you personally ever think about opting out of that?

Witness: Yeah, sometimes I just didn't do it.

Mr. Gast: Or opting out of being on the e-mail list?

Witness: Oh, no, I guess I never did. Sometimes you just, you didn't know somebody had your e-mail, right?

Mr. Gast: Are you aware of anybody who said they didn't want to be on that campaign e-mail list?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Mr. Solis: You said that's an e-mail you were viewing today?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Solis: You haven't provided that to us, right?

Witness: No, I have not. I haven't provided any documentation at all.

Mr. Solis: Okay, are there other examples of an instance like that, other than the Facebook liking request?

Witness: Yeah, Mark sent out a couple of e-mails, saying, requesting volunteers for the telephone town halls on the campaign side.

When I was looking through some things, too, just to refresh my memory, and I remember one particular instance that I was looking for, and I came across this other stuff. When, more specifically when Mark was in the office as a part-time staff, he was often there the entire day, and there was often, I mean, I specifically downloaded this screen shot of one of the chats, saying, this is ... I can provide it for you guys, can I just ...

Mr. Gast: Sure.

Witness: I'm sure you guys know how to, it's a Windows phone, it's a little bit different, but I'm sure you guys can still ...

Mr. Gast: Can I ask you to, the documents that you have found, you wouldn't mind forwarding them on to me?

Witness: Sure.

Mr. Gast: By e-mail, or mailing them. Let me know if we can give you our FedEx number if that's easier, if you have a whole lot of stuff to ... Okay.

Witness: Well, depends on what you guys want. Like I said, I did keep records, just because, it's once in a lifetime opportunity.

Mr. Solis: This is a screen shot, do you know about the date of this conversation you would have had with Ashley?

Witness: The screen shot is of, from May 16th, so it would have been on or around that date.

Mr. Solis: Of 2000?

Witness: '12.

Mr. Solis: Twelve. I'll just briefly describe it in the, for the record. It's between you and Ashley Roybal, you say, "Yeah, while he's here, he is supposed to be part-time gov employee, but I don't see him doing anything related to the office while IN, capitalized, the office ... It's all campaign stuff." You refer, when you say, "he" that is Mark.

Witness: Mark Nakamoto.

Mr. Solis: Ashley responds, "Oh, yeah. Well, I mean, I'm not sure if he is officially on part-time for the office or not. If not, then way illegal. If he is officially part-time for the office and part-time for campaign, then that part is okay. But he is still handling way too much campaign stuff out of the office." You respond, "So illegal what Mark is doing, right?" That's the end of the ...

Witness: My recollection from this, and just my recollection of that time, like I said, part-time employee, part-time campaign stuff, just a lot of campaign stuff that he was doing, in particular phone calls. If you guys are looking for phone records, I'm sure they're there. I don't know exactly what your investigation is going to do or who's responsible doing what.

Mr. Solis: I mean, did, for example, the request that campaign staff go to, sorry, official staff go to the campaign Facebook page and "like," things like that where there are requests being made from Jennifer or Meri to official staff to somehow be connected to the campaign, we might ask you to look through your records to see what you have. We can be in contact with you later about getting copies of that. It might be something where we would like to take a look at.

Witness: Okay.

Mr. Gast: And certainly like those conversations there. Let's talk about Mark Nakamoto for a moment. You worked with him for several years, in the congressional office. Do you have an idea when he went on half-time campaign status?

Witness: For our office, in the district office, it would have been when he made the transition from D.C. to the district office, so I'm not sure exactly when that was, but maybe March of that year, even a little bit earlier?

Mr. Gast: 2012?

Witness: Yeah, or maybe it was just before me. Like I said, that time frame, it was really sketchy, but it would have been March through May, just from the e-mails that I was looking at.

Mr. Gast: He never worked full-time in the district office on the congressional staff?

Witness: A couple of years earlier, he did do that stint, that summer stint. That was full-time.

Mr. Gast: In 2012, it was always half and half?

Witness: My understanding was, yeah.

Mr. Gast: Where does that understanding come from? Are you, did you ask him about that?

Witness: Meri made an announcement, "He's going to be working part time with us and part time with the campaign."

Mr. Gast: Okay. He had a desk and a workplace in the district office?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: And he also apparently ...

Witness: Used the phone.

Mr. Gast: Had a place in the SEIU building?

Witness: Yes, well, I don't know about, again, on the campaign side, I don't know when they got that SEIU building office or not, but they had some space in there, but again, that's my understanding.

Mr. Gast: Okay, and were you aware, or did you see instances where Mark was working on campaign matters in the district office?

Witness: Well, this was a screen shot of while Mark was talking on the phone. It was a campaign-related phone call from the government line.

Mr. Gast: Was it actually the government line, was it his cell phone?

Witness: It was ...

Mr. Gast: On the government line.

Witness: I saw him and a cord, I saw a cord from his handset to the desk.

Mr. Solis: How do you know it was a campaign-related call?

Witness: Talking about money, talking about the campaign event, talking, that's, I remember when I wrote that, I'm like, I sat for a couple of minutes, listening to him, like, I can't believe what I'm listening to. The details, I didn't write in that chat, but the fact that I wrote that chat, it was, Ashley was sitting right next to him.

Mr. Solis: She corroborated that.

Witness: She corroborated that in that moment.

Mr. Solis: That might have been why she said, I don't know, I mean, she responded, as far as I could tell in that text chain, she responded that she didn't know the specifics of what was going on.

Witness: Right, exactly. So we were just told, but who knows what part time, what exactly part time, what that was?

Mr. Solis: But you were fairly, you're certain that that was a campaign-related call on a government line at that moment?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Solis: Do you know who was on the other end of that phone call?

Witness: No.

Mr. Solis: Okay. Was anybody else in the room, besides you, Ashley and Mark?

Witness: Some interns. We always had interns, and we always had at least three to five interns, so there would have been some interns, but I'm not sure they would have been paying attention. I don't remember who those interns were, but ...

Mr. Solis: Did you and Ashley ever have discussions after that text exchange, that electronic exchange, about Mark on the phone?

Witness: No other text message or anything. If anything, it would have just been like a, walking out to the car type of thing, like "I can't believe that." I think we might have had one or two other discussions after that, just saying, "This is ridiculous, but what are you going to do?"

Mr. Solis: Were there other instances, specific instances you recall of Mark engaging in that same type of activity?

Witness: No, not specifically, I can't say this date, this time.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall there being generally other instances where he was on the phone ...

Witness: Right, I do remember generally, there was just a lot of campaign stuff that he was doing. And again, from that, just, it's in that, just saying, I've never, according to that text, according to that chat, I rarely saw him do government work.

Mr. Solis: I was just about to ask, so during that time, when Mark was at least outwardly, a half-time or part-time official employee and part-time campaign employee, from what you're, based on your experiences and what you saw, what officially related work was he doing during that time?

Witness: I think he was mostly in charge of some events, maybe some issues, and I think getting to know the 17th District a little bit more. I really wasn't involved, I didn't talk to him about what he was doing exactly, yeah, so.

Mr. Solis: Okay. You weren't specifically aware of the type of official work he was doing?

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Solis: Okay. But he might, had been engaged in some sort of official work.

Witness: Yeah, he might have.

Mr. Gast: Did you ever see him working on official matters?

Witness: During this particular time, I probably did, during this particular time. I mean, obviously, there were other times where he wasn't doing campaign stuff, yeah, he was, you know, doing a lot of government stuff, I mean, official stuff.

Mr. Gast: Aside from the campaign calls using the congressional telephone, did you ever see him working on other things, did he have campaign files with him in the congressional office?

Witness: I'm sure he did, but I never went through his files. I mean, I never like, opened them, "Hey, let me see this." It wasn't the type of co-worker relationship, where I would go over and chit chat with him, and see something on his desk.

Mr. Gast: When you say, you're sure he did, is that, how do you have that sense?

Witness: Just, when I left there, especially in those last few months I was there, it was one of those things where I was watching the campaign ramp up, and there was a lot more campaign talk inside the office, and I just, I was like, well, I'm glad I'm leaving. So I think, yeah.

Mr. Gast: Did you ever see him or were you aware of campaign documents being created on the congressional office computers?

Witness: Yeah, there were some times we did that. Various staffers, I mean, not, so I can't tell what other staff at the level they worked on, but there were some things where it's like, we got passed around some stuff. I mean, if you're looking on your personal e-mail, on your official computer, it's still, so yeah, we would see some stuff, and we would comment, or edit, or suggest things.

Mr. Solis: I think Scott's specific question would be, was, instead of just, there's an e-mail attachment on your personal e-mail about the campaign, were you, was anybody in the office ever creating a campaign document while working in the official office?

Witness: I can't say that I saw somebody specifically create, and I wouldn't be able to remember a specific document that was created there.

Mr. Gast: Did you ever notice on the congressional office's computer drives, anything that looked like a campaign ...

Witness: Campaign, I mean, the photos. If you're staffing him for a weekend, and you go to a campaign event, then you download the photos, those photos are going to be on the drives. And there were folders marked "campaign" from various years.

Mr. Gast: On the congressional office drives.

Witness: On the congressional servers, correct.

Mr. Solis: Go ahead.

Mr. Gast: What other kind of documents were there, were there campaign briefers, campaign issue papers?

Witness: One of the things that would have been created on the drive, and I saw this, just to refresh my memory too, so Lamar came to one of our district office staff retreats. The retreat was at Meri's house, and he was there, and the documents were created there. An intern went back to the office, created those, and then shared them with everybody who was at the meeting, including Lamar. I don't know if that, but it was just really odd to me that Lamar would be at our staff retreat, and then being shared with this official document.

Mr. Gast: What was the document, do you remember?

Witness: It was preparing for Congressional 17. So if the congressman was going to be elected, and we did have to do some government work in this, what's the profile of the district? It was probably a ten, fifteen page document.

Mr. Solis: Did you want to ask Witness about that retreat more in-depth later, or did you want to get into that now?

Mr. Gast: I think he left before the retreat that we have. We have a September 2012 retreat. You would have been gone by then.

Witness: Yeah, I would have been gone.

Mr. Solis: There was another one where you were present, where Lamar was also there?

Witness: Yeah, it would have been one just, I think it was in maybe February 2012. I'd have to take a look at the document to see when it was created.

Mr. Solis: Was that at Meri's house?

Witness: Right.

Mr. Solis: Is that in Aptos?

Witness: No, that would have been in San Jose, just actually a few blocks away from where I work right now.

Mr. Solis: Lamar was at that event?

Witness: I remember him being there.

Mr. Solis: Okay. The stated purpose of that meeting would have been an official district meeting?

Witness: That was my understanding, given that all the documents on all our other meetings said "District Office Staff Retreat."

Mr. Solis: Was the campaign discussed at that meeting?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Solis: First off, how long did the meeting last?

Witness: It was either a day or a couple of days.

Mr. Gast: Who attended?

Witness: Pretty much all the district office staff, and Lamar.

Mr. Gast: Was it a mandatory meeting for district staff?

Witness: Yeah, I guess I just assumed it was mandatory, I was never given the option, if you don't want to go, you don't have to go. I mean, if it's a district office staff retreat, I guess my expectation would be that it was mandatory, my assumption.

Mr. Solis: It was called a district staff retreat?

Witness: Yeah, I mean, I could give you the documents, to find out exactly what it was called, but ...

Mr. Solis: Anybody from D.C., the congressional office there?

Witness: That one, maybe Mark would have been in town. I could check the e-mails and find out who, because we did have a list of who was there.

Mr. Gast: Okay. This was in February of 2012?

Witness: I'm not sure of the date. I'd have to again, look at the documents and look at my calendar.

Mr. Gast: But it was early 2012?

Witness: I think it would have had to have been, because it was right after we knew what the official districts were redrawn, and so this is the 17th, this

is what the congressman is going to move into, this is what we have to know and understand.

Mr. Gast: Was Representative Honda there?

Witness: No.

Mr. Solis: Okay. Then generally what was discussed, official, campaign, as best you can recall?

Witness: Everything. Yeah, it was, what are some of our issue priorities, what are some of the priorities moving into this new 17 District, what are some of the priorities for Honda? What is everybody, as a staff are we building the relationships we need to build? How is our casework moving along? It was, are our relationships with D.C. going well? Are we in communication between the D.C. and the district office? Hey, here's the congressman is getting older, and here he's getting more tired, he's going to be sick these couple days, or here's the condition of the congressman, so we need to do this to be able to support him better. Stuff like that.

Mr. Solis: That all sounds relatively official. What campaign issues were discussed?

Witness: I think when, so my recollection is that when Lamar was there, he would talk about what the campaign is going to be doing. I don't remember specifics of what he said that day, but it was also stuff like, who do we need to make sure we're playing nice with in the new district, who's going to transfer over, what are the constituencies that can support us in the new district, type of thing. For me, I guess we're trying to recall this, it all blended together, as we move from the 15th to the 17th, these are the relationships we need to keep up to make sure we make an impact when we move to the 17th, and here's ...

Mr. Solis: Was there a discussion by Lamar or anybody else about information sharing between official staff and Lamar?

Witness: I wouldn't recall, but if there was anything, it would have been just a general, just make sure you're using your personal e-mails.

Mr. Gast: And Lamar made a presentation at this.

Witness: I believe so.

Mr. Gast: You say you have documents?

Witness: I have the report out from, I probably have the calendar, because I saved all the Outlook entries. I probably have the calendar invite on my personal e-mail as well, but also the document that was created was also shared, and Lamar's personal e-mail is on there.

Mr. Gast: That was the action plan that came out of the meeting?

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Yeah, I'd think we'd be interested in seeing that if you can forward that.

Witness: Okay.

Mr. Gast: We can follow up with a specific e-mail, following up this request.

Mr. Solis: I've got it all written down, so, at least, I have three things so far that we've covered that you have, at least topic areas, that we'll be following up with you, and we can put it in an e-mail so you have it all ...

Witness: Okay.

Mr. Gast: Did you keep time records at the office, time sheets?

Witness: Nope.

Mr. Gast: Punch any clock?

Witness: Nope.

Mr. Gast: Do you know if Mark took any steps to keep track of his time, working on official or campaign?

Witness: No, even when I, so when Ashley would leave, and I said, "Okay, I'll take over for Ashley," and I got paid for doing it, even when I got paid, I never, it was just sort of, "Hey Ashley, here's an e-mail, I spent this time on our trip, or this much. Here's what I need to be reimbursed." I never, even when I was doing stuff, never kept a time sheet. I don't know of any other campaign staffers that did.

Mr. Solis: When did you work on the campaign, when did you do that?

Witness: Periodically, I wouldn't remember the dates, periodically, if one of the folks were out.

Mr. Gast: Did anybody at the campaign, including Lamar, for example, ever contact you directly and ask you to do anything for the campaign?

Witness: I would assume they did, I can't remember specific instance, where I would say, yeah, that felt wrong. You know, of course I did this, it was just, you know, I think I still have his phone number in my cell phone, so it'd be, I think he did call at various times, but I wouldn't be able to recall specifics.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall generally what he asked for?

Witness: Sometimes it was information on the issue that we were working on, sometimes it was clarification on a particular contact or issue contact. "Hey, should we include them in this invite, because of our relationship with ..." If it would have been, it would have been early on when he started it, because I think after a while, I think Meri finally said, "I need to be in the middle of all the communication between the two, or between Lamar and staff." I don't remember any specific e-mail, but I do remember, when Lamar first started, the impression I can remember is, there's a lot of freedom between staff and Lamar, and then at some point it became restricted, and a lot of that communication funneled through Meri.

Mr. Gast: Do you have a sense when that change happened?

Witness: Nope.

Mr. Gast: Were you ever asked by Meri to do things for the campaign?

Witness: No, I can't recall specific instance, where it was, "This is campaign-related, can you do this?" No, I don't think I can ...

Mr. Gast: Were you ever asked to draft an issue paper for the campaign, an issue comparison?

Witness: There were, during some of our, I forget which, there were like our communications contact list, or our issue-based list, that was all on personal e-mail. The reason that was stated publicly was in order to use Google.doc and have everybody edit this at the same time, let's put it on Google. Everybody's gmail was added to the list.

Yeah, like I said, I can't be specific with anything, but I just, it was always, to me, I just understood it as, well, this is also going to be used on the

campaign side. We have systems to do it on the official side, so why not do it on the official side?

Mr. Gast: That was going to be my question. Why did you use Google docs?

Witness: Like I said, the stated reason was that it was easier, but it was, everybody had access to it.

Mr. Gast: When you say everybody, did that include campaign?

Witness: Some past staff who had left the office years ago who had created the original documents, so I've since been, since all these articles came out, I've since been removed from all of the shared documents, or a lot of the shared documents.

Mr. Gast: Since the articles came out?

Witness: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Mr. Gast: So before that you ...

Witness: Before that, I had free and complete access to all the issue base and campaigns and the stakeholder lists and everything, and shortly after those articles came out, I got removed from a lot of stuff.

Mr. Gast: Do you have a sense why you were removed?

Witness: Oh, yeah, because they read the articles. They were saying, we're going to limit or restrict access to people who we really trust.

Mr. Gast: Do you think they were worried that you were ...

Witness: Not me specifically, I mean, could be, yeah.

Mr. Gast: But just restrict it to a circle of ...

Witness: Right.

Mr. Gast: Trusted advisors, trusted people.

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: Was this Google drive a campaign Google drive, an official Google drive?

Witness: Well, it was, yeah, I mean, it was Honda, you know, it was Honda's, everything was under the folder of Honda. I put it under my folder of Honda, but yeah, things were listed as Honda.

Mr. Gast: Was it campaign, was it for campaign use or official use?

Witness: In my official capacity I used it and put stuff on there, I don't know what people, I don't know who in the end took information off of there, what they used it for.

Mr. Gast: Did Lamar use it?

Witness: I want to say he had access to some of those documents at some point.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Coffee breaks.

Witness: You read about those or heard about them?

Mr. Gast: Tell us a little bit about coffee breaks.

Witness: Coffee breaks were for everything not government/official.

Mr. Gast: When did they happen, how did they happen, who was involved?

Mr. Solis: Could you repeat that, we got a lot of background noise. Could you repeat what coffee breaks were for?

Witness: Everything non-official. Yeah, I mean, you figure, staff meeting once a week, fifty-two weeks a year, on average maybe forty staff meetings, to be conservative. Every single staff meeting it was literally, "Okay, on to the weekend stuff, okay, well, time for a coffee break." It was whatever was discussed, whatever was discussed.

Mr. Gast: Who would say, "Okay, time for a coffee break"?

Witness: Typically Meri, but if she wasn't there, then it would be whatever staff member was joking around and said, "Okay, coffee break time," and they would start into whatever topic they wanted.

Mr. Gast: What topics were discussed during the coffee break?

Witness: Everything, yes, campaign, Democratic party issues, local politics, birthday parties, problem constituents, just angry constituents, so that conversation would trickle into the coffee break time. Yeah, some

government stuff would be talked about, but that was the free time to talk about whatever else you wanted to talk about.

Mr. Gast: What was your understanding of the need to call "coffee break"?

Witness: There was a specific line between government work and campaign work.

Mr. Gast: This, you said, took place during district office staff meetings?

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: Did it take place any other time?

Witness: Well, the only place you would need a coffee break is when you were actually in a meeting and needed to break from that meeting. The coffee break I'm, the term coffee break was just for those specific meetings. Yeah, whether we were in our little kitchen area talking about stuff, or whether we were on our way to an event talking about stuff. I mean, staff is going to talk about whatever they want to talk about, whenever they want to talk about it.

Mr. Gast: Sure. These were held in the district office?

Witness: Yes, in the congressman's office.

Mr. Gast: All or most of the district staff attended?

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: Mandatory meetings?

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Gast: Did Representative Honda ever attend?

Witness: Sometimes he was there, when he was in the district, which wasn't ... I mean, for all the times he was in the district, but I think part of it was that, you know, staff doesn't often want their boss, their head boss, in those meetings, when they're talking about how to work these events and these issues and these things. He was there a couple of times a year, but he generally was not in the room.

Mr. Gast: Was he ever there for a coffee break?

Witness: When he was there, yes.

Mr. Gast: Did he participate, did he know ...

Witness: Sometimes. He liked to keep quiet and listen to what his staff had to say.

Mr. Gast: Did he understand what a coffee break was?

Witness: I can't speak for him, but my impression would be, yeah, just from, I mean, having done it for so long that I would assume that he would know that, what that was for.

Mr. Solis: These coffee breaks, how long, your entire time?

Witness: Ten, fifteen minutes. Oh, sorry.

Mr. Solis: The entire time you worked for ...

Witness: Yes, all six years.

Mr. Solis: So all six years, Meri would be calling these coffee breaks, or someone in her stead.

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: You said, ten to fifteen minutes, out of how long of a meeting?

Witness: An hour and a half.

Mr. Solis: Okay. Understanding that campaign, that Representative Honda's campaign was discussed, or electoral issues for him were discussed, was there ever any directives handed out from Meri or anybody else to staff during the coffee break time? On one hand, to be clear, on the one hand, it's, let's just talk about these issues. The other is actually formulating action ...

Witness: There were some planning, yeah, there were some action items at some of the ends of these coffee breaks. I was probably on the lower list of people that Meri trusted to do a lot of this stuff, so I didn't, wasn't asked to do a lot of that stuff unless it was my weekend. "Witness, it's your weekend, would you go to this event?" Yeah, sure, well, obviously, yeah, because I'm staffing, so it would just make sense.

Mr. Gast: If you were on the lower end, who was on the higher end?

Witness: It would have been Christine Pham, Michael Wang, Mike Nyugen, Chris Schwarz, yeah ...

Mr. Gast: Christine Pham.

Witness: Print out the staff list from 2006 and 2008, and you ...

Mr. Gast: All right, just the ones ... Christine Pham.

Witness: Christine Pham, Mike Nyugen, Danielle Duong, D-U-O-N-G, I'm sorry.

Mr. Gast: D-U-O.

Witness: D-U-O-N-G. Michael Wang was there for the first year and a half I was there, and him and Meri were really close. Right when I was really getting aware of everything that was going on, he was gone.

Mr. Solis: Were all those individuals there up until the point you left?

Witness: No, in fact, no. It was, when we started, when I started, it was Michael Wang, Christine Pham, Jeff Crockwell, and myself, and then Bernadette had just left for D.C. Within a year and a half or two years, Jeff had left, Christine had left, so the new crew was me, Chris Schwarz, Mike Nguyen, Danielle Duong.

Mr. Gast: In the 2011, 2012 time frame, those would be the people ...

Witness: Correct. Well, Chris I think had left by that point already.

Mr. Gast: What about Hyde, Ming Hyde?

Witness: Yes, she was there the entire time.

Mr. Gast: Was she part of the more inner circle?

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: Okay, I think that's ... Do you believe, when you were asked to leave the congressional office, that it had anything to do with your being on the lower end of the ...

Witness: Well, like I talked anecdotally with you, I just think that last couple years, I just, it was very clear to everybody and myself that I just wasn't motivated to be there, and my work performance had suffered because

of it, and I think that they were just, she just kind of said, "Hey, we need a new energy, we need to make sure we're excited going into the new district, and we need you to move on."

Mr. Gast: Do you think the fact that there were more aggressive campaigns coming up factored into that decision?

Witness: I don't know, I don't know why Meri would, like I said, I just, I kind of just always thought, well, yeah, poor work performance, I wouldn't want that person in the office for a long term either, so ...

Mr. Solis: So it wasn't a bad exit, you took that decision and accepted it.

Witness: Yes, correct.

Mr. Solis: You didn't feel ill will towards them.

Witness: Well, the only ill will I felt towards them, was when Meri said, "I don't care what you tell staff, but you're not working here in three months. That's the only ill will, it's like, six years, and you tell me you don't care what I tell staff? That part rubbed me the wrong way, but it was a huge relief. Because like I said, I didn't really want to be there anymore. And it was a huge relief, I'm like, okay, well, now I know what the plans are, now I know I can go work for this start-up and consult. Right when I left, a couple weeks later, I was doing consulting work for the start-up.

Mr. Solis: Kind of forced your hand a little.

Witness: Yeah, exactly. Like I said, I'd been looking and wanting to leave, and it was just sort of a, it is really time for you to go. It was like, okay, thank you.

Mr. Gast: Right. How active was Meri Maben in the campaign side of things?

Witness: Very active.

Mr. Gast: Did she ever go half-time or get paid by the campaign?

Witness: I don't know what her personal relationship, the financial relationship was with the campaign, I just know that she closed her door a lot. As district director, you would assume that somebody closes your door a lot, but, yeah.

Mr. Gast: When you say she was very active in the campaign, what gives that impression?

Witness: Just the coffee break conversations. "Last night I was here, last weekend I was there, this is coming up, I talked with the director, the head of the Democratic Party for the county, and this is what we need to do. The head of labor union, this is ..."

Mr. Gast: Did you ever see her working on campaign matters in the district office?

Witness: You catch glimpses of conversations as she's walking either from her office to the hallway or from the hallway to her office. Yeah, I mean, I didn't really, like I said, I never sat down and looked at what paper she was working on at that particular moment.

Mr. Gast: What about any episodes with Mark Nakamoto, where you heard a phone conversation on an unofficial line?

Witness: No, like I said, you would hear, I always had my suspicions. She's "Hello," pick up the phone, and then it was, "okay, sure, hold on," and then right into the office.

Mr. Solis: Did you ever, during coffee break time, hear Meri talk about conversations with Jennifer? Or bring Jennifer up in the context of the campaign?

Witness: Yeah, I would assume yes. Because it was, I mean, that's who, her and Jennifer met all the time and talked all the time, so I think, yeah.

Mr. Solis: Okay, just to be clear, you think that, you assume that probably happened, but do you recall a specific, a time when Meri said, "I've been talking to Jennifer about this campaign event, Jennifer has told us to do this."

Witness: A specific instance, no, it was just sort of, it just happened so much, it was just kind of, okay, well, I'm sure it did, I just can't tell you which one, because I wouldn't be able to tell you because it happened so often.

Mr. Solis: Okay.

Witness: It was in the context of "Jennifer and I were talking," or "Jennifer says this."

Mr. Gast: During your time in the Honda office, were you ever aware of situations where official events were used to either reward campaign contributors?

Witness: Yes, in the sense that if they were our supporters, campaign or not, they were going to be invited, and they were going to be made sure to be invited. I can't, some of those, a lot of it happened on the Asian community side of things, so that was mostly Christine Pham and Mike Nguyen and Danielle Duong.

Mr. Solis: When you say, they were supporters, campaign or not, what do you mean by supporters?

Witness: Other elected officials who have publicly supported or Mike the congressman is friends with, they're going to be invited, and made sure to be invited on that list. I mean, I never looked at a campaign list and our invite list and said, okay, these people donated, these people didn't donate. I think where I'm coming from is the sense that, as an elected official and as your staffers, of course you want people at those events who are going to be supportive of you. You're going to pull people from wherever.

Did I ever hear of a specific instance, and can I recall a specific instance where somebody said, this person donated this much money, so let's make sure to invite them? No, I never heard that phrase specifically, but in terms of, going back to those lists, and who are our issue lists. Well, the thought of those issue lists are often, you look at the sense, the sense that I had when we looked at who was submitting appropriations requests and who was our supporters publicly and who are organizations that we want to support, because of the type of issue we're getting involved with, I mean, that's just all, it just all commingled.

Mr. Gast: When you say issue lists, is that similar to the stakeholder lists?

Witness: Correct, yeah.

Mr. Gast: And what are those?

Witness: As an office we created, probably '11, '10, or whatever, and again, another Google.doc that was created, and it was issue by issue who are our supporters, who are we involved with today, it had some notes as to why we were involved with them, or why we would want to continue to elicit their support.

Mr. Gast: Who developed those lists?

Witness: All, every staff. D.C. staff, D.O. staff. I mean I contributed the education page, transportation page, and stuff like that. It was staff who created that document.

Mr. Gast: Were campaign contributions referenced on any of that?

Witness: I don't recall seeing anything specific.

Mr. Gast: Do you know if campaign staff added or modified those lists at all?

Witness: Madalene Mielke would have, if she, if anything, because she's the one that had all the congressman's lists.

Mr. Gast: She had access to these lists?

Witness: I believe so, I can't recall specifically, but yeah, it was just, everybody had access to the lists.

Mr. Gast: Madalene Mielke is the congressman's fundraiser.

Witness: Fundraiser, correct.

Mr. Gast: When you say everyone would have access to the lists, Lamar?

Witness: I want to say I remember seeing his name on that list?

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Witness: Again, without having access to it, I can't confirm that.

Mr. Gast: We talked about using official events as a potential way to reward donors or supporters. What about, were you ever aware of instances in which official events were used to develop or groom potential supporters or contributors?

Witness: Yeah, in fact, transportation secretary, when he came out for the BART extension meeting we had with the San Jose State University's transportation institute with the Silicon Valley leadership group in support, I was told by Meri not to invite not to invite Sam Liccardo and to specifically invite Ash Kalra. Even though they were both on the VTA board, it was, Ash was a supporter, and Sam Liccardo was not.

Mr. Gast: You were told by Meri to specifically not invite the non-supporter?

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: And to invite the supporter?

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Solis: By supporter, campaign supporter? Somebody who contributed to his campaign?

Witness: Well, I'm sure that Ash Kalra did support, contribute to his campaign, but Ash Kalra and the congressman are friends, as far as I can tell. They're always at the same events together, they always have a really good time together, it's kind of like, hey, they would love to groom him to be the next whatever. I don't know what Ash's plans are.

Mr. Gast: How about any discussions where somebody would say, hey, this person has given a lot of money to other candidates, he's somebody we could try and get money from. Let's invite him to this official event.

Witness: Oh, I'm sure I heard that a couple of times, but I can't recall anything specific.

Mr. Gast: Who would you have heard discussing those kind of things?

Witness: I think it might have been like the lower level staff, it might have been a Mike Nguyen, it might have been a Chris Schwarz. Sometimes it was jokingly over a beer after work, and sometimes it was at an event, where we were like, hey, you know, Mike was very gregarious like that. Or open like that, I should say.

Mr. Gast: Aside from the instances where we've already talked about, are you aware of other instances where official resources were used to support representative on this campaign? Any office equipment, office phones, staff time?

Witness: I think it was just mainly staff time, right? If you were going to go check the campaign mailbox, instead of a fifteen minute break, you get your half an hour break, plus you get your full lunch, plus you're given an extra half an hour for lunch. Leave early from work and then go take this. I mean, it was just always, again, it was just so frequent that I can't say, this specific time, I did this or this person did this, and I felt uneasy. It was just as a matter of fact.

Mr. Gast: Okay, I want to ask you about one last subject area, unless you have anything you want to add. How are you doing on time?

Witness: I told my supervisor I'd probably take an extended lunch.

Mr. Gast: Okay, this should be relatively quick, and then we can wrap it up.

Witness: Well, I have your card, so I have a get-out-of-jail free card, right?

Mr. Gast: You can certainly try.

Witness: No, I meant, as proof that I was actually here, that's what I meant, as proof I was actually here.

Mr. Gast: Yes, you do, we can write you a note, if that helps. I want to ask you about, whether you or anybody that you knew in the congressional office were asked to do personal services for Representative Honda.

Witness: Such as?

Mr. Gast: You may have seen in the press, there was some talk about Netflix, Apple TV, setting that up for the congressman.

Witness: Yeah, again, it was just as somebody who handled the technology, it was always, see, Meri always paid me to do work on her home computer that she used for campaign, just office stuff and whatever.

Mr. Gast: Paid you personally, with her funds?

Witness: Correct. I was like, okay, well, Meri's paying me, Cathy's not. But I just always assumed, it was never explicit to me that, here's what you should be working on at the congressman's home or here's what you're not supposed to be working on. In fact, I was given full access and given all the passwords to everything that the congressman owns, just in case something happened, I could go to his house and fix it. So the same thing was happening in D.C.

Mr. Gast: That's personal as well as official?

Witness: Correct, correct.

Mr. Gast: Were you ever asked specifically, go set up his personal ... ?

Witness: Fax machine? Go check the fax machine. Yeah, all the time, that was a big one. Yeah, can you check the internet stuff? Okay, sure. Sometimes when the congressman was there, he would actually get on the phone with AT&T or whoever his provider was, SBC Global, or Yahoo or whoever, and say, "This is the problem." I just always found it amusing, but then I would get back, "Why didn't you call them?" I'm like, well, he wanted to call them, I'm not going to tell my boss no. There's only so much you can do. Like I said, plus I got a kick out of it.

Mr. Gast: Other than the IT stuff, were you ever asked to help with personal business? Pick up laundry, or ...

Witness: No, I don't think, like I said, no, I wasn't.

Mr. Gast: Are you aware of other staff being asked to do that?

Witness: Yeah, Mike Nguyen mostly. I mean, Charlene might have been asked a couple of times. I just remember Mike Nguyen, and the reason why, is because Mike Nguyen sat directly across from me, so I just heard him talking all the time.

Mr. Gast: Do you ever get the impression that people were being asked to do something they didn't want to do and to help with personal stuff, or was Mike ...

Witness: Yeah, he was willing.

Mr. Gast: Happy to do it.

Witness: Yeah, happy to do it.

Mr. Gast: Anybody that you could think of that was asked to do something that they found inappropriate?

Witness: I think Charlene always felt uneasy about being asked to do stuff.

Mr. Gast: Okay. I believe those are all the questions we have for you.

Mr. Solis: Just wondered if you spoke to anybody about the fact that we'd be meeting with you today.

Witness: No, I almost talked to one of my other friends, but I said no, I just, no. Because he knows a lot of lawyers, and I just wanted to get some, "Hey, what am I exposing myself to, what am I getting myself into here?" But in

the end, I told my wife, and she's like, "Be careful." I said, "One, the office has no influence on my life whatsoever." When you're in working for the House of Reps, you're the world, and oh, my gosh, everything can happen to you. As soon as you leave, you realize how inconsequential that office really is.

Wow, we only hear about how messed up the conversations are going in D.C. that's the only time I really hear about Congress these days. Even when working for the start-ups, there was nothing to do with Congress, I'm like, this has no impact on my life whatsoever. So I really don't have anything to fear by being here, except by being persecuted for stuff that I've done, that I can always probably, claim, hey, I was just as a matter of fact told to do it. I didn't break the law, and if I did, it was under the authority of somebody else. I really don't see any reason not to be here.

Mr. Solis: Did you speak to, you said you spoke to Ruchit, right?

Witness: Way when he first filed the complaint, and that was the only time by e-mail, and that was it.

Mr. Solis: What did he express to you?

Witness: Before he left the office, we had a beer after work, and I mean, he was, he just always came off as like, "I don't care, I just want a job, and I want this." I'm like, okay. Afterwards, he in the e-mails, he just, "Hey, I just filed an ethics complaint because I was asked to do stuff that I think goes against my role as a government employee, this isn't what I signed up for. They didn't tell me I'd be doing tech stuff, and now I'm doing all this tech stuff." I think just from his e-mail, he mentions Mike Nguyen as just, he can't handle him. So he was just ...

Mr. Solis: He used the word "revenge"?

Witness: Yeah, you want to read the e-mail that he sent me? I mean, it specifically quote, "revenge fucks are my gag, though."

Mr. Solis: Okay. Did you get the impression that Ruchit then, his intent was to create a problematic situation for Representative Honda's office?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Solis: Okay. Knowing Ruchit like you, how well do you know Ruchit?

Witness: Not very well at all. When we went out for the beer, he was like, "Somebody's smoking weed in here. Oh, no, that's what's in my back pocket." I just went, "All right, anyway, we're here to talk about the office." It was that type of ... And Ashley, I don't know, there's a police report filed on him as well, so if you guys have read that, you're aware of that situation.

Mr. Solis: Right, so knowing, based on your experiences with him and the communications you had during the time he was making these allegations...

Witness: Right.

Mr. Solis: Do you have the impression that he is making some of this up, or do you think it's consistent with what you saw in the office?

Witness: It's consistent what I saw with the office, and don't shoot the messenger. I read the articles, I'm like, people should know about him, because he's maybe not the best person to be around, but it doesn't change the fact that what he's saying seems, it was true to my experience.

Mr. Solis: Okay. Do you believe that Ruchit had problems with management while he was there? Did you see them come down on him for poor performance or for creating a problem at work?

Witness: No, his first day was my last day.

Mr. Solis: Okay.

Witness: I didn't see any interaction between him and anybody else.

Mr. Solis: Okay, you never saw a problematic work environment or anything like that?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Anybody from Representative Honda's office or anybody associated with him ever try to contact you about our review?

Witness: Around the time the articles came out, Jennifer did try to call me. Didn't answer her phone calls.

Mr. Solis: Did she leave a message?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Well, I think that's it. We will get back to you with an e-mail going over what we talked about, document-wise, then we can go from there.

Witness: Sure. Okay.

Mr. Solis: Thanks a lot.

Exhibit 13



Lamar Heystek <[REDACTED]>

Required Reading: Entrepreneurial National by Ro Khanna

Jennifer Van der Heide <[REDACTED]> Wed, Dec 26, 2012 at 8:38 AM
To: Eric Werwa <[REDACTED]>, AJ Bhadelia <[REDACTED]>, Laura Hatalsky
<[REDACTED]>, Michael Shank <[REDACTED]>, Mark Nakamoto
<[REDACTED]>, meri maben <[REDACTED]>, Lamar Heystek <[REDACTED]>,
"Nguyen, Mike" <[REDACTED]>, Ruchit Agrawal <[REDACTED]>

All -

In preparation for the good chance for a challenge by Ro Khanna, you are required to read Ro Khanna's book (Laura already has and I'm halfway).

Legislative staff will be discussing the week of January 7th, in preparation for discussions about MH legislative agenda for 2013.

Regardless of any electoral purpose, there is discussion of issues key to CA 17, including many issues that MH has already been involved with either legislatively or through appropriations - It is a good read for a MOC representing Silicon Valley.

-Jennifer

Jennifer Van der Heide, Esq.
Chief of Staff

Congressman Mike Honda (CA 15)

Vice Chair, Democratic National Committee
Chair Emeritus, Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus

Exhibit 14

**Interview of Former Deputy District Director
March 27, 2015**

Mr. Gast: This is Scott Gast, Investigative Counsel with the Office of Congressional Ethics, joined by Paul Solis, Deputy Chief Counsel. It is March 27th, 2015. We're here with Former Deputy District Director.

Witness: Yeah, correct. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Witness: [REDACTED]

Mr. Gast: Okay. We appreciate you being here and speaking with us about this matter. We generally like to start with a little background information. We chatted a little bit, but for the record, can you tell us a little bit about what you're doing right now as far as employment? That sort of thing.

Witness: Sure. I'm a graduate student at UCLA School of Education, I'm getting my PhD there. In terms of employment, graduate students on campus, the way it works is, we're given research positions on campus which helps us pay the bills. It's not a lot of money, but it's enough to live.

Mr. Gast: Sure.

Witness: Hopefully I'll be done in a total 4 or 5 years.

Mr. Gast: Okay. When did you start at UCLA?

Witness: Fall of 2013. September 2013.

Mr. Gast: Okay. What did you do before starting at UCLA?

Witness: I worked for Congressman Mike Honda.

Mr. Gast: What positions did you hold?

Witness: Sure, I started off as a part time caseworker and then ...

Mr. Gast: When was that?

Witness: February 2007, I don't remember the exact date.

Mr. Gast: Month is ...

Witness: Month is good?

Mr. Gast: Month is good.

Witness: February 2007, part time caseworker, then I believe August 2007 was when I got promoted to a full time position. The title we used then was Congressional Aide.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Witness: Then I got promoted to Deputy District Director, but I honestly can't remember the date.

Mr. Gast: Could it have been February 2011?

Witness: I honestly can't remember. I have it at home, I can double check and let you know, but I honestly for some reason can't remember.

Mr. Gast: Does 2011 sound like the right year?

Witness: Honestly, I was there for almost 7 years, so I can't really remember.

Mr. Gast: About how many years were you in that position?

Witness: Deputy? I think roughly 2.

Mr. Gast: 2 years.

Witness: Maybe? Yeah, I think.

Mr. Gast: Prior to working for Representative Honda what did you do?

Witness: I worked for about 5 months for an online advertising company.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Any other work for members of the House or the Senate?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Okay. As Deputy District Director, what were your duties?

Witness: I did a lot of inter-governmental relations, so working with city municipalities, state legislators and their staff members, it was a lot of that. I still did all the

same responsibilities anyone would do as a Congressional Aide. I still did case work. My job was to oversee, train new staff members, assist the District Director, whatever she needed or if she was out of town. When she was out of town, pretty much all I did was a lot of scheduling, deciding which events the Congressman would go to, which he wouldn't go to, ones that we would need to talk to him about. I would fill her shoes if she was out of town, pretty much.

Mr. Gast: The District Director at the time was Meri Maben?

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: Okay, was she the District Director the whole time you were in the office?

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: You left the Congressional office July of 2013?

Witness: That's right.

Mr. Gast: That's to go to school?

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: Before we dive into anything else, I want to touch on this. I understand that you have a protective order against Ruchit Agrawal.

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: Is that correct?

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: Can you tell us briefly the circumstances that led to that protective order?

Witness: Sure. I guess, how far do you want me to go back? In terms of when he was on staff, or after he left the office?

Mr. Gast: Wherever you think is a good place to start, just to get the context.

Witness: Okay.

Mr. Gast: We'll leave it up to you.

Witness: Okay. I guess, when he was on staff, my job was to train him and make sure he knew how things worked. Let him know what expectations were in the office.

Mr. Gast: Let me stop you real quick. Did you have any supervisory role as Deputy District Director? Did you supervise staff?

Witness: Yes. I had authority, but a lot of it I had to check ... I couldn't fire anybody, if that's what you're trying to say. What do you ...

Mr. Gast: Would you assign work to folks? Would you review work, do annual evaluations, that kind of stuff?

Witness: Not annual evaluations, but would assign work if the District Director was out of town. I wouldn't assign case work, that was up to another staff member.

Mr. Gast: Was that Cathy Ming Hyde?

Witness: Correct. For instance, let me give an example. If an event request came in for the Congressman to go speak at, at some event, then I would assign the staff member to go write the speaking points for that event. If the District Director was ... Sorry, let me turn this off. If the District Director was not available. She didn't understand a lot of technology in terms of ... We had moved offices so I would assign staff members to set up the internet, to get the phone up online, get the internet up and running, get the computers set up. Things like that. Kind of office stuff, if that makes any sense?

Mr. Gast: Sure. You were saying about Ruchit that you were... when he was employed in the office you were kind of responsible for getting him up to speed at least.

Witness: Yeah, I was in charge of that in terms of hiring new staff members, also. Letting him know how to staff the Congressman. He shadowed me when he was first hired. Based on the way he worked in our office, it appeared that he didn't like the type of work we did. He was always very unpolished. Came in the next day wearing the same clothes. Looked like he slept in his car. We'd have a lot of talks about "Hey, appearance matters. You should iron your shirt. You should make sure your suits are pressed. Dry clean them somewhat regularly."

Mr. Gast: Yeah, we've been travelling for a week, so, please don't ...

Witness: Oh, no! Trust me based ... I think you know what I'm getting at.

Mr. Gast: Yes.

Witness: You have to show up on time for work. If you're going to staff the Congressman, you've got to get there before he does, not after him. You can't drink on the job.

Mr. Gast: Was that an issue?

Witness: I always say, you don't ever drink. When we first hire people, we let that expectation. I think that's a pretty normal ... I think that's in the norm, right? We say it anyway. At an event, on his own, he was drinking. I believe actually the Congressman told him he shouldn't be doing that. I know at other events he did it again because we had our friends who worked for other elected officials come and say, "Hey, your new guy's drinking. Maybe you should talk to him." Things like that. Being late.

It seemed of like, in terms of setting up the computers to work in our office, getting our internet up and running, I remember it taking a very long time. I distinctly remember pulling him aside one day and saying "Hey, you've got to do this. You've got to get this up and running. We don't have internet. We can't do any work." That was probably the only reprimand I've ever done. It was just telling him you've got to step up your game, and by stepping up your game I mean do your job. I'm not asking you to do any more, any less. In fact, I remember pulling work off his plate and doing it myself, that way he could just focus on that.

It seemed like he just didn't care. He didn't want to do it. When he decided to resign and leave I thought that was a good thing for us. Other staff members were pulling his weight for him so he could do things other people could do relatively quickly.

Mr. Gast: Did he resign or was he asked to leave?

Witness: He resigned. No one ever asked him. We don't have that philosophy. We try to ... I think this is because Meri and the Congressman are teachers, was to keep training him, keep working on him, and try to improve performance. It just seemed like it wasn't his interest.

Mr. Gast: Sure.

Witness: Or whatever else was going on, I don't know. He left.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Witness: I actually thought everything was fine until Ashley Roybal called. It was months later. He came over for dinner and he had made threats against all of us. We

also knew though that he gambled a lot. He would actually tell me that. We talked about it in terms of that may be a problem. When he met with Ashley, that's when he made the threats to her. Then she called me and that's how the ball got rolling in terms of us reaching out to law enforcement. Having them investigate and then eventually arrest him, all though no charges were filed. We were all very, very scared.

He actually lives on the same street as my parents. Same street, 20 houses down, actually. Same street. My parents had to change their patterns. They left a car in a different neighborhood. I don't know where he lives now. I assume he lives in the same place, still 20 houses down from my parents.

Mr. Gast: Did you have any contact directly with him about the threats or was this a threat that was made in the presence of Ashley and she relayed it to you?

Witness: In the presence of Ashley. I never saw him after he left our office. Part of the reason ... He finished law school and then started working for us. Then he said he wasn't interested in taking the Bar, didn't want to be a lawyer. Then I guess he changed his mind towards the end and said "Can I go on a part-time basis and study for the Bar?" We said "Sure." As the Bar got closer he took more time off, like a leave of absence to study. That's when he resigned. I can't remember if it was a full leave of absence or just a few days.

Mr. Gast: What was the nature of the threat that was communicated to Ashley?

Witness: He asked her where I usually hang out when I'm in town. Where I usually go so he could beat me up. I believe he said he wanted to hurt Jennifer, our Chief of Staff, but instead of hurting her he would kill her daughter who was 8. That would be more painful. Things of that nature. I think it was to the point where Ashley, her husband DJ owns a firearm. I believe he actually went into his room and took his firearm and concealed it in his clothes in their living room. It just got really, really scary.

Mr. Gast: Any sense of why he made those threats?

Witness: No, I still don't understand. Clearly, he's disgruntled.

Mr. Gast: Why is he disgruntled?

Witness: I can only speculate. I think he thinks we tried to sabotage him or give him a hard time or something. If I was trying to sabotage him, or any of us were, we would probably make his experience in our office worse, right? That's typically what somebody would do. We were taking work off his plate so he would have

less duties than everyone else so he could complete them on time, which he wasn't doing.

Mr. Gast: Was there any specific incident that caused bad blood?

Witness: I honestly thought when he decided to leave, and I can only base it on the resignation email that he sent in which I, at the time, perceived to be genuine. I believe it said something like this was just not his line of work. This was not the type of things he likes to do. It made sense based on his actions in the office. This was not the type of work that he's interested in. I don't know how it suddenly became anger towards everyone and threats against everyone. My guess is he thought we were trying to make his life worse, but I completely disagree.

Mr. Gast: Then you ultimately sought and were granted a protective order, is that correct?

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: Who is covered by that protective order?

Witness: I have it with me. Do you guys have a copy?

Mr. Gast: We don't. If you had one that we could take with us.

Witness: Yeah, this is for you. I usually keep this in my car, actually, but I can print out more copies.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Witness: I can email you the PDF, too. This is the protective order.

Mr. Gast: We can look through that, just in the interest of time.

Witness: There's a picture of him in the background, too.

Mr. Gast: Okay. That is still ...

Witness: You can have that. I can print more. If you want, I can email you an electronic copy.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Thank you. Let's switch gears a little bit then and talk about the relationship the Congressional office had with Representative Honda's campaigns.

Witness: Sure.

Mr. Gast: While you were in the office, were you ever involved with any of his campaigns while you were on the Congressional staff?

Witness: Yeah, I think it's normal for staff to volunteer on their own time. Not during official capacity, but on your own free time. I would volunteer and stuff, just like anybody else would.

Mr. Gast: How often would you volunteer to do things?

Witness: I left the office before he had that competitive race, so not a lot.

Mr. Gast: This would have been in the 2012 election cycle?

Witness: Sure, yeah.

Mr. Gast: Did you do anything in the 2014 election cycle before you left?

Witness: I don't really remember, but I left before things got really heated. I think I left right when his opponent announced, or around that same time. Maybe even before then, but there wasn't really much that I did.

Mr. Gast: What kind of things would you help out with?

Witness: No, I take that back.

Mr. Gast: Sure.

Witness: I'm trying to remember back. In the 2012 election cycle was a non-competitive but it was partially new district. I'm looking up to help me think.

Mr. Gast: Sure.

Witness: Yeah, he ran a campaign but didn't really have a strong opponent. Nonetheless, you run one because you're new district, 50% new district. There were evenings where I went and helped phone bank. I never walked.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Were you ever paid by the campaign?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Did other district staff help with the campaign?

Witness: Yeah, I think folks would volunteer, like me, for phone banking.

Mr. Gast: Who else in the office, say for the 2012 cycle and the 2014 cycle?

Witness: I think a lot of us did. Cathy ...

Mr. Gast: That's Cathy Ming Hyde?

Witness: Yeah. Mark Nakamoto, Ashley, Meri, Charlene. Did Charlene? Did she phone bank? I can't remember if she did or she didn't. I'm just trying to recall that time I went and I phone banked.

Mr. Gast: Did anybody in the office choose not to participate in the campaign at all?

Witness: I can't distinctly remember if anybody ...

Mr. Gast: Who at the time, in the 2012, 2014 election cycle periods ... Were there formal paid positions on the campaign?

Witness: Yeah, Lamar Heystek.

Mr. Gast: Anyone else?

Witness: I don't think so. The Congressman had a fundraiser named Madalene. She's based out of D.C. I guess that's what she does for a lot of Members. She's got a lot of clients.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Witness: I don't think there was anybody else.

Mr. Gast: Did Ashley do any work for the campaign?

Witness: I don't remember, but I'm sure she volunteered, just like I did.

Mr. Gast: What about Mark Nakamoto?

Witness: Oh, was he paid on staff? He might have been. I honestly can't remember if he was paid, but I'm sure he volunteered like a lot of us did.

Mr. Gast: Was there ever a time where he did half-time on the campaign, half-time on the Congressional office?

Witness: That sounds right. Maybe not half time, I don't know what the formula was. He might have been full-time on the staff and then part-time on the campaign stuff. I think the way it works is he got paid a certain amount an hour and then no matter how many hours you worked on weekends or evenings or something like that, you would bill that. I'm actually kind of surprised I can't remember.

Mr. Gast: Okay. You just remember what you can remember.

How was the relationship between the campaign and the Congressional office?

Witness: Kept it isolated. Like I said, I didn't do a lot of campaign work. I felt it was pretty isolated. We didn't really dabble between the two. When I did it was on my own free time and at my own free will.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Who did you talk to at the campaign when you did that?

Witness: It would be Lamar.

Mr. Gast: Okay. How involved was Representative Honda in his campaigns? How would you characterize his involvement?

Witness: Just doing some of the basic stuff, not that ... You mean on a scale, or on a ...

Mr. Gast: Yeah, was he kind of someone who was hands off and let Lamar, or others, do the strategy and the planning?

Witness: I don't think there was a lot of strategy. I think it was really basic. I shouldn't even say that. I wasn't in any of those meetings. I'm not really sure. I guess you could characterize it as more hands off. He's not a micro-manager, if that's what you're trying to get at.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Did you ever have any discussions with him about the campaign, how's it going?

Witness: Probably. I probably did.

Mr. Gast: Would that be occasionally, regularly, often?

Witness: It would probably be more on the occasionally side than on the often side. I don't remember it being a very heated race. I had a lot of official responsibilities.

Mr. Gast: Did you, during your time in the Congressional office, receive any training on campaign activities that you as a Congressional staff member could undertake?

Witness: We're required to take that ethics ...

Mr. Gast: The annual training?

Witness: Yeah, the annual training every year. We did that. Then I think you submit some paperwork on it. You watch that video. We did that, but in terms of training for what?

Mr. Gast: Permissible campaign activity, or the rules governing campaign activity. Was there any training specific to that or any ...

Witness: Additional training?

Mr. Gast: Additional, with any written materials that were distributed, anything like that?

Witness: I don't think so.

Mr. Gast: Were you aware of a written policy about that in the office?

Witness: I don't think so.

Mr. Gast: Okay. During your time in the Congressional office, did you ever see occasions where official resources were used for the campaign? Whether it's a computer, a phone, copier?

Witness: I don't think so. No.

Mr. Gast: Did anybody ever do campaign calls from the district office?

Witness: I know I didn't. I don't recall anybody making campaign calls from the office. I doubt they would do it sitting in front of everybody. I don't know if you've been to our office. Well, the old office, we're not there anymore. It's just kind of a big work area with a lot of desks, no one has their own office. Well, a couple people. I didn't. A bunch of other people didn't. It's inappropriate anyway, so no.

Mr. Gast: Discuss the campaign in the district office?

Witness: I think we talked ... Casually you talk about all sorts of politics happening locally.

Mr. Gast: Sure.

Witness: I don't think we ever talked strategy or we said things like "We need to all do this." I don't think there was any expectations of that.

Mr. Gast: I want to ask you about "coffee breaks." Does that sound familiar to you?

Witness: Sure.

Mr. Gast: What is a "coffee break"?

Witness: It's essentially where we would talk about what's happening with other elected officials in the area. What are they doing? It's a lot of just gossip that you would read in San Jose Mercury News. There's a political gossip column called Internal Affairs. I think that's what it's called. It's just political gossip. Who's running for what. Who is doing what initiative. Things like that.

Mr. Gast: Where would these coffee breaks take place?

Witness: In our staff meetings.

Mr. Gast: When you say staff meetings, you mean district staff meetings?

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: How often were those?

Witness: District staff meetings? Once a week.

Mr. Gast: Who attended those?

Witness: All the district staff.

Mr. Gast: Did Representative Honda ever attend?

Witness: Honestly, in my 6 and a half years there, maybe once, maybe twice. Granted, he's always in DC. The point of those meetings ... We usually do them on a Thursday. Members leave DC on a Thursday and they come for the weekend. We'd prep. We'd go over his schedule to make sure staff know what they're assigned to. What their responsibilities are. We do it that day before he gets in so when he's on the ground we know who's staffing, we know who's not staffing.

Mr. Gast: These were held in the district office?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: Why call "coffee break"?

Witness: You know, I ...

Mr. Gast: Who would call it, first of all?

Witness: Meri would.

Mr. Gast: Meri would. Why call "coffee break"?

Witness: I don't think what we were doing was inappropriate. Just talking about local political gossip. I guess it's a bit of a ... It might be perceived as a grey area. I'm probably ...

Mr. Gast: Did you talk about Representative Honda's campaigns?

Witness: Probably. We would talk, but ... We would probably say "Oh, this person" ... I remember one conversation saying "If the Congressman were to retire, so and so may want to run for his seat." It was things like that.

Mr. Gast: What about, he had these events coming up on the campaign, stuff like that?

Witness: Yeah. We went over his complete schedule. We know exactly what he was doing.

Mr. Gast: That included both official and campaign events?

Witness: Yeah, his complete schedule on a run through. Every campaign event would be Lamar or whoever was paid to do that, would be in charge of staffing that. We just went over it so people would know where he was.

Mr. Gast: Did Congressional staff ever staff Representative Honda on campaign events?

Witness: I certainly have. Like I said, again, it was never an expectation. Often times I volunteered to do it just because I enjoyed doing the work. There are times I've taken my own vacation days to go work on other campaigns, for other people running for Congress. For their re-election campaigns. This was just things that someone like me was personally interested in doing. We would volunteer on our own time.

Mr. Gast: Who was the person assigning the staffers to the events?

Witness: You mean the campaign events? Or the official events?

Mr. Gast: Both.

Witness: Official events would be Meri. I think for campaign we would go and we would ask Lamar or Jennifer on our own time "Hey, the Congressman is doing" ... "So and so is coming in to stump for the Congressman can we ...", or "Or so and so is coming in to do a fundraiser for the Congressman on Saturday, I'd like to help staff because I'd also like to meet this Senator or this Governor, or whatever."

Mr. Gast: What about staffing on weekends? I understand there was kind of a rotation system that you would staff the member on weekends?

Witness: Yeah, so ... Go ahead.

Mr. Gast: No, finish your thought.

Witness: To be fair and equal, the policy was to have weekends and it would rotate by staff member. That way everyone would have the same amount of weekends to staff for the year. If things happened where we could take each other's place, we would swap, step in and do other things for people depending on life events and stuff like that.

Mr. Gast: When you were staffing the member, were you also driving?

Witness: Sometimes yes, sometimes no.

Mr. Gast: Okay. If there were a mix of campaign and official events on weekends, would the same staff person staff him through the weekend?

Witness: If they wanted to. I would, because I like to do those things. If you didn't want to, you didn't have to. We would figure out something else.

Mr. Gast: How would you figure that out? How would that work?

Witness: I guess Lamar would say "Hey, can you do this? If you can't, no big deal. We'll find someone else." It wasn't like you were expected to do campaign work.

Mr. Gast: Were there occasions where there would be switches? Where somebody would drive him to an official event, somebody ...

Witness: Oh, yeah.

Mr. Gast: From the campaign would pick him up.

Witness: Totally.

Mr. Gast: Official guy would then pick him up.

Witness: Something like that. There were a lot of ... Especially during the weekday, stuff like that.

Mr. Gast: On the weekends? Would there be that switching?

Witness: Yeah, depending on the type of event. Depending on if the staff member, like me, could do it or if they couldn't do it. What their responsibilities of those events were.

Mr. Solis: Was Lamar at the coffee breaks?

Witness: No.

Mr. Solis: We've talked to several people who were present at those meetings and discussed the coffee breaks in full.

Witness: Sure.

Mr. Solis: I just want to make sure, whether or not Representative Honda's campaign was discussed during the coffee breaks beyond mere scheduling. People we've talked to have all affirmatively said there was discussions about substantive campaign issues during the coffee breaks, so I just want to make sure that if you can jog your memory a little bit to see if ...

Witness: If there were, I honestly can't remember any specific things that we talked about.

Mr. Solis: Is it generally possible that his campaign was discussed beyond just scheduling?

Witness: I mean, sure.

Mr. Gast: Frankly, it sounds like when you call "coffee break" that you are no longer on official time. That would be a reason to do that. Was that the thinking behind that?

Witness: I get those optics.

Mr. Solis: Mr. Gast asked you why do you call it "coffee break" and your answer was not... Then the answer of why a "coffee break," you said I could see why that would be a grey area or inappropriate. Your answer was immediately about that. I think we're just a little curious.

Witness: I guess I can be perceived that way, it was just something that she called it. I guess what I'm trying to say is the optics look pretty bad, but I don't think anything ... At least I didn't do anything I think that was to the point where it would be bad.

Mr. Gast: On that question, it's an official staff meeting with official staff in an official office where people are required to be there as part of their job duties. There's this attempt to apparently shift it to a non-official role but people aren't given the option to not participate. It's not taken out of the office. It looks like there's an attempt to maybe use some of the official resources for campaign purposes. Can you speak to that?

Witness: It's been a while since I've taken the ethics training because I ... I don't ... What I'm trying to say is we spoke about political issues during that time period of the meetings but I don't know where that line is, when you cross it. That sounds horrible, too. I don't think it crossed that line, is what I'm trying to say.

Mr. Gast: Talking about somebody who may be running for a state legislative seat, it seems like a legitimate topic to talk about at a Congressional staff meeting. Why would you need to shift to something non-official/coffee break?

Witness: I guess you'd have to ask Meri why she called it that.

Mr. Solis: Did you ever ask Meri "Why are we doing this?"

Witness: That's a good question. No. Part of it was kind of in jest. That's how I perceived it, was that it was in jest. No, I never asked Meri. I thought it was always in jest. I thought everything we did was always above board, from what I can remember.

Mr. Solis: Why would it be in jest? What's the sort of joke there? What's the lighthearted nature by calling it that?

Witness: Maybe because we talked about local political issues. About council members. It's like another term for water cooler talk, we're gossiping about who's running for which office. Things that aren't official in terms of ... Well, official's wrong ... People who haven't announced their candidacy yet, so it's gossip. People gossip at the water cooler. People gossip during coffee break. Is what I always assumed.

Mr. Gast: Kind of along those lines, I want to show you an email we received from the office. For the record, it's RA33. If you want to take a minute to look at that. I'm kind of interested in that first email at the top.

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall this email?

Witness: I do now.

Mr. Gast: What are the circumstances around this email?

Witness: I think this was when Ro Khanna was deciding he was going to run. That was what was floating around. I think Jennifer wanted us to just read it to understand who he was, how he thought. I actually never read the book.

Mr. Gast: It's an email from Jennifer, who was the Chief of Staff. If you look at the list of recipients, it looks like everyone with the exception of Lamar was a member of the Congressional staff. Is that correct?

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: You're all using your personal emails. Does that look correct as well?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: You're one of the recipients with your personal email account?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: The heading is "Required reading Entrepreneurial Nation by Ro Khanna." It says you are required to read Ro Khanna's book. Was this something she was doing in her capacity as your boss? As Chief of Staff?

Witness: I don't think. I didn't read the book. I don't think a lot of people read the book. The Congressman, there's a thing when we first started working, he always had a handful of books that are required reading for staff. They're books on education, equity, social justice. Stuff that he wants us to understand so we know who he is. I always assume when they say required reading it's that stuff. I actually never read any of those books either.

Mr. Gast: This is required reading about a potential campaign opponent. This isn't ...

Witness: I get that. Not to discredit that or the importance of the other books the Congressman wants us to read, those are important, too, but I guess I never took it seriously. I honestly never read his book or any of the other books the Congressman said were required.

Mr. Gast: Jennifer wasn't in a position to require you to read anything in your personal capacity, was she?

Witness: No, I think that's why I didn't take it as "You needed to do this." I honestly didn't read it.

Mr. Gast: Were you ever asked to produce any materials for use by the campaign?

Witness: Never asked but I had volunteered.

Mr. Gast: Did you produce issue papers, issue comparisons ...

Witness: No, I don't believe I ever did anything like that.

Mr. Gast: What kind of materials did you produce?

Witness: For example, he went to the California Democratic Party Convention. I would produce stuff to prep him for that.

Mr. Gast: Where would you produce that?

Witness: At home.

Mr. Gast: On a personal computer?

Witness: I think so.

Mr. Gast: Did you ever do it in the office?

Witness: You know, I might have.

Mr. Gast: Do you know if on the servers of the Congressional office there would be campaign materials to be found?

Witness: I think I might have a couple speaking points in there. I don't know of anybody else.

Mr. Gast: You don't know of anybody else who did campaign materials?

Witness: I don't think anybody did, but I can't ...

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Witness: I can't be certain.

Mr. Solis: We're pretty sure there's at least a folder, or two maybe, on the Congressional servers in the district that has campaign events, campaign materials, campaign pictures, or labeled "campaign." Do you recall if there are folders with campaign materials in them on the House server?

Witness: I can't ... There might be. If there are, I don't think I really ever accessed them regularly, or at all.

Mr. Solis: Would you access them non-regularly or ...

Witness: No, I know what you're saying. I don't know if there was ever a folder called campaign.

Mr. Solis: Regardless of what it was called, was there a campaign material folder?

Witness: I don't think so.

Mr. Solis: You said a minute ago you don't remember accessing it regularly, does that ...

Witness: No, I was just shooting my mouth off. If you look in my folder, it's probably still there, there's probably a folder that says "California Democratic Party" and I've got probably some memos in there.

Mr. Solis: What were the memos talking about?

Witness: They were just talking points for the events he was going to.

Mr. Gast: What about other people in the office? Would they do talking points for that stuff as well?

Witness: I don't think so. I volunteered to do a lot of that stuff.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Witness: A lot of people didn't.

Mr. Gast: What about Mark Nakamoto? Was he someone who volunteered to do or did a lot of campaign work?

Witness: Probably. I believe he was paid, too, on the campaign, if I remember correctly.

Mr. Gast: Did he ever use the Congressional office's computer system to do memos, talking points?

Witness: Not that I'm aware of. If he did and at the time I saw it, and this is all hypothetical, I don't remember.

Mr. Solis: What do you mean if he did and you saw it? Were you about to finish that, you would have done something about that?

Witness: No, I guess what I'm trying to say is I don't remember seeing him do anything. I guess talking to him would be the best.

Mr. Solis: What about in the district office, overhearing Meri, Mark, anybody talking about campaign issues over the phone. On a cell phone or land line?

Witness: I don't remember that.

Mr. Solis: Do you ever recall overhearing anybody talk about campaign issues on a cell phone or a land line?

Witness: I don't remember any specific instance but I, on my phone, would say something like "Yeah, so and so may be running again." Talking to friends, talking casually to somebody. Maybe another friend who's a staff member in another office say "Yeah, so and so might be running." Stuff like that, but I don't remember any of those. It probably wasn't the central point of any of my conversations.

Mr. Gast: All right, I want to get through a couple more things before we run out of time. District office retreats. Did you attend any retreats while you were in the Congressional office?

Witness: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Mr. Gast: What generally were these retreats?

Witness: It would be where we would basically go over the calendar year in terms of what type of broad issues we'd want to touch, what type of areas we'd want to focus on. Often times it was about education. This is the education agenda the Congressman has. Things we want to gear a lot of our events towards. The Leader's office would always send out general things they would do for the year. Policy memos, stuff like that. These are things we'd want to incorporate

into the year-long calendar. It was to talk about those things. A lot of team building. Team building exercises, stuff like that.

Mr. Gast: When you say we, who is we?

Witness: Usually all the staff members.

Mr. Gast: District office staff?

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Gast: Were these mandatory retreats?

Witness: Mandatory, yes, but who wouldn't want to go to a beach house or wherever and do that?

Mr. Gast: When you say beach house, where were these retreats held?

Witness: Meri owns a beach house.

Mr. Gast: Meri Maben?

Witness: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Mr. Gast: When would these usually held? Weekday? Weekend?

Witness: Weekday. I think weekday. I think weekday.

Mr. Gast: All day event?

Witness: Yeah. I remember one where we'd get there in the evening and then it'd be an all day event. Something like that. Say, we'd get there on Tuesday night, it's all day Wednesday and then back to the office on Thursday.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Witness: I believe it was on a weekday. I'm not sure what other people are saying. I'm pretty certain it was on a weekday.

Mr. Gast: All district staff would attend?

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Gast: Would Representative Honda attend?

Witness: I don't think he ever did. If he did, I don't think ... I can't recall him attending a district office retreat. Did he attend them? I don't think so.

Mr. Gast: Did you discuss Representative Honda's campaign at these events?

Witness: I'm sure we talked kind of like who's running, same stuff I've been talking about. In terms of strategy, I don't remember.

Mr. Solis: I just want to be clear. When we continually ask you about Representative Honda's campaign, you've frequently mentioned discussions about other people running or the local political scene or whatever. Who's running, who's not running. When we ask that, we want to be clear it's about Representative Honda's actual campaign, his campaign issues, fundraising, events, those types of things.

Witness: I see.

Mr. Solis: We're definitely not asking about local politics.

Witness: Thank you for being clear. When you say campaign you could mean a lot of different things.

Mr. Solis: Mr. Gast's question to you was, was Representative Honda's actual campaign, again, bearing in mind all those factors I just discussed, fundraising, events, those types of things. Was his campaign discussed at the district retreat?

Witness: Fundraising.

Mr. Solis: Potential challengers against him? Their issues ...

Witness: I'm almost certain we talk about potential challengers against him. I'm sure we talked about ... in terms of fundraising, I don't think anyone ever got into meaty stuff. I think we just said, from what I remember, he's not a good fundraiser. He's always bad at fundraising, it's something he needs to work on. You might be staffing less at events because he's going to have to do more fundraising. Meaning, you have to go to those events. You're going to be going to those events you'd normally go to, but now you're just going to go and represent him. Deliver remarks. I think it was stuff like that.

Mr. Gast: Let me show you this document now. It is a cover email with the subject "DO staff retreat notes," This appears to be notes for a September 13th, 2012 district office retreat, if you want to take a minute to look through there.

Did you attend this retreat?

Witness: I believe so, yeah.

Mr. Gast: What do you recall about this retreat?

Witness: I'll be honest with you, I really didn't remember. This clearly is jogging my memory. I guess that means Lamar was there. Yeah. What was the date on this?

Mr. Gast: It appears from the title of the document it was from September 13th, 2012.

Witness: Okay. I honestly still don't remember the retreat, but if these are the notes than that's what happened.

Mr. Gast: Do you remember being there?

Witness: I actually don't remember. If I was there ... There's a line here "██████████ believes..."

Mr. Gast: Yeah.

Witness: So that means I was. I honestly do not remember it. If that says it, then I was there, yeah.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall Lamar attending this particular retreat?

Witness: I guess he was then, right? Lamar asks if voting results take-aways. Yeah.

Mr. Gast: This would have been after the primary election held in the new district, the re-districted district, before the general election in 2012.

Witness: Okay.

Mr. Gast: Does that help jog your memory at all?

Witness: Honestly, let me just apologize. I'm really trying to be helpful and remember, but I can't remember ,was this even at Meri's house? I assume it was there, or it could be at another person's beach house that Meri ... I remember we did a retreat at somebody else's house where Meri bid on at an auction. You could stay at so and so's ... He was donating his house for a non-profit or something. I know Meri bid and we got to go to his house.

Mr. Gast: Let's just go back.

Witness: I don't remember.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall the September 13th, 2012 retreat?

Mr. Solis: I think we could ask him like this as well. All your years there, was there a retreat every year?

Witness: I think, almost. Yeah.

Mr. Solis: Did you ever miss a retreat?

Witness: I don't think I did.

Mr. Solis: Pretty safe to say ...

Witness: I know I was there. I just don't remember ... The stuff I remember from the retreats that we've done was never any of the content. I don't know why.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall Lamar or Mark Nakamoto leading a discussion about primary election results or the demographic breakdowns?

Witness: This is jogging my memory and I'm thinking that was talked about, but I don't know if it was Lamar or Mark. I'm really sorry, guys.

Mr. Gast: You remember there was a discussion about that vote result?

Witness: I don't remember it, but this is telling me it happened. I believe this.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall a discussion about transitioning data from the campaign to the official?

Witness: I honestly don't remember that at all but that's in here.

Mr. Gast: Do you remember discussing this idea of a thousand crane fundraising?

Witness: I've heard that term before.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall any discussion about this at this retreat?

Witness: I assume it was there because it's in the notes, right? I just saw it here. There are times where I'd be with the Congressman and he'd say "A thousand cranes." That's a term. A thousand people, a thousand dollars each. He always said that. Not always, but it's something he would say and I would always joke about it with people because it just seemed like a crazy idea.

Mr. Gast: This is a district office retreat held with all the official staff, yet there appears to have been a lot of, if not the majority of the time, discussing the campaign, the primary election, fundraising, using campaign data in the district office. Is that a fair characterization of that staff meeting?

Witness: I wish I could really remember this better. There are not notes on some of the team building stuff we did. This makes it look like the majority of the time this was what we talked about. I'm sure we did a bunch of other things where we didn't talk about this. It isn't in the notes because it was meant for team building. There was probably a new ... I know Meri often scheduled when there was a new staff member so the new staff member would get to know everybody. That stuff's probably not in here. If this is the record and the notes from it, then certainly that means this was discussed.

Mr. Gast: Were there any discussions about using the district office to help further some of the campaign goals?

Witness: I think in terms of that, you could say yeah. We're going to focus on all of our events in Fremont. You're going to prioritize doing more events in Fremont than you are in Cupertino, for example. This is just me speaking hypothetically. I don't know exactly what was said. Something like that. I recall those type of conversations happening.

Mr. Gast: Why Fremont over Cupertino?

Witness: No, I just made that up as an example.

Mr. Gast: Why would that be the ...

Witness: Because it's the newer part of the district. Cupertino is the older part of the district. We're going to do more events there because those are new constituents that don't know the Congressman, so more events there, more visibility there.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Let's move on to ... I want to talk to you about ... First of all, one of the things referenced in these notes is a Google Doc of stakeholders for CA17. Is that a term you are familiar with?

Witness: Yeah. I use Google Docs a lot, also. At the time there was no good way for multiple people to update documents at the same time. The one I used the most was one that when earmarks were still happening, appropriations were still happening, we could make a list of everyone we submitted. How much? Santa Clara County is going to receive this much money for their Department of Health. We use it a lot to track. I use it a lot to track all that stuff and make

sure other staff can add to it. From there, we would build press events around all those announcements of money.

Mr. Gast: What about, specifically, this Stakeholders doc? What was that?

Witness: I think that was about people we wanted to engage with. High visibility people. When you do events with them you would get more press. If that makes any sense.

Mr. Gast: Who put that document together?

Witness: We all ... I remember adding people to the Stakeholder list.

Mr. Gast: When you say we all did, was that the district office staff?

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Gast: Was that an official document?

Witness: I assume it was official.

Mr. Gast: Did the campaign have access to that document?

Witness: I don't know. If they did ... I don't know. I can't remember.

Mr. Gast: Do you know if the campaign ever used that doc for identifying fundraising targets or event attendees, invitees?

Witness: I don't remember. If they did then they did. I honestly don't remember.

Mr. Gast: Okay. I want to move on to the State Department round table event.

Witness: Sure.

Mr. Gast: That was held in February, March 2013. Do you recall that event?

Witness: I do, it was at Santa Clara University.

Mr. Gast: What was that event?

Witness: Honestly, I remember ... Somebody from the State Department, I can't remember his name, came to do a round table event with ... I think the person from the State Department, his region of coverage was South Asia. I think the point was to bring in executives who did business there or anybody who had

that type of interest. They had a round table to talk about issues that would help them with their business opportunities or anything like that. Where they'd get face-to-face with someone at State.

Mr. Gast: How did this event get generated? Who was the progenitor in this event?

Witness: I'm going to assume it was Meri and Jennifer.

Mr. Gast: How did you become involved?

Witness: I don't think I was very involved. At that time, I don't think this was my policy area or an issue that I covered. I remember going to it, but I don't remember doing very much. I remember sitting in the back and not even paying attention. I think I did registration. Partially, I did registration because I was so uninvolved with it, so if someone's going to be there to be helpful you'd do something that doesn't require any strong understanding of the area, you do registration.

I remember hanging out in the back and just talking to an old friend. I wasn't really paying attention. I wasn't even really there.

Mr. Gast: Do you know who did work on the organizing of it, if you weren't involved with that aspect?

Witness: Yeah. I'm sure it was conceptualized by Jennifer or Meri. I don't know exactly who. Probably one of them. Usually, the way it works is they assign. They go "We're going to work this town hall, this event." Then they assign staff. I believe the two staff were Ruchit and AJ.

Mr. Gast: And that's AJ Bhadelia?

Witness: Bhadelia, yeah.

Mr. Gast: Bhadelia. He's a Washington DC staffer?

Witness: Correct.

Mr. Gast: What was his title at this time?

Witness: Honestly, I can't remember. Might have been Legislative Assistant. He had a lot of titles from what I remember.

Mr. Gast: Agrawal was a district office staffer?

Witness: Correct. I think he was running it.

Mr. Gast: Kind of the point person for the event?

Witness: Could be, might have been Mark. I can't remember.

Mr. Gast: Do you know if Mark was involved in the organizing?

Witness: If he was ... No, he was there because I remember him being there. Certainly, he either did as much as I did or more. I was pretty low man on the totem pole for that event. I can't remember who it was.

Mr. Gast: How were the invitees to this event selected?

Witness: Honestly, I don't remember. I remember reading about the article in newspaper. I'm assuming that ... Jennifer sent out an email about that.

Mr. Gast: Were you involved in that process of selecting invitees?

Witness: No, I don't think so.

Mr. Gast: Did you discuss that process at all with anyone?

Witness: If I did, I can't remember.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Witness: Honestly, I'm not 100% sure. I remember looking at the list and I didn't recognize a lot of names. The only person I knew was a guy named Anil who worked for the Realtors.

Mr. Gast: Okay. This was an official event?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gast: You said it was held at Santa Clara University.

Witness: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Mr. Gast: Was Representative Honda involved in any of the planning, organizing, that you know of?

Witness: Usually, before these big events, any public event that we put on, rather than him going to, there's usually some high level discussion probably between him, Meri, and Jennifer about "We're going to do this event. What do you think?" Usually me and other people aren't in that. After that event had been decided,

then we get instructions. This is what we're doing. These are the type of ... It's this type of business round table so these are the type of business people you want. This is hypothetically, right?

Mr. Gast: Right.

Witness: That's typically how it works. Then he'd come back in. A lot of our job was to do a lot of logistics. Secure a location, all that. Once that's all done, there'd be a meeting with everybody. We'd brief him on who's showing up, these are your talking points, what do you think? Run through some logistics, time, all that.

Mr. Gast: Did you have any discussions with Representative Honda specific to this event?

Witness: I don't think so.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Witness: This was a pretty hands off event for me.

Mr. Gast: Any interaction with Lamar Heystek with regards to this event?

Witness: If there is, I don't remember. I don't think so.

Mr. Gast: Any conversation with anyone -- Jennifer, Lamar, Meri, anyone else -- about potential campaign support, campaign contributions from the people who attended the event?

Witness: Probably not from me.

Mr. Gast: You say probably not.

Witness: I say it because I don't remember. What I do remember is I think I just drove a bunch of people there, then I did registration and I hung out in the back. This wasn't something I ... A lot of my time wasn't invested in so I don't think I had any of those. I don't want to say no and be very firm in the event that I don't remember. If that ...

Mr. Gast: Sure. You don't recall, sitting here today, any conversations about potential campaign support?

Witness: No. From me, no.

Mr. Gast: Did you have any follow up with the attendees? Were you involved in any follow up?

Witness: I don't think so.

Mr. Gast: Do you recall ...

Witness: I might have been on emails, but I don't remember. That's about it.

Mr. Gast: Sure. Do you recall any instance in which attendees or invitees to events put on by the Congressional office were discussed in terms of whether they were campaign supporters or campaign contributors or had some connection to the campaign?

Witness: Yeah. We would ... If someone showed up to an event or if someone was invited to an event we'd say "Yeah, he's donated to the" ... People would just go up and say it. It wasn't ...

Mr. Gast: What about in the planning of events? Did you discuss campaign support or campaign contributions?

Witness: A lot of the events I did were big town halls, big public forums. I'm assuming that might have been in the discussion for this one, but I don't know for any of the other ones. It's not a practice I think we did.

Mr. Gast: Any events where somebody said we need to build support with these people, this community. Let's do an event.

Witness: Yeah. I think that's common for a lot of events. For instance, and this event never materialized, but the US Ambassador to Vietnam ... Did we have a press conference? ... was coming into town and wanted to go do an event with the Vietnamese community. We could reach out. Yes, we were targeted in terms of certain communities that we wanted to always work with. Not always. When you plan out events, you have a population in mind. Beyond large general town halls. I think we did a Veterans one. People were certainly targeted.

Mr. Solis: For this event, we've talked to a lot of people. People have expressed to us that there was a concern about outreach to South Asian constituents. The challenger, Ro Khanna, as far as we understand is South Asian. So that there was this concern that even in relation to the campaign, we need to make outreach to these communities and get them involved. The Congressman's campaign, the Congressman can have that ability to reach out and make those connections and pose a challenge to this guy who is getting into the race. Knowing all that, was this State Department event precipitated by any of those discussions about reaching out to the South Asian community and the challenger Ro Khanna ...

Witness: Being South Asian.

Mr. Solis: Right.

Witness: I think reaching out to the community needed to happen. We would do it regardless because ...

Mr. Solis: When you say regardless, regardless of what?

Witness: If there was a Ro Khanna or not. You're in 50% new district, you've got new constituents. For the first time we had a new South Asian population that we didn't interact with before because we didn't have Fremont, we didn't have that part of the district. Now that we did we would be involved in it regardless of a campaign or not a campaign.

Mr. Gast: With respect to that outreach and that targeting, was that ever discussed in terms of the campaign? That we need to increase the vote total in this demographic, or we need to find people who will endorse Representative Honda, or this is a potential pool of campaign contributors? Was any of that ever discussed when you were doing this targeting and outreach?

Witness: Certain it was discussed. I don't recall any exact instances but I'm sure we talked about that stuff. I just don't know when and where and that.

Mr. Gast: How about who? Who discussed that?

Witness: Probably Jennifer and Meri with us. With the staff.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Mr. Solis: Bearing in mind, the statement that this type of event and it's planning would have occurred regardless of a Ro Khanna. However, was there discussion of Ro Khanna in the lead up to developing this event?

Witness: I don't know. I was so not involved in this. I was not involved in a lot of the planning. If other people are telling you there was then I guess there was. I don't think I was in any of those planning meetings. Or at least I can't remember being in those planning meetings.

Mr. Gast: Okay. Want to shift gears to one last area I want to talk about.

Witness: Sure. I've got all day so take as much time as you need.

Mr. Gast: Yeah, this has been helpful. I want to ask about the use of official resources for personal errands or personal business.

Witness: Okay.

Mr. Gast: For Representative Honda.

Witness: Sure.

Mr. Gast: Were you ever asked to help out with personal errands or personal business for Representative Honda?

Witness: Yes. I remember one time he called me and he said "Hey, I just left for the airport. I left my Crock-Pot on. Can you get inside the house and turn it off so we don't burn down the neighborhood. By the way, feel free to bring that to the office and everybody can eat it." I did that.

There were times where if I was staffing him and I was driving on the way home he would say "Hey, can we swing by to my local laundromat so I can pick up my dry cleaning." Stuff like that. I remember asking him "Hey, can I pick up your dry cleaning and drop it off for you just to make your life easier?" I distinctly remember him saying "No, I'm going to do it." I'm like "Are you sure you don't want to just give it to me and I'll take care of it?" He's like "No, I'm going to do it." He was pretty insistent on doing that stuff on his own. Obviously, I read in the newspaper that Netflix setting up thing.

Mr. Gast: Right.

Witness: Something we did do was go to his house and set up his technologies. He worked from home. He would check his emails from his home computer, which was actually an official computer we set up at his house so he could email. We had an official fax machine there. He liked a lot of his briefing points in the morning so we could get him updated ones right away. He could read it right away. I'd drop off briefers ... I was the staffer that lived the closest to him.

Mr. Gast: Okay.

Witness: I would drop off folders with all his briefing memos for the evening. Usually on a Thursday night or on my way home. Stuff like that.

Mr. Gast: When you talk about a computer at home and the fax machine, all that purchased with official funds?

Witness: Mm-hmm (affirmative), and used ...

Mr. Gast: Used for official purposes?

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Gast: There have been allegations made specifically, I'll read you a quote from an allegation that was made: "As the normal course of business, the Deputy District Director, ██████████ asked me to do updates and fixes on Mike Honda's personal technology." What do you know about that?

Witness: I have no idea.

Mr. Gast: Did you ever ask anyone in the Congressional office to help with Representative Honda's personal technology?

Witness: I don't remember doing that at all. I remember saying make sure his computer works, get his fax machine. Meri also had an official computer at her house so she could do ... She was always on emails. Go there and get her stuff all working. For some reason both of them, their technology always somehow broke. I don't know how or why. Staff would have to go there and fix it. I don't know. I know who that quote came from, obviously. Like I told you earlier on, I took work off his plate so he could focus on just doing ...

Mr. Gast: We're talking about who?

Witness: Ruchit. I took work off his plate to ... If that's who that quote's coming from. I assume that's who that quote's coming from.

Mr. Gast: There was an allegation that staffer was directed to go pick up Representative Honda's personal computer to his home, take it to the district office and update software and return it to the home.

Witness: That's what's funny. He didn't have a personal computer at home.

Mr. Gast: That was an official computer?

Witness: It was a official computer that he could do official ... He could get his emails on.

Mr. Gast: Okay. You mentioned the Netflix/Apple TV reporting.

Witness: Yeah.

Mr. Gast: Do you have any knowledge of that? The circumstances around that?

Witness: I assume I was on that email. I honestly don't remember.

Mr. Gast: I don't know if you were.

Witness: I don't actually remember it. In the course of ... A lot of the issues he had at his home was always about how the internet is not working properly with his computer.

Mr. Gast: This is Representative Honda?

Witness: Congressman Honda, correct. I think that's why people came to fix all that. Set it up. Maybe that had something to do with it, and so he's like ... This is me assuming, he was like "Hey, can you set up my Apple TV while you're over there anyway just because it's there?" That's what I assume it was.

Mr. Gast: No official context to the Netflix and Apple TV? That was purely personal?

Witness: You mean he paid for it himself?

Mr. Gast: I'm asking if you were aware of the office paying for Netflix or Apple TV?

Witness: No, I don't think so.

Mr. Gast: Personal?

Witness: Yeah, and his cable.

Mr. Gast: You don't have any personal knowledge of the circumstances surrounding this request to go set up the Netflix or Apple TV?

Witness: If I'm on the email then I'm on the email, but I really don't even remember something like that.

Mr. Gast: I believe those are all the questions we had.

Mr. Solis: Who have you talked to about our review and the fact you'd be discussing with us these issues?

Witness: After I talked to you for the first time, I called Jennifer just to let her know you all reached out. Jennifer said "Yeah, I think they're calling everybody. They're meeting with everybody. That's all I can really ..." She actually said "I can't tell you anything but just go in there and be honest and tell them everything they are asking." I apologize for not remembering as much. That's basically it, she said she couldn't really talk to me. That's it.

Mr. Solis: Just Jennifer?

Witness: I have a lawyer who did all the restraining order stuff.

Mr. Solis: Okay.

Witness: I told him. I think we had one conversation.

Mr. Solis: You don't have to tell us what you talked about.

Witness: Yeah. Right after you called. I hadn't even talked to him since the day we talked on the phone for the first time. That's it.

Mr. Gast: What about Meri Maben?

Witness: Did not. After I talked to Jennifer, Jennifer said I cannot be talking to you. I purposely didn't want to call anybody. You called around her birthday and I wanted to give her a call and wish her a happy birthday. I just decided not to call and not to do that just to be safe. I didn't even call her and wish her a happy birthday.

Mr. Solis: You still talk to her regularly?

Witness: Not regularly, no. The last time I talked to her was when I dropped by the office a few months ago. Every time I go back to the Bay area I like to go by the office, bring in bagels or donuts, just to ... These are people I've worked with and I care about, obviously. We would talk casually, but the last time I came in we talked about my ex-girlfriend, we just broke up, we talked about me. I'm in the process of trying to join the military as a reservist, so we talked about me joining the military as a reservist, how school was going.

Mr. Gast: Okay. That's I think all we have for you. Again, appreciate your cooperation and coming and speaking with us.

Exhibit 15

Tax Reform	
<p>1. Tax credits. The U.S. Congress should offer tax credits or five-year tax holidays for manufacturers that want to set up or expand factories in the United States. The revenue from these factories should be exempt from the corporate tax for a limited period. This will help level the playing field, given the incentives that many Asian countries are offering, and also help manufacturers finance expensive new factories.</p>	<p>Corporate tax exemption for new factories is good in theory, but open to massive gamesmanship by corporations (e.g. big companies could open a “new factory” every single year, and just book its profits at that site).</p> <p>MH has MBMIA & SUM Act to create incentives for domestic siting.</p>
<p>2. Repatriation. The U.S. Congress should offer a deal to companies with foreign earnings. They can repatriate foreign earnings at a reduced corporate tax rate provided they use that money to invest in either expanding their factories or creating a net number of new jobs.</p>	<p>MH is a cosponsor of the Brady repatriation bill (repeat of the 2004 repatriation holiday) and wrote an op-ed with former SEIU president Andy Stern on job metrics tied to a repatriation holiday.</p>
<p>3. Permanent Expensing. The U.S. Congress should make the temporary expensing of equipment permanent, allowing manufacturers to take an immediate deduction for capital expenditures in any tax year.</p> <p>Manufacturers should also be able to expense worker-training programs as part of this deduction.</p> <p>The U.S. Congress should also expand the research and development tax credit to 20 percent and make it permanent.</p>	<p>100% expensing was created by the year-end 2010 tax bill (P.L. 111-312) which MH opposed (for unrelated reasons). It is widely supported, at least on a temporary basis by both parties and the President. Studies are mixed about the economic efficiency and impact of the provision, which calls into question the wisdom of making it permanent.</p> <p>HR 4196 (led by Reps Tiberi, Larson, Neal, Pascrell, & Paulsen and cosponsored by 45 others of both parties) is the standalone bill that would extend 100% expensing for 1 year. We are not a cosponsor. Currently, there are no proposals to make it permanent or add expensing of worker-training.</p> <p>HR 942 (led by Kevin Brady & cosponsored by 106 members) increases the R&D tax credit to 20% and makes it permanent. MH is a cosponsor.</p>
<p>4. Alternative Energy Incentives. The U.S. Congress should continue to provide broad-range tax credits for alternative</p>	<p>MH consistently votes in support of renewable energy tax credits. A number of them expired in 2011¹</p>

¹ List provided in CRS Report R41769 Table 2.

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<p>energy manufacturers.</p>	<p>HR 502, the Clean Energy Technology Manufacturing and Export Assistance Act (Matsui) would provide funding for manufacturers as well as assistance on exporting. MH is a cosponsor of the bill.</p> <p>The Senate has at times considered extensions to some expired credits, and the Fiscal Cliff tax deal had some extensions.</p> <p>It is hard for MH, as he is not on Ways & Means, to lead on extending existing energy tax provisions, given that there are several W&M members (Blumenauer, McDermott) who are equally supportive.</p>
<p>Federal Support</p>	
<p>1. Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP)/Small, Medium sized manufacturers. Double funding for MEP & give regional centers more authority/autonomy to administer programs.</p>	<p>MEP is commonly targeted for elimination by deficit hawks.</p> <p>Lofgren-led American Innovation in Manufacturing (AIM) Act (HR 3138) would temporarily reduce the cost share requirement for the MEP program. MH is a cosponsor.</p> <p>Garamendi offered a floor amendment to increase MEP funding by ~\$400k. It passed by voice vote.</p> <p>MH has supported the reauthorization of MEP in the past while on the Science Committee, and could lead on a Dear Colleague letter to appropriators regarding MEP funding if desired.</p>
<p>2. Select USA. The U.S. Department of Commerce should 'strengthen' the Select USA program to help manufacturers expedite the permitting process, cut through bureaucratic red tape, and navigate complex regulations. This should be the one-stop shop for manufacturers that want to build factories in the United States. The U.S. Congress should fund this program and should demand that the Select USA program</p>	<p>This is an obscure program at Commerce that has received little-to-no Congressional attention. Obama created it in 2011.²</p> <p>The most recent CJS funding level was just over \$6 million, less than the President's \$12+ million request. Report language requires the Secretary of Commerce to report (by 11/30/2013) the location and type of assistance provided, the State to which firms</p>

² Executive Order 13577: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/06/15/executive-order-13577-selectusa-initiative>

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<p>have metrics about its success in retaining American manufacturers. The Select USA program should measure how many jobs we are losing to offshoring each month, and how many we are gaining because of new factories that are set up in the United States.</p>	<p>sought to relocate and why, as well as the number of foreign firms that actually decided to locate in the US as a result of the SelectUSA process.</p> <p>Rep. Flake offered an amendment³ on the floor to prohibit any funds for SelectUSA, which failed. MH voted in opposition. Only Fattah spoke in support of the program.</p> <p>MH could take a higher profile as a CJS subcommittee member, from requesting himself to leading on a potential letter if desired.</p>
<p>3. U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service (USFCS). The US Congress should increase the budget of the USFCS, the principal export promotion agency of the US. A 25% increase from the current \$250 million will help the USFCS add essential headcount and upgrade its technology. USFCS should focus these resources on the top 50 countries for exports and allocate resources domestically in cities and rural areas that have the highest export growth potential.</p>	<p>Reps Berman and Manzullo led HR 4041, which requires the Commerce Secretary to conduct a global assessment of overseas markets to determine those with greatest potential for increasing US exports & deploy USFCS personnel and resources based on that assessment. This legislation passed by voice vote on 5/30/2012.</p> <p>The last CJS funding bill provided \$277 million for USFCS, \$40 million less than Obama's request.</p> <p>MH could take a higher profile as a CJS subcommittee member, from requesting himself to leading on a potential letter if desired.</p>
<p>4. Trade Fair Certification program. The program should make loans to small businesses and new exporters to participate in international trade fairs.</p> <p>The program should also fund U.S. pavilions to more actively facilitate buyers abroad.</p>	<p>The Trade Fair Certification program is part of USFCS (above).</p>
<p>5. Commerce-Labor Cooperation. Commerce should open their Advisory Committees to labor representatives.</p>	<p>Commerce has 50 active Advisory Committees, most of which were created by Congress.</p> <p>This session, Representative Lipinski led the American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act, which would create a</p>

³ H.Amdt. 1093

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	<p>Manufacturing Competitiveness Board. The legislation requires that one of these board members have experience with “managing labor organizations.” MH voted in support of this bill which passed the House and is awaiting Senate action.</p> <p>MH could propose reauthorizations of these Committees, and ensure that all of them include provisions to have labor representation if desired.</p>
<p>6. Vocational education. The Obama administration has proposed nearly \$8 billion for community colleges to fund skills training programs. But, it should not ignore vocational education at the high school level. The administration’s Investing in Innovation Fund should support vocational schools.</p> <p>Moreover, the Obama administration should propose increased funding for career and technical education, instead of 20% in budget cuts.</p>	<p>MH agrees that cutbacks in career and technical education programs should be protected at the high school level. MH has written 2 federal budget plans that would increase funding at DoEd by billions, and would include assistance for CTE.</p> <p>MH has introduced the STEM Education Innovation Act (HR3373) and the STEM Network Act (HR 6517). These bills develop career awareness programs and STEM career pathways.</p> <p>LLH had suggested taking over a vocational education bill that could serve as an MH vehicle on this subject if desired.</p>
<p>7. Technology investment. The US Congress should fund investments in the next generation of defense through the ManTech program, DARPA, and the Defense Production Act.</p> <p>It should make sure that the Defense Department has the resources to maintain the minimum sustaining rate in its decisions on procurement of essential defense equipment.</p> <p>Congress should provide funding to institutions such as ARPA-E and our national laboratories, which promote national security by helping us become energy independent and remain the technological leader of the world. These institutions should also reach out to private industry to partner on projects.</p>	<p>While MH is a vocal critic of bloated spending at the Pentagon, he believes that the technology developed at DoD can have valuable national security and economic impacts.</p> <p>MH has been a longtime supporter of R&D funding, ARPA-E, and the national labs, from backing authorization bills while on the Science Committee to supporting funding in approps. We can try to get him a more prominent role as a leader of Dear Colleagues to appropriators if desired.</p>
<p>8. Infrastructure investment. Our nation’s infrastructure ranks</p>	<p>MH co-authored an op-ed with former SEIU President Andy Stern</p>

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<p>23rd in the world. It's time for Congress to recognize that strategic spending on infrastructure is a productive investment. Supports an iBank.</p>	<p>on a multi-trillion dollar jobs package which would include the creation of an infrastructure bank.</p> <p>Rosa DeLauro leads the bill in the house that would create the iBank (HR 402). MH was not a cosponsor.</p>
<p>9. Undersecretary for Manufacturing. The US Congress should create an undersecretary for manufacturing who can raise the visibility of issues that are important to manufacturers and coordinate federal support. This position should be housed in a reorganized Commerce Department that consolidates all the federal agencies that promote trade and business.</p>	<p>This is a gimmicky and silly policy suggestion. MH supports the President's move to create the White House Office of Manufacturing Policy, and appoint two high-level officials to chair it (Acting Commerce Secretary Rebecca Blank & NEC Chair Gene Sperling).</p>
<p>Fair Trade</p>	
<p>1. Currency. Twice a year, the US Treasury Department must issue a report identifying nations that "manipulate the rate of exchange between their currency and the US dollar for purposes of preventing effective balance of payments adjustments or gaining unfair competitive advantage in international trade." It's time for the Treasury Department to label China a currency manipulator and also make a factual determination about other nations that are not allowing a free-floating currency.</p>	<p>MH has been a critic of those quick to label China as a currency manipulator. Although it is well-documented that China is guilty of this practice, they are not the worst offender on the world's stage. This is a touchy area for MH. He has a hard time separating arguing against inappropriate monetary policies and xenophobia against the countries and people conducting those policies.</p>
<p>2. Dumping and subsidies. The United States needs to make a much firmer line against other nations that engage in unfair dumping or that provide illegal subsidies for their indigenous industries. Dumping and illegal subsidies are hurting our steel manufacturers, our domestic solar panel manufacturers, and our private jet manufacturers, to name just a few affected industries. We need to be more aggressive in bringing WTO actions against these practices and enforcing the laws that are on the books.</p>	<p>This is a touchy area for MH – recall that he got very upset when informed that Korean dry cleaners were having to pay more for wire hangers because the US cracked down on dumping practices by Chinese manufacturers. He has a hard time separating arguing against inappropriate business practices and xenophobia against the countries and people who are conducting those practices.</p>
<p>3. Tax credit for exporters. The United States should call for revising the WTO's archaic distinction between indirect and</p>	<p>HR 2666 (Pascrell, Jones, Michaud) would address this. MH is not a cosponsor.</p>

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<p>direct taxes, which discriminates against US exporters. Either the US should be allowed to offer a tax credit to its exporters or other countries should be prohibited from doing so.</p>	
<p>4. Restraints on raw material exports. The US should seek the elimination of export taxes and restraints imposed by Russia, China, and Ukraine on raw material suppliers. Other nations should not prevent our manufacturers from accessing raw materials, such as scrap metal, that are necessary for production.</p>	<p>More of an Administration action, although MH role could be to encourage if desired.</p>
<p>5. Piracy and forced technology transfers. The US should take a hard line to prevent any foreign government from subsidizing the illegal copying or reverse engineering of American products. We should demand that these countries crack down on piracy, instead of aiding it.</p> <p>We also should aggressively bring trade enforcement actions against nations that force American companies to sign 'joint venture agreements' or transfer technology as a condition for selling into their markets.</p>	<p>Also touchy area for MH – he has often touted the joint venture cooperation between China as a positive thing, and so it will be hard to try to turn him around on the intellectual property aspect of such ventures.</p>
<p>6. Create a “Trade Enforcement Unit” to investigate unfair trading practices of foreign competitors</p>	<p>Through Executive Order,⁴ President Obama established the Interagency Trade Enforcement Center housed at USTR. The center serves as the primary forum within the Federal Government for USTR and other agencies to coordinate enforcement of US trade rights under international agreements.</p>

⁴ Executive Order (February 28, 2012): <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/02/28/executive-order-establishment-interagency-trade-enforcement-center>

THMH_0258

Exhibit 16

From: Werwa, Eric [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 5:49 PM
To: Roybal, Ashley (Honda) <[REDACTED]>; 'Lamar Heystek' <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Maben, Meri <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: Labor breakfast
Attach: 1.30.13 Background memo for Alameda Labor Council.docx

Just wanted to confirm that I did not give this material to MH, I was assuming that since the event is out there you guys would be incorporating this into the briefer you are preparing.

-----Original Message-----

From: Werwa, Eric
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2013 7:12 PM
To: VanderHeide, Jennifer; Erickson Hatalsky, Laura
Cc: Maben, Meri; Roybal, Ashley (Honda)
Subject: RE: Labor breakfast

Attached is a background memo that also includes some things that he can highlight that he will be fighting for. Hope this works.

-----Original Message-----

From: VanderHeide, Jennifer
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2013 5:50 PM
To: Erickson Hatalsky, Laura; Werwa, Eric
Cc: Maben, Meri; Roybal, Ashley (Honda)
Subject: Labor breakfast

Pls prepare background memo on labor issues in congress for the 113th. And highlights that mh can talk about for lhhs and what he'll be fighting for. Mh will need at least by a day before. Meri can tell u when it is

Jennifer Van der Heide, Esq.
Chief of Staff
Rep. Mike Honda, CA-17

Exhibit 17

EVENT BRIEF

To: MH
From: Monica and Vedant
Re: Fundraiser at Pritpal Singh

When: Monday, May 5, 2014

Time: 6:30 – 7:00pm

Where: Dr. Pritpal Singh's Home, [REDACTED]

Contact: Monica, [REDACTED]

Krystal Ka'ai, [REDACTED]

DETAILS: 10-15 attendees expected for Indian snacks and dinner. Pritpal emphasized that

this will be relaxing event and chance to discuss the Sikh community's involvement in the election.

DIRECTIONS: from campaign ~ 30 mins. (traffic at this time of day)

BACKGROUND:

Pritpal Singh and Harpreet Singh had come to visit with Monica and Jennifer about the possibility of increasing EB4 visas for religious workers.

They were very excited about your Freedom of Faith Act, which makes the Special Immigrant Non-minister program permanent. The program, as currently written, contains a "sunset" provision requiring reauthorization every three years. It was last reauthorized in 2012, and thus, set to expire in 2015. THIS IS FOR TEMPORARY RELIGIOUS WORKERS.

PRITPAL and HARPREET asked about the possibility of having Religious Workers, specifically gurus in the Sikh community, who come over to discuss religious teachings to be able to stay longer than the current prescribed period.

Their proposal is to create a visa category for these workers who can hold the visa for 10 years, and come to the US and return to India multiple times. During the time that they are in the US and visiting gurdwaras, they generate revenue because parishoners flock to hear their teachings and are willing to pay to hear them speak. THIS REVENUE WOULD BE TAXED.

This requires a new category or an expanded category for religious workers under the auspices of EB4, NOT R-1 visas. R-1 Visas are strictly for permanent workers.

The biggest risk to this is that religious worker visas are the most susceptible to fraud.

FYI:

There will be an Event: Congressional American Sikh Caucus/Friends of the Congressional American Sikh Caucus Reception

Date: Wednesday, May 21st

Time: 4:00pm-5:00pm- Data Report (not Caucus related)

5:00pm-8:00pm-Reception (Co-Chairs Valadao and Chu to speak)

Location: 1539 Longworth HOB

More information:

<http://www.au.af.mil/au/awc/awcgate/crs/rs21630.pdf>

Exhibit 18



This chat is off the record [Learn more](#) [Cancel](#)



me

so legal what Mark is doing right?



Ashley

o yeah.

well I mean

I am not sure if he is officially on part time for the office or not.

if not then wayyy legal!

if he is officially part time for the office, and part time for campaign, then that part is ok

but he is still handling way too much campaign stuff out of the office.



me

yeah, while he's here he is supposed to be part time gov employee, but I don't see him doing anything related to the office while in the office... it's all campaign stuff.



Ashley

lol

yeah...

Exhibit 19

From: Maben, Meri [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2013 12:05 PM
To: Madelene Mielke <[REDACTED]>; Shari Rubin-Rick <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Van der Heide <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Fwd: McEnry
Attach: @.dat

This message has been archived. View the original item

I know we've tried with them before to no avail but once again we've responded to Tom's request. Please ask Tom to come to birthday event and bring Sharks people. Woman below appears to be one of the owners.

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Hyde, Cathy Ming" <[REDACTED]>
Date: May 16, 2013, 10:13:27 AM PDT
To: "Maben, Meri" <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: McEnry

Here is the email I sent you earlier about the Shark's owner.

Cathryn Ming Hyde
Constituent Services Director
Congressman Mike Honda
17th Congressional District - California

<<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mike-Honda/15675385380>> <http://www.flickr.com/photos/congressman_honda/> <<http://twitter.com/repmikehonda>> <http://www.honda.house.gov/index.php?option=com_bca-rss-syndicator&feed_id=1>

Learn more about Congressman Honda's legislative initiatives by signing up for his e-mail updates <<http://honda.house.gov/emailsSignup.shtml>> or visiting his blog <<http://honda.house.gov/blog>> .

P Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

From: Hyde, Cathy Ming
Sent: Thursday, May 02, 2013 10:51 AM
To: Maben, Meri
Subject: RE: McEnry

> Meri -

> Good morning. Hope you are well. One of the Shark owners, [REDACTED] has a passport issue and we are leaving for the Shark Game in Vancouver on Wed. morn. It is not expired until Nov. '13, but she sent it to the Passport Agency for renewal a few weeks ago - she is having a bit of trouble getting it back - the No. is [REDACTED] phone is [REDACTED]. Would it be possible, Meri, to call [REDACTED] and put in a word to expedite the solution of this problem? Please let me know if you call her and call me if you would like.

> Thanks for you attention to this. I am at [REDACTED]

> Best, Tom McEnry

Cathryn Ming Hyde
Constituent Services Director
Congressman Mike Honda
17th Congressional District - California

<<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mike-Honda/15675385380>> <http://www.flickr.com/photos/congressman_honda/> <<http://twitter.com/repmikehonda>> <http://www.honda.house.gov/index.php?option=com_bca-rss-syndicator&feed_id=1>

Learn more about Congressman Honda's legislative initiatives by signing up for his e-mail updates <<http://honda.house.gov/emailsSignup.shtml>> or visiting his

blog <<http://honda.house.gov/blog>> .
P Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

From: Maben, Meri
Sent: Thursday, May 02, 2013 9:42 AM
To: Hyde, Cathy Ming
Subject: Re: McEnry

Send me her info to my gmail account

Sent from my iPhone

On May 1, 2013, at 9:35 PM, "Hyde, Cathy Ming" <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Woman never said thanks though. :/
Cathryn Ming Hyde
Constituent Services Director
Office of Congressman Mike Honda
California - 17th District
2001 Gateway Place, Suite 670W
San Jose, CA 95110
Phone: [REDACTED]
Fax: [REDACTED]

From: Maben, Meri
Sent: Wednesday, May 01, 2013 11:38 PM
To: Hyde, Cathy Ming
Subject: Re: McEnry

Fantastic!

From: Cathy Hyde <[REDACTED]>
Date: Wed, 1 May 2013 14:58:57 -0700
To: "Rep. Mike Honda" <[REDACTED]>
Subject: McEnry

Got the passport handled. Miracle job as I only had 24 hours to get the passport in her hands.

Tom is very happy.

C

Cathryn Ming Hyde
Constituent Services Director
Congressman Mike Honda
17th Congressional District – California
2001 Gateway Place, Suite 670W
San Jose, California 95110
Phone: [REDACTED]
Fax: [REDACTED]

<image001.png> <<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mike-Honda/15675385380>> <image002.png> <http://www.flickr.com/photos/congressman_honda/>
<image003.png>

Attachments:

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Exhibit 20

Notes from District Office retreat—Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Summary notes

- Goal:
 - Re-group for future challenges, induct Lenine and Lamar, build group cooperation, design a work plan for 2012
- Overview of the new district: Lamar
 - New district: part of Fremont, Newark, Milpitas, Santa Clara, Cupertino, part of San Jose, Sunnyvale
 - Bottom line: district is very diverse, very excited to see MH come into the district.
 - Main topics: demographics, jurisdictions/special districts, geography, specific issues
 - Men: important to remember that Fremont has a huge Chinese-American population, besides the large South Asian population
 - Within the Indo-American population there are Sikhs, Sri Lanka/Tamil faction and others.

2012: Challenges, Impacts, and Attributes/Skills: MM

- Brainstorm results
 - Top Challenges
 - 1: Lack of familiarity with the new district (logistics, relationships with new people, relationships, geography, institutions, electeds, CBOs)
 - 2: Two counties (competing interests, political negotiations, more work for staff)
 - Our voters are primarily in Santa Clara County
 - 3 (tie): Getting MH's name out there (campaign, new voters)
 - Lamar's job
 - 3 (tie): Getting MH to do more retail
 - MH prefers smaller events, MH needs to get to some of the bigger events, particularly with our new communities, South Asians and Filipinos who expect him to show up to their large events, get to shake everyone's hand, not talk to one person for an hour.
 - Needs to just show up and talk about his accomplishments, not in depth policy or philosophy. Talk and move on.
 - People want time with MH. Not interested in deep issues, they want their time to say what they want.
 - 4: Presidential election— MH traveling to campaign in other places
 - DNC obligations.
 - Traveling will not be as much as last year. MH will have to travel, but not as much as in the past (since he's not chair of CAPAC).
 - 5: Demand for more documentation: all the lists and data entry and documentation of procedures, coding projects, stakeholders
 - 6: High tech needs

Formatted: Indent: Left: 1.5", No bullets or numbering

- 7: Old elected and constituents with needs we can't meet
- 8: Higher expectation from new district
- 9: Casework
- 10 Satellite office (physical office, staffing)
- 11 Move DO
- 12 New Staff
- 13 More subgroups
- 14 He won't live in the district
- 15 Vulnerable from Alameda County (criticism, candidate)
- 16 Congressional competition (Lee, Miller, Stark)
- 17 Losing big landmark issues (Mt. Um, environment, ag, etc.)
- 18 Less money, budget is flat
- 19 Travel time for new district
- 20 MH comfort level
- 21 New issues

•Top Impacts

- 1: Staff is stretched
- 2: Time and road map needed to Developing new relationships, time spent getting to know new people
- 3: More fundraising (more time outside the office) and campaign events. These events may conflict with official-side events.
 - Big cost
- 4: Staff won't have all the answers (frustrates MH)
- Impact on casework (casework is bread and butter, it's what gets our name out there), have to maintain quality
- More economic driven casework
 - May need to shift expertise
- Drawn into new fights (don't want to pick a side, hard for MH)
- Overhead costs
- More events MH doesn't want to go to
- Try to extract ourselves from old issues as much as we can
- MH will be tired
- Changing dynamic with the DC office
- Changing scheduling strategies
- Office transition
- More interaction with other offices
- Gap in institutional knowledge
 - of doing mail, Email²

•Top Resources/needs

- 1: Good teamwork/supportive environment/awesome work culture/diversity
- 2 Good relationships between DO and DC veterans
- Needs

- 1,2: Strategic relationship building (as we meet new people, sharing that information with everyone)
- 23: Scheduling strategies prioritizing proactive vs reactive events. Keep in mind MH's needs. Balancing campaign and official events
- 3: Staying acutely aware of bright line between official and campaign events
- MH should be disciplined
- Be more prepared
- Communicate with each other more (within DO and with DC).
- More research and prep time for MH/staff
- Rotation weekend used for prep
- Need Eshoo to help MH transition time with CA 14.
- Cross pollination with assembly staff to learn issues
- MH national AAPI profile
- Relationship building
- Systematic procedures for staff and interns
- Event and project planning superiority (experts, superiority)
- Established relationships with key leaders
- MH and staff enthusiasm
- Institutional knowledge
- MH is fairly low maintenance. "go-with-the-flow"
- MH breadth of issues/relationships
- Senior staff leadership
- Lamar and Lenine!

- Overview of office procedures for written communication
 - Final decisions:
- Greetings/Letters of Support/Congrats letters: Try having only one letter.
 - If it's confusing for staff, it'll be confusing for interns.
 - ~~Cathy will take a shot. Lenine gets to look second.~~
- Interest: can be thought of like giving a card
- Certificates: like a diploma (individual, award)
- Video recording: work to try and use video recordings to replace written communication. Criteria for video recordings: 1. MH is in DO with an hour free before the event timeline, 2. proper notification is given in advance 3. Organization must have complete tech capacity.
- Legislative Agenda (DD and MN). Proactive Events for DO
- Market-based manufacturing bill (DD)
- Market-based manufacturing bill (DD)
 - Stakeholders
 - Business industries

- Local universities
- Labs
- NASA
- National labs
- Museums and organizations
 - Tech museum, Computer History museum, Tech America Tech net, SVLG, Joint Ventures Silicon Valley
- West Valley
- Labor groups
- PR Tactics
 - Press conference and tour of company
 - Example Prism (laser screen technology)
 - Very energy efficient
 - Chose press conference because it's a better way to educate the public about the idea
 - Nebulous idea
 - Tour of the company that has disruptive tech
 - Op-eds—national and regional
- Timing, April/May
- Need to improve relationships with stakeholders.
- Not a local issue, but it can be supported by local folks.
- DO does have the capacity
- Departments of Energy and Commerce could get involved.
- MH buy in—yes.

• Smart Electronics Bill (MN)

- There are so many devices now, and they all use tons of energy, and this would make electronics much more efficient
- Bill is about being better and greener with all the technological gadgets
- Stakeholders
 - Same stakeholders as in the market-based manufacturing bill
 - Universities
 - EPA and DoE
 - High tech groups and companies
 - Invite environmentalist groups as well
- End of March/early April
- Press conference and tour
 - Main company: Marvell
 - Toying with the idea of having a panel discussion with the press, conference and tour (if employees will come)
 - Some big companies had a lot of interest (Apple).
 - Press conference and tour will be followed by smaller communications.
 - 499s to CEOs all 200 tech companies in district so we're on their radar screen (and vice versa)
 - Establish line of communication
- Why did it fall apart, why go back to Marvell?

- Federal tie-in
- Marvell wants to work with MH

• Violence against women (Lenine)

- Marker bill
- This bill makes sure that 4 court-related provisions aren't negotiated out when the larger bill is re-authorized.
- Stakeholders
 - Office women's policy
 - Commission on the Status of Women
 - Bar Association
 - Domestic Violence
 - DA's office
 - Public Defender
 - Law Enforcement
 - Communities of Color
 - Immigrant rights groups
 - Legal services non-profits
 - Justice corps
 - JACL
 - Civil rights groups
 - Bill Wilson Center
 - Health and human services
 - County health department
 - Social workers
 - YWCA
 - Aki
 - Don
 - Local female government leaders
 - Shelters
- Start with mail and op-eds
- If it gets incorporated in the larger bill, we want a round-table with a possible press conference.
 - Round-table with all the top leaders on women's issues
- Timing: August/September
- If the programs don't get included, we're not going to do anything.
- If it is included, there's a lot to talk about.

• STEM and INVENT act (AB)

- Event to highlight both bills
- May be some duplication of efforts
- Step 1: AB talking to staffers in DC to see what's going on with those bills, plan of action to develop INVENT act
- October timeline
 - School just starting

- Not so overwhelmed at the beginning of school
- Given other timelines, April (secondary) is already getting filled up
- Types of events
 - Working with schools and STEM—bill lends itself to a lot of different opportunities
 - Hybrid event: highlight social media competition, virtual science fair
 - Question of which bills are we doing, how are we prioritizing, and which events will give the most bang for our buck
 - Josh Becker with his involvement in National Lab Day in the region
 - See who's organizing the big events in our region
- PR tactics
 - Already had a number of Op-Eds (continuing those)
 - 499s
 - New STEM letter that got sent out
 - If we do social media part, we invite video submissions for YouTube/Facebook
- Stakeholders
 - Lots
 - All tech companies should be interested
 - Silicon Valley education foundation
 - Tesla

• Health IT bill (AR)

- Lots of healthcare and medical device companies in the Fremont/Newark area, Sunnyvale
- Ideally we would host the event at the time we drop the bill, mid-March
 - Promote the fact that we dropped the bill
- Great way to reach out to tech/business community
- Reach out to CA healthcare institute, Silicon Valley leadership group
- Round table, but a press conference would be better
- Want to bring in a lot of people to participate, trade organizations, hospitals, healthcare providers, medical technology, tech companies
- Press Conference would be at some company, ideally in Sunnyvale (some we have relationships with, some not)
- We would be using their sites to promote the event and reach out to business community
- We would like to reach out to the new district and get press coverage
- (CHI: California Healthcare Institute)

• Scaling up (AR)

- Tour, ideally with press coverage, of a local manufacturing company at their site
 - Tesla was the first one that we thought of, but it might not benefit
 - Solar companies
- Companies will benefit from our involvement
- Labor brought in as a stakeholder group
- Timing, August (especially if we're going to do town halls)

- No date for legislation or anything
- During the summer would be great
- Good talking points
- Promote MH's role in making jobs
- Allows us to reach out to organizations, some in new district
 - San Jose entrepreneurship center, Chambers of Commerce, Tech and business communities, solar businesses, SVLG

•Notes:

- Look for more retail events for MH to go to (especially in August)
- Campaign will have to handle the advertisement, but we can go into another district
- We can't have an event that is specifically in the new district
- The difference between official and campaign is a bright red line.

•The move: details and logistics

- We can't sign the release until the election results have been certified
 - December 14
 - Not clear: how does the House get notified?
 - Timing of when we can pack and move—see handout
 - Casework purge during the summer
 - GSA will send packet for how to move
 - They pay for the move
 - Question of who gets the furniture is still up in the air—GSA will get back to CL
 - The move will happen in one day
 - we're not sure if it has to happen during hours
 - Anything that has to be taken out of the office has to be gone by June 1st
 - Timeline—see handout
 - Closed cases will be shredded. Only open cases are the ones we will be transferring.
 - Throw away anything we're not using during clean-up days
 - Everything has to be assigned to someone
 - Question: how do we set up/shut down internet and phone service?
- There will be 6 months forwarding

STOP HERE

Full Notes

- Goal:
 - Re-group for future challenges, induct Lenine and Lamar, build group cooperation
- Agenda
- Overview of the new district: Lamar

- Lamar visited the DC office, and the feedback was that the DO staff was fantastic
- New district: part of Fremont, Newark, Milpitas, Santa Clara, Cupertino, part of San Jose, Sunnyvale
- The new part of San Jose is a part we haven't had before
- Official description of the new district according to the California Citizens Redistricting Commission—see handout.
 - Population equality requirements: districts are equal in population
- Demographics
 - (All cities included in the new district (all or part) are on the handout share is our portion of the city)
 - The rest of Fremont is going to be in new District 15 (Pete Stark)
 - San Jose is split into three districts
 - We have the smallest share
 - New District 18 (Anna Eshoo)
 - New District 19 (Zoe Lofgren)
 - District 17 covers a portion of Alameda County and Santa Clara County
 - Plurality of Santa Clara County is in Zoe Lofgren's district.
 - Is Mike Honda still a Silicon Valley congressman?
 - Yes.
 - We'll be covering more of the East Bay or Greater Bay area.
 - There is not yet information about the whole 17th district (now just voting population).
 - Voters are slightly more Democratic.
 - Fremont and Newark (with Union City) make up part of the Tri-Cities.
 - People were slightly upset that the Tri-Cities were split up.
 - Incorporation of the three was relatively late (late 50s).
 - People in Newark and Fremont didn't want to be split up, but now they think it might be a good thing.
 - We represent half of the Tri-Cities.
 - Number of voting households increases slightly.
 - Question: Republican percentage has increased a bit in spite of losing some of Gilroy, Los Gatos, etc. Where do the Republicans come from?
 - Basically a wash—within the margin of error.
 - (City analysis will come later.)
 - The most Asian district in the country (minus Hawaii).
 - Important because of MH's role in the Asian American Caucus.
 - Association between MH and the ethnic communities.
- Jurisdictions/Special Districts
 - County Office of Ed in Alameda County -- Elected
 - Bus Board (AC transit) -- elected
 - Sanitary board -- elected
 - BART -- elected
 - AC transportation -- Appointed
 - Washington Township -- elected
 - Fremont School District different than Fremont Union District

- Relationships between organizations and political bodies across counties?
 - Lamar will investigate discreetly.
- Geography
 - Fremont
 - Fremont is big enough to have neighborhoods (districts) like San Jose.
 - Warm Springs is the most industry-filled district.
 - Fremont considers itself the Gateway to Silicon Valley.
 - Fremont sees itself as distinct from Alameda County because of its association with Silicon Valley.
 - Newark
 - Did not want to be incorporated in Fremont, even though that might make sense to Fremont.
 - Newark is the Gateway to the Peninsula (have to go through Newark to get to Dumbarton Bridge).
 - More industrial.
 - Newark doesn't look much like Fremont.
 - Leadership is much older.
 - Less Asian, more white.
 - Issue: there is a rail line that is being planned to join Newark and Palo Alto (CalTrain across the bay that would run parallel to the bridge).
 - Add 4 stations. New station in Fremont (Centerville) and Newark
 - Sunnyvale
 - Just had elections (on odd numbered years)
 - Neighborhoods like San Jose
 - Home of Yahoo
- Top Employers
- Specific issues
 - Fremont:
 - Solyndra has had a large impact, loss of 700 jobs.
 - Talk of trying to bring the A's to Fremont.
 - Newark
 - City is divided between people who want to retain, and who want to progress.
 - Looking for government support to bring high tech to the city.
- Other questions
 - Meri: Demographics by income level?
 - Charlene: City Councils (political makeup, big issues)?
 - Cathy: dominance of Filipino populations in different cities
- Bottom line: district is very diverse, very excited to see MH come into the district.
- Meri: important to remember that Fremont has a huge Chinese-American population, besides the large South Asian population.
 - Within the Indo-American population, there are Sikhs, Sri Lanka/Tamil faction, and others.

- Lamar is going to talk to/reach out to different Filipino and Indo-American communities.

- 2012: Challenges, Impacts, and Attributes/Skills: Meri

- Brainstorming activities (big and large)
- Jennifer is big about checking out everything with the DO—time to put our input into DC.
- Opportunity to strengthen relationships
- Group brainstorming
- Challenges
 - 1: Lack of familiarity with the new district (logistics, new people, relationships)
 - 2: Two counties (competing interests, political negotiations)
 - Our voters are primarily in Santa Clara County
 - 3 (tie): Getting MH's name out there (campaign, new voters)
 - Need to send more bodies
 - Lamar's job!
 - 3 (tie): Getting MH to do more retail
 - Particularly important for the DO during this campaign year.
 - Individual voters, shaking hands, one-on-one (Congress on your corner, Farmer's Markets, big events).
 - MH prefers smaller events, MH needs to get to some of the bigger events, got to shake everyone's hand, not talk to one person for an hour. Needs to just show up and talk about his accomplishments, not policy. Talk and move on.
 - People want time with MH. Not interested in deep issues, they want their time to say what they want.
 - 4: Presidential election—MH traveling to campaign in other places
 - DNC obligations
 - Traveling will not be as much as last year. MH will have to travel, but not as much as in the past (since he's not chair of CAPAC).
 - 5: Demand for more documentation without the connection to work
 - 6: High tech needs
 - 7: Old electeds with needs we can't meet
 - 8: Higher expectation from new district
 - Casework
 - Satellite office (physical office, staffing)
 - Move DO
 - New Staff
 - More subgroups
 - Higher expectation from new district
 - He won't live in the district
 - Vulnerable from Alameda County (criticism, candidate)
 - Congressional competition (Lee, Miller, Stark)
 - Make new contacts (start from scratch)

- Losing big landmark issues (Mt-Um, environment, ag, etc.)
 - Lots of new voters who don't know
 - Less money, budget is flat
 - Travel time for new district
 - MH comfort level
 - High tech needs
 - New issues
 - Relationship with DC
- Impacts
- **1: Staff is stretched**
 - **2: Developing new relationships, time spent getting to know new people**
 - **3: More fundraising (more time outside the office)**
 - Based on latest filing (quarterly), Lofgren and Eshoo have much more money on hand, Honda has much less (goal of \$800k before June primary)
 - Big cost of doing mail - Email?
 - **4: Staff won't have all the answers (frustrates MH)**
 - Impact on casework (casework is bread and butter, it's what gets our name out there), have to maintain quality
 - More economic driven casework
 - May need to shift expertise
 - Drawn into new fights (don't want to pick a side, hard for MH)
 - Overhead costs (more events MH doesn't want to go to)
 - Try to extract ourselves from old issues as much as we can
 - MH will be tired
 - Changing dynamic with the DC office
 - Changing scheduling strategies
 - Office transition
 - More interaction with other offices
 - Gap in institutional knowledge
 - More DC physical presence
- Resources/needs
- **1: Good teamwork/supportive environment/awesome work culture/diversity**
 - **2: Strategic relationship building (as we meet new people, sharing that information with everyone)**
 - **3: Scheduling strategies**
 - MH should be disciplined
 - Be more prepared
 - Communicate with each other more (within DO and with DC).
 - More research and prep time for MH/staff
 - Rotation weekend used for prep
 - Need Eshoo to help MH transition time with CA 14.
 - Cross pollination with assembly staff to learn issues
 - MH national AAPI profile

- Relationship building
- Systematic procedures for staff and interns
- Event and project planning superiority (experts, superiority)
- Established relationships with key leaders
- MH and staff enthusiasm
- Institutional knowledge
- MH is fairly low maintenance, "go-with-the-flow"
- MH breadth of issues/relationships
- Senior staff leadership
- Lamar and Lenine!

- Lunch break

- Overview of office procedures for written communication
- Greetings letters/letters of support/congrats
 - Greetings Letters
 - Brainstorming
 - For the organization
 - More frequent
 - For the audience
 - A little less formal
 - For when MH is not going
 - To be read, hopefully published
 - Discussion
 - Specific purpose for event
 - Letters of Support
 - Brainstorming
 - For the organization
 - Somewhat frequent
 - Ongoing for organization
 - Want to show the letter to some other people
 - Framed, meant to be shared
 - Formal
 - Somewhat frequent
 - MH could be going?
 - Pre-grants
 - More detail
 - Discussion
 - Specific to the organization
 - Congrats
 - For the organization
 - Least frequent
 - Mostly about an event (post-event), awards
 - informal
 - MH probably not attending
 - Post-grant

- Question: should these three previous be one letter, or do we need three different ones?
 - Make sure interns write the letter that is different
 - Maybe rename the titles (event letter, organization letter, etc.)
 - Congrats should go to organization and events that have a celebration? Greetings letter is for a more general event.
 - Value of the letter? Gets name out, cheap?, cost in staff time, people like it
- Leaning towards idea of removing letters of support
 - Congrats is for a distinct celebration
 - Greetings is for the organization in general
- Why are we using about the organization to the organization?
 - Template? Tried to use them, but there are so many cases.
- Event and Individual?
 - Greetings letter also gives congratulations
- Easier way to do a template based on audience than it is to do it based on purpose
- Perhaps just one letter
 - If there is a reason to congratulate, it will be included
 - But there are differences in organizations and individuals
- Give it a try: one letter. If it's confusing for staff, it'll be confusing for interns.
 - Cathy will take a shot, Lenine gets to look second.
- Resolutions/Interest notes
 - Resolution
 - If specifically requested
 - Size and famousness of organization or individual
 - If printed or displayed or presented
 - Formal occasion
 - Lots of info
 - Issue is a priority for the member
 - Formal position
 - Needs notice
 - Needs to be researched and vetted
 - Used sparingly (time)
 - Can be reused
 - For a big deal
 - Tied to an event (rather than person), potentially an important event in a person's life
 - When do we decide?
 - If they ask, we'll give resolutions.
 - Interest notes: like giving a card
 - Personal/intimate
 - Thank you
 - Not much information
 - Not formal

- Person needs to think member wrote it
- Not public
- For individual/family
- Doesn't need to be researched
- Not formulaic
- Nicety
- Small accomplishment
- Not tied to an event
- Should be hand signed
- Certificates
 - Certificates: **like a diploma** (individual, award)
 - Groups or individuals are awardees or honorees
 - Must be presented at an event or given to an individual or group
 - After the event
 - Also for Eagle and Girl Scouts, Citizenship, Art Competition
 - Have to be in our district
 - Do not have to be hand signed
- Video recording
 - Must be shown at an event
 - Technical capability
 - Willing to show
 - Must be large-scale event (100+ people)
 - Discussion of when to use:
 - MH asked to give remarks or is being honored and can't make it?
 - We should do it for every event that has the capability?
 - Is MH in town in time?
 - Can't do it for every event?
 - Timing? Speaking points, 10 minutes of MH's time. He's very good at this.
 - Comes across very well.
 - Editing takes very little time.
 - More frequently, if they follow criteria
 - MH is in DO with an hour free before the event.
 - Proper notification in advance
 - Standard events
 - No letter or written honor for the event
 - Plays to MH's strengths.
 - Not a guarantee, but done if we can and have time
 - Permission to put it on their website (CL can tell them)
 - More bang for buck
 - Congressional Record
 - Lifetime or long list of accomplishments
 - Regional or national impact or reputation
 - Approved by JVH and MM
 - Significant for MH/has values/his constituents/stakeholder groups.

- Calendar (CL)
- Legislative Agenda (DD and MN)
 - Two documents—one is summary, one is more detailed.
 - Green is bills we already introduced
 - Yellows is bills we will introduce
 - Blue—working on
 - Red things we haven't done yet
 - Go into planning different outreach events/marketing for each piece of legislation or project.
 - Stakeholder groups linked to the legislative priority.
 - Add on any items that might be missing.
- Market-based manufacturing bill (DD)
 - Not the same as the scaling-up bill.
 - Appoints a commission of experts from the industry to decide on 10 disruptive technologies.
 - Stakeholders
 - Several business industries
 - Local universities
 - Labs
 - NASA
 - National labs
 - Museums and organizations
 - Tech museum, Computer History museum, Tech America, Tech net, SVLG, Joint Ventures Silicon Valley
 - West Valley
 - Labor groups
 - PR Tactics
 - Press conference and tour of company
 - Example: Prism (laser screen technology)
 - Very energy efficient
 - Chose press conference because it's a better way to educate the public about the idea
 - Nebulous idea
 - Tour of the company that has disruptive tech
 - Op-eds—national and regional
 - Timing: April/May
 - Need to improve relationships with stakeholders.
 - Not a local issue, but it can be supported by local folks.
 - DO does have the capacity
 - Departments of Energy and Commerce could get involved.
 - MH buy in—yes
- Smart Electronics Bill (MN)
 - There are so many devices now, and they all use tons of energy, and this would make electronics much more efficient
 - Bill is about being better and greener with all the technological gadgets.

- Stakeholders
 - Same stakeholders as in the market-based manufacturing bill
 - Universities
 - EPA and DoE
 - High tech groups and companies
 - Invite environmentalist groups as well
- End of March/early April
- Press conference and tour
 - Main company- Marvell
 - Toying with the idea of having a panel discussion with the press conference and tour (if employees will come)
 - Some big companies had a lot of interest (Apple)
 - Press conference and tour will be followed by smaller communications.
 - 499s to CEOs all 200 tech companies in district so we're on their radar screen (and vice versa)
 - Establish line of communication.
- Why did it fall apart- why go back to Marvell?
 - Federal tie-in
 - Marvell wants to work with MH
- Violence against women (Lenine)
 - Marker bill
 - This bill makes sure that 4 court-related provisions aren't negotiated out when the larger bill is re-authorized.
 - Stakeholders
 - Office women's policy
 - Commission on the Status of Women
 - Bar Association
 - Domestic Violence
 - DA's office
 - Public Defender
 - Law Enforcement
 - Communities of Color
 - Immigrant rights groups
 - Legal services non-profits
 - Justice corps
 - JACL
 - Civil rights groups
 - Bill Wilson Center
 - Health and human services
 - County health department
 - Social workers
 - YWCA
 - Aki
 - Don
 - Local female government leaders
 - Shelters

- Start with mail and op-eds
- If it gets incorporated in the larger bill, we want a round-table with a possible press conference
 - Round-table with all the top leaders on women's issues
- Timing: August/September
- If the programs don't get included, we're not going to do anything
- If it is included, there's a lot to talk about
- STEM and INVENT act (AB)
 - Event to highlight both bills
 - May be some duplication of efforts
 - Step 1--AB talking to staffers in DC to see what's going on with those bills, plan of action to develop INVENT act
 - October timeline
 - School just starting
 - Not so overwhelmed at the beginning of school
 - Given other timelines, April (secondary) is already getting filled up
 - Types of events
 - Working with schools and STEM—bill lends itself to a lot of different opportunities
 - Hybrid event: highlight social media competition, virtual science fair
 - Question of which bills are we doing, how are we prioritizing, and which events will give the most bang for our buck
 - Josh Becker with his involvement in National Lab Day in the region
 - See who's organizing the big events in our region
 - PR tactics
 - Already had a number of Op-Eds (continuing those)
 - 499s
 - New STEM letter that got sent out
 - If we do social media part we invite video submissions for YouTube/Facebook
 - Stakeholders
 - Lots
 - All tech companies should be interested
 - Silicon Valley education foundation
 - Tesla
- Health IT bill (AR)
 - Lots of healthcare and medical device companies in the Fremont/Newark area, Sunnyvale
 - Ideally we would host the event at the time we drop the bill, mid-March
 - Promote the fact that we dropped the bill
 - Great way to reach out to tech/business community
 - Reach out to CA healthcare institute, Silicon Valley leadership group
 - Round table, but a press conference would be better
 - Want to bring in a lot of people to participate: trade organizations, hospitals, healthcare providers, medical technology tech companies

- Press Conference would be at some company, ideally in Sunnyvale (some we have relationships with, some not)
- We would be using their sites to promote the event and reach out to business community.
- We would like to reach out to the new district and get press coverage.
- (CHI: California Healthcare Institute)

• Scaling up (AR)

- Tour, ideally with press coverage, of a local manufacturing company at their site
 - Tesla was the first one that we thought of, but it might not benefit
 - Solar companies
- Companies will benefit from our involvement
- Labor brought in as a stakeholder group
- Timing: August (especially if we're going to do town halls)
 - No date for legislation or anything
 - During the summer would be great
 - Good talking points
- Promote MH's role in making jobs
- Allows us to reach out to organizations—some in new district.
 - San Jose entrepreneurship center, Chambers of Commerce, Tech and business communities, solar businesses, SVLG
- Look for more retail events for MH to go to (especially in August).
 - Campaign will have to handle the advertisement, but we can go into another district.
 - We can't have an event that is specifically in the new district.
- The difference between official and campaign is a bright red line.

• The move

- We can't sign the release until the election results have been certified
 - December 14
- Not clear how does the House gets notified?
- Timing of when we can pack and move—see handout
- Casework purge during the summer
- GSA will send packet for how to move
 - They pay for the move
- Question of who gets the furniture is still up in the air—GSA will get back to CL
- The move will happen in one day
- we're not sure if it has to happen during hours
- Anything that has to be taken out of the office has to be gone by June 1st.
- Timeline—see handout
- Closed cases will be shredded—Only open cases are the ones we will be transferring.
- Throw away anything we're not using during clean-up days
- Everything has to be assigned to someone
- Question: how do we set up/shut-down internet and phone service?
- There will be 6 months forwarding
- Figure out logistics when we get the new location

•Finish: play-doh and town hall

Exhibit 21

I Purpose of our Retreat

> New staff, team building

>MH has taken more control of schedule since our last mini retreat in February, which changes how we do outreach

>Prepare for move

Icebreaker

Lenine is THE push-up master

II. Overview of Ca-17 (Iamar, mark nakamoto)

>New cities, how to transition info from campaign to do (ethically and

>practically) - especially (not exclusively) Fremont' Do so by placing information on a Google document shared by staff.

>Campaign Sign - - logo evokes "valley", as in Silicon Valley

- Group thought of change, progress, Dems, Environment, farmland

>MH magic example - obamanos bumper stickers, high demand, asking \$5 and

>getting

>MH wants 70% in election, may be unreasonable but he is "wanting" that number {associated issues of 'managing expectation', dealing with disappointment if we do not hit (which is likely)}

June Primary takeaways

>In June, Primary MH got 66.7% of vote

-Intro Comments -

1/MH did better in Santa Clara County than Alameda

2/MH goal is 70%

3/-Problem Areas

Sunnyvale - seniors. Problem areas is older neighborhoods, stable, vote all the time. One problem area was a mobile home park. Also, tech, affluent.

-Milpitas/Fremont - mission (affluent, tech); west of 680 (Chinese); -

Cupertino - Chinese area problem. Also tech affluent

>Weakest part of Fremont - why? Opponent from there does business there.

>Also, MH relatively unknown.

> And upper middle class demo may not favorable

>How Campaign determines an "area of concern": any percent below 60% or less than 10% of Obama 2008; or vote in new district; or 65% or Obama 2008 -10 in new district

>Alameda County weaknesses

>Grimmer area - older demo, more conservative -west of 680 - where opponent does business, visibly -mission area - bigger homes, wealthy

Santa Clara County weakness

- >Sunnyvale - specific area in downtown area with older people
- >Cupertino, why? Chinese,
Note - MH guessed Cupertino b/c of Chinese votes (opponent is Chinese), Japanese-chinese relationship is strained

Lamar's analysis of voting results, takeaways

- >High Non republican registration hurt MH more in Alameda County than in
- >Santa Clara County the more Chinese a precinct, the worse MH did

- >Purpose is not just to increase vote with groups/areas in election 2012, but introduce and build MH relationship

Question: Should we be going after those who it will not payoff (Chinese vote) or build relationships where it could bear fruit (indo Americans)?

Measuring anti- incumbent preference? No party preference is 5%

Chinese

Slight majority dem 52-55%

- Vietnamese

Majority dem 60%

- Mike Nguyen believes Vietnamese not confused by opponents last name

Campaign - Mark - like a normal Voter identification up until a few weeks, then do turn out,

> DO? Chinese language outreach in Cupertino

-Thousand crane-

>1m - thousand people, each give a thousand per yr

>FOR DONORS: Provide social network to keep in touch, email with questions about federal issues

>Lamar is here to try out this MH idea, even after the election for this

>to work, it will require MHs to use his personal touch.

>Unlike a nonprofit, folks may be hesitant to ante up every year because they believe in the cause

Transitioning Data from Campaign to Official - Mark

How does official use the intelligence from Campaign (outreach, learning)?

-Google doc of stakeholders for CA 17

-One pager per issue, important is anecdotal info like "we supported issue x, this stakeholder was happy"

-Tells you who to go to if we have event x or issue y How many? One pager only for big issues.

- As you use this information officially, place it in to IQ

III Outreach

>Need to manage community's expectations for MH presence.

>Ethnic communities want MH to attend large events which he doesn't like

>Stark's town halls

- >Outreach_ need to give MH specifics on why we are meeting a specific
>set of ethnic people
- >Staff is going to need to attend more events to make up for MH absence
- >Continue telephone town halls as MH is effective
- >Increase 499s to ethnicities specifically, Chinese, Vietnamese, south Asians
- >Need to be systematic in the way we do outreach

Immediate goals:

- >Each field rep and Lenine has to plan and implement their event if not already completed
- >Prepare for move: CMH in charge of transfer of constituents and their files. She will determine dates for transfer of cases and closing out those that can be.
- >CL to design an overall move plan
- >Press: per MS request, continue looking for opportunities in current articles. Get MS on board early with upcoming events.

Exhibit 22

**District Office Staff Retreat
October 22, 2013
Notes**

Office Issues

- Cathy's New Role
 - Update all appropriations--how much, how was it used, how did it help you
 - Can we get the Boss to your org for photos
 - Additional casework -- free up aides for more events
 - Working with Alameda County FOMs
 - Working with Vince to plan retail events
 - Senior Center Day
 - Jan/Feb: Grants Workshop (extremely valuable)
 - Taking over assembly/mailing of 499s
 - Office hours - if you are staffing MH, Cathy will take over them

- Vince
 - Will come up with 3 month plans
 - Will do more proactive event planning
 - DO lead on stakeholder lists - will continue to update them over time (with staff)
 - All staff video call with a new system to continually update
 - Press outreach, being w/ MH at interviews, spotting press

- Staff raised the issue of redundant "paperwork"
 - Biweeklies, Meeting Database, Formal Debriefs, Stakeholder lists
 - Is there a way to streamline this process to avoid overload?

Welcome

Rather than asking for a mission statement, Meri asked us what do we want to look like come next November. Everyone shared their thoughts.

Goals for November 2014

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| • Effective | • Well-oiled machine |
| • Visible | • Community minded |
| • Coordinated | • Responsive |
| • Healthy | • On message |
| • Efficient | • Defined message |
| • Synergistic with campaign | • Recognized |
| • Confident | • Purposeful |
| • Credible | |

DISC Session

Edwin led this session and did not initially hand out everyone's results.

ET started off with providing parameters to understanding the DISC. It is not meant to diagnose you or pigeon-hole you. Rather, it's a chance for us to understand our working styles and those we work with. Especially when we want to accomplish the goals as we approach November, it is important for us to have a healthy team dynamic.

ET threw out the question, "What defines/sets group culture?"

ET explained what the D, I, S, and C personalities were like

ET put up the DISC wheel with just the dots and had people guess where they thought they were, where others were, and where MH was.

ET revealed who was who on the DISC wheel.

ET asked the following questions:

- Do any of the results surprise you? Why?
- Knowing where MH is (C/S), does this help you understand him? How would this affect the way you staff/interact with him?
- What are the strengths of our office? Potential blindspots?
 - ET explained the results v. process oriented people, facts v. emotions, etc...
- What are potential misunderstandings people may have with each other?
 - ET mentioned Robert as an example. He's C/D, very results, detail oriented. When he interacts he's not as worried about feelings as he is about facts. So sometimes this comes off as overly pushy, but if you push back he's fine if you can demonstrate facts to support your side.

ET showed the DC/DO DISC wheel.

Kept contextualizing the results to how we can work effectively together to meet our November 2014 Goals.

Campaign Update/Presentation

Doug Greven presented a short presentation on the campaign status and strategy.

- DC makes policy - we do events - Campaign takes DO events and uses them to raise \$
- Doug: Meri equivalent - admin for staff, political meetings, etc.
- Lamar: endorsements, validator organizing, political information, etc.
- Vivek: online media, press outreach, press secretary, message training w/ MH, scheduling of campaign events (briefer)
- Mehran: call-time manager, fundraising scheduler, intern supervisor, donor list manager, research
- Campaign right now is trying to be quiet - we don't want to talk about RK because we don't WANT to give him name recognition
 - Won't engage until March
- Lamar is setting political folks up to do events that show validators
- Important targets: Alameda County, younger people, caucasians, Latinos
- Prioritize business cards
- New motto: gets stuff done

- If we get a good story, ask people if we can use a quote or get permission to use them
 - If they say thank you, ask them for their story
 - Tell interns to do this
- Campaign is setting up ethnic press stuff

Lunch

Group Problem Solving Activity

Vedant created and lead this activity

Materials: bag of marshmallows and toothpicks

Divide into teams and assign leaders. Vedant showed to the leaders a premade structure and the goal was to have the leaders have their team build their structure without talking.

Debrief Questions:

- What kind of questions made your team successful?
- How did you communicate despite the restriction?
- What was effective? Not?

Strategizing Session

Meri oversaw this session. We started off with going over 2013 Q4 events. Second half was brainstorming events for 2014 (Jan through Nov). Prior to the retreat we were all required to brainstorm 10 ideas and bring them to the event. We then evaluated those events using the following criteria:

- Visibility in the new parts of the district
- Visibility with important stakeholders
- Staff Resources (high, medium, low)
- Resources, time, money (high, medium, low)
- Prep for MH (high, medium, low)
- Opportunity for emphasizing MH accomplishments

Q4 Planning

Event: Veterans Coffee/Casework Workshop

Lead: VR

Date/Time: November 9, 2013, 9:00-9:30a.m. Coffee; 9:30-11am Casework Resources

Details: MH invites vets for morning coffee and chat followed by a casework workshop. MH leaves after coffee.

- Bringing resources to the ppl
- inviting people from the county, VA, etc to assist with informational portion of casework, answer any questions, etc
- Vince is doing VA outreach

Event: Small Business Walking Tour followed by Small Business Roundtable

Lead: AC

Date/Time: November 25, 2013, 10:00a.m. - 12:00p.m.

Details: MH walks a retail district for meet and greet at store fronts followed by a roundtable with business owners in that area.

Target areas: Alameda County (Vietnamese and Latino businesses in Newark, Afghan district in Fremont, etc.)

- ask them what their needs are

- meet and greet

- fremont business districts (get information on businesses)--AC

- Niles district, alameda county---Lenine suggests Milpitas (email suggestion to VR)

Event: Senior Center Stop By/Listening Tour

Lead: CMH

Date/Time: TBD, 3-4 hours

Details: MH will do meet and greets at senior centers in the district

- meet and greet. 15-20 seniors is a success.

- just a simple listening tour. aiming for credation. low-resource event. not giving a speech---CMH has a good idea of Senior centers, turnouts, etc

Event: Rally to protect Social Security

Lead: LU

Date/Time: November 26, 2013, 10:00 - 11:00a.m.

Details: MH will hold a rally with stakeholders/constituents on the need to protect and strengthen social security

- rallying with stakeholders

- reaching out to the ppl, offering ppl to stand with MH at the rally

- Meri: still a little fuzzy--portion of this needs to be done at a Senior center (educational opportunity for Seniors to come). If Max is involved, will need this to be at a Senior Center

- need parking space and permission

- LU: need enough time to get help from AARP

- turnout will be low. wk before Thanksgiving

- same week. MH giving out food during holiday (Thanksgiving Day)--also out at the Turkey Trot (feel good retail, visibility)

Event: College Womyn's Health Fair

Lead: LU

Date/Time: December 17, 2013, 10:00a.m. - 12:00p.m.

Details: Hold a women's health fair at a community college in Alameda County (Ohlone College) and Santa Clara County (Mission College) back to back in one day. Include stakeholders such as Planned Parenthood, Tri Health, Office of Women's Health, etc

- 2 events/locations. Santa Clara and Alameda. separately timed. 10 different organizations max. LU
- certain number of ppl and speakers for both events
- need to keep MH focused to be able to do both sites; requires a lot of coordination for staffers
- pushing it to Tuesday, 17th
- Taking place at community college--Mission, Ohlone College (reaching out to the young students)

Event: Deliver holiday cards to veterans at Palo Alto VA with SAC Students

Lead: VP/VR

Date/Time: December 19, 2013

Details: SAC students will make holiday cards and will deliver them with MH

- delivering, thanking, appreciating, acknowledging veterans. feel good event
- an addition to Sacred Heart
- Meri's suggestion: not making cards. just getting them to sign them
- Charlene: instead of SAC students, get interns to sign them
- Meri: non religious, just seasons greetings. either from costco. have kids sign them
- VR and VP are in charge of this

Event: Immigration Listening Session

Lead: LU/ET

Date/Time: December 17, 2013, 9:00a.m. - 10:00a.m. (Santa Clara County), 11:00a.m.-12:00p.m. (Alameda County)

Details: MH gathers immigration groups to update on the progress of CIR and listen to their concerns

- packaging ideas back to back to keep him focused
- purpose: getting credit for his work on immigration
- LU and ET are on this one

Event: STEM Council Event

Lead: ET

Date/Time: December 9, 2013, all day

Details: MH holds a Women and STEM meeting with his STEM Council. He will also visit classrooms in school in CA-17.

-Scam Stoppers

****Meri: 7 weeks to do 7 events. some are close together. decide on what resources you'll need and ask for help when needed. Busy busy time. Time off between Christmas and NY off****

2104 Planning

Proposed events and descriptions

Clean water (work with water district resources--mailing list, tying in boss' environmental record, santa clara county and alameda water district)

--target: general residents, caucasians, press

--clean water act: fed hook

Tour Zero mission buses on Zanker. walking tour with press. quick press conference at the end. go for a short ride. tie it to infrastructure investments. federally funded in some way, too (AC)

Women peace and security act: india, afghanistan women. related to HR violence act. (AC)

Consumer Protection Town Hall: similar to Trust Act/immigration. get someone from state and fed agency. advertise doing a telephone townhall and linking in fed agency contacts.

Equal Pay Day

High School/Community college grad speech. Get intern to look up graduation dates.

VTA Federally Funded Tour with Bart--visit all sites that give VTA money

IMLS Grant Workshop--at Santa Clara University

Naming of Mt. Umunhum

Women Safety Forum: dating violence and prevention, anti-bullying at a college/ university. fed tie in--wawa

Viet/Fili/Latino Awards

Dividing choices between Tier 1 and 2

Top 10:

Tour of VTA/BART: Mission Bus, faculty

Clean Water/Water District Tour

Women Peace and Security Act Event

Consumer Protection

HS/Comm College Graduation--speech

STEM Grants Workshop

Women's Safety Forum

Naturalization Ceremony (Alameda)

Student Financial Aid (FAFSA)

Human Trafficking

2nd Tier:

Back 2 School Event

IMLS Grant Workshop
Ohlone Job Fair
Thanksgiving Service
Naming of Mt. Umunhum
College/University event with students
Fili/Viet/Latino (Ethnic) Awards
Cultural Community (Lunar, Cinco de Mayo, Dia de las Muertos)
Portuguese Community
Summer Safety Seminar
Filipino Vets (Alameda)
Alviso Environment Event
High School visit
Equal Pay Day

Staff Jeopardy

Lenine lead this section. Prior to the retreat (~1 week) Lenine sent out a survey using google docs to have everyone fill out a survey with the following questions:

- Name
- What is your zodiac sign?
- What is your favorite book, movie, or music genre?
- What is your idea of a perfect vacation?
- How would you spend a million dollars?
- What is your favorite word?
- What sound do you love?
- What sound do you hate?
- What profession other than yours would you like to pursue?
- What profession would you not like to do?
- If heaven exists, what would you like God say when you arrive at the pearly gates?
- What 5 items would your apocalypse survival backpack contain?

Lenine then created a "descriptive profile" for each staffer and put it up on the screen and we went through all the profiles and wrote down our guesses. Then at the end we shared who we thought each profile was and revealed the answers. The best any of us did was 4 out of 9.

I have attached out DO answers and the DO descriptive profiles to this email.

Time Management Session

Materials

Bits and pieces of clothing/fabric, paper, scissors, glue, tape, assortment of decorative bits and pieces, buttons, etc

Rules

1. We will be separated into two groups of 4.
2. Each group will designate who their "model" will be.
3. Each group has its own set of materials.
4. Each group member is responsible for designing and creating a certain part of the eventual outfit.
 - a. One person will design/create the "top" part of the outfit.
 - b. One person will design/create the "bottom" part of the outfit.
 - c. One person will design/create the "accessories" for the outfit.
 - d. One person will design/create the "headwear" for the outfit.
5. The team has only 5 minutes to discuss what their outfit is going to look like.
 - a. The outfit has to have a political theme.
 - b. The outfit CANNOT be swimwear, underwear, or casual.
 - c. The outfit MUST be able to stay together as the model walks down the "runway."
6. After 5 minutes, the team cannot communicate with each other about their design and must start working on their pieces.
7. Teams have 20 minutes to complete their pieces.
8. The first ten minutes, they cannot put their pieces on the model.
9. At the ten minute mark, teams can start putting this on the model.
10. When time is called, all pieces must be on the model.
11. Models then walk up and down the runway with their pieces.
12. The winners are the ones with the MOST pieces able to stay on the model and the MOST creative/good looking.
13. During the activity, facilitator will start removing items that are not being used.

Unspoken Rules

- Team members are implicitly allowed to help each other – some people have "easier" tasks and can offer to help their team members IF THEY INDEPENDENTLY DECIDE TO. Facilitator SHOULD NOT inform them of this ability.

Debrief

- Can you explain the thought process behind your outfit?
- As a team member, what part of this outfit did you contribute?
- What was your idea behind your piece?
- Why did you choose to work on that particular part of the outfit?
- How did you feel when I started removing items?
- What did the loss of your items mean for your team?
- What was difficult about the challenge?
- How did your team members work around the difficulties?
- How did you interpret the rules differently from others?
 - Ask only if someone "went beyond the rules" independently
- In what ways do you think your team was successful in accomplishing your task?

- In what ways would you change your own actions should you do this activity again?
- What do you feel this activity was attempting to teach the group?

Additionally we discussed what time management strategies we each employ on a daily basis. How do we prioritize with competing "important" tasks?

Debrief

We ended the retreat by sharing 2 things we learned about ourselves or others that were positive and shared one area of improvement we could work on.

Exhibit 23



Congressman Mike Honda (CA-17)

San Jose Councilmember Ash Kalra

Fremont Vice Mayor Anu Natarajan

and Fremont Councilmember Raj Salwan



cordially invite you to join a roundtable discussion with

Mitul Desai

Senior Advisor for Strategic Partnership

U.S. Department of State's South & Central Asian Bureau

Thursday, February 21, 2013

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Santa Clara University

500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, CA 95053

St. Joseph's Hall – President's Board Room, 2nd Floor

By Invitation Only. Non-transferable. RSVP Required.

RSVP to Mark Nakamoto [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

This round table discussion on the economic relationship between the United States and India will provide an opportunity for policymakers, business innovators, and community leaders to draw upon the lessons of India and the Silicon Valley while helping to deepen the close partnership between the world's largest and the world's oldest democracy.

As Silicon Valley's representative for the last twelve years, Congressman Mike Honda has witnessed first-hand the dynamic growth and entrepreneurial spirit that has made Silicon Valley famous around the world. The role that the South Asian diaspora has played in Silicon Valley is well known both in the United States and in India. During these very same years India has witnessed incredible progress. By focusing on business and infrastructure development, investing in education, and fighting corruption, India has grown increasingly competitive in the global marketplace.

The partnership between the United States and India is critical to peace and prosperity in the 21st Century. Congressman Honda, Councilmember Karla, Vice Mayor Natarajan, Councilmember Salwan, and Mr. Mitul Desai hope that this forum will provide an opportunity to share best practices while deepening the people-to-people, business-to-business, and government-to-government relationships that will be crucial to promoting economic growth and prosperity for both India and the United States.

Exhibit 24

From: Jennifer Van der Heide <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2015 7:51 PM
To: VanderHeide, Jennifer <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Fwd: FW: SV-Gujarat Round Table
Attach: SV-Gujarat Round Table - Invite List 2.7.2013.docx

----- Forwarded message -----

From: VanderHeide, Jennifer <[REDACTED]>
Date: Wed, Sep 24, 2014 at 6:02 PM
Subject: FW: SV-Gujarat Round Table
To: [REDACTED]

Jennifer Van der Heide, Esq.

Chief of Staff

Rep. Mike Honda (CA-17)

1713 Longworth House Office Bldg

Washington, DC 20515

Honda.house.gov | [REDACTED]



From: Agrawal, Ruchit
Sent: Thursday, February 07, 2013 8:37 PM
To: VanderHeide, Jennifer
Subject: SV-Gujarat Round Table

Jennifer:

Here is a list with 16 people and organizations. Please tell me if I should drop [REDACTED]

The list needs to be longer. Any ideas on who we can contact?

Ruchit Agrawal, J.D.

Congressional Aide

Office of Congressman Mike Honda (CA-17)

2001 Gateway Palce, Suite 670W, San Jose, CA 95110

Tel: [REDACTED] / Fax: [REDACTED]



Learn more about Congressman Honda's legislative initiatives by signing up for his [e-mail updates](#) or [visiting his blog](#).

--

Jennifer Van der Heide, Esq.
Chief of Staff
Congressman Mike Honda (CA 17)

Exhibit 25



Ruchit Agrawal [REDACTED]

Do you have the list of proposed invitees to the Indian roundtable with State ready? We need to start sending out.

1 message

Jennifer Van der Heide <[REDACTED]>
To: Lamar Heystek <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Ruchit Agrawal <[REDACTED]>

Thu, Feb 7, 2013 at 10:07 AM

Jennifer Van der Heide, Esq.
Chief of Staff
Congressman Mike Honda (CA 17)

Exhibit 26



Re: Suggested South Asian Invitees for State Dept. Roundtable

[redacted]

4 messages

Jennifer Van der Heide <[redacted]> Sat, Feb 9, 2013 at 8:41 AM
To: "Lamar Heystek (Google Drive)" <[redacted]>
Cc: Madalene Mielke <[redacted]>, Ruchit Agrawal <[redacted]>, meri maben <[redacted]>

Great lists - how are we doing outreach to them for \$? Can we at least collect emails and send newsletters or something if we can't do straight asks electronically now?

Also - do you have the list of the South Asians now endorsing/supporting MH? I want to make sure we are including all of them. Invites going out first thing Monday morning.

On Fri, Feb 8, 2013 at 9:25 AM, Lamar Heystek (Google Drive) <[redacted]> wrote:

I've shared an item with you.

Hello Jennifer,

Here is a list of South Asian tech/investment folks who've donated to candidates in the past (none to MH) -- see the donation history in the "Notes" column. I am looking for contact info for as many folks as I can.

Should I share this spreadsheet with Ruchit on his personal e-mail, so he can help add names/contact info?

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,
Lamar

 Suggested South Asian Invitees for State Dept. Roundtable

Google Drive: create, share, and keep all your stuff in one place.



Jennifer Van der Heide, Esq.
Chief of Staff
Congressman Mike Honda (CA 17)

Jennifer Van der Heide <[redacted]> Sat, Feb 9, 2013 at 8:42 AM
To: Ruchit Agrawal <[redacted]>

I went through and culled out which ones should be on invite list so I need you to call me so I can read off the names.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Lamar Heystek (Google Drive) <[REDACTED]>
Date: Fri, Feb 8, 2013 at 9:25 AM
Subject: Suggested South Asian Invitees for State Dept. Roundtable ([REDACTED])
To: [REDACTED]

I've shared an item with you.

Hello Jennifer,

Here is a list of South Asian tech/investment folks who've donated to candidates in the past (none to MH) -- see the donation history in the "Notes" column. I am looking for contact info for as many folks as I can.

Should I share this spreadsheet with Ruchit on his personal e-mail, so he can help add names/contact info?

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,
Lamar

 Suggested South Asian Invitees for State Dept. Roundtable

Google Drive: create, share, and keep all your stuff in one place.



—
Jennifer Van der Heide, Esq.
Chief of Staff
Congressman Mike Honda (CA 17)

Lamar Heystek <[REDACTED]> Sun, Feb 10, 2013 at 6:04 AM
To: Jennifer Van der Heide <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Madalene Mielke <[REDACTED]>, Ruchit Agrawal <[REDACTED]>, meri maben <[REDACTED]>

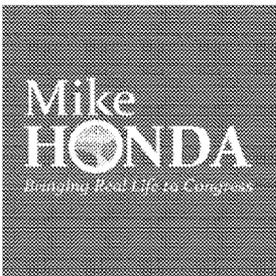
The list is part of the NGP batch upload of the donor research data we had compiled did a few months ago -- they are all in our database, along with contact info and giving history. They have already been receiving our electronic correspondence, and all will be receiving a Lunar New Year card from MH.

The South Asians endorsing MH is not a particularly long list at this point -- but I will work on it via a Google Doc and make sure everyone here can add to it.

Thanks,
Lamar

Lamar Heystek
Mike Honda for Congress
[REDACTED] phone
[REDACTED] fax
www.mikehonda.com
Like Mike on Facebook!

RA_0040
15-2070_0524



On Sat, Feb 9, 2013 at 8:41 AM, Jennifer Van der Heide <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Great lists - how are we doing outreach to them for \$? Can we at least collect emails and send newsletters or something if we can't do straight asks electronically now?

Also - do you have the list of the South Asians now endorsing/supporting MH? I want to make sure we are including all of them. Invites going out first thing Monday morning.

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Please let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,
Lamar

 Suggested South Asian Invitees for State Dept. Roundtable

Google Drive: create, share, and keep all your stuff in one place.

—
Jennifer Van der Heide, Esq.
Chief of Staff
Congressman Mike Honda (CA 17)

Jennifer Van der Heide <[REDACTED]>

Sun, Feb 10, 2013 at 6:45 AM

To: Lamar Heystek <[REDACTED]>

Cc: Madalene Mielke <[REDACTED]>, Ruchit Agrawal <[REDACTED]>, meri maben

<[REDACTED]>

Thanks. We r under pressure to release ad with 100 Indo names....

RA_0041

15-2070_0525

Jennifer Van der Heide, Esq.
Chief of Staff
Rep. Mike Honda, CA-17

On Feb 10, 2013, at 9:04 AM, Lamar Heystek <[REDACTED]> wrote:

The list is part of the NGP batch upload of the donor research data we had compiled did a few months ago – they are all in our database, along with contact info and giving history. They have already been receiving our electronic correspondence, and all will be receiving a Lunar New Year card from MH.

The South Asians endorsing MH is not a particularly long list at this point – but I will work on it via a Google Doc and make sure everyone here can add to it.

Thanks,
Lamar



Lamar Heystek
Mike Honda for Congress

[REDACTED] phone
[REDACTED] fax

www.mikehonda.com

Like Mike on Facebook!

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Should I share this spreadsheet with Ruchit on his personal e-mail, so he can help add names/contact info?

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,
Lamar

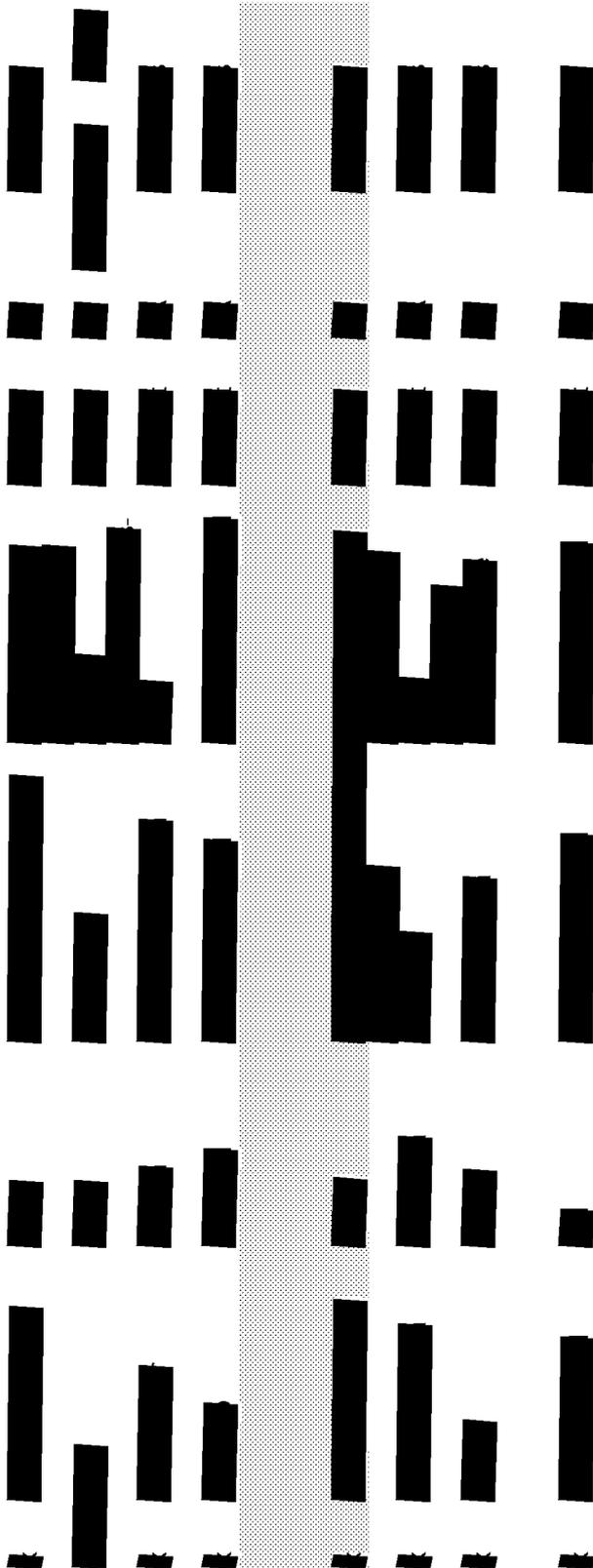
 Suggested South Asian Invitees for State Dept. Roundtable

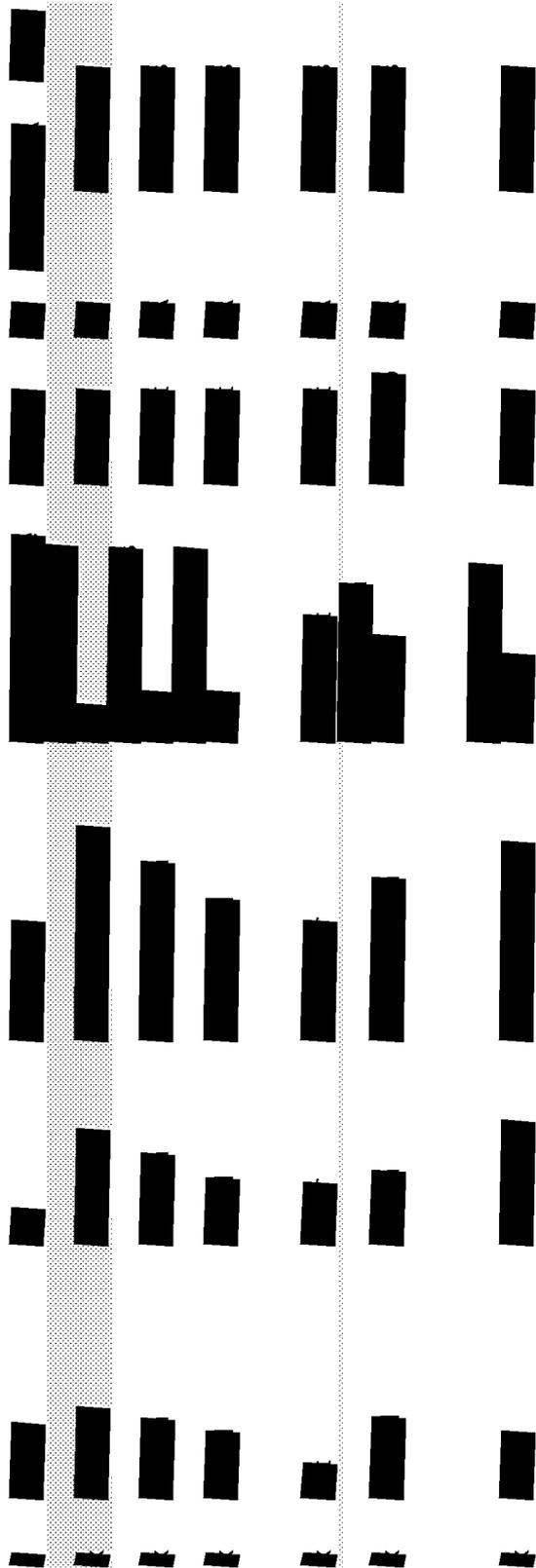
Google Drive: create, share, and keep all your stuff in one place.

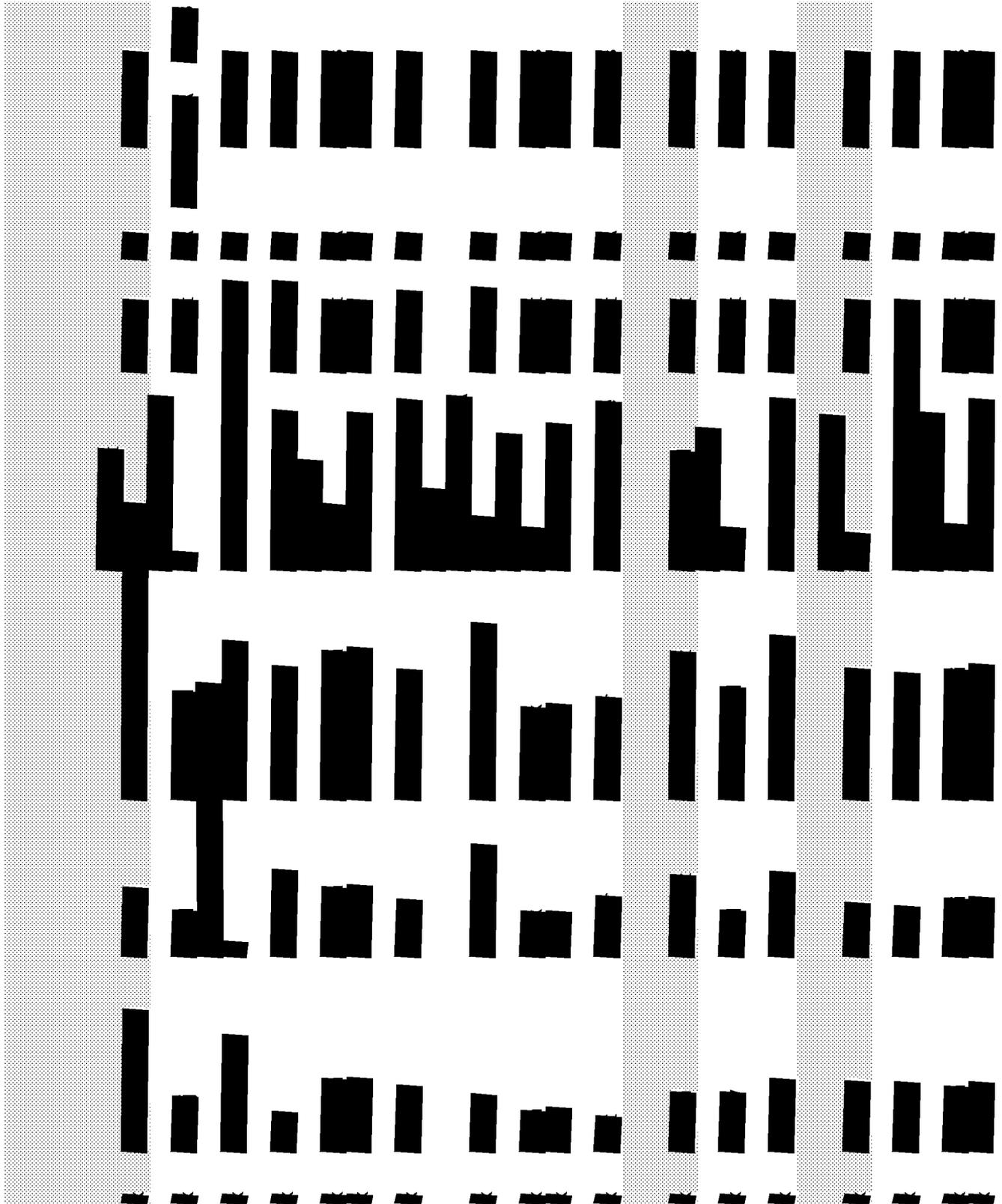


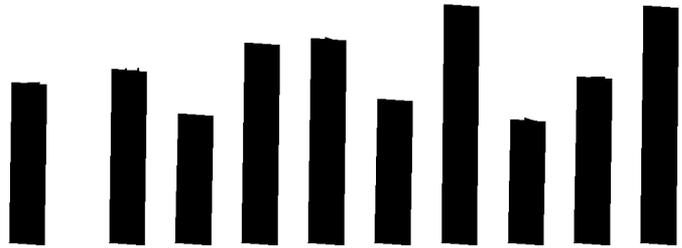
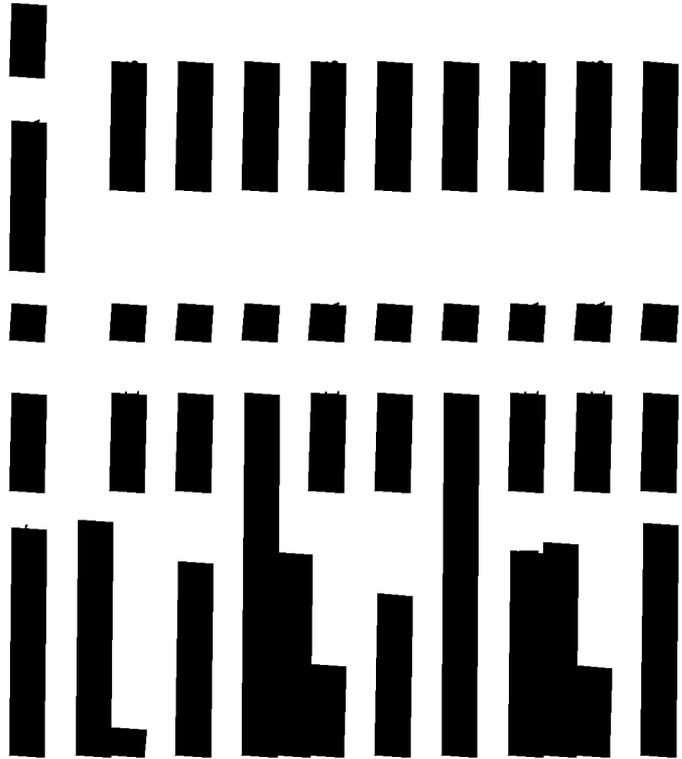
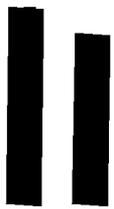
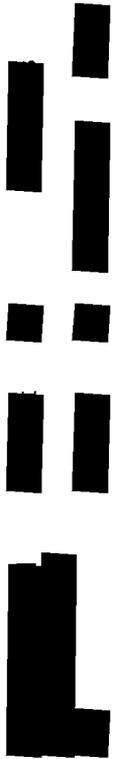
—
Jennifer Van der Heide, Esq.
Chief of Staff
Congressman Mike Honda (CA 17)

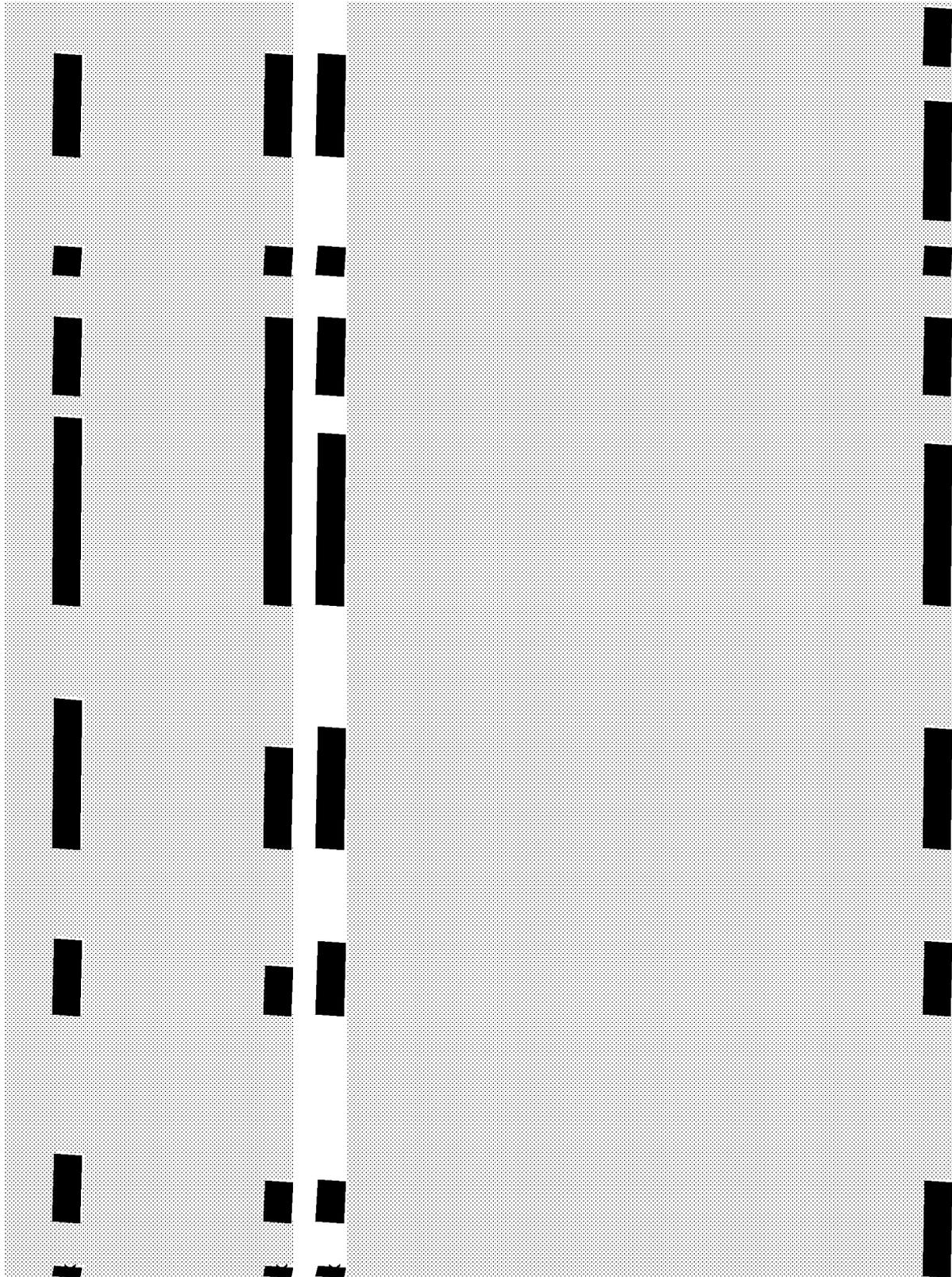
Exhibit 27

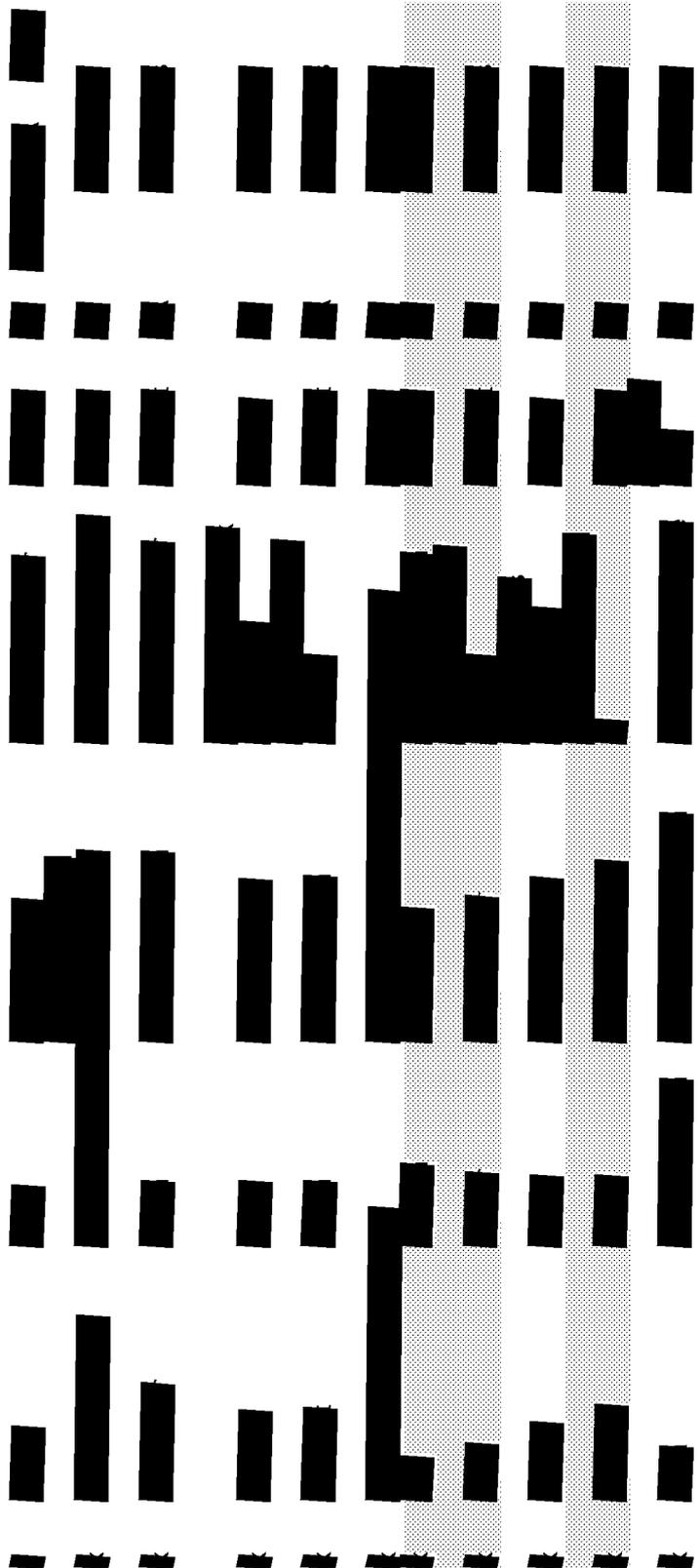












[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

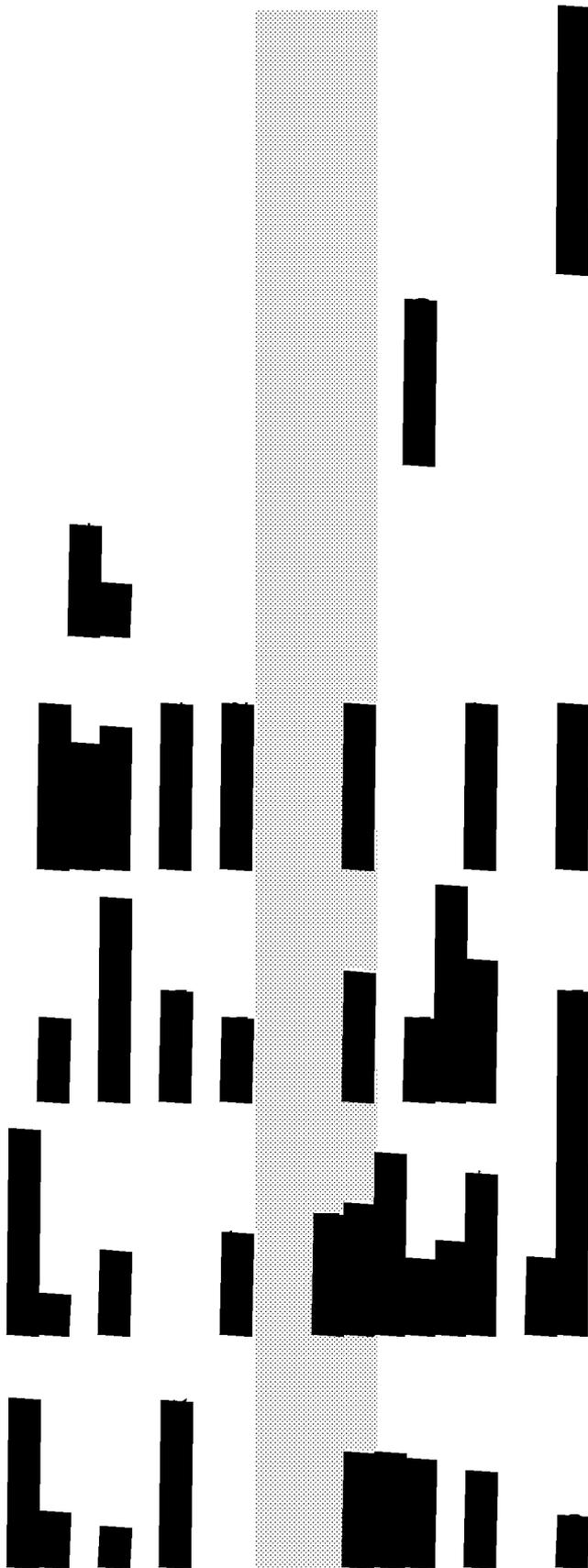
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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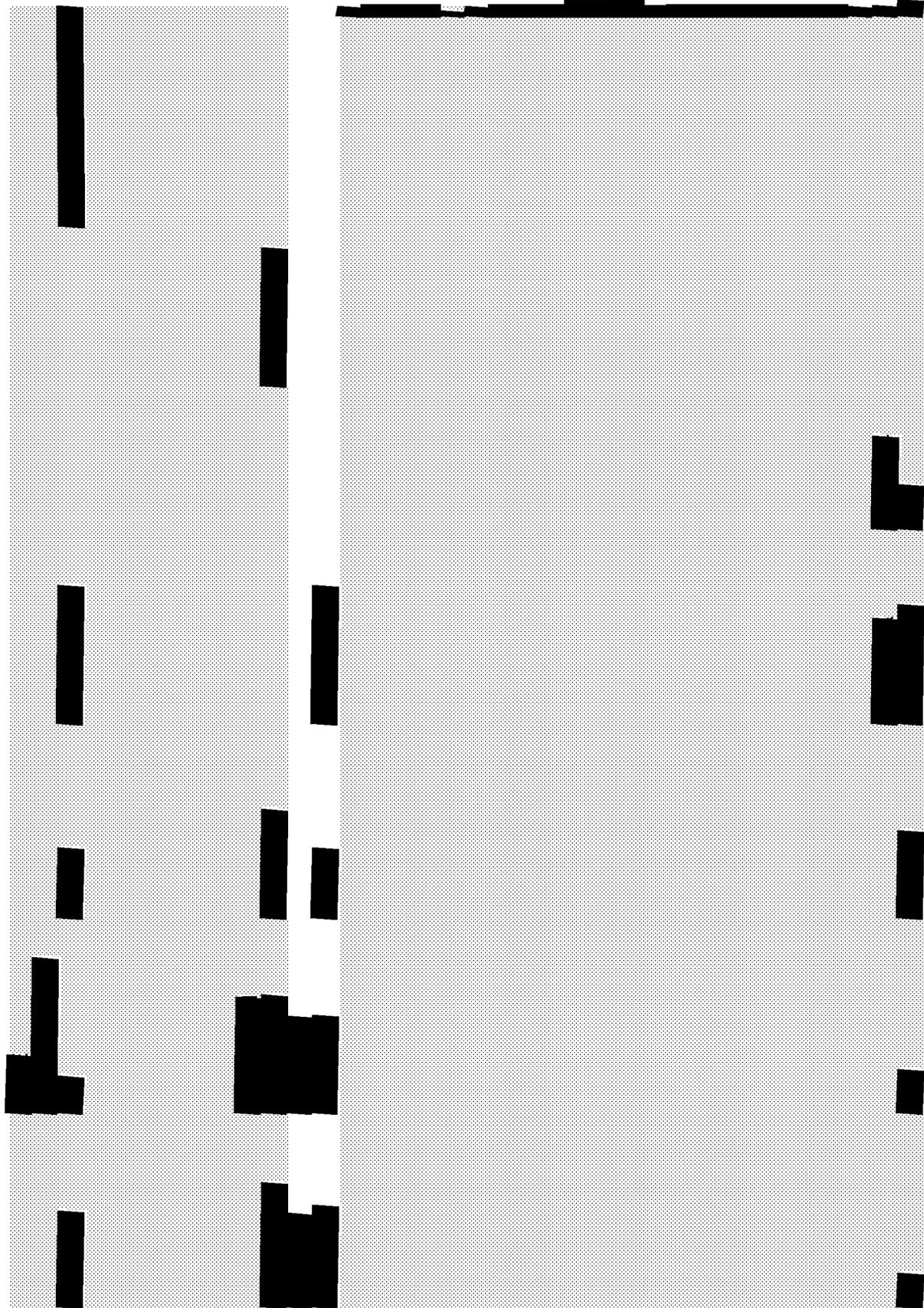
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[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

Notes	AN	MH	ES	Rep Pres	Asian
3 25 2008 Iranian American PAC \$2,500 5/24/12 Darius Shahinfar (D) \$500					
11 19 2011 Khanna, Rohit (D) \$500	x				
3 31 2008 Clinton, Hillary (D) \$200				x	
062406 Anu Natarajan \$100, 4/23/2008 Barack Obama (D) \$2,275	x			x	
9/7/2008 Barack Obama (D) \$1,000, 10/19/2008 Pete Stark (D) \$250				x	
9 27 2009 Sestak, Joseph A Jr (D) \$201					
3 28 2008 Obama, Barack (D) \$2,300				x	
091406 Anu Natarajan \$250, 10/7/2011 Rohit Khanna (D) \$2,500, 6/22/2007 Hillary Clinton \$2,300, 9/18/2007 Democratic Congressional Campaign Cmte (D) \$1,000, 5/31/2008 Democratic Congressional Campaign Cmte \$1,000	x			x	
1 22 2010 Goyle, Raj (D) \$250					
2 22 2008 Clinton, Hillary (D) \$500				x	
10 12 2011 Khanna, Rohit (D) \$2,500	x				

2 2 2010 DNC Services Corp (D) \$219, 8 12 2009 DNC Services Corp (D) \$209, 6 21 2009 Democratic Senatorial Campaign Cmte (D) \$250, 9 19 2008 Democratic Senatorial Campaign Cmte (D) \$250, 10 18 2008 Democratic Senatorial Campaign Cmte (D) \$250, 10 17 2010 Democratic Senatorial Campaign Cmte (D) \$250

x

101206 Anu Natarajan \$250

x

~~102206 Anu Natarajan \$100, 11/3/2011 Rohit Khanna (D) \$500~~

x

5 10 2012 Gill, Ricky (R) \$250

9 27 2007 Democratic Congressional Campaign Cmte (D) \$5,000, 9 28 2011 Khanna, Rohit (D) \$2,500, 6 22 2007 Clinton, Hillary (D) \$2,300, 9 28 2010 Sestak, Joseph A Jr (D) \$250, Top 10 Donors in Fremont for '08 cycle

x

9 9 2008 Obama, Barack (D) \$250

x

10/30/2008 Sue Chan \$100

9/30/10 Barbara Boxer \$2,400, 12 14 2011 Gill, Ricky (R) \$2,500

101906 Anu Natarajan \$250, 11/30/2007 Democratic Congressional Campaign Cmte (D) \$10,000, 10/15/2011 Rohit Khanna (D) \$2,500, 10/8/2009 Anna Eshoo (D) \$1,000, 2/1/2008 Republican National Cmte \$28,500, 6/30/2008 John McCain \$2,300, 6/30/2008 John McCain \$2,300, Top 10 Donors in Fremont for '08 cycle

X X

3 23 2012 Space Systems/Loral \$250

070606 Anu Natarajan \$250

X

102206 Anu Natarajan \$249, 10 24 2006 Bill Harrison \$249

X

3 7 2008 Clinton, Hillary (D) \$200

X

11 21 2011 Khanna, Rohit (D) \$250

X

101906 Anu Natarajan \$150

X

[REDACTED] 11 30 2007 Clinton, Hillary (D) \$250

X

102206 Anu Natarajan \$200

X

082406 Anu Natarajan \$100

X

091406 Anu Natarajan \$250, 10 24 2006 Bill Harrison \$100

X

10 30 2008 Ackerson, Nels (D) \$1,001, 9 28 2007 Ackerson, Nels (D) \$1,000

101206 Anu Natarajan \$250

X

10 3 2008 Obama, Barack (D) \$500, 10 9 2008 Obama, Barack (D) \$250

X

2 3 2012 Obama, Barack (D) \$2,500, 2 3 2012 Obama, Barack (D) \$2,500, 10 15 2011 Khanna, Rohit (D) \$2,500, 2 29 2012 DNC Services Corp (D) \$7,500

X

1 25 2012 Obama, Barack (D) \$250

X

101206 Anu Natarajan \$250

X

5-8-2012-Stark, Pete (D) \$250

11 15 2011 Khanna, Rohit (D) \$2,500
11 5 2006 Bill Harrison \$100

11 15 2011 Khanna, Rohit (D) \$2,500, 10 24 2009 Garamendi,
John (D) \$250
2 15 2008 Obama, Barack (D) \$1,000, 12 22 2011 Obama,
Barack (D) \$300, 9 26 2008 Obama, Barack (D) \$1,000, 10 24
2008 Obama, Barack (D) \$500,
5 14 2008 Obama, Barack (D) \$250, 10 24 2008 Obama, Barack
(D) \$500
10 10 2011 Khanna, Rohit (D) \$1,000, 9 28 2009 Goyle, Raj (D)
\$250

101206 Anu Natarajan \$100 x
4 23 2008 Clinton, Hillary (D) \$250, 2 7 2008 Clinton, Hillary (D)
\$250, 5 3 2008 Clinton, Hillary (D) \$250
~~062306 Anu Natarajan \$250, 11 13 2011 Khanna, Rohit (D)
\$2,500~~ *

10/3/08 Barack Obama \$250, 10/16/08 Barack Obama \$250

9/8/12 Ricky Gill \$250

092806 Anu Natarajan \$100 x

x

9 9 2008 Obama, Barack (D) \$250
102206 Anu Natarajan \$200, 8 27 2008 Obama, Barack (D)
\$2,300, 12 31 2007 Baucus, Max (D) \$2,300, 10 31 2008
Democratic Senatorial Campaign Cmte (D) \$1,000, 10 13 2009
Simitian, S Joseph (D) \$250, 9 30 2008 Blue Dog PAC \$3,850, 3
21 2007 Clinton, Hillary (D) \$2,300, 10 6 2008 BRIDGE PAC (D)
\$1,200, 7 31 2006 Biden, Joseph R Jr (D) \$1,000, 12 31 2007
Freedom Project (R) \$3,900, Top 10 Donors in Fremont for '08
cycle

x

x

2 8 2008 Clinton, Hillary (D) \$250

6/17/08 Democratic Congressional Cmte \$1000, 12/17/09 Bill
Foster \$250

~~102206 Anu Natarajan \$100, 11/3/2011 Rohit Khanna (D) \$300~~ * * *

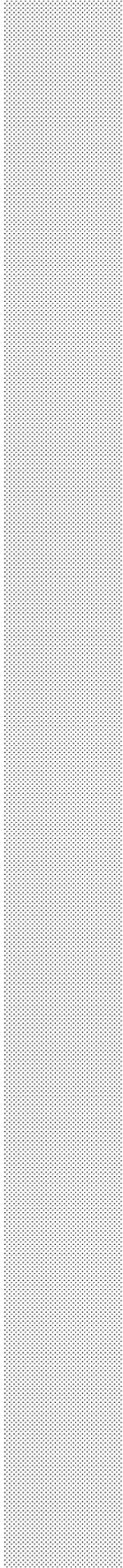
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6 7 2008 Obama, Barack (D) \$250

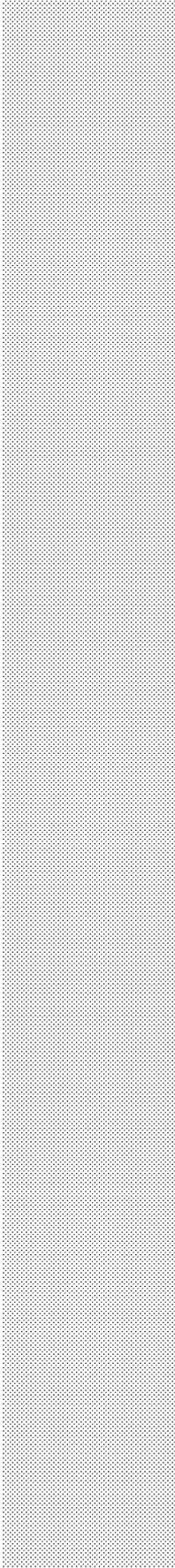
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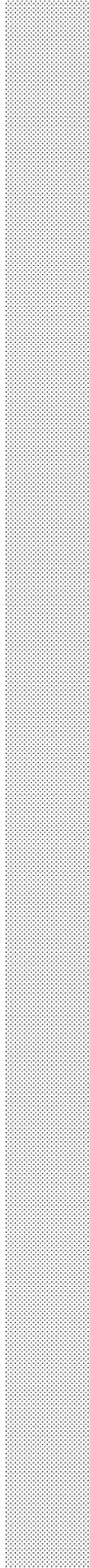
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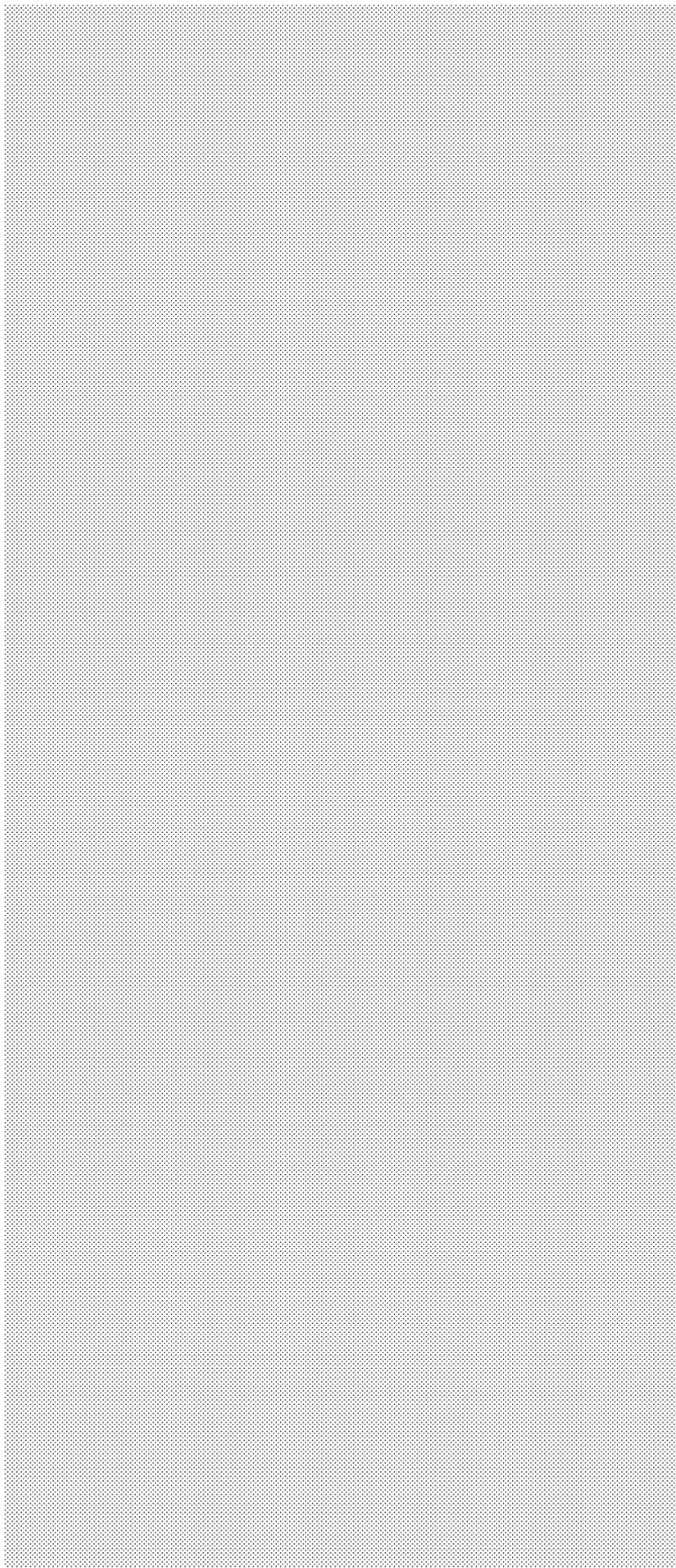
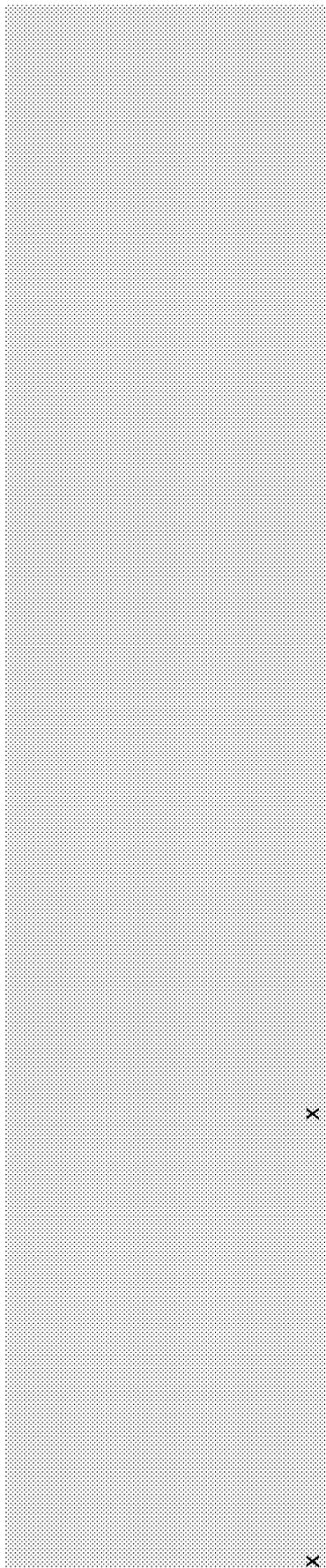


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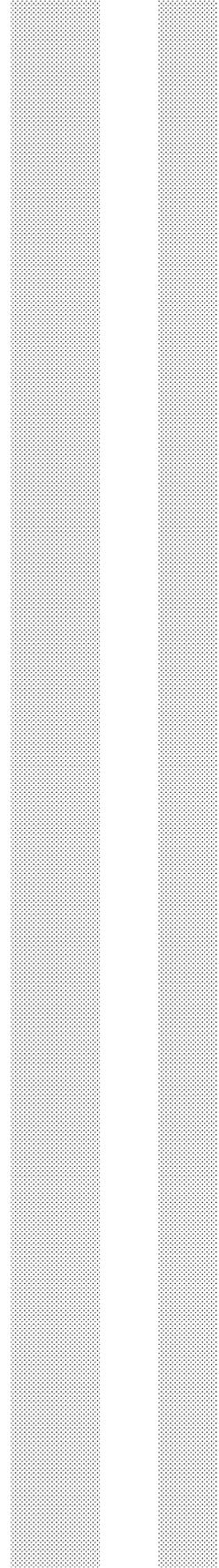


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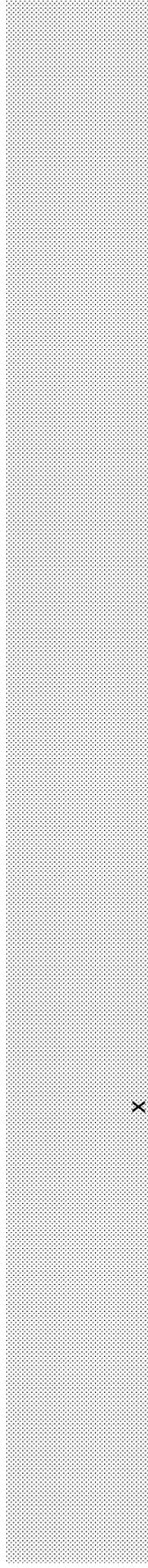


Other Congress State Senate Dem RG EC Website Bio

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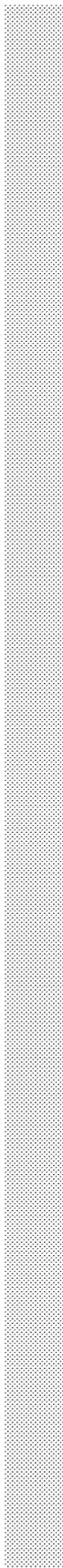


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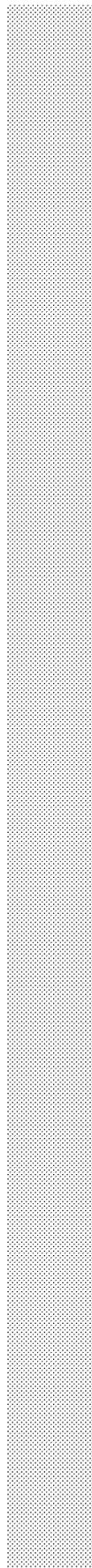
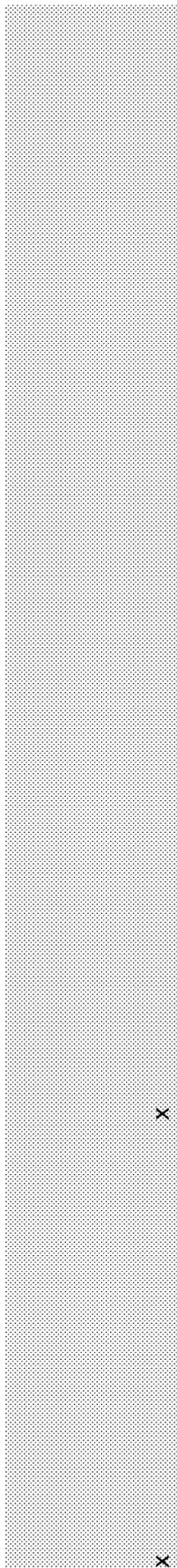
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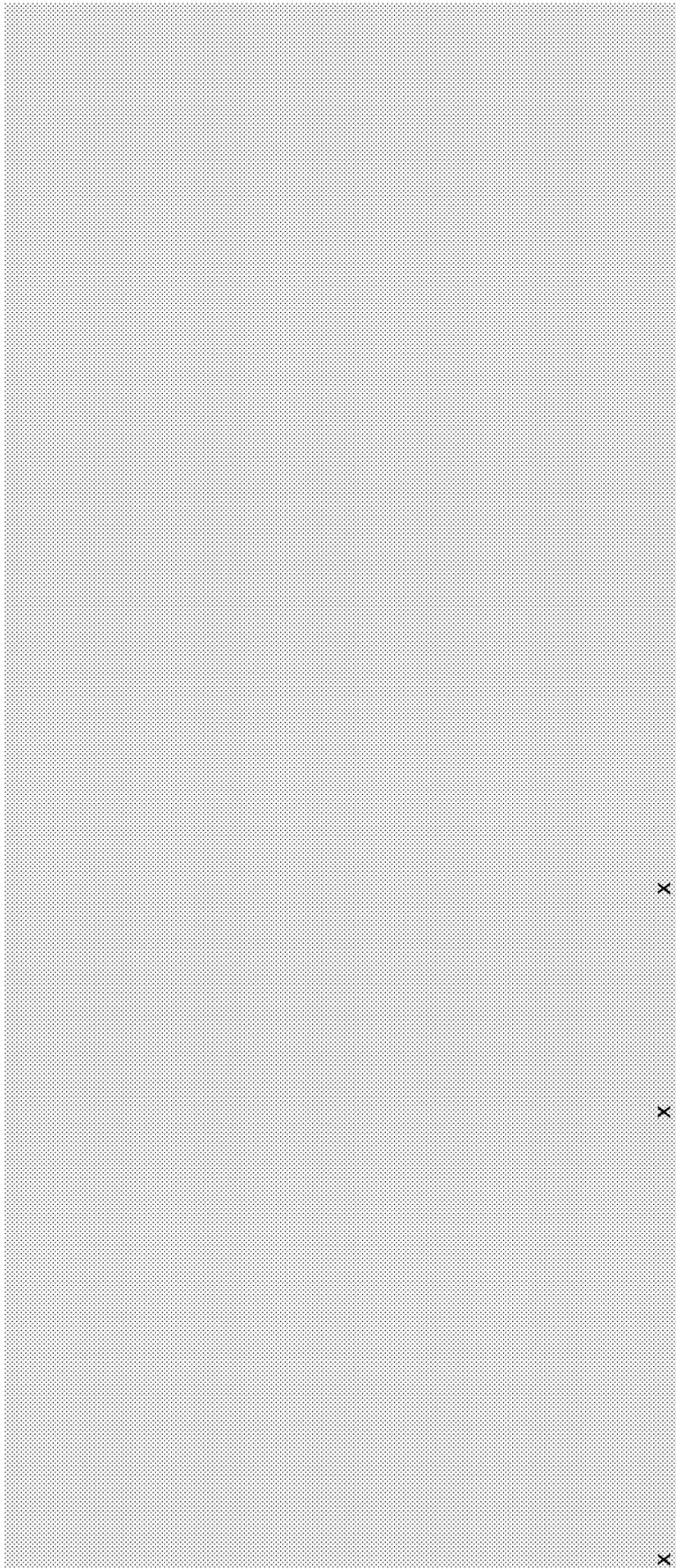
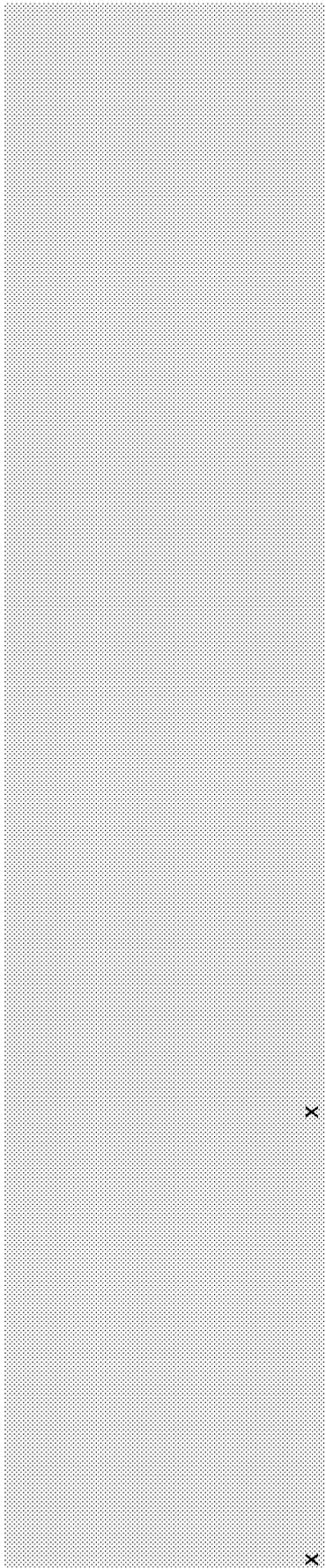
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Democratic

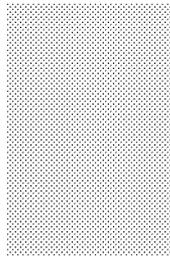
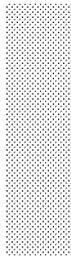
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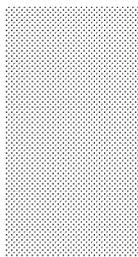
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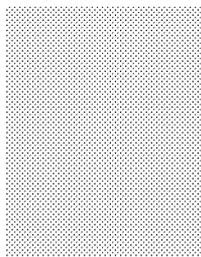
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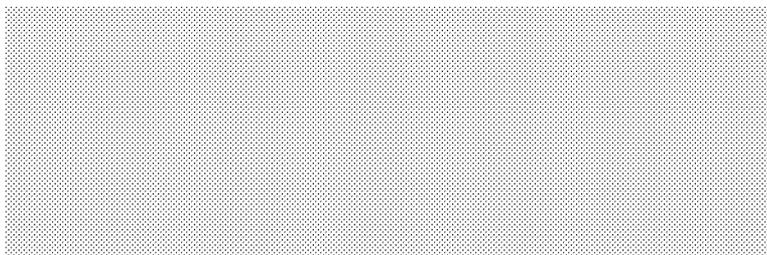
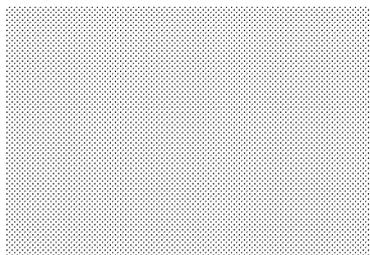
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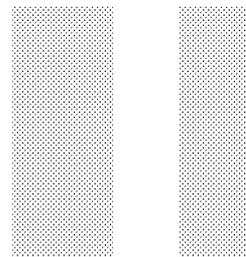


Exhibit 28

From: VanderHeide, Jennifer <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, February 7, 2013 10:36 PM
To: VanderHeide, Jennifer <[REDACTED]>; Agrawal, Ruchit <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Maben, Meri <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: SV-Gujarat Round Table

Also, I asked Lamar for a list which was due tonight – I'm sure it will be coming.

Also – add - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Office: [REDACTED] | Mobile: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I think he won't come, but may circulate (I talked with him today). He is CEO (16 years my junior....)

From: VanderHeide, Jennifer
Sent: Thursday, February 07, 2013 10:32 PM
To: Agrawal, Ruchit
Cc: Maben, Meri
Subject: RE: SV-Gujarat Round Table

I'll keep randomly sending names as I think of them.
Did you search through IQ and stakeholders lists?

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] – invite him and ask him for some names (he should give you 5)
I will ask AJ and Eric for names as well.

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (I talked with him about it)

[REDACTED]

Search [REDACTED] for names.

Drop [REDACTED]

Excellent start

For the orgs – they could send several people per org (2-3). We'll get maybe half of what we invite, but outreach is a big part of it.

From: Agrawal, Ruchit
Sent: Thursday, February 07, 2013 8:37 PM
To: VanderHeide, Jennifer
Subject: SV-Gujarat Round Table

Jennifer:

Here is a list with 16 people and organizations. Please tell me if I should drop [REDACTED]

The list needs to be longer. Any ideas on who we can contact?

Ruchit Agrawal, J.D.
Congressional Aide
Office of Congressman Mike Honda (CA-17)
2001 Gateway Palce, Suite 670W, San Jose, CA 95110
Tel: [REDACTED] Fax: [REDACTED]



Learn more about Congressman Honda's legislative initiatives by signing up for his [e-mail updates](#) or [visiting his blog](#).

Exhibit 29

Sikh Stakeholders

7 messages

Ruchit Agrawal [redacted]
To: Lamar Heystek [redacted]

Thu, Sep 27, 2012 at 10:13 AM

Lamar -

Jennifer is trying to develop a list of stakeholders in the Sikh Community.

Is there any Sikh stakeholders from campaign? Was there a recent fundraiser that may have generated some friendly names in the Sikh community?

I was just told about this today, but Jennifer is looking for this by the end of today so would be appreciated

Thanks!
Ruchit

Lamar Heystek [redacted]
To: Ruchit Agrawal [redacted]

Thu, Sep 27, 2012 at 1:19 PM

Hello Ruchit,

I will give you what I can find by the end of the day -- what else will you need besides names?

Thanks,
Lamar



Lamar Heystek
Mike Honda for Congress
[redacted] phone/text
[redacted] fax
www.mikehonda.com
Like Mike on Facebook!

[Quoted text hidden]

Ruchit Agrawal [redacted]
To: Lamar Heystek [redacted]

Lamar -

As much information as you may have, leave blank if not available. JVH will be added to IQ - we will send them literature if it is relevant.

- Name
- Title
- Organization
- Work Phone
- Cell Phone
- Email
- DC Based
- District Based

Thanks buddy -
Ruchit

[Quoted text hidden]

Lamar Heystek [redacted]
To: Ruchit Agrawal [redacted]

Thu, Sep 27, 2012 at 9:24 PM

Just got home from an event for MH -- I'll work on some names tonight, after I get something to eat :)

Thanks,
Lamar



Lamar Heystek
Mike Honda for Congress
[redacted] hone/text
[redacted] fax
www.mikehonda.com
Like Mike on Facebook!

[Quoted text hidden]

Lamar Heystek [redacted]
To: Ruchit Agrawal [redacted]

Thu, Sep 27, 2012 at 11:42 PM

Hello Ruchit,

I hope this helps you before the end of the day (18 minutes to go):

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Regards,
Lamar

Lamar Heystek



Mike Honda for Congress

phone/text

fax

www.mikehonda.com

Like Mike on Facebook!

[Quoted text hidden]

Ruchit Agrawal <[redacted]>
To: Lamar Heystek <[redacted]>

Fri, Sep 28, 2012 at 8:58 AM

Lamar - Thanks man, this is a great help.

Ruchit:

[Quoted text hidden]

Ruchit Agrawal <[redacted]>
Draft To: Ruchit A <[redacted]>

Mon, Nov 3, 2014 at 5:07 AM

[Quoted text hidden]

Exhibit 30



NOTE: Here's an example of using taxpayer resources for personal benefit. Tech support is something that the most people pay for themselves (with something like "Geek Squad"), rather than having the taxpayer pay for their personal errands.



Ruchit Agrawal <[REDACTED]>

FW: Netflix Activation

5 messages

Agrawal, Ruchit <[REDACTED]>

Thu, Sep 27, 2012 at 6:08 PM

To: "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]>

From: Mike Honda [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Friday, August 10, 2012 12:24 PM
To: Mike Honda
Cc: Vissanjy, Nadir; Agrawal, Ruchit
Subject: Netflix Activation

Congressman,

In order to activate your Netflix account, you'll need your new credit card information.

Please go to netflix.com, your username is [REDACTED] and password is [REDACTED]

Click on Your Account (top right) and it will ask you to log in your information (credit card number and all that).

Once you have done all that, Ruchit will set up your apple TV. I will talk to him on how to do it (we'll also do it in DC for you).

Nadir

Agrawal, Ruchit <[REDACTED]>

Thu, Sep 27, 2012 at 6:08 PM

To: "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]>



From: Vissanjy, Nadir
Sent: Thursday, August 16, 2012 6:08 AM
To: Agrawal, Ruchit; Lucas, Robert
Subject: FW: Netflix Activation

Folks,

MH needs to activate his Netflix account and then you need to input that on his Apple TV and show him how to use his Apple TV. Yes, that's a request boarding personal, but such is life.

He needs to activate his Netflix account because his credit card expired. You will either need to get his credit card to re-activate his Netflix account and/or have him do it (I suggest the former). When you take down the credit card info, make sure you get the numbers, expiration date, numbers on the back and the address it is associated too. Make sure you inform Charlene and Daniel about the credit card info so they can update their records (this just happened this month).

He has two accounts (both on Evernote):

Netflix.com (waiting for MH to reactivate)

[REDACTED]	pw: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	pw: [REDACTED]

You will have to figure out which one he activated and all that. I suggest you activate his personal email address if you have the option to do so.

Thanks,
Nadir

Nadir Vissanjy
Legislative Correspondent | Systems Administrator
U.S. Representative Michael Honda (CA-15)
1713 Longworth House Office Building
Main: [REDACTED]
Web: <http://honda.house.gov>

From: Mike Honda [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Friday, August 10, 2012 3:24 PM
To: Mike Honda
Cc: Vissanjy, Nadir; Agrawal, Ruchit



Subject: Netflix Activation

Congressman,

In order to activate your Netflix account, you'll need your new credit card information.

Please go to netflix.com, your username is [REDACTED] and password is [REDACTED]

Click on Your Account (top right) and it will ask you to log in your information (credit card number and all that).

Once you have done all that, Ruchit will set up your apple TV. I will talk to him on how to do it (we'll also do it in DC for you).

Nadir