

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.

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 [REDACTED]?

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 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 maybe 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



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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Appendices

Appendix A: Fact Sheet for Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

Appendix B: Employee Request Form for Family and Medical Leave

Appendix C: Employee Leave Request Form

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)