

## ***AT A GLANCE...***

- ⇒ Each legal defense committee must file a Statement of Organization within 10 days of organization.
- ⇒ The treasurer of each legal defense committee must file electronically Reports of Receipts and Expenditures within 30 days after the committee's organization, and every 30 days thereafter until dissolution.
- ⇒ No person, including a business contributor, may make any contribution to or for a legal defense committee which, when aggregated with all other contributions received from such person, exceeds \$10,000, in an aggregate amount.
- ⇒ Legal defense funds must be used solely for the purpose of defraying attorney fees and other related legal costs associated with the public official's legal defense to one or more civil, criminal or administrative proceedings.
- ⇒ Any remaining funds of a legal defense committee must be transferred only to a nonprofit organization, or to a Constituent-Service Program.

DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT US

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## **Legal Defense Committees**

**VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE THROUGH  
EDUCATION AND DISCLOSURE**

## **Organization of Legal Defense Committees**

A legal defense committee is a person, or group of persons, organized for the purpose of soliciting, accepting, or expending funds to defray the professional fees and costs for a public official's legal defense to one or more civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings.

A legal defense committee is deemed "organized" when any person, or group of persons, formally agree, orally or in writing, to solicit, accept, or expend funds to defray the professional fees and costs for a public official's legal defense to one or more civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings.

## **Registration and Training Requirements of Legal Defense Committees**

Each legal defense committee must file with the Director of Campaign Finance a Statement of Organization within 10 days after its organization. In the Statement of Organization, the legal defense committee must list a chairman and a treasurer, and may elect to list a designated agent.

A legal defense committee must amend its Statement of Organization within 10 days of any change in the information previously reported in its Statement of Organization.

The treasurer of each legal defense committee must attend mandatory in person training in the Office of Campaign Finance within fifteen(15) calendar days of filing the Acceptance of Treasurer form.

## **Reporting Requirements for Legal Defense Committees**

The treasurer of each legal defense committee must electronically file Reports of Receipts and Expenditures with the OCF, within 30 days after the committee's organization, and every 30 days thereafter until dissolution. The reports must be verified by the person filing the report and by the individual to be benefitted by the committee.

## **Contributions to Legal Defense Committees**

No person, including a business contributor, may make any contribution to or for a legal defense committee, which when aggregated with all other contributions to or for the legal defense committee received from the person, exceeds \$10,000 in an aggregate amount; provided, that the \$10,000 limitation does not apply to contributions made by the public official for the purpose of funding his or her own legal defense committee.

A lobbyist or registrant or a person acting on behalf of a lobbyist or registrant is prohibited from making a contribution to a legal defense committee.

Legal defense funds must be used solely for the purpose of defraying attorney fees and other related legal costs associated with a public official's legal defense to one or more civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings.

## **Fund Balance Requirements for Legal Defense Committees**

Any remaining funds of a legal defense committee must be transferred only to a nonprofit organization recognized under 501 (c) of the Internal Revenue Code, operating in good standing in the District of Columbia for a minimum of one calendar year before the date of any transfer, or to a Constituent-Service Program.

## **Termination of Legal Defense Committees**

If a legal defense committee that has filed at least one (1) Statement of Organization disbands or determines that it will no longer receive contributions or make expenditures during a calendar year, it must notify the Director immediately and file a final Report of Receipts and Expenditures.