

Office of Public Affairs
Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts
Washington, D.C. 20544

Please Convey to the U.S. Judicial Conference: Committee on Financial Disclosure

March 6, 2006

Dear Committee on Financial Disclosure:

I write out of a concern for the apparent failure of Judge Reggie Walton and the Committee on Financial Disclosure to abide by the Ethics in Government Act by redacting virtually all information in Judge Walton's financial disclosure statement for 2003. The only information not redacted in the statement is Judge Walton's name, the date of the disclosure, and the address of the U.S. District Courthouse in Washington, D.C.

Judge Walton has presided over, and is presently presiding over, cases where secrecy privileges play an important role. His failure to disclose financial information in accordance with the Ethics in Government Act may indicate a bias to secrecy that places his neutrality and objectivity in question. Further, his failure to disclose under the Act makes it impossible for litigants to determine if Judge Walton has a financial conflict of interest in a case or cases that would require his recusal. Finally, and most notable, it is difficult to have faith in a judge who appears to be a scofflaw. A judge's failure to abide by the law undermines the very core of judicial responsibility to avoid even the appearance of impropriety.

Under 5 USC Appx. §(b)(2)(B), a disclosure may be redacted only to "the extent necessary to protect the individual who filed the report; and [only] for as long as the danger to such individual exists." Section (D) directs that, "The Judicial Conference, in consultation with the Department of Justice, shall issue regulations setting forth the circumstances under which redaction is appropriate under this paragraph and the procedures for redaction." A recent GAO report claims that the Committee on Financial Disclosure's "guiding principle is to approve redactions of information (1) that would reveal the unsecured locations of judges and their families or (2) where there is a clear nexus between the redactions requested and specific security threats." It seems unlikely that *all* information in Judge Walton's financial disclosure form would meet either or both of these requirements.

In light of the foregoing, please determine if Judge Walton's redacted disclosure complies with the regulations set forth by the Judicial Conference and meets the requirements of the Ethics in Government Act. It seems unlikely that the revelation of what stocks or financial positions Judge Walton holds will present a danger to his safety.

If you find that Judge Walton's disclosure is not in compliance with the Act, I request that the Committee release to the public an unredacted financial statement for 2003. In the event, I pray that you will inform me as to your actions.

Sincerely,

William G. Weaver
Senior Adviser
National Security Whistleblowers Coalition
708 Tayopa Court
El Paso, TX 79932

(1) Attachment: Walton 2003 Financial Disclosure Statement

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORT

Calendar Year 2003

Report Required by the Ethics
in Government Act of 1978
(5 U.S.C. app. §§ 101-111)

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Person Reporting (Last name, First name, Middle initial) Walton, Reggie B | 2. Court or Organization U.S. District Court for D.C. | 3. Date of Report 05/13/2004 |
| 4. Title (Article III Judges indicate active or senior status; magistrate judges indicate full- or part-time) U.S. District Judge - Active | 5. Report Type (check appropriate type) <input type="radio"/> Nomination, Date <input type="radio"/> Initial <input checked="" type="radio"/> Annual <input type="radio"/> Final | 6. Reporting Period 01/01/2003 to 12/31/2003 |
| 7. Chambers or Office Address E. Barrett Prettyman Courthouse 333 Constitution Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20001 | 8. On the basis of the information contained in this Report and any modifications pertaining thereto, it is, in my opinion, in compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Reviewing Officer _____ Date _____ | |

IMPORTANT NOTES: The instructions accompanying this form must be followed. Complete all parts, checking the NONE box for each part where you have no reportable information. Sign on last page.

I. POSITIONS. (Reporting individual only; see pp. 9-13 of filing instructions)

NONE - (No reportable positions.)

| POSITION | NAME OF ORGANIZATION/ENTITY |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| 2. [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| 3. [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| 4. [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |

II. AGREEMENTS. (Reporting individual only; see pp. 14-16 of filing instructions)

NONE - (No reportable agreements.)

| DATE | PARTIES AND TERMS |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| 2. [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |

III. NON-INVESTMENT INCOME. (Reporting individual and spouse; see pp. 17-24 of filing instructions)

NONE - (No reportable non-investment income.)

| DATE | SOURCE AND TYPE | GROSS INCOME (yours, not spouse's) |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| 2. [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| 3. [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |

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FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORT

Name of Person Reporting

Walton, Reggie B

Date of Report

05/15/2004

IV. REIMBURSEMENTS -- transportation, lodging, food, entertainment.

(Includes those to spouse and dependent children. See pp. 25-27 of instructions.)

NONE - (No such reportable reimbursements.)

| | <u>SOURCE</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u> |
|----|---------------|--------------------|
| 1. | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| 2. | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| 3. | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| 4. | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |

V. GIFTS. (Includes those to spouse and dependent children. See pp. 28-31 of instructions.)

NONE - (No such reportable gifts.)

| | <u>SOURCE</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u> | <u>VALUE</u> |
|----|---------------|--------------------|--------------|
| 1. | | | |

VI. LIABILITIES. (Includes those of spouse and dependent children. See pp. 32-34 of instructions.)

NONE - (No reportable liabilities.)

| | <u>CREDITOR</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u> | <u>VALUE CODE</u> |
|----|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| 2. | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| 3. | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |

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VII. INVESTMENTS and TRUSTS - income, value, transactions (includes those of the spouse and dependent children. See pp. 34-57 of filing instructions.)

| A. Description of Assets (including trust assets) Place "(X)" after each asset exempt from prior disclosure | B. Income during reporting period | | C. Gross value at end of reporting period | | D. Transactions during reporting period | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| | (1) Amount Code 1 (A -H) | (2) Type (e.g. div. rent. or int.) | (1) Value Code 2 (J-P) | (2) Value Method Code 3 (Q-W) | (1) Type (e.g. buy, sell, merger, redemption) | If not exempt from disclosure | | | |
| | | | | | | (2) Date: Month - Day | (3) Value Code 2 (J-P) | (4) Gain Code 1 (A-H) | (5) Identity of buyer/seller (if private transaction) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NONE (No reportable income, assets, or transactions) | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. [REDACTED] | | | | | | | | | |
| 2. [REDACTED] | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Income/Gain Codes: | A = \$1,000 or less | B = \$1,001-\$2,500 | C = \$2,501-\$5,000 | D = \$5,001-\$15,000 | E = \$15,001-\$50,000 |
| (See Columns B1 and D4) | F = \$50,001-\$100,000 | G = \$100,001-\$1,000,000 | H1 = \$1,000,001-\$5,000,000 | H2 = More than \$5,000,000 | |
| 2. Value Codes: | J = \$15,000 or less | K = \$15,001-\$50,000 | L = \$50,001-\$100,000 | M = \$100,001-\$250,000 | |
| (See Columns C1 and D3) | N = \$250,000-\$500,000 | O = \$500,001-\$1,000,000 | P1 = \$1,000,001-\$5,000,000 | P2 = \$5,000,001-\$25,000,000 | |
| | P3 = \$25,000,001-\$50,000,000 | | P4 = \$More than \$50,000,000 | | |
| 3. Value Method Codes | Q = Appraisal | R = Cost (Real Estate Only) | S = Assessment | T = Cash/Market | |
| (See Column C2) | U = Book Value | V = Other | W = Estimated | | |

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VIII. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR EXPLANATIONS

(Indicate part of Report.)

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IX. CERTIFICATION.

I certify that all information given above (including information pertaining to my spouse and minor or dependent children, if any) is accurate, true, and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that any information not reported was withheld because it met applicable statutory provisions permitting non-disclosure.

I further certify that earned income from outside employment and honoraria and the acceptance of gifts which have been reported are in compliance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. § 501 et. seq., 5 U.S.C. § 7353, and Judicial Conference regulations.

Signature

Date May 13, 2004

NOTE: ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO KNOWINGLY AND WILFULLY FALSIFIES OR FAILS TO FILE THIS REPORT MAY BE SUBJECT TO CIVIL AND CRIMINAL SANCTIONS (5 U.S.C. app. § 104)

FILING INSTRUCTIONS

Mail signed original and 3 additional copies to:

Committee on Financial Disclosure
Administrative Office of the United States Courts
Suite 2-301
One Columbus Circle, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20544