



## MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item 14(B)1

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TO: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez, and  
Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: March 6, 2012

FROM: Honorable Harvey Ruvin, Clerk  
Circuit and County Courts

SUBJECT: Conflict Waiver Request  
Ronald L. Book, P.A.

Christopher Agrippa, Division Chief  
Clerk of the Board Division

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Pursuant to the provisions of Resolution R-1017-10, adopted at the October 5, 2010, Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners' meeting, the attached Conflict Waiver Request received from Ronald L. Book, P.A., is presented for the Board's consideration.

The report and recommendation of the staff of the Commission on Ethics and Public Trust and Mr. Book's letter dated February 23, 2012 are attached for your information.

CA/fcd

Biscayne Building  
19 W. Flagler St., Suite 820  
Miami, FL 33130  
Phone (305) 579-2594  
Fax (305) 579-0273

**Commission on Ethics &  
Public Trust**  
Miami-Dade County

# Memorandum

**To:** Miami Dade County  
Board of County Commissioners

**Date:** March 1, 2012

**From:** Michael P. Murawski, Advocate *MPM*  
Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

**Re:** Conflict Waiver Request/ Ronald L. Book, P.A. / HB 511 and SB 668

**COE No.:** K12-031

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**Background:**

On February 24, 2012, the Commission on Ethics and Public Trust (COE) received a conflict waiver request from Ronald L. Book, P.A. (Book, P.A.). Book P.A. is a lobbying firm with an office in Tallahassee that was awarded a governmental representation contract by Miami-Dade County (the "County"). In its waiver request letter, Book, P.A. advises that it represents Assurance Financial (AF), a long standing client that is working to oppose the passage of HB 511 and SB 668.

The passage of HB 511/SB 668 would significantly reduce the County's workers' compensation drug costs by reducing the markup on some drugs from between \$6 to \$8 per pill to less than \$1. The County supports the passage of HB 511/SB 668.

**Investigation:**

The COE conducted a fact finding inquiry which included:

- Discussion and e-mail exchange with Assistant County Attorney Jess McCarty.
- Review of HB 511/ SB 668.
- Review of conflict waiver request from Book P.A.
- Interview with Ronald L. Book; Mr. Book is the principal of Book, P.A.

**Analysis:**

Pursuant to County Ordinance No.00-64, “no person or entity that received compensation from the County for lobbying on behalf of the County or any of its agencies or instrumentalities at either the state, national or municipal level shall represent any entity in any forum to support a position in opposition to a position of the County unless the Board grants a specific waiver for a specific lobbying activity.”

Additionally, County Resolution No. 56-10 requires all County contract lobbyists to obtain a waiver from the Board for any actual or perceived conflicts of interest.

Book, P.A. fully recognizes and acknowledges the conflict between their representation of AF’s interests and those of Miami-Dade County concerning HB 511/SB 668.

**Conclusion:**

Given the undisputed conflict between the interests of AFS and those of the County, no conflict waiver should be granted. Book, P.A. has offered no reason and there is no reason for the BCC to grant a waiver to Book, P.A. in this matter.



Ronald L. Book, P. A.  
LAW OFFICES  
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

February 23, 2012

Via Overnight Delivery

Mr. Jess McCarty, Assistant County Attorney  
Miami-Dade County Attorney's Office  
Stephen P. Clark Center  
111 N.W. 1st Street  
Suite 2810  
Miami, Florida 33128

Dear Jess:

It has come to my attention that our firm may have a potential conflict regarding work that we do for our client Assurance Financial. Assurance Financial is opposed to Senate Bill 668 and House Bill 511 dealing with Workers Compensation Medical Services. We are seeking a Conflict Waiver to allow our continued representation of this long standing client.

Sincerely,



Ronald L. Book

RLB:dg

REPLY TO:

- Harbour Centre - 18851 N.E. 29th Avenue, Suite 1010 - Aventura, Florida 33180 - Telephone (305) 935-1866 - Fax (305) 935-9737
- 104 West Jefferson Street - Tallahassee, Florida 32301 - (850) 224-3427