



COMMISSIONER OF  
POLITICAL PRACTICES

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STATE OF MONTANA

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MEDIA RELEASE

April 23, 2018

The Montana Commissioner of Political Practices has received a payment of \$70,211.99 from Mr. Wesley Prouse to satisfy the civil penalty and judgement entered against him in *COPP v. Prouse*, First Judicial District Court, Cause No. DDV-2014-250. The District Court entered a Judgment against Mr. Prouse on January 20, 2017. The Commissioner notes that according to the Judgment of the Court, Mr. Prouse is still prohibited from running for public office until such time that he corrects his 2010 campaign finance reports, to disclose \$9,421 in campaign contributions and expenditures.

The receipt of the payment of the civil penalty imposed by the Court, resolves the issues as set for in *Bonogofsky v. Prouse*, COPP-2010-CFP-033. Again, the COPP would like to thank Ms. Bonogofsky of Billings for bringing this matter to the attention of the COPP. We would also like to thank Mr. Prouse for accepting responsibility and working with the COPP to achieve resolution of this matter. Finally, we would like to thank Mr. Gene Jarussi for his service to the people of Montana as a Special Attorney General, through volunteering his time on a pro bono basis in this matter.

FILED January 20, 2016  
NANCY SWEENEY, Clerk of District Court  
By [Signature] Deputy

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA  
FIRST JUCIDIAL DISTRICT, LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY

The COMMISSIONER OF POLITICAL )  
PRACTICES FOR THE STATE OF )  
MONTANA, through JONATHAN R. )  
MOTL, acting in his official capacity as )  
The Commissioner of Political Practices, )  
Plaintiff, )  
vs. )  
WESLEY PROUSE, )  
Defendant. )

Cause No. DDV-2014-250

JUDGMENT

Pursuant to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order issued by this Court on January 5, 2016, JUDGMENT is hereby entered in favor of the Commissioner of Political Practices for the State of Montana and against Wesley Prouse as follows:

1. That a civil penalty in the amount of \$59,066.00 be imposed on Wesley Prouse; and
2. That Wesley Prouse be, and hereby is, prohibited from filing and running for public office until such time as he files supplemental 2010 campaign finance forms reporting and disclosing the \$9421 in campaign contributions and expenditures in accordance with the

- factual findings and legal conclusions set forth in the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law issued by this Court on January 5, 2016; and
3. That Wesley Prouse be, and hereby is, prohibited from filing and running for public office until such time as he pays the civil penalty for his violations of the Montana Campaign Finance and Practices law in accordance with the factual findings and legal conclusions set forth in the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law issued by this Court on January 5, 2016; and
  4. That the civil penalty bear interest at the rate of 10% per annum, commencing on the date of this Judgment, until paid.

MADE AND ENTERED this 15 day of January, 2016.

  
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JAMES P. REYNOLDS  
District Court Judge

cc: Wesley Prouse  
Gene R. Jarussi