



STATE OF NEVADA

**BEFORE THE NEVADA COMMISSION ON ETHICS**

**In the Matter of the Request  
for Opinion Concerning  
the Conduct of JIM GIBBONS,  
Governor, State of Nevada,**

**Request for Opinion No. 08-37C**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Subject. /

**INTERVIEW OF COMPLAINTANT AND CERTIFICATION**

Interview with Travis Brock, requester of Opinion No. 08-37C conducted at 1210 S. Valley View Ste. 114, Wednesday, August 6, 2008 at 1 p.m. With his permission the interview between Michel Vavra and Travis Brock was recorded.

**Vavra:** So, you know why I am here correct?

**Brock:** Yes, absolutely and I made myself copies of my own complaints so, I can refer to them.

**Vavra:** Yes, I got these too.

**Brock:** Ok.

**Vavra:** My first question would be: How you learned of the alleged violation?

**Brock:** Ah...the...actually we learned of it through the media report that broke in various outlets, which I believe are actually referred to in report we submitted along with the report including the television news video tape, and also story I believe, in the Elko news paper and Review Journal.

**Vavra:** Do you know which one was the first you have heard of?

**Brock:** I believe, and I mean, it obviously happened rather quickly, I think I first became aware of it through the Elko paper but it spread so rapidly through the media and into the Las Vegas market that, you know, I think it was all really within one day that the story was out there in public and in the ether.



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**Vavra:** Were you told by anybody of the story, or have you found out on your own?

**Brock:** Yes...no, I was not informed in advance I just found out through the mass media.

**Vavra:** Ok, All right... my question is: What do you think is the conduct that violated the Ethics in Government Law?

**Brock:** Well, essentially there are couples of principles, in terms of the the [sic] action here...is that the highest elected official in the state attempted to exerted an influence to gain an unwarranted benefits; either tax break on this property, and that he essentially hired a subordinate to represent him as an attorney and in that fact that subordinate was intern to someone with oversight authority over the person who was in the position to grant this pecuniary benefit. So, the relationship between the parties themselves raised questions and we also believe the transaction itself, the tax break is unwarranted.

**Vavra:** Ok. Is there anything you did not include in your complaint? Is there anything you would like add?

**Brock:** There is not at this moment, but I certainly, you know, if it will help you and if you feel that there is anything that I can do to be helpful you know, whether that [sic], you know, getting statements that are in there, you know, we will be happy to do that.

**Vavra:** Of course, I can not suggest anything that is entirely up to you.

**Brock:** Ok.

**Vavra:** Do you have knowledge of any actions that Governor may have taken against the Assessor's office or Mr. Aguirre himself?

**Brock:** I don't have knowledge of any specific action or threats, but certainly again, going back to...you know, what, what [sic] seems to be the issue here is the relationship between the parties; the fact the attorney who the Governor hired, Mr. Marvel, is himself subordinate of the Governor and a person who has an oversight over Aguirre, and the Governor by the virtue of his office is also ex officio member of the Tax Commission. There is certainly you know, the appearance there, and the relationships between, the power relationships between those people can be interpreted as misuse of those relationships.

**Vavra:** Ok. That is pretty much all what I wanted to ask you about, or is there anything else you would like to add?



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**Brock:** I don't think so; I mean, I think, I hope anyway...the, the [sic] complaints filed were fairly, fairly detailed and said what our opinions are and, you know, where we think the potential violations are, again, but you know, again, I just want to stress, you know, I think our position is that [sic] the transaction itself was unwarranted, and the relationships that [sic] were [sic] involved here come under question as unethical conduct.

**Vavra:** Ok. Sounds good to me, if you have anything else, if you need to talk to me you have my number, let me know. Thank you.

**Brock:** Thank you very much.

Interview concluded on August 6, 2008 at 1:20 p.m.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

8/18/2008

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michel Vavra", written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and includes a large loop at the end.

Michel Vavra, Investigator



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**CERTIFICATION**

I, Michel Vavra an Investigator for Nevada Commission on Ethics certify:

That on Wednesday, August 6, 2008, at the hour of 1:00 p.m. of said day at 1210 S. Valley View Boulevard Suite 114, I was present and I conducted an interview with Travis Brock, the Complainant in Request for Opinion 08-37C.

I recorded the interview with Brock's permission and thereafter transcribed the same into typewriting as herein appears.

The foregoing transcript consisting of pages 1 through 3 inclusive is a full, true and correct transcription of the recording of said interview.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

8/18/2008

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michel Vavra".

Michel Vavra, M.P.A., Investigator



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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

**I certify that I am an employee of the Nevada Commission on Ethics and that on this day in Las Vegas, Nevada, I placed a true and correct copy of the INTERVIEW OF COMPLAINTANT AND CERTIFICATION ON RFO#08-37C in an envelope and caused same to be mailed via certified mail return receipt requested through the State of Nevada Mailroom addressed as follows:**

**Cert. No.**

Hon. Jim Gibbons  
Governor of the State of Nevada  
State Capitol, 101 N. Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701

DATED: 8/18/2008

  
An employee, Nevada Commission on Ethics