STATE OF LOUISIANA
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW
ETHICS ADJUDICATORY BOARD

BOARD OF ETHICS	*	**DOCKET NO. 2025-4155-BOE-B**
	*	
IN THE MATTER OF	*	
	*	
LINDSEY CHEEK	*	**AGENCY TRACKING NO. 5124-029**

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DECISION AND ORDER

The Louisiana Board of Ethics, in its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, requested an adjudicatory hearing to have the Ethics Adjudicatory Board determine whether Lindsey Cheek knowingly failed to file her 40-G campaign financial disclosure report, by the eleventh day after it was due, in connection with her 2023 candidacy for the office of Attorney General for the State of Louisiana. The Louisiana Board of Ethics proved by clear and convincing evidence that Lindsey Cheek knowingly failed to file the report as alleged. The Louisiana Board of Ethics is authorized to impose an additional civil penalty not to exceed $10,000 against Lindsey Cheek for the report pursuant to Louisiana Revised Statutes (La. R.S.) 18:1505.4(A)(4)(b).

APPEARANCES

An adjudicatory hearing was conducted September 10, 2026, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, before Panel B of the Ethics Adjudicatory Board (EAB).[1] Jessica Meiners appeared as counsel on behalf of the Louisiana Board of Ethics (BOE). Although duly noticed, Lindsey Cheek (Respondent) did not appear for the hearing.[2]

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[1] Panel B of the Ethics Adjudicatory Board consists of administrative law judges Anthony Russo (presiding), Monique Baham, and Lynette Roberson.

[2] On May 14, 2026, a *Notice of Hearing* was mailed by the Administrative Hearings Clerk for the Division of Administrative Law to Respondent at: 70545 Riverside Drive, Covington, Louisiana, 70433, and 2207 Octavia Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70115. These are the same addresses the BOE mailed Respondent the charges contained in its *Request for Hearing*, its *Late Fee Assessment Orders*, and its discovery, including *Requests for Admissions*, all by

JURISDICTIONAL AUTHORITY

The Ethics Adjudicatory Board (EAB) is a legislatively created board, as contemplated by Article X, Section 21, of the Louisiana Constitution. The EAB has original jurisdiction under La. R.S. 42:1141.5 to determine whether violations of the Code of Governmental Ethics, La. R.S. 42:1101 *et seq*., have occurred and to conduct hearings under La. R.S. 18:1505.4 for specific violations of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act (CFDA), La. R.S. 18:1481 *et seq*.

This adjudication is conducted in accordance with the CFDA, the Code of Governmental Ethics, the Administrative Procedure Act, La. R.S. 49:950 *et seq*., and the enabling legislation for the Division of Administrative Law, La. R.S. 49:991 *et seq*.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

The BOE, in its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, alleged that Respondent failed to file a campaign financial disclosure report by the deadline in connection with her 2023 candidacy for the office of Attorney General, State of Louisiana.

The BOE requested that the EAB conduct an adjudicatory hearing to determine whether Respondent knowingly failed to file her 40-G campaign financial disclosure report by the eleventh day after it was due, which could subject Respondent to an additional civil penalty not to exceed $10,000 for the report, pursuant to La. R.S. 18:1505.4(A)(4)(b).

At the hearing, the BOE offered its exhibits, numbered BOE-1 through BOE-12, which were admitted into evidence. Counsel presented the case on behalf of the BOE and requested the record remain open until September 11, 2026, in order to file a copy of the "clear search" performed as to Respondent. The request was granted. Counsel for the BOE filed the requested

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certified mail, returned receipt requested, and the BOE received the certified mail receipts; *see* BOE exhibits 7, 8, 9, 11, and 12. The Octavia Street address is the same address Respondent listed as her domicile on her *Notice of Candidacy (Qualifying Form)*; *see* BOE-2. Respondent was provided an additional 15 minutes past the scheduled hearing start date but failed to appear.

documents into the record; it was admitted into evidence and numbered BOE-13.

The record closed on September 11, 2026, and the matter was taken under advisement for a determination of whether Respondent failed to file her 40-G campaign financial disclosure report in violation of La. R.S. 1495.4(B)(6) and would therefore be subject to an additional civil penalty pursuant to La. R.S. 18:1505.4(A)(4)(b) for the late report.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Respondent qualified as a candidate for the office of Attorney General, State of Louisiana, in a primary election held October 14, 2023.[3] Respondent acknowledged that she was subject to the provisions of the CFDA when she signed the qualifying form.[4] The office of Attorney General, State of Louisiana, is a "major" level public office.[5] Respondent received sufficient votes in the primary election and participated in the general election held on November 18, 2023.[6]

On June 14, 2024, the BOE issued a *Late Fee Assessment Order* to Respondent because she had not yet filed her 40-G campaign financial disclosure report.[7] In the letter accompanying the *Late Fee Assessment Order*, Respondent was notified that she was required to file her 40-G report and that she could be subject to an additional penalty of $10,000 for the report she failed to file.[8]

As of August 26, 2026, Respondent had not filed her 40-G campaign finance disclosure report[9] and had not filed responses to the BOE's *Requests for Admissions*.[10]

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

[3] BOE-2 and BOE-3.
[4] BOE-3.
[5] BOE-4, p. 2.
[6] BOE-3, pp. 2-6.
[7] BOE-9.
[8] *Id.* at p. 1.
[9] BOE-10.
[10] Respondent admitted, by operation of La. C.C.P. art. 1467(A), that she did not file her 40-G campaign financial disclosure report; BOE-8.

The BOE proved by clear and convincing evidence that Respondent knowingly failed to file her 40-G campaign finance disclosure report by the eleventh day after it was due. The BOE is authorized to impose upon Respondent an additional civil penalty not to exceed $10,000 for the report, as allowed by La. R.S. 18:1505.4(A)(4)(b).[11]

In hearings under the CFDA before the EAB, the BOE must prove by clear and convincing evidence that the candidate knowingly failed to timely file a required campaign finance disclosure report.[12] Failure to timely submit required reports constitutes a violation of the CFDA.[13]

The office of Attorney General, State of Louisiana, is a "major" level public office.[14] Every candidate for "major" level public office (or their campaign treasurer) is required to file certain campaign financial disclosure reports by the statutory deadlines.[15] Failure to timely submit required reports constitutes violation(s) of the CFDA.[16]

As a candidate for Attorney General, State of Louisiana, a "major" level public office,[17] Respondent was required to file a 40-G report by December 28, 2023, which was the 40th day after the general election. As of August 26, 2026, Respondent had not filed her 40-G campaign financial disclosure report.[18]

Respondent knew she was obligated to meet the CFDA filing requirements by the statutory deadlines and that additional civil penalties, not to exceed $10,000 per report, could be imposed if

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[11] La. R.S. 18:1505.4(A)(4)(b) of the CFDA provides that, if after conducting an adjudicatory hearing, the EAB determines that a candidate knowingly failed to file the required 40-G report, or filed the report more than eleven days late, then the BOE, functioning as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, may impose upon the candidate additional a civil penalty not to exceed $10,000 for the report.
[12] La. R.S. 42:1141.5(C). "'Clear and convincing evidence', in general, means that the fact of guilt must be proven to a greater degree than by 'a mere preponderance of the evidence' but less than by 'beyond a reasonable doubt.'" *Louisiana State Bar Ass'n v. Edwins*, 329 So. 2d 437, 442 (La. 1976).
[13] La. R.S. 18:1505.1(B).
[14] La. R.S. 18:1483(11) and La. R.S. 18:1484(1).
[15] La. R.S. 18:1495.4.
[16] La. R.S. 18:1505.1(B) and La. R.S. 18:1481(1).
[17] *See* BOE-2, p. 2.
[18] BOE-10.

she did not file the 40-G campaign financial disclosure report. The BOE proved by clear and convincing evidence that Respondent knowingly failed to file her 40-G campaign financial disclosure report by the statutory deadline.

Additionally, Respondent's failure to file her 40-G campaign financial disclosure report within three days after the final date for filing creates a rebuttable presumption of intent to not file the report.[19] Nothing in evidence rebuts this statutory presumption.

If, after conducting an adjudicatory hearing, the EAB determines that Respondent knowingly failed to file required campaign financial disclosure report by the eleventh day after the report was, then the BOE may impose an additional civil penalty, not to exceed $10,000, against Respondent for the report that she failed to timely file.[20]

The BOE proved by clear and convincing evidence that Respondent, a candidate for a "major" level office, knowingly violated the CFDA by failing to file her 40-G campaign financial disclosure reports by the statutory deadline and by the eleventh day after the report was due.

The BOE, in its capacity as the Supervisory Committee for Campaign Finance Disclosure, is authorized to impose against Respondent an additional civil penalty under authority of La. R.S. 18:1505.4(A)(4)(b), not to exceed $10,000 for the late report.

[19] La. R.S. 18:1505.1(A).
[20] La. R.S. 18:1505.4(A)(4)(b).

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that the Louisiana Board of Ethics, in its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, is authorized to impose an additional civil penalty not to exceed $10,000 against Lindsey Cheek for failing to file her 40-G campaign finance disclosure report by the eleventh day after it was due, in connection with her 2023 candidacy for the office of Attorney General, State of Louisiana.

Rendered and signed on October 20, 2026, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

NOTICE OF TRANSMISSION OF DECISION OR ORDER

I certify that on Friday, October 23, 2026 , I have sent a copy of this decision/order to all parties of this matter.

Clerk of Court
Division of Administrative Law

Anthony Russo
Presiding Administrative Law Judge
Ethics Adjudicatory Board, Panel B
Division of Administrative Law

Monique Baham
Administrative Law Judge
Ethics Adjudicatory Board, Panel B
Division of Administrative Law

Lynette Roberson
Administrative Law Judge
Ethics Adjudicatory Board, Panel B
Division of Administrative Law

REVIEW RIGHTS

This is the final decision of the Ethics Adjudicatory Board. You may seek rehearing or reconsideration of this decision, subject to the grounds for and time limitations provided in Louisiana Revised Statutes 49:977.1. A request for rehearing must be sent to one of the addresses listed below.

EMAIL: EABprocessing@adminlaw.la.gov **FAX**: (225) 342-1812 **HAND DELIVERY TO**: 1020 Florida Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802	**MAIL**: Division of Administrative Law ATTN: Ethics Adjudicatory Board P.O. Box 44033 Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4033

You have the right to appeal this decision to the Court of Appeal, First Circuit, in accordance with Louisiana Revised Statutes 42:1142. You must file a written motion for appeal with the Ethics Adjudicatory Board within thirty (30) days after the transmittal of notice of this decision.