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Case: Colorado Independent Ethics Commission
Lawyer: Kyle Dumler
Investigator: Bill McBean
Subject: Mike Feeley

Bill McBean: My name is Bill McBean, investigator for the Colorado Independent Ethics Commission. It's March 25th, 2014. I'm in the office where Mike Feeley ... Mike, do you know that this conversation is being recorded?

Mike Feeley: Yes, I do.

Bill McBean: Is that okay with you?

Mike Feeley: Yes it is, not a problem.

Bill McBean: I thought you're going to say "No."

Mike Feeley: Right. I was going to say, "Not a problem" and I really should answer it in the affirmative.

Bill McBean: Okay, good. All right, we're on the same page I think.

Mike Feeley: Yeah.

Bill McBean: The governor in this whole thing, in this whole issue of whether or not he took an unethical [creativity 00:50] are used, that he provided a quick [program 00:56] by hosting the whole thing, staffing it and planning it. Are you familiar enough with article 29 to comment on that?

Mike Feeley: I'm familiar with article 29, yes. I'm familiar with my involvement in attending the event and has been ... I don't know the details of the governor's commitment to it, step-wise or dime-wise, or whatever. But I could tell you what I know.

Bill McBean: Yeah. How about it?

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Mike Feeley: I was there.

Bill McBean: How do you think it came off?

Mike Feeley: I think it was really nice, successful event. I know that the DGA, the sponsoring group has done this in the past. I've been up there in the past. This was a real [advice 01:47] and informative event.

Bill McBean: Right. Who do you get the impression was really run?

Mike Feeley: The DGA.

Bill McBean: The governor and his staff were there as visiting dignitaries, basically?

Mike Feeley: I guess so. There were a number of governors that were there. They participated in a number of panels and that was some people ... I guess that would be visiting dignitary, the dignitary's visiting or not, I don't know.

Bill McBean: Yeah, yeah, yeah. They're visiting for Denver, certain point?

Mike Feeley: Yeah.

Bill McBean: But there was any question in your mind that the DGA was behind the wheel?

Mike Feeley: Oh yeah, they sponsored the event. They coordinated and sponsored the event, yeah.

Bill McBean: Yeah, okay. All right. What do you know about the DGA as far as a fund-raising entity? I guess my first question would be, how do they decide where to spend their money?

Mike Feeley: That, I don't know. I believe that there is a group within the organization that takes direction from who's ever currently in-charge and by that, I mean, I think that there is one democratic governor who serves as the chairman of the organization. I know Bill Clinton serves as the chairman of the organization, I

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first learned about the DGA, many , many years ago. But how they make their spending decisions, I don't know.

Bill McBean: Okay. But how many people were there?

Mike Feeley: Oh, gosh. I was there for a day. Not an overnight, but I was there for a day. I probably saw ... There's a ballpark-figure, I probably saw 60 to 80 people and I'm trying to think of ... I attended a couple of panels in ... Yeah, between a couple of panels. I'd say, "Yeah, that's about 60 to 80 people." At least that's what I saw.

Bill McBean: Did you go to the Saturday night dinner?

Mike Feeley: I did not.

Bill McBean: Okay. Did you see people that you would think of a significant donors?

Mike Feeley: I saw a representatives of companies that I would consider significant donors, yes.

Bill McBean: Okay. Did you talk to anybody who said that they were going to give the DGA money?

Mike Feeley: Yeah.

Bill McBean: Was it Hickenlooper's behalf or was it just because they were there ... of the DGA money?

Mike Feeley: I think they were there to give the DGA money and if I remember correctly, that was sort of a condition. I don't know if I'm anticipating any of your questions, but I was there. There were two clients of mine that were there and I know that they made contributions to the DGA and that was sort of my impression that that's what the deal was. It was the [fundraise 05:16] of the DGA.

Bill McBean: If the DGA money [inaudible 05:22] accept that invitation come up to ask?

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Mike Feeley: Yeah. I mean, some people crash the party. But it was pretty ... I was understood that they were raising money and they provided a program for people who were interested in contributing and attended.

Bill McBean: I assume; part of that program was access to certain people.

Mike Feeley: I think ... Yeah, I guess. I had some nice conversations, I forget the name of the governor from Connecticut. I forget his name, but I had a nice conversation with him after one of the panels, because I found him interesting. I guess there was some access, yeah.

Bill McBean: I mean not certainly for you, but I mean for representatives of corporations and their interest in the state where the governors came from.

Mike Feeley: I think you could make a request to speak with the governor if they have that time, they were gracious enough to honor the request.

Bill McBean: What are your clients says, they asked that talk to Hickenlooper.

Mike Feeley: That's correct.

Bill McBean: Yeah. Were you there for that conversation?

Mike Feeley: Yes, I was.

Bill McBean: Was it about a fix for this management system?

Mike Feeley: Not specifically, no.

Bill McBean: Okay. They were just offering their expertise to the state?

Mike Feeley: Yeah. They were talking about ... They're new to the market in Colorado and they've got a lot of ... They come out of the private sector with solutions, data solutions, analytics. They're moving in to the public sector markets, so they discussed a number of analytic solutions that they have available. They're very cutting-edge and the governor was interested in hearing what that business was

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like these days. But there wasn't a specific program I think. I don't remember if there was a specific program that we talked about or specific solution for an applicable Colorado problem.

Bill McBean: Give me one reason, I thought of that was because it's been in the headlines lately that they get raised for money on the benefits management.

Mike Feeley: Yeah, and SAS is not in that business.

Bill McBean: Oh, I see. Okay.

Mike Feeley: Yeah.

Bill McBean: Pretty good. That's not really [inaudible 07:42] to what we're talking about even, but I was just curious.

Mike Feeley: That's a system that never seems to get fixed.

Bill McBean: It's not going to get fixed at all. It's just go on and on and on. How do you think Hickenlooper ended up as co-host of the event? How did that process go? Do you have any idea?

Mike Feeley: Not really. I think I was under the impression that all of the governors who attended were designated as co-hosts.

Bill McBean: Oh, really?

Mike Feeley: I think that's what I remember.

Bill McBean: Okay.

Mike Feeley: I think it's because they wanted to highlight, at least the DGA want to highlight the governors of attendance and hopes that they would be a draw on a greater participation. I think they were all designated as co-host. I could be wrong about that.

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Bill McBean: Okay. If you brought on to think that, for instance, that Hickenlooper thought that he was going to get ... be co-host because he can get more money for his [fall 09:00] campaign or that he could be co-host because he had natural aspirations or something like that?

Mike Feeley: Yeah. I don't know how that ... I don't think so. They certainly never suggested that to us, to me.

Bill McBean: It's nothing you ever heard of, right?

Mike Feeley: No.

Bill McBean: Okay. All right.

Mike Feeley: I think the DGA helps out in the governor's raises and I hope they're helping Governor Hickenlooper, but I never heard anything specific about it.

Bill McBean: They didn't in 2010.

Mike Feeley: They didn't help?

Bill McBean: Not that I saw. I mean ...

Mike Feeley: Really? That's too bad. Well, He won. I mean ...

Bill McBean: But will they help directly? Would it be obvious or would they help some kind of back-door method?

Mike Feeley: Yeah, I think probably. Knowing a little bit about the business, they would probably help through some indirect method. They probably would provide staff support or something they unlikely they rate a check to his campaign. They might do an independent expenditure. I think both the DGA and the RGA have done that in the past. They might ...

Bill McBean: [Expenditure 10:21] you mean?

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Mike Feeley: They might do an election communication. They might pay for a separate advertising of some sort or they could provide some guidance or expertise, pay for an employee or something like that, that would have to be reported. But I don't think they just random check and say, "Here you go."

Bill McBean: Okay. All right. They certainly given large amounts to other governors occasionally when they saw those governors were in real problem.

Mike Feeley: That doesn't surprise me but I guess Hickenlooper was in trouble in 2010.

Bill McBean: No, no. I doubt he's going to in trouble this time.

Mike Feeley: Me too.

Bill McBean: I mean, quite surprise, I think.

Mike Feeley: Yeah.

Bill McBean: Did you consider the event ... It was mainly a fund-raising affair right now, mainly a policy affair?

Mike Feeley: Yes and no. Actually, the programs they put on are really very good. I think they did go on ... that SAS was interested in on development of technology systems and state government and they had some experts. I know they did go to an oil and gas and I didn't have a client on that, but I sat in on it because the panels consist of the governors and then subject-matter experts. The discussions are really pretty good, I think that generally, it's a fund-raising effort. But I think that they actually engender, really high-level, good quality discussion on a number of subjects.

I know that some people, because they ended "Okay, we're clearing this for amount because we're going to have the energy thing in half-an-hour" or something like that. They were good, I sat through the oil and gas one even though I have no direct interest in it. There were a couple of oil and gas drillers, there were protesters outside [uncracking 12:43] the building. There were some governors have been talking about how they're dealing with drilling regulations.

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At that point in time, I don't think Hickenlooper was on that panel, but I know that we were involved in the air quality of the air drilling rigs. Just had an interest in it when I was there, so I sat in. It was pretty good.

Bill McBean: Did all the governors there contribute to the content of the policy of Hicken's?

Mike Feeley: I think so. I think they all participated in the panels, yes.

Bill McBean: And brought content with...

Mike Feeley: Yes, yes.

Bill McBean: Okay. Because the Colorado [auditor's 13:22] office thought about three panels I think. I couldn't imagine the whole, that's just been those three panels. I've heard so much more since then that I ... Where these content come from?

Mike Feeley: Yeah.

Bill McBean: Okay. That answer some questions for me too. I appreciate that. As far as you know, did Hickenlooper personally hit-up ahead of your clients for money for the DGA or for his own campaign?

Mike Feeley: He did not. No.

Bill McBean: Because he said he was fund-raising for the DGA and it was act of the fund-raising, but didn't get your [inaudible 14:14].

Mike Feeley: Not for himself, no. I don't even think he ... FedEx was there and they demand a meeting with the governor, but I think they contributed in their client and mine and SAS was there. But I don't think I know that governor Hickenlooper never personally made any request at all.

Bill McBean: Okay, all right. The reason you attended the conference, I got it was potential clients were there, is that right?

Mike Feeley: Yes.

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Bill McBean: All right. I think that's about all I have to ask you, Mike

Mike Feeley: Sure.

Bill McBean: Thank you for taking your time.

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