
LOS ANGELES CITY ETHICS COMMISSION
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**Ethics Commission Imposes Fines Totaling
\$35,000 In Two Money Laundering Cases**

The Los Angeles City Ethics Commission acted unanimously today to fine two individuals who engaged in political money laundering during the 2009 City elections. In the first case, the commissioners approved a stipulation imposing a penalty of \$15,000 against Cindy Baek (Baek) for soliciting and reimbursing business acquaintances who made contributions in their names to the Villaraigosa for Mayor 2009 Committee. Baek reimbursed six contributions totaling \$6,000 that were made on June 19 and June 20, 2008.

In the second case, the commissioners approved a stipulation imposing a fine of \$20,000 against Young Ran Kim for also laundering political contributions to the Villaraigosa for Mayor 2009 Committee. Kim solicited and illegally reimbursed friends and family members for eight contributions totaling \$8,000 made in their names between June 19 and June 24, 2008.

City law expressly prohibits contributions that are made in the name of anyone other than the true source of the funds, because such contributions circumvent the City's campaign contribution limits and deprive the public of information about who financially supports City candidates.

"Political money laundering is among the most egregious violations of the City's campaign finance laws," said Neama Rahmani, the Ethics Commission's Director of Enforcement. "The Commission affirms its commitment to the investigation of money laundering and enforcement against offenders."

All fines imposed by the Ethics Commission are paid to the City's general fund. Copies of enforcement actions and related decisions and orders can be obtained through the Ethics Commission's website or by calling the Ethics Commission offices.

The City Ethics Commission was created by Los Angeles voters in 1990 to impartially administer and enforce the governmental ethics, campaign financing, and lobbying laws of the City of Los Angeles.