

JUDICIAL PANEL
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

ANDREW JACKSON and SOPHIE CHANG

Plaintiff

v.

STEPHEN POST and LAUREN TODD

Defendants

7 March 2017

In the matter of *Jackson & Chang v. Post & Todd*, the plaintiff alleges that the defendants have violated *Article II, Section C, Subsection 1.a.i* and *Article II, Section C, Subsection 2.b.i* of the Undergraduate Student Government Election Bylaws.

II.C.1.a.i

“Online ledgers must be updated daily beginning on the first day of official candidacy.”

II.C.2.b.i

“Internal organizational and operational expenditures shall be included in a campaign’s value.”

It was brought to the attention of the Judicial Panel through the litany of evidence presented by the plaintiff that the defendants had neglected to keep an accurate campaign value report (CVR) (this includes using items to influence votes that were not on their CVR, buying items for internal operations without reporting them on their CVR, inaccurately reporting fair market values for some items, etc.) More specifically, the plaintiff alleged 15 bylaw violations.

Held: The Judicial Panel finds that the Defendants are in violation of both *Article II, Section C, Subsection 1.a* and *Article II, Section C, Subsection 2.b* of the Undergraduate Student Government Election Bylaws. More specifically, the Judicial Panel held 4 out of the 15 presented violations. Both of these bylaws deal with the content of a campaign’s CVR and postulate that (in the case of the former) online ledgers must be updated daily beginning on the first day of official candidacy, and (in the case of the latter) that internal organizational and operational expenditures are to be included in a campaign’s value report.

The Judicial Panel found that the Goldfish crackers and water bottles purchased by the Post and Todd campaign for the purpose of internal distribution (whether or not those were distributed to potential voters with the intention of influencing a voting decision was not sufficiently substantiated with tangible evidence) violated both of the aforementioned bylaws. For this reason the Judicial Panel finds the defendants’ guilty of both 1) not maintaining an updated ledger and 2) not including internal expenditures on that ledger. The Goldfish and water bottles were not included on the public CVR, thus violating both of the aforementioned bylaws.

The Judicial Panel orders that a fine be imposed equal to the \$100 per bylaw violation (i.e., \$200) and, additionally, the fair market value price for the Goldfish and water bottles in question (calculated via Amazon to be \$57.51). This amount (\$257.51) must be deducted from the defendants’ campaign spending limit.

It is so ordered.

Signed: The Judicial Panel

Majority:

As Written By Ryan C. Moore and Michael W. Branum

Chief Justice Seth Lamp, Presiding

Justice Ryan Moore

Justice Nasra Warsame

Justice Justin Stover

Justice Michael Branum