



NONPROFIT LAW BULLETIN

To: Clients and Friends of the Firm

From: Michael D. Schley

Date: March 5, 2010

Re: **California Attorney General Enforcing Charity Registration Requirements**

Reply to
our Santa Barbara Office:
311 E. Carrillo Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
T: 805-966-2940
F: 888-453-1535

The California Attorney General is the “Registrar of Charitable Trusts” and is the primary regulator of all charities operating in California. The AG can prosecute charities and related persons for insider self-dealing transactions, can enforce the terms of charitable gifts, regulates charitable fundraising, and has other broad regulatory and enforcement powers.

Every charitable corporation, trust or unincorporated association receiving charitable gifts must register with the AG’s Registry of Charitable Trusts (<http://www.ag.ca.gov/charities>) and must renew its registration annually.

The AG’s office recently reported that it knows of some 40,000 charities that have not properly registered or made annual renewal or termination filings. The AG is beginning to enforce these requirements. Enforcement may result in administrative dissolution of a charity, which would end its legal authority to operate in California, or in other sanctions.

The AG is currently not imposing penalties or late fees for charities that wish to bring their status current. **This is an opportune time for every charity to confirm that it is current in its AG filings and to take any steps necessary to cure any deficiencies.**

You can quickly check the status of your organization’s registration at [this website](#).

We would be glad to assist with more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael D. Schley", is written over a light blue horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Michael D. Schley