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8 **BEFORE THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON**

9 In Re: The Matter of Enforcement Action  
10 Against:

11 COURTNEY BLATZ,  
12 Respondent.  
13 \_\_\_\_\_

PDC CASE NO. 86668  
ORDER ON REQUEST FOR  
REVIEW

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15 This matter was heard remotely by the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission  
16 (Commission) on May 27, 2021, by telephonic and online streaming access. Respondent  
17 Courtney Blatz requested review of the Presiding Officer's Order issued on April 21, 2021,  
18 following a Brief Enforcement Hearing (Brief Adjudicative Proceeding) in this matter. The  
19 hearing was held in accordance with Chapters 34.05 and 42.17A RCW, and Chapter 390-37  
20 WAC.

21 Commissioners present both telephonically and online were Fred Jarrett, Commission  
22 Chair (presiding); Nancy Isserlis, Commission Vice-Chair; and Commissioners William  
23 Downing and Russ Lehman. Also present both telephonically and online were Assistant  
24 Attorney General John S. Meader representing the Commission, Assistant Attorney General  
25 Chad Standifer representing PDC Staff, and Tabatha Blacksmith, PDC Compliance Coordinator.  
26 Notice was provided to the Respondent and she appeared on her own behalf. The proceeding

1 was open to the public as limited by Governor's Proclamation 20-25 and recorded.

2 The Commissioners had before them the following materials:

- 3 1. Case memorandum dated May 27, 2021, prepared by Tabitha Townsend, PDC
- 4 Compliance Coordinator;
- 5 2. Brief Enforcement Hearing Notice dated March 8, 2021;
- 6 3. Initial Order Imposing Fine, entered April 21, 2021;
- 7 4. Invoice, dated April 27, 2021;
- 8 5. Respondent's request for review, dated April 28, 2021;
- 9 6. Screen print of profile, contract updates, and L-2 filings as of April 28, 2021;
- 10 7. Initial Order Review Enforcement Hearing Notice, dated May 14, 2021.
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## 12 **I. FINDINGS OF FACT**

13 The matter involved Respondent's request that the Commission review an Initial Order  
14 issued on April 21, 2021, resulting from an Initial Hearing on April 1, 2021, regarding Courtney  
15 Blatz, a Registered Lobbyist in the State of Washington during calendar year 2020. The  
16 Presiding Officer at the Brief Adjudicative Proceeding found Ms. Blatz in violation of RCW  
17 42.17A.615 for failure to timely file monthly lobbying reports (L-2 Reports) no later than the  
18 15<sup>th</sup> of each month for the prior month's activities. At the April 1, 2021, Brief Enforcement  
19 Hearing, an Order imposing a \$900 penalty was entered, with \$450 suspended, which the  
20 Respondent now requests the Commission review.

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22 1. Courtney Blatz was a Registered Lobbyist in Washington State during the  
23 calendar year 2020. The Respondent has no prior violations with the PDC.

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25 2. On March 8, 2021, PDC staff mailed and emailed the Respondent a hearing  
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1 Notice for a Brief Adjudicative Proceeding (Brief Enforcement Hearing) to be held on  
2 April 1, 2021. The hearing notice was sent to the Respondent's physical address and  
3 email address of record.

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5 3. At the Brief Enforcement Hearing held on April 1, 2021, the Respondent was  
6 found in violation of RCW 42.17A.615 due to not timely filing the missing L-2 reports  
7 for April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, and December, and  
8 was assessed a \$900 penalty with \$450 suspended, consistent with WAC 390-37-143,  
9 the Brief Enforcement Hearing penalty schedule adopted by the Commission.

10 4. On April 21, 2021, the Respondent was served with the Initial Order from the  
11 April 1, 2021, Brief Enforcement Hearing via mail and email to the address on file with  
12 the PDC.

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14 5. On April 27, 2021, the Respondent was served with the official invoice for the  
15 \$900 civil penalty, with \$450 suspended, via email.

16 6. On April 28, 2021, the Respondent contacted the PDC, by telephone and email,  
17 and requested review of her Initial Order from the April 1, 2021, hearing. The  
18 Respondent's request for review stated that her employment as a lobbyist terminated in  
19 April, 2020; that she was unaware of any filing requirements after her employment was  
20 terminated; she claimed financial hardship as she has been unable to find employment  
21 due to COVID restrictions; and that she did not receive the mailed version of the  
22 notices and the email versions were redirected to her junk mail box.

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24 7. On April 28, 2021, the Respondent filed the April, 2020, L-2 report and  
25 amended the existing L-1 contracts to reflect her termination as of April, 2020.  
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1. As a result of Respondent's termination as a Registered Lobbyist in April, 2020, and after consideration of the mitigating and aggravating factors, the Findings of Fact, and the Conclusions of Law, the \$900 civil penalty, with \$450 suspended, assessed at the April 1, 2021, Initial Hearing is VACATED. This Amended Order will be the Final Order.

WASHINGTON STATE PUBLIC  
DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

~~Frank Corbett~~

Courtney Blatz, Respondent  
1415 NE Ravenna Blvd. Apt. 405  
Seattle, WA 98105  
courtneyblatz@gmail.com

I, Tabitha Townsend, certify that I emailed a copy of this order to the Respondent at his respective email address.

Date June 18, 2021

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2 **NOTICE: RECONSIDERATION**

3 Pursuant to the provisions of RCW 34.05.470 and WAC 390-37-150, you may file a Petition for  
4 Reconsideration with the PDC within ten (10) days from the date this Final Order is served upon  
5 you. Any Request for reconsideration must state the specific grounds for the relief requested.  
6 Petitions must be delivered or mailed to the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission,  
7 711 Capitols Way, Room 206, Box 40908, Olympia WA 98504-0908.

8 **NOTICE: PETITION FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW**

9 You have the right to appeal this Final Order to Superior Court, pursuant to the Petition for  
10 Judicial Review provisions of RCW 34.05.542. Any Petition for Judicial Review of this Final  
11 Order must be filed with the court and also served upon both the Commission and the Office of  
12 the Attorney general within thirty (30) days after the date this Final Order is served upon you.  
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