

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters agrees to request to settle “Savage v. Tweedy” lawsuit

Kent, Washington May 16, 2014- The Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters has agreed to the request of the Plaintiffs to settle the lawsuit filed by four members of Local Union 156 against the Regional Council, the UBC, and EST Doug Tweedy. The “Savage v. Tweedy” lawsuit stemmed from Internal charges filed against members of Local 156, by members of Local 156 for discrimination and illegally using the union hall, a union asset, for the purposes of campaigning for elected office. These charges were found to have merit by the duly elected Executive Committee of the Regional Council. Therefore these charges moved to the next step and the members who used union assets for the purposes of campaigning for office were found guilty by a trial committee comprised of their peers, and the trial committee’s ruling was upheld by the duly elected Delegate body. Those members then appealed to the UBC International where the verdict, and penalties were upheld for a fourth time. The Department of Labor also found the charges and penalties valid. Three of those found guilty through four internal Union processes opted to sue the Regional Council, the UBC, and EST Doug Tweedy personally.

While the Plaintiffs’ side in this lawsuit admitted in court records a number of times that they knew discrimination and the phone banking was illegal and they chose to do it anyway, the Federal Court ruled against the Regional Council-and only the Regional Council- on a technicality. The court stated the original charges were defective because they did not cite the relevant Labor Management Reporting Disclosure Act provisions that the phone bankers violated. Those provisions that were violated were Section 401(c)- for discriminating in the use of the Local’s membership list, and Section 401(g)- which states it is illegal to use the union hall, and other union assets, to conduct campaigning for union office.

There has been absolutely no finding of liability against the UBC International or EST Doug Tweedy personally. Doug Tweedy, the Regional Council, and the UBC International have maintained their position denying any and all liability throughout this process.

The Regional Council was approached by the Plaintiffs after the ruling against the Regional Council on the above mentioned technicality, and requested a settlement. The Regional Council, the UBC International, and EST Doug Tweedy’s consistent position throughout the lawsuit is that they were unwilling to settle the case if it meant paying Plaintiffs any members’ money. The Regional Council’s insurance company urged the Regional Council to settle, and agreed to pay the entire settlement amount. We estimate the Plaintiffs’ attorney fees to be in excess of \$1,000,000--our insurance company paid out \$306,000—not even one-third.

“The most unfortunate part is that this process is that it deviated Council resources from the most important thing, which is service to our members and securing more work for UBC members,” says EST Doug Tweedy. “We are happy this is behind us. The Council can stop using time, money, and resources to defend itself against these accusations, and move forward using those same resources on securing more work for our brother and sister Carpenters,” continues Tweedy.

The case in reference is: Peter Savage, Cliff Puckett, V. Michael Wallace, and Gabriel Triplett v. Tweedy et al., No. 3:12-cv-01317-HZ (D. Or.).

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