

## **EXHIBIT A**

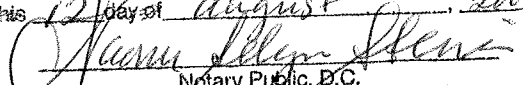
Affidavit of Carlo A. Bell

1. I was employed at Venice Nissan Dodge in Sarasota, Florida from 2001 through 2007.
2. On September 15, 2005, while I was serving as Venice Nissan Dodge's finance director, Don Caldwell, the general manager for the company and my direct supervisor, called me into a meeting in the office of Jack Prater, Dodge sales manager. Also present was Jason Martin, Dodge finance manager and Mr. Caldwell's nephew.
3. Mr. Caldwell shut the door to the office and told the three of us that we needed to contribute to the campaign of Vern Buchanan, who was then running for Congress in Florida's 13<sup>th</sup> congressional district. Mr. Caldwell was holding cash in his hand at the time and said that the company would reimburse us for our contributions. He explained that the company would give us \$1,000 cash in exchange for our writing \$1,000 checks to the campaign.
4. I told Mr. Caldwell that this did not seem right to me and asked him if it was legal. Mr. Caldwell did not answer my question, instead asking me if I was on the team or not. I sat quietly for a minute looking at Mr. Caldwell who stared back at me, waiting for my answer. Afraid that I might lose my job if I refused, I replied yes, I was a part of the team and agreed to write the check.
5. Mr. Caldwell handed me \$1,000 in cash. Neither Mr. Prater nor Mr. Martin spoke, but Mr. Caldwell handed them \$1,000 in cash as well, which they accepted.
6. After leaving the office, I discussed the matter with Mr. Prater and Mr. Martin and we all agreed that taking \$1,000 in cash for writing checks to the campaign seemed wrong, but we were all afraid that refusing to do so might endanger our employment with Venice Nissan Dodge.
7. The day after Mr. Caldwell gave me the \$1,000, I made a cash deposit to my bank in the amount of \$960, but kept the other \$40. The day of the deposit, I wrote a check to the Buchanan campaign and handed it to Mr. Caldwell. Copies of the deposit slip verifying the \$960 deposit and my check to the Buchanan campaign are attached.
8. I later discovered that two other Venice Nissan Dodge employees, Marvin White, the used car manager, and William Mullins, a salesman, also received \$1,000 cash reimbursements when they agreed to write checks to the Buchanan campaign.
9. Prior to writing the check to the Buchanan campaign, I had never contributed to a political campaign and have not written checks to any other campaigns since that time.

I hereby attest, under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct.

  
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Carlo A. Bell

NAOMI SELIGMAN STEINER  
NOTARY PUBLIC DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
My Commission Expires June 30, 2011

Subscribed and sworn to before me, in my presence,  
this 12 day of August, 2008  
  
Notary Public, D.C.  
My commission expires June 30, 2011