



NEWS FROM THE FOOTBALL BOWL ASSOCIATION

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In Case You Missed It: Playoff PAC Leader Tied To Illegal Contributions

By Craig Harris
The Arizona Republic
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“The Arizona Republic found that [Matt] Sanderson, Playoff PAC’s key spokesman, also has a tie to the recent scandal at the Fiesta Bowl, in which the bowl confirmed that some employees were reimbursed for making campaign contributions, a potential felony.

Sanderson was [Senator John] McCain’s campaign-finance counsel from December 2007 to November 2008 and was responsible for making sure political contributions complied with Federal Election Commission regulations. McCain was one of the largest recipients of Fiesta Bowl employee donations.

In December 2009, The Republic disclosed the campaign financial irregularities, reporting that current and former Fiesta Bowl employees said they had been reimbursed by the bowl for making contributions to candidates.

Shortly thereafter, Playoff PAC filed a complaint asking the Arizona Secretary of State’s Office to investigate.

During the time Sanderson was on McCain’s campaign staff, two Fiesta Bowl employees gave \$1,000 to McCain’s campaign, campaign-finance records show. The bowl this year acknowledged employees were reimbursed for campaign contributions, which is illegal, and asked those who received the funds to return the money. From 2003 to 2010, McCain and his political-action committees received a total of at least \$27,300 from Fiesta Bowl employees, records show.

Sanderson never publicly called on McCain to disgorge the contributions despite filing the Arizona complaint, having close ties to McCain, and being the lawyer responsible for making sure campaign contributions to McCain were legal.

Sanderson said his hands were tied until it was evident the Fiesta Bowl contributions were tainted.”

To read the full article, visit: <http://bit.ly/q60Txd>