## Larry Owen's Bid for Ingham County Judgeship Raises Questions About Past Fundraising Practices, Says Michigan Chamber

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Most teenagers use their savings for their first car, a Florida trip for spring break, or future college expenses, but not Eric Hughey. This East Lansing student contributed \$3,200 in November, 2003, to Larry Owen's gubernatorial committee five years after Owen's unsuccessful 1998 campaign, observed the Michigan Chamber of Commerce.

Larry Owen, who is selling his \$1.785 million home in Clinton County, in order to move into Ingham County to run for Circuit Court Judge still has over \$31,000 in debts from his unsuccessful 1998 gubernatorial campaign. In addition, Owen has a 26-year-old debt of more than \$24,000 from his unsuccessful 1978 State Senate campaign in campaign finance reports filed earlier this year with the Secretary of State.

Eric Hughey is not the only person in the Hughey family to "max out" to Larry Owen's gubernatorial committee last year, noted Robert LaBrant, Senior Vice President at the Michigan Chamber of Commerce. "Hughey's sister Jennifer, an MSU college student, found enough in disposal income to contribute \$3,200 in March, 2003, to the Owen gubernatorial committee."

"In 2002, retirees Phyllis and Donald Hughey each contributed \$700 to the Owen Committee," LaBrant added. "In 2001, Phyllis and Donald Hughey contributed \$900 each to the Owen Committee. In 2000 Phyllis and Donald Hughey each contributed still another \$3,200 to the Owen Committee."

"As a candidate for judge, and as an attorney, Larry Owen no doubt is aware that the Michigan Campaign Finance Act prohibits a person from making a contribution to another person with the agreement or arrangement that the person receiving the contribution will then transfer that contribution to a particular candidate committee [MCL 169.244(1)]," observed LaBrant.

"Larry Owen has long been credited as one of Michigan's top political fund-raisers. During these past four years (2000-2003), Owen has further reinforced that reputation. Who else could coax two retires, a medical assistant, a retail salesman, a nurse, and even two students to max-out (\$3,400 or more) from their own personal funds for a failed gubernatorial campaign. It must be charisma," concluded LaBrant.

The Michigan Chamber of Commerce is a statewide business organization which represents more than 6,300 employers, trade associations and local chambers of commerce. The Michigan Chamber was established in 1959 to be an advocate for Michigan's job providers in the legislative, political and legal process.

Owen for Governor (Account #506769) Post 1998 Election Contributors

1999 Occupation
Mark Brewer \$200 Attorney

Edward Bruley \$200 Congressional Aide

Phil Hart Democratic Club
Martha Sowerby
United Steel Workers PAC
Local 271 BEW PAC
Christine Koch
\$700
\$100
\$100
\$100

\$2,800

2000

Phyllis Hughey \$3,200 Retired Donald Hughey \$3,200 Retired

Kenda Deschermeier \$1,700 Medical Assistant

Carla Zlowton \$1,700 Nurse

\$9,800

2001

Phyllis Hughey \$900 Retired
Donald Hughey \$900 Retired

\$1,800

2002

Phyllis Hughey \$700 Retired Donald Hughey \$700 Retired

Kenda Deschermeier \$1,600 Medical Assistant

Carla Zlowton \$1,600 Nurse

\$4,600

2003

Jennifer Hughey \$3,200 Student
Eric Hughey \$3,200 Student
Michael Deschermeier
Eric Ross \$3,000 Salesman
\$1,500 State Employee

\$10,900

SOURCE: Michigan Chamber of Commerce

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Web site: http://www.michamber.com/

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