

State of Nebraska

Accountability and Disclosure Commission

P.O. BOX 95086
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509
nadc.nebraska.gov



Centre Terrace, 1225 L St. #400
Phone (402) 471-2522
Fax (402) 471-6599

April 2, 2025

Carlos Servan
3800 C Steet
Lincoln, NE 68510

Re: C-2 Potential Conflict of Interest Statement

Dear Ms. Servan,

This will acknowledge receipt of a C-2, Potential Conflict of Interest Statement ("Statement"), which you filed with the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission ("NADC") on Tuesday, March 25, 2025. This will also acknowledge our telephone call about your Statement on March 20, 2025.

You are the Executive Director for the Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired ("NCBVI").

In your Statement, you pose two questions. First, you ask whether you and your wife may accept travel expenses. You explain that you have been asked to give a speech at the National Conference of the American Association of Museums. The speech is scheduled for May 8th in Los Angeles. Because the NCBVI has entered into a contract with an organization known as 3-D Photo/Works ("3-D"), the speech will address the nature of the NCBVI partnership with that organization.

3-D has offered to pay both your own and your wife's travel expenses for the trip to Los Angeles. In your case, we see no reason why you may not accept the travel expenses. You have advised us that the partnership with 3-D has been in existence for some time, and at the time of making the contract between 3-D and NCBVI, there was no agreement relating to 3-D providing travel expenses such as those referenced above, as part of the inducement to enter into the contract. Therefore, you may accept the travel expenses. Please remember to place their value on the appropriate portion of your 2025 C-1 Report.

However, with respect to your wife's travel expenses, there is a specific Statute within the NPADA which prohibits you from accepting the 3-D offer of travel expenses for her. We invite your attention to §49-14,101.01(4) and (5):

“(4) A public official shall not accept a gift of travel or lodging or a gift of reimbursement for travel or lodging if the gift is made so that a member of the public official's immediate family can accompany the public official in the performance of his or her official duties.

(5) A member of the immediate family of a public official shall not accept a gift of travel or lodging or a gift of reimbursement for travel or lodging if the gift is made so that a member of the public official's immediate family can accompany the public official in the performance of his or her official duties.”

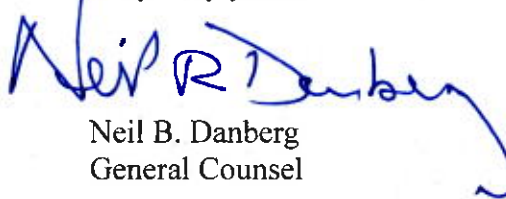
Based upon your Statement, we believe that the speech which you will be giving is related to your official duties. The term “immediate family member” is defined in §49-1425 to include your spouse. Therefore, we conclude that neither you nor your wife may accept the 3-D offer of travel expenses for your wife.

The second question which you pose in your Statement is whether you or NCBVI may accept a gift of a 3-D printed version of the cover of a book which you have authored. You note that the gift does not have a particular use: “..I believe that neither NCBVI nor I would find any practical use for the 3-D printed version of my book's cover.”

Under the circumstances, as you describe them, we conclude that either you or the NCBVI may accept the gift in question. To the extent that it is a gift to you and can be valued, consider whether to report it on your 2025 C-1 Statement of Financial Interests.

Thank you for your timely filing of the subject Statement.

Very truly yours,



Neil B. Danberg
General Counsel

NEBRASKA ACCOUNTABILITY AND DISCLOSURE COMMISSION P.O. Box 95086 Lincoln, NE 68509 (402) 471-2522 https://nadc.nebraska.gov	POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT NADC FORM C-2	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%; padding: 2px;">POSTMARK DATE</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">3/25/2025 EM S</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">OFFICE USE ONLY</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;"> RECEIVED MAR 25 2025 NEBRASKA ACCOUNTABILITY and DISCLOSURE COMMISSION </td> </tr> </table>	POSTMARK DATE	3/25/2025 EM S	OFFICE USE ONLY		RECEIVED MAR 25 2025 NEBRASKA ACCOUNTABILITY and DISCLOSURE COMMISSION																			
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BEFORE COMPLETING THIS FORM READ THE FILING REQUIREMENTS ON PAGE 3																										
- An official or employee of the executive branch of state government or any other official or employee required to file a Statement of Financial Interests (Form C-1) must file this form if he or she has a potential conflict of interest. - All other public officials who have a potential conflict of interest would file a Potential Conflict of Interest Statement Form C-2A. Additionally, any employee of a political subdivision whose annual salary and benefits exceed \$150,000 must file a Potential Conflict of Interest Statement Form C-2A if he or she has a potential conflict. - File this Potential Conflict of Interest Statement with the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission and with your immediate superior (if any) whenever a potential conflict of interest situation arises. - Persons who fail to disclose a potential conflict of interest or who otherwise do not comply with the law are subject to penalties.																										
ITEM 1	NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER																									
<table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%;">Name</td> <td style="width: 20%;">Serván</td> <td style="width: 20%;">Carlos</td> <td style="width: 20%;">R.</td> <td style="width: 30%;">Telephone No.</td> <td style="width: 10%;">402-429-4984</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Last</td> <td style="text-align: center;">First</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Middle</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Address</td> <td colspan="3">3800 C. Street</td> <td>Lincoln</td> <td>NE 68510</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td colspan="3">STREET ADDRESS OR RURAL ROUTE</td> <td>City</td> <td>STATE ZIP CODE</td> </tr> </table>			Name	Serván	Carlos	R.	Telephone No.	402-429-4984		Last	First	Middle			Address	3800 C. Street			Lincoln	NE 68510		STREET ADDRESS OR RURAL ROUTE			City	STATE ZIP CODE
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ITEM 3	DESCRIBE POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST IN DETAIL (Use Item 7 Continuation, if necessary)																									
Date action is to be taken or decision is to be made: <u>The sooner the better, by April 15, 2025.</u>																										
Description of Potential Conflict:																										

In early 2024, the Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (NCBVI) entered into a contract with 3D-PhotoWorks, which will run through June 2025. The goal of this partnership is to collaborate with Nebraska museums to enhance accessibility to art and science for blind individuals through the use of 3D technology and audio descriptions.

The first question pertains to a trip to California. The American Association of Museums will be hosting its National Conference in Los Angeles from May 6-10, and they've invited me to speak at the conference on the morning of May 8. I'll be discussing the partnership we developed in Nebraska. 3D-Photoworks is covering both mine and my wife's travel expenses for this event. I plan to arrive in Los Angeles the afternoon of May 7 and depart on the morning of May 9. I frequently give presentations like this to promote awareness of resources available to blind individuals and to help educate the public on the capabilities of the blind community. My question is whether having 3D-Photoworks pay for my wife's plane ticket could be perceived as a conflict of interest. I want to clarify that this is not a leisure trip; my wife will be assisting me with navigation during the conference, as I experience some difficulty with my left arm—the one I use for my cane.

The second question is regarding the acceptance of a symbolic gift. Recently, 3D-PhotoWorks learned that I authored a book a few years ago, and as a thoughtful gesture, they offered to donate a 3D-printed version of the book's cover to the agency. At the time, I was unsure of how to respond, as I did not want to seem impolite. However, I believe that neither NCBVI nor I would find any practical use for the 3D-printed version of my book's cover. I would like to clarify whether keeping this 3D version of the cover could be perceived as a conflict of interest. If it is, I will inform 3D-PhotoWorks and ask them to retrieve it.

Revised January 2025

ITEM 4 PERSONS WHO MAY RECEIVE FINANCIAL BENEFIT OR DETRIMENT

☒ You

☐ Member of your Immediate Family: _____
NAME

Business With Which You
☐ Are Associated (See Definitions) _____
NAME OF BUSINESS

ITEM 5 NATURE OF FINANCIAL BENEFIT OR DETRIMENT

I am not sure.

ITEM 6 FOR MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE ONLY

If you will not abstain from acting on a matter state why, despite the potential conflict, you intend to vote or otherwise participate.

ITEM 7	CONTINUATION
(SIGNATURE)	(DATE)