

A F S C M E

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

LOCAL 3299

August 1, 2007

Main Office / UC Berkeley
2201 Broadway Avenue,
Suite 315
Oakland, CA 94612
Ph: 510.844.1160
Fax: 510.844.1170

UC Davis Office
1900 28th Street
Sacramento, CA 95816
Ph: 916.457.7332
Fax: 916.457.7211

UC Irvine Office
1918 West Chapman Ave.,
Suite 205
Orange, CA 92868
Ph: 714.634.1449
Fax: 714.634.0705

UC Los Angeles Office
1085 Gayley Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90024
Ph: 310.824.0019
Fax: 310.824.0480

UC Riverside Office
1168 East La Cadena Drive #201
Riverside, CA 92501
Ph: 951.781.8158
Fax: 951.781.7034

UC San Diego Office
2561 First Avenue,
Suite C
San Diego, CA 92103
Ph: 619.296.0342
Fax: 619.702.8311

UC San Francisco Office
1360 9th Ave., #240
San Francisco, CA 94122
Ph: 415.566.6477
Fax: 415.566.6846

UC Santa Barbara Office
956 Embarcadero Del Norte #4
Goleta, CA 93117
Ph: 805.685.3760
Fax: 805.685.3270

UC Santa Cruz Office
201 Maple Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Ph: 831.425.4822
Fax: 831.316.0049

President Robert Dynes
University of California
1111 Franklin Street
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear President Dynes:

We are writing to express our outrage with the decision of the University of California to contract with the corporation Hill and Knowlton for public relation services. We are taken aback that the University would pay to accept recommendations and services from a corporation with the historical track record of representing some of the worst entities in the world.

Hill and Knowlton have been involved in extremely significant public relations campaigns in which the firm's clients have provided false information to the public and the government on such important matters as the dangers of smoking and the exposure to lead. For instance, it was Hill and Knowlton that the tobacco industry contracted with in the early 1950's to help form their defense of strategic public delay against emerging medical science that proved the health dangers of smoking. It was this immoral and deadly public relations strategy that led to creation of the Tobacco Institute and decades of misinformation to the public that would cause the unnecessary deaths of hundreds of thousands of people.

In 1981, as reported in the widely acclaimed book "Trust Us Were Experts", Hill and Knowlton once again represented those interested in disinformation at the cost of public health by attacking research, published by Dr. Herbert Needleman, demonstrating that children with lead-exposure were more likely to be hyperactive and suffer from attention deficit. Even after the Environmental Protection Agency adopted Dr. Needleman's research findings, Hill and Knowlton circulated misinformation on those findings to attempt to sway public opinion against the EPA and Dr. Needleman. Twenty years later, Dr. Needleman is recognized by those in public health and medicine as playing a key role in ensuring the adoption of environmental health protections that led to a five fold decrease in childhood lead poisoning in children by the early 1990s.

Unfortunately, Hill and Knowlton have not limited their services and strategic tactics to those in the area of health. They have represented some of the worst human rights abusing states in the world and received the Center for Public Integrity's number one ranking on their 1992 list, entitled "The Torturers Lobby". This listing reflected the fact that the firm received more than \$14 million in one year for public relations services provided to such states. Hill and Knowlton also holds the distinction of serving as the public relations firm for Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) after that firm was indicted by a

Letter to President Dynes

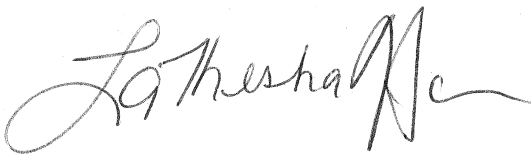
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federal grand jury in 1988 for conspiring with the Medellin Cartel to launder \$32,000,000 in illegal drug trafficking profits. Hill and Knowlton's efforts on behalf of BCCI lead to a report by United States Senators John Kerry and Hank Brown to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which concluded that Hill and Knowlton partners new of BCCI's reputation as a "sleazy" bank when it accepted the Bank as a client right after the federal indictments.

We find it unacceptable that the University of California, with its five public medical centers and teaching hospitals, would decide to have this great public institution associated with those that have worked for years to represent clients that misinformed the public about serious health risks. We call upon you to immediately sever all contracts for services with Hill and Knowlton and to issue a public apology to the people of California.

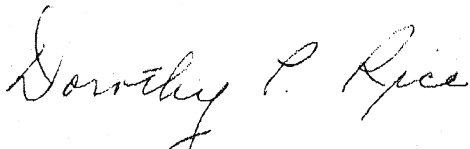
Sincerely,



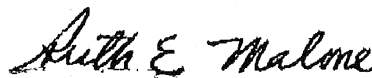
LAKESHA HARRISON
President
American Federation of
State, County &
Municipal Employees
Local 3299



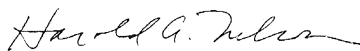
Geraldine Jenkins
Council of Presidents, President-Elect
California Nurses Association



Dorothy P. Rice, D.Sc. (Hon)
Professor Emerita
University of California, San Francisco



Ruth Malone
RN, PhD, FAAN
Professor & Vice Chair
Department of Social & Behavioral Sciences
School of Nursing
University of California, San Francisco



Harold A. Nelson
Torture Abolition and Survivors
Coalition International

Denise Adams-Sims, MPH
Executive Director
California Black Health Network

Cc: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Senator Diane Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi
President Pro Tem of the State Senate Don Perata

Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez

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State Senator Sheila Kuehl, Chair, Senate Health Committee

State Senator Jack Scott, Chair, Senate Education Committee

State Senator Leland Yee

Assemblyman Mervyn Dymally, Chair, Assembly Health Committee

Assemblyman Anthony Portantino, Chair, Assembly Higher Education Committee

Congresswoman Barbara Lee