

ATTORNEYS FROM CUMMINS & WHITE AND THE CABRERA FIRM COLLABORATE TO PROVIDE BI-PARTISAN POLITICAL & ELECTION LAW COUNSEL

Democrat Gil Cabrera and Republican Michael R.W. Houston Will Serve Clients in San Diego and Orange County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE...July 26, 2011...SAN DIEGO and NEWPORT BEACH, CALIF..Gil Cabrera, principal at The Cabrera Firm APC and past chair and commissioner of the City of San Diego Ethics Commission, and Michael R.W. Houston, a partner at Cummins & White LLP who specializes in political, election, and government ethics law, today announced a strategic partnership to provide bi-partisan political and election law counsel to clients in Southern California.

Houston is among a small group of California lawyers with an active political law, election law, and government ethics law practice. He recently joined Newport Beach-based Cummins & White and is leading the firm’s expansion into government agency law, election law, and land use. Cabrera heads a busy San Diego business and political law practice and has been actively involved in local politics. During his five-year tenure on the City of San Diego Ethics Commission, two of which were as chair, the commission successfully ramped up enforcement of campaign laws and oversaw an overhaul of the city’s lobbying and political disclosure rules.

According to Cabrera, the collaboration reflects a close working relationship between the attorneys, even though Cabrera is a Democrat and Houston is a Republican. “We have known each other for many years and share an interest in politics and law,” Cabrera said. “Despite being on opposite sides of the aisle, we get along well and understand that practicing bi-partisan political law will bring a comprehensive perspective to political and election issues. As a result, we will be better able to serve our clients in San Diego and beyond.”

Houston agreed that the strategic partnership would allow them to provide clients with a broad range of legal and political experience. “There is a strong need for political law attorneys who have highly sophisticated areas of expertise,” Houston said. “I am looking forward to seamlessly integrating with Gil’s established political law practice in San Diego. By combining complementary skills, judgment, and insight on both sides of the political spectrum, we will be able to provide wide-ranging and highly credible guidance and advocacy to our clients.”

Donna Frye, former San Diego City Council member, worked with Cabrera when he was chairman of San Diego’s Ethics Commission. According to Frye, “The bi-partisan nature of the approach, coupled with their extensive experience in political and election law will bring much needed expertise and professionalism that candidates, elected officials, and businesses in San Diego County can utilize.”

Barry Jantz, former La Mesa City Council member and chairman of San Diego’s East County Economic Development Council, has worked with Houston and Cabrera on past political issues and projects. According to Jantz, the strategic partnership brings together two talented professionals who can advise clients about key issues. “Their ability to assess realistic policy opportunities and provide bi-partisan counsel to companies and business groups, as well as candidates, will be critical in San Diego’s political environment.”

About Gil Cabrera/The Cabrera Firm

Gil Cabrera has been an attorney in San Diego for more than 12 years. He is the principal of The Cabrera Firm, which specializes in municipal, state, and federal election, lobbying, and political ethics laws. The firm also focuses on representing clients in dispute resolution, as well as providing outside general counsel services to companies and individuals needing more day-to-day legal assistance. Prior to forming The Cabrera Firm, Cabrera was a senior associate with Cooley, Godward, Kronish LLP and an associate with Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps LLP. Cabrera is active in San Diego politics. In addition to his work on the city’s Ethics Commission, he also served as the chair of the San Diego Chief of Police’s Use of Force Task Force. For more information, visit www.cabrerafirm.com.

About Michael Houston/Cummins & White

Michael R.W. Houston is a partner with Cummins & White LLP one of California’s leading business, insurance, and criminal defense law firms. Cummins & White, based in Newport Beach, is engaged in general civil litigation and transactional practices, including insurance coverage, business, estate and tax planning, healthcare, real estate, and liability defense. Houston is leading the firm’s expansion into government agency law, election law, and land use. Houston advises legislators, businesses, nonprofits, candidates, and public agencies on all areas of election law, campaign finance, initiative/referendum, and government ethics. He has litigated some of the most publicized election cases in California, including the 2007 Orange County election contest Ngyuen v. Ngyuen. Representative election law clients include Anaheim Mayor Tom Tait, the City of Napa, State Senator Tony Strickland, Wynn Resorts, and the 2008 Thompson for President Exploratory Committee. More information is available at www.cumminsandwhite.com.

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