

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee
May 26, 2009

[CONFIRMATION]

The Committee on Government, Military & Veterans Affairs met at 9:45 a.m. on Tuesday, May 26, 2009, in Room 1507 of the State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska, for a public hearing on gubernatorial appointments. Senators present: Bill Avery, Chairperson; Robert Giese; Charlie Janssen; Russ Karpisek; Rich Pahls; and Kate Sullivan. Senators absent: Pete Pirsch, Vice Chairperson; and Scott Price. []

SENATOR AVERY: Good morning. We have two more people to come yet, but we have a quorum. We have Kevin Brostrom. Is that how you pronounce it, Kevin?

[CONFIRMATION]

KEVIN BROSTROM: Brostrom. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR AVERY: Brostrom. On the phone. He is a nominee for the Accountability and Disclosure Commission. Kevin, we have with us Senator Kate Sullivan; Senator Russ Karpisek; Senator Bob Giese; Senator Charlie Janssen; and Senator Rich Pahls. We are missing Senator Scott Price and Senator Pete Pirsch. They are still on the floor, but they may join us later. [CONFIRMATION]

KEVIN BROSTROM: Okay. []

SENATOR AVERY: I'm going to start by asking you to just give us a little opening comment about your interest in this appointment and something about yourself.

[CONFIRMATION]

KEVIN BROSTROM: (Exhibit 1) Okay. Well, first of all, I'm an attorney in Grand Island, Nebraska. I practice with the law firm of Lauritsen, Brownell, Brostrom, and Stehlik for...since 1982. When I came out to Grand Island, I had a law degree from the University of Nebraska. I graduated from law school in 1980, and then I was a Deputy Hall County Attorney for about a year-and-a-half, and then with that, coming to a private firm, and I've been with this firm ever since. My interest in this is I've been involved in the political process in the past. I've been with the Nebraska Republican Party for quite a number of years now, but I also had a candidate committee myself. I ran for the Board of Education in Grand Island and was successful, served ten years, and I've been off the Board of Education in Grand Island since 1998. Also served as treasurer for at least one committee, I can remember, Emmett Arnett for Sheriff of Hall County, and he was likewise successful. And so I understand the procedure, I dealt with Frank Daley. I believe he was legal counsel when I was (laugh) (inaudible) in the past here, but I believe he's executive director now. But basically, I think I understand the process and think that I have something to contribute. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR AVERY: Okay. You practice family law and real estate law now?

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[CONFIRMATION]

KEVIN BROSTROM: Yeah, that's correct. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR AVERY: And you are Phi Beta Kappa from UNL. [CONFIRMATION]

KEVIN BROSTROM: I am, yes, I am, Senator. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR AVERY: But I don't believe you had any of my classes, did you?
[CONFIRMATION]

KEVIN BROSTROM: I don't believe so (laugh). (inaudible) employed by the university
till now so (laugh), obviously not. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR AVERY: Well, you were there from '73 to '77. I had just arrived (laugh).
[CONFIRMATION]

KEVIN BROSTROM: Okay, I wasn't (inaudible). [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR AVERY: Any questions from the committee? [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR PAHLS: I had just arrived too, but a different (inaudible)....
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR AVERY: Senator Pahls thinks that you're probably better educated because
of that (laughter). [CONFIRMATION]

KEVIN BROSTROM: Maybe so. (laugh) [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR AVERY: Well, let me start out by asking you, have you read the
Accountability and Disclosure Act? [CONFIRMATION]

KEVIN BROSTROM: I have read the act. I got through it in a really pretty hurried
fashion, but I know that there's some new things. When I was candidate committee, for
example, \$2,000 was the trigger. Now it's \$5,000. It's been updated and so forth, and
so, yes, I have been through the act. But I wouldn't say that I can answer questions on
every possible facet of it (laugh). [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR AVERY: You won't be asked questions of every facet. We are planning to do
an interim study of the Accountability and Disclosure Act. It's never been done. We want
to look at ways to improve it and perhaps get a better understanding of what's actually
in the law. Do you have any recommendations as to some of the things that we might
want to take up in that study? [CONFIRMATION]

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KEVIN BROSTROM: Not necessarily. It's a fairly lengthy act, as you're probably well aware of, and a lot of provisions, but, of course, it has to be, I think, probably pretty specific, the statute itself. So I actually think it's fairly well done and fairly well organized in the different sections. You know, ballot issues or candidate committees and that sort of thing, but I haven't looked at it from a critical standpoint. But I think it's fairly well done. It's fairly lengthy, but I think it has to be to give some specifics to, you know, what is required, and the legislatures through the years have done a pretty good job. I see some changes in there, and I think I know why some of the changes were made in statute (laugh). You know, there's one in there about...I believe it dealt maybe with a regent far out west, and maybe there's a new statute in there, an updated statute. But I think, overall, I think it looks the app looks pretty good. I mean, it's fairly well organized and I know you can look up the pertinent information that you need. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR AVERY: If you found the aspects of the act that you didn't particularly like or agree with, how do you think that might affect you on the commission when it came time to enforce those provisions? [CONFIRMATION]

KEVIN BROSTROM: Well, to be on a commission, you have to enforce the law, so whether I agree or disagree, you still have to do it accordingly, and I don't know if there's anything in there that's real controversial, you know, that I would disagree with. But if you have to apply the act, is that as the Legislature sent out. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR AVERY: Thank you. I have no more questions. [CONFIRMATION]

KEVIN BROSTROM: Okay. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR AVERY: Anybody else? [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KARPISEK: Kevin, this is Russ Karpisek. I was just going to say that Galen Stehlik and I share the same hometown, so if you need any dirt on him,... [CONFIRMATION]

KEVIN BROSTROM: Oh, Wilbur (inaudible). [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KARPISEK: Yeah, yeah (laugh). If you need some dirt, just call and. [CONFIRMATION]

KEVIN BROSTROM: I will do that (laugh). Okay. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KARPISEK: He's also...my stepsister is getting divorced, and he's on the husband's side, so I know that he's a good attorney (laughter). [CONFIRMATION]

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KEVIN BROSTROM: Okay. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KARPISEK: I told you this was an informal committee (laughter). It's true. I hear his name taken a little bit in vain around the house (laugh). [CONFIRMATION]

KEVIN BROSTROM: I would imagine. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KARPISEK: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

KEVIN BROSTROM: You bet. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR AVERY: Any other brilliant questions? (Laughter) Okay, we appear to be out of questions, Kevin. Thank you very much for coming on. [CONFIRMATION]

KEVIN BROSTROM: Thank you, Senator. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR AVERY: All right, we're going to hang up now. [CONFIRMATION]

KEVIN BROSTROM: Okay, take care. Have a great day. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KARPISEK: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR AVERY: Thanks. [CONFIRMATION]

KEVIN BROSTROM: You bet. Goodbye now. [CONFIRMATION]

Chairperson

Committee Clerk