

**STATE OF ALABAMA  
ETHICS COMMISSION**

**RSA UNION BUILDING  
100 NORTH UNION STREET, SUITE 104  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36104**

**MAILING ADDRESS  
P. O. Box 4840  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36103-4840**

**PHONE: (334) 242-2997  
FAX: (334) 242-0248**

**COMPLAINT**

**I. Complainant's Name** : FRANCIS PAUL RIPP / THE RIPP REPORT  
(Person making complaint)  
**Address** : 22985 HIGH RIDGE RD  
**City/County/State/Zip** : FAIRHOPE ALABAMA 36532  
**Home and Cell Phone** : 334-669-0497  
**E-mail address** : FPRIPP1@GMAIL.COM  
**Place of Employment** : THE RIPP REPORT, CONSUMER DES.  
**Employer's Address** : SAME AS ABOVE  
**City/County/State/Zip** : " - - "

**NOTE: PLEASE LIST ONLY ONE (1) RESPONDENT PER COMPLAINT FORM.**  
**PLEASE USE A NEW FORM FOR EACH ADDITIONAL RESPONDENT.**

**II. Respondent's Name and Title/Position Held** : MR. TOM ALBRITTON  
(Person against whom complaint is made)  
**Address** : 100 N UNION ST #104  
**City/County/State/Zip** : MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36104  
**Phone number** : 334 242 2997  
**Place of Employment** : DIRECTOR ALABAMA ETHICS COMMISSION  
**Date of Occurrence** : DURATION OF THE TRUST  
AND ANYTIME HE USED TRUST FOR HIS CHILDREN'S  
EDUCATION 2002-TO PRESENT.

**III. Statement of Facts:**

Please set forth, in detail, the specific charges against the Respondent and factual allegations which support such charges. The space provided below is not intended to limit your statement of facts. Please feel free to attach additional sheets if necessary. Please include relevant dates and the names and addresses of other persons you believe to have knowledge of the facts.

SPECIFIC BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE BELOW:

- ALABAMA RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT
- VIOLATED FIDUCIARY RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUST
- "SELF DEALING", IRS VIOLATION
- VIOLATION OF ETHICS LAWS
- VIOLATION OF ALABAMA BAR ETHICS (INCLUDED 3 PAGE STATEMENT)

Section 36-25-4(c) states: "Prior to commencing any investigation, the Commission shall: (1) receive a written complaint which sets forth in detail the specific charges against a respondent, and the factual allegations which support such charges."

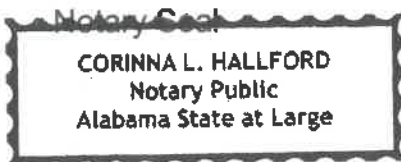
"The complaint may only be filed by a person who has or persons who have credible and verifiable information supporting the allegations contained in the complaint."

**IV.** I understand that by filing this complaint, I am requesting an investigation be conducted into the conduct described herein. I understand that a criminal prosecution could result from the findings of the investigation which could require my testimony before a grand jury and/or during trial. It is my intention to fully cooperate with the staff of the Alabama Ethics Commission in the investigation of this matter. I agree to testify, if needed, before the Alabama Ethics Commission or any other judicial body necessary about matters related to this complaint. I understand that my failure to fully cooperate in this investigation could result in the dismissal of this complaint.

I understand that this complaint is protected by and subject to Sections 12-16-214 to 12-16-216 of the Ala. Code (1975). I am aware that at the appropriate time this information may be available to the respondent or his/her attorney.

I hereby swear or affirm that the information on this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Complainant's Signature Francis Paul Rupp Date July 7, 07  
Notary's Signature Corinna L. Hallford Date July 7, 2021



Date Notary Commission Expires 06/12/2024

These four pages are submitted with the Ethics Complaint against Mr Tom Albritton, by The Ripp Report: Francis Paul Ripp

Ref: Mabel Amos Memorial Fund

~~9 KAR~~  
July 8 2021

I am submitting two articles that have been written about the self dealing of Ethics Commission Director Tom Albritton. The Lagniappe article, written by the Editor, Rob Holbert, of Lagniappe, was the cover story June 30th-July 6<sup>th</sup> edition. The article is broad in the scope, full of ethics violations, that Mr. Albritton violated, as an attorney, and Director of Ethics.

The Lagniappe article is the result of a whistle blower coming forward. The article on its own standing, should prompt the Ethics Commission to investigate any and all Ethical, legal or criminal actions of Mr Albritton. Lagniappe has around a 30,000 circulation with 80,000 readers

<https://lagniappemobile.com/self-dealing-ethics-directors-kids-tuition-paid-from-trust-he-oversees/>

The Ripp Report is a not for profit consumer organization written by myself, a blogger, not a journalist. The Ripp Report has more flexibility in our commentary and tends to spare the niceties in describing political corruption. Our dot com page and Facebook pages have around 18,000 readers.

<https://rippreport.com/2021/07/02/alabama-ethics-self-dealing-immunity/>

1. The Ripp Report has filed numerous complaints with the Ethics commission in the last dozen years. Complaints ranging from the BP Oil Spill involving Baldwin County's last State Senator, boom boom Pittman, who skimmed a cool \$750,000.00 for his personal "tractor" company, while being the trustee of the funds. Pittman had no contractors license, no marine experience and no marine insurance.
2. Pittman's Bible buddy, Fairhope Council President, Jack Burrell, and the lawyers, Airport board members and judges, who all were involved with what I call, bid-rigging, at the Fairhope Airport aka "Jack Burrell Airport." In this particular case the Ethics Commission was given false information in the Ethics Opinion Request, that the applicant submitted. When evidence was submitted as to the false statements, the Ethics Commission ignored any evidence and provided the Judge, Lawyer and Council president, with legal immunity.
3. Fairhope Councilman Robert Brown who also served on the Fairhope Art Center board, awarded himself a \$300,000.00 dollar plus contract. He recently abruptly quit the council, within 5 months of being elected. It would have taken a day and maybe a dozen phone calls, to confirm the allegations against Mr. Brown.
4. Bob Wills Mayor of Bay Minette and his bungalows? Good ole Bob must have taken a page out of Albrittons book of tricks. A Mayor who clearly uses his elected office to manipulate trust money to his direct personal advantage. The Ethics commission says the statute of limitations has lapsed on this complaint. What has not lapsed is Mayor Wills continues to benefit from the same bungalows.

The Ethics Commission found nothing wrong, everyone just collected his money and kept on trucking. All the above complaints involved Trusts or board members, Self-Dealing, using their positions for personal gain. All of these complaints should be re-visited. No wonder the Ethics Commission was handy out immunity like candy, their own director was making a mockery of any Ethics complaints filed, especially involving trusts or board members, "Self Dealing".

"The mission of the Ethics Commission is to foster integrity in public service in state, county and local government, to promote the public's trust and confidence in that service, and to prevent conflicts between private interests and public duties."

Please explain to the general public how the Ethics Commission mission statement applies to the Director of the Alabama Ethic Commission!

Mr. Albritton is a lawyer and Director of the Ethics Commission, bound by the Alabama Rules of Professional Conduct and the principals of the Ethics Commission. He should be well versed in "self dealing" Trusts and IRS requirements.

"The Internal Revenue Service Section 4941(d) description of self-dealing would appear to prohibit a trust from paying tuition or other expenses for a trustee's child or children, as that would directly benefit the trustee, referred to in the will as a "disqualified person."

"(1) In general for purposes of this section, the term "self-dealing" means any direct or indirect

— (A) sale or exchange, or leasing, of property between a private foundation and a disqualified person; (B) lending of money or other extension of credit between a private foundation and a disqualified person; (C) furnishing of goods, services or facilities between a private foundation and a disqualified person; (D) payment of compensation (or payment or reimbursement of expenses) by a private foundation to a disqualified person; (E) transfer to, or use by or for the benefit of, a disqualified person of the income or assets of a private foundation; and (F) agreement by a private foundation to make any payment of money or other property to a government official (as defined in section 4946(c)), other than an agreement to employ such individual for any period after the termination of his government service if such individual is terminating his government service within a 90-day period."

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agreement by a private foundation to make any payment of money or other property to a government official (as defined in section 4946(c)), other than an agreement to employ such individual for any period after the termination of his government service if such individual is terminating his government service within a 90-day period.”

“However, Albritton says the prohibitions against self-dealing weren’t broken because he didn’t actually cast a vote for his children’s school to be paid for by the trust. He says his decision not to vote for his kids’ scholarships essentially insulates him from any wrongdoing.”

What “INSULATES” him from wrong doing, is the Alabama Ethics Commission.

Mr Albritton had knowledge of the law and ethical standards, he was sworn to uphold, yet he continued to violate them. the law and ethics, Lagniappe:

“The trust began reporting things very differently in 2014, no longer listing individual scholarship recipients’ names on the 990, just their schools. That makes it difficult to determine who received scholarships or how long some recipients continued getting them, but the \$15,000 distribution to the University of Texas carried beside it a notation that said “Scholarship for Board Member Daughter.”

“Albritton was confirmed by the State Senate as executive director of the Alabama Ethics Commission in March 2015, and that same year, two of his children received \$15,000 scholarships to the University of Texas from the trust, according to 990 records. Overall, scholarships to Albritton’s children totaled \$105,000 between 2014 and 2018, which is the last year for which the trust’s 990s are available, so it is possible there was more scholarship money distributed to them.”

Mr. Albritton is sworn in as Director of the Ethics Commission, with his right hand, while he is using his left hand is skimming funds from the Mabel Amos Memorial Fund.

The Ethics Complaint Process lists 10 bullet points. Number six: It is strongly recommended and we encourage any Complainant not to discuss any matter filed with the Ethics Commission so not to jeopardize an on-going investigation.

The Ripp Report is a consumer group, not for profit, our mission statement involves informing the public of consumer issues and political corruption. The Ripp Report will reach out to our followers, approximately 18,000, and we intend to expose the complaint to our maximum ability.

The Ripp Report will continue to research the allegations against Mr. Albritton. We will file Bar Complaints and copy the Alabama Attorney General. We will follow this story into the 2022 elections. The Ripp Report will volunteer assistance, at no charge, to the Carmack family or any attorneys representing them.

Let me close by saying that the Ethics Commission, being led by Mr Albritton, is proof positive that the Ethics Commission is just a shield for crooked politicians. Mr. Albritton should be held responsible for



his actions and dismissed immediately. He should also refund any ill gotten gains back to the trust, \$105,000 that is listed, and any other monies he gleamed from clever "legal" fees, charges or scholarships. I fully expect more facts, and details to come to light and will not be surprised if all the "trustees" have been using their diplomas to steal. The trust should be in the hands of new appointed trustees, that are trust worthy.

It is the job of the Ethics Commission to investigate complaints and the information they contain. For the Ethics Commission to put the burden of proof on the whistle blower or complainant, is testimony to the incompetence and corrupt policies of the Alabama Ethics Commission. DO YOUR JOB!

THIS IS WHY ALABAMA IS FIRST IN THE NATION  
IN POLITICAL CORRUPTION

The Ripp Report

Francis Paul Ripp



Notary-----

State of Alabama  
County of Baldwin  
Subscribed and sworn/affirmed to before  
me this 07 day of July  
2021, by Francis Paul Ripp  
Corinna L. Hallford Notary Public  
My Commission Expires 06/12/2024

~~July 7, 2021~~

July 9, 2021



CORINNA L. HALLFORD  
Notary Public  
Alabama State at Large