



GENEVIEVE SHIROMA'S CONFLICTED CONNECTIONS

Agricultural Labor Relations Board member Genevieve Shiroma's **connections to the United Farm Workers union** raise questions over her impartiality.

Nowhere is Shiroma's impropriety more evident than in the \$130,000 she paid a UFW lobbyist.

THE PLAYERS

RICHIE ROSS



• Political consultant and lobbyist for UFW.¹

• Former UFW strike organizer.²

DARRELL STEINBERG



• Former employee rights attorney for the California State Employees Association.³

• California State Senate, 2006-2014³

• California State Assembly, 1998-2004³

GENEVIEVE SHIROMA



• ALRB board member, first appointed in 1999.⁴

• A major political donor, recently giving \$53,000 to causes and politicians.⁵

• SMUD elected director, elected 1999.⁴

• Donated eleven times to Sen. Darrell Steinberg's campaigns.⁶

SHIROMA - ROSS CONNECTIONS TO THE UNION SHE ADJUDICATES

GENEVIEVE SHIROMA

- While an ALRB board member, Shiroma hires UFW's Ross for communications consulting during her SMUD campaign.^{7,8}
- As SMUD President, Shiroma pays Ross **\$129,000** for political consulting.¹¹

RICHIE ROSS

- The same year, Ross works to pass a UFW-backed "mandatory mediation" law to give the ALRB power to impose government-written "contracts" on workers and farmers.^{9,10}

SHIROMA - STEINBERG CONNECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATOR WHO BACKS THE UNION

2001

Shiroma donates to Steinberg.⁶

2002

Steinberg co-authors UFW-sponsored "mandatory mediation" legislation to give the ALRB power to impose government-written "contracts" on workers and farmers.^{9,10}

2003, 04, 05

Shiroma donates to Steinberg again.⁶

2006

Steinberg endorses Shiroma for SMUD board.¹²

2011, SEPTEMBER

Steinberg sponsors yet another UFW-backed bill to give the UFW and ALRB more power to force government-written "contracts" on workers and farmers.¹³

2011, AUGUST

Steinberg is chairman of the Senate Rules Committee when it unanimously approves Shiroma's appointment as ALRB Chairperson.¹⁴

2007

Shiroma donates to Steinberg again.⁶

2011, OCTOBER

Shiroma donates to Steinberg again.⁶

2014

Steinberg sponsors yet a third UFW-backed bill which would have expanded the ALRB's power to impose government-written "contracts."^{15,16,17,18}

2016

Shiroma endorses Steinberg in his campaign to be mayor of Sacramento.¹⁹

SHIROMA IS A JUDGE

2016

38%



Shiroma is allowed to vote on whether she should be recused from the Gerawan Farming case, which consumes 38% of the ALRB's budget. That amounts to \$10.7 million, or more than **\$4,000 for each of the 2,600 ballots cast** in 2013 by workers in a vote whether to decertify the UFW.²⁰



Because ALRB members act as judges for California's agricultural workers, under California law they are subject to the same high ethical standards.

WHY WAS GENEVIEVE SHIROMA ALLOWED TO IGNORE THESE STANDARDS?



The California Government Code states that a board member whose impartiality has been challenged cannot sit in judgment over their own disqualification. Shiroma did.²¹



Judges are required to avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety in both their personal and professional lives. The **"appearance of impropriety" in Shiroma's political alliances with Ross and Steinberg is unmistakable.**²²



Judges must have a decision over a disqualification motion for involved parties before deciding any other matters before them. **Shiroma continued to decide substantive matters before the decision was made.**²³



Judges are required to conduct all extrajudicial activities so that they do not cast reasonable doubt on the judge's capacity to act impartially. **Shiroma's political donations cast obvious doubt on her impartiality.**²²



Judges cannot engage in political activity that is inconsistent with the independence and impartiality of the judiciary, and there are clear limits on the amounts judges are allowed to donate. **Shiroma is an active political donor, giving to candidates and causes allied with the UFW.**²²

This infographic was compiled by **GERAWAN FARMING** using facts referenced in the footnotes.

DOCUMENTS AND SOURCES

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² "Like Racehorses, Political Jockeying Costs Money," George Skelton, June 10, 2002, Los Angeles Times
³ Darrell Steinberg, Wikipedia
⁴ Genevieve Shiroma, LinkedIn. Retrieved June 13, 2016
⁵ Contributor Report, California Secretary Of State Cal-Access Database
⁶ Campaign Finance: SHIROMA, GENEVIEVE, California Secretary Of State Cal-Access Database
⁷ Schedule E Payments Made, Genevieve Form 460, Oct. 20-Dec. 31, 2002, California Secretary Of State Cal-Access Database
⁸ "High stakes in Yolo energy fight, Annexation plan gives SMUD chance to expand, while PG&E stands to lose substantial base," Robert D. Dávila, Jan. 22, 2006, Sacramento Bee
⁹ SB 1736, California State Senate Bill, Enrolled 2002
¹⁰ SB 1156, California State Senate Bill, Enrolled 2002
¹¹ Fair Political Practices Commission, Form 460 California Secretary Of State Cal-Access Database, 2006
¹² "Additional Endorsements for Genevieve A. Shiroma," Nov. 7, 2006 election
¹³ Bill Analysis, SB 126, California State Senate, 2011
¹⁴ Senate Rules Committee Hearing, California State Senate, Aug. 24, 2011
¹⁵ "Assembly narrowly passes Steinberg's farm worker contract bill," Melody Gutierrez, Aug. 19, 2013, Sacramento Bee
¹⁶ "In cahoots with union, state crushes farmworkers," Steven Greenhut, Sept. 24, 2014, Human Events
¹⁷ "Steinberg Bill Would Triple Size Of UFW," Katy Grimes, July 3, 2013, Families Protecting the Valley
¹⁸ "Shock and Awe! Gov. Brown Vetoes UFW-Backed Bill," Katy Grimes, Sept. 29, 2014, FlashReport
¹⁹ Darrell Steinberg for Mayor of Sacramento 2016 | Genevieve Shiroma
²⁰ "ALRB Spends \$10 Million Taxpayer Dollars To Silence Farmworkers," Infographic, Gerawan Farming
²¹ Chapter 5. Administrative Adjudication: Formal Hearing - California Government Code Section 11512(c)
²² California Code of Judicial Ethics
²³ Code of Civil Procedure 170.3(c)(5), California Legislative Information