

LOBBYING REPORT

Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (Section 5) - **All Filers Are Required To Complete This Page**

1. Registrant Name:

BLANK ROME LLP

2. Address:

600 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVE NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20037

3. Principal place of business (if different from line 2):

4. Contact Name: REBECCA SOUTH

Telephone: 202-944-3000

E-mail (optional): SOUTH@BLANKROME.COM

Senate ID #: 89133-1597

House ID #: 31577036

7. Client Name: Self

LAKE EXPRESS

TYPE OF REPORT

8. Year 2004 Midyear (January 1 - June 30): **OR** Year End (July 1 - December 31):

9. Check if this filing amends a previously filed version of this report:

10. Check if this is a Termination Report: => Termination Date: _____ 11. No Lobbying Activity:

INCOME OR EXPENSES

Complete Either Line 12 **OR** Line 13

12. Lobbying Firms

INCOME relating to lobbying activities for this reporting period was:

Less than \$10,000:

\$10,000 or more: => Income (nearest \$20,000): _____

Provide a good faith estimate, rounded to the nearest \$20,000, of all lobbying related income from the client (including all payments to the registrant by any other entity for lobbying activities on behalf of the client).

13. Organizations

EXPENSES relating to lobbying activities for this reporting period were:

Less than \$10,000:

\$10,000 or more: => Expenses (nearest \$20,000): _____

14. Reporting Method.

Check box to indicate expense accounting method. See instructions for description of options.

- Method A.** Reporting amounts using LDA definitions only
 Method B. Reporting amounts under section 6033(b)(8) of the Internal Revenue Code
 Method C. Reporting amounts under section 162(e) of the Internal Revenue Code

Registrant Name: BLANK ROME LLP Client Name: LAKE EXPRESS

LOBBYING ACTIVITY

Select as many codes as necessary to reflect the general issue areas in which the registrant engaged in lobbying on behalf of the client during the reporting period. Using a separate page for each code, provide information as requested. Attach additional page(s) as needed.

15. General issue area code: MAR (one per page)

16. Specific lobbying issues:

vessel financing issues.

17. House(s) of Congress and Federal agencies contacted:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Maritime Administration (MARAD)

SENATE

Transportation, Dept of (DOT)

18. Name of each individual who acted as a lobbyist in this issue area:

Name: ELLIS, JAMES B. II

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

Name: SALGADO, R. ANTHONY

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

Name: SHEHADEH, KARIM

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

19. Interest of each foreign entity in the specific issues listed on line 16 above. **None**

Signature: ON FILE Date: Feb 12, 2005

Printed Name and Title: JAMES B. ELLIS II - PARTNER