

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SESSION OF THE
JULY 23, 2019
COMMISSION MEETING
OF THE JOINT COMMISSION ON PUBLIC ETHICS
HELD AT
540 BROADWAY
ALBANY, NEW YORK**

Chair: Michael K. Rozen (NYC)

Members: Robert Cohen (NYC)
James E. Dering (ALB)
William P. Fisher (ALB)
Daniel J. Horwitz (NYC)
Marvin E. Jacob (NYC)
Gary J. Lavine (ALB)
James W. McCarthy (WebEx/FaceTime)
David J. McNamara (WebEx)
George H. Weissman (ALB)
James A. Yates (NYC)

Members

Absent: Colleen C. DiPirro
Julie A. Garcia

Staff: Monica J. Stamm, General Counsel
Martin L. Levine, Deputy General Counsel
Stephen J. Boland, Director of Administration
Keith C. St. John, Director of Ethics
Pei Pei Cheng-de Castro, Director of Investigations and Enforcement
Walter J. McClure, Director of Communications and Public Information Officer
Carol Quinn, Deputy Director of Lobbying
Emily Logue, Deputy Director of Investigations and Enforcement
Melinda Funk, Deputy Director of FDS
Michael Sande, Deputy Director of Ethics Guidance
Meghann Hennigan-Cohen, Deputy Director of Education
Erin Lynch, Special Counsel for Lobbying
Kavita Bhatt, Associate Counsel
Kristin Abreu, Associate Counsel
Patrick E. Coultry, Chief Investigator
Carolina Rivera, Investigator
Lori Donadio, Principal Investigative Analyst
Katherine Santandrea, Secretary to the Commission
Adrianna Mathew, Intern

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Rozen called the July 23, 2019 meeting to order.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – PUBLIC SESSION

June 25, 2019

A motion was made by Commissioner Weissman, seconded by Commissioner Horwitz, to approve the minutes from the Public Session of the June 25, 2019 Commission Meeting. The motion was approved by a vote of 10-0-1. Commissioner Dering abstained from voting.

III. REPORT FROM STAFF

Outreach Update

General Counsel Monica Stamm stated that staff is planning for the Commission’s annual CLE program in conjunction with Center for New York City Law on September 26, which will be held at the New York Law School. The CLE will be comprised of two panels on the purpose and use of Financial Disclosure Statements and best practices to comply with State ethics laws. A new edition of the Commission’s Ethics & Lobbying in New York State is being finalized in advance of the September 26 CLE program.

Additionally, staff will be holding a special ethics training for CUNY counsel and ethics officers. A summer newsletter focusing on 2-year bar issues was recently issued.

First Quarter Financial Report

Director of Administration Stephen Boland presented the first quarter financial report:

	Personal Service	Non-Personal Service*	Totals
First Quarter	\$1,229,519	\$152,954	\$1,382,473
Year to Date	\$1,229,519	\$152,954	\$1,382,473
Percentage of Annual Cash Allowance	26.6%	16.8%	25.0%

** Supplies, equipment, travel, and contractual services*

Update on Lobbying Application

Deputy Director of Lobbying Carol Quinn stated that the Client Semi-Annual and Source of Funding portions of the new lobbying application launched on July 8. Filers were given an extension until July 31 to submit these filings. Due to technical difficulties, bi-monthly reports were also given an extension to July 31. Step-by-step instructions are available to filers through the website. Improved search capabilities will roll out in August. Staff plan to hold trainings in the fall to highlight the key features and answer questions about the new lobbying application.

IV. SEARCH FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Chair Rozen stated that the Commission is continuing its search for a new Executive Director. The search committee has run advertisements in national newspapers, on general and specialized job boards, and with associations such as the National Conference of State Legislatures and the Council on Government Ethics Laws. The committee has also done extensive outreach to state, local, and national bar associations and law schools. Over 100 resumes have been received, and the Commission will continue to accept applications from qualified candidates.

V. MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE LAW § 94(19)(B)

A motion was made by Commissioner Horwitz, seconded by Commissioner Cohen, to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Executive Law § 94(19)(b). The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

VI. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF ACTIONS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

[Commissioner McNamara was present by phone for the remainder of public session]

Chair Rozen stated that in Executive Session, the Commission discussed litigation matters, denied an appeal from the denial of a request for an exemption from filing a Financial

Disclosure Statement pursuant to Executive Law § 94(9)(k), granted an application for exemption from the post-employment restrictions pursuant to Public Officers Law § 73(8-b), approved four settlement agreements, authorized steps in several investigative matters, closed two matters, and discussed several other investigative matters.

VII. NEW AND OTHER BUSINESS

N/A

VIII. MOTION TO ADJOURN THE PUBLIC MEETING

Upon motion made by Commissioner Horwitz, seconded by Commissioner Jacob, the Public Session was adjourned by a vote of 10-0-0.