

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**TO: Members  
Commission on Ethics**

**FROM: Virindia Doss   
Executive Director**

**DATE: May 16, 2016**

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### ADVISORY OPINIONS

The Commission on Ethics issued three advisory opinions in April. It has rendered a total of 2595 opinions since its inception in 1974.

### LITIGATION

Shannon Copeland v. Comm'n on Ethics, 1D16-1115

This matter involves an appeal to the 1st DCA of denial, by the Circuit Court of the Second Judicial Circuit, of an inmate's petition for a writ of certiorari seeking to compel certain action by the Commission as to an ethics complaint dismissed as legally insufficient. On March 16, on the DCA's own motion, related appeals involving the Florida Bar and the Florida Department of Health were ordered by the DCA to travel together (along with the Commission's case) before the same panel of judges for handling and disposition and the Commission's case was assigned case number 1D16-1115. On April 5 the Commission filed its Answer Brief.

Caroline Klancke is handling this case.

David Rivera vs. Florida Commission on Ethics, 1st DCA Case No. 1D15-2428.

Rivera appeals the Commission's April 17, 2015 order finding him in violation of the Code of Ethics and Article II, Section 8, Florida Constitution. All briefs have been filed, and oral argument has been set for June 7.

Advocate Elizabeth Miller and Assistant Attorney General Teresa Mussetto are handling this case.

Albert (Al) Hadeed v. State of Florida, Commission on Ethics, 1st DCA Case No. 16-0724 and Nathan McLaughlin v. State of Florida, Commission on Ethics, 1st DCA Case No. 1616-0725.

These appeals follow the Commission's dismissal—as legally insufficient—of petitions for attorney fees. The cases have been consolidated, and the Initial Brief was filed May 5. The Answer Brief is due May 25, 2015.

Gray Schafer is handling this case.

Steven McLeod v. R. Scott and V. Doss, Florida Supreme Court Case No. 16-453, transferred by Supreme Court order to Second Judicial Circuit, Case No. 2016CA-000978.

An inmate of the Department of Corrections sent a complaint alleging that Governor Scott owns stock in a prison health care company through a blind trust, and generally alleging that Governor Scott has bribed judges in connection with the inmate's civil litigation. His complaint was returned because it was not sworn before a notary or other official authorized to administer oaths, because officials who own property through blind trusts are shielded from conflicts of interest laws, and because the Commission does not have jurisdiction with respect to the criminal bribery laws.

The inmate's petition seeks a writ of mandamus, and we await his indigency declaration and order in the Circuit Court (Judge Reynolds).

Betsy Daley is handling this case.

### **FINANCES**

As of April 30<sup>th</sup>, the Commission had spent 1,920,784.40 (77.84%) of its appropriation with 83.33% of the FY gone.

### **PUBLIC SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS / PUBLICATIONS / HONORS**

On April 8 in Tallahassee, Betsy presented a Code of Ethics Overview at the inaugural meeting of the Technology Advisory Council (which advises the Florida Agency for State Technology). Kerrie spoke to Property Appraisers in Cocoa Beach on May 2 at a training sponsored by the Department of Revenue, and Chris presented at the City, County, and Local Government Law Section's Board Certification Exam Review Course on May 5, in Orlando.

### **PENDING ORDERS IMPOSING PENALTIES**

#### **GOVERNOR**

Comp. 14-097, In re James Manfre (Final Order 04/20/16).

#### **SENATE**

Comp. Nos. 10-164, 168, 169, and 172, cons., In re Jim Norman (Final Order 04/04/12).

#### **HOUSE**

Comp. No. 11-045, In re Adam Hasner (Final Order 07/14/11).

Comp. Nos. 10-157 and 10-182, In re David Rivera (Final Order 04/17/15) (currently on appeal).