

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

TO: Members
Commission on Ethics

FROM: Virlindia Doss 
Executive Director

DATE: February 15, 2016

ADVISORY OPINIONS

The Commission on Ethics issued one advisory opinion in December. It has rendered a total of 2591 opinions since its inception in 1974.

LITIGATION

Shannon Copeland v. Comm'n on Ethics, Florida Bar, et al, 1st DCA Case No: 15-3655.

On August 6, Copeland appealed Commission orders issued in January and May, dismissing her nine complaints as legally insufficient. The Court directed Copeland to file an amended notice of appeal stating the date of rendition of the order to be reviewed and to provide copies of the orders, which she did on August 24 and 26, 2015, and on September 28, 2015. On January 19, Copeland filed a document styled as an "Initial Brief," and on February 15 the Commission filed a Motion to Dismiss on several grounds, including the untimeliness of the appeal.

Caroline is handling this case.

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

Rivera appeals the Commission's April 17 order finding him in violation of the Code of Ethics and Article II, Section 8, Florida Constitution. The Initial Brief and a request for appellate attorney fees were filed December 22. The response to the fees request has been filed, and the Answer Brief is due February 26.

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

FINANCES

As of January 31, the Commission had spent \$1,334,575.67 (54.08%) of its appropriation with 58.33% of the FY gone.

PUBLIC SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS / PUBLICATIONS / HONORS

On February 2: Chris presented two hours of training to county commissioners at a Florida Association of Counties' seminar in Tallahassee; Caroline spoke at the Florida Public Pension Trustees Association Conference in Orlando, and Kerrie presented two sessions in

Orlando for the Department of Revenue—one for the Tax Collector's Duties & Responsibilities Certification Course (TC staff), and another for the Tax Collectors' continuing education. On February 3 Kerrie gave a training session in Tallahassee for the Florida Association of Property Appraisers. On February 11, Gray provided two 50-minute training sessions to the Association of Government Accountants at its annual Tallahassee conference, and on February 12, Chris pre-recorded a webinar presentation to be delivered on February 29 to attendees of a Florida Bar Education Law Committee certification exam review course.

PENDING ORDERS IMPOSING PENALTIES

GOVERNOR

Comp. No. 14-119, In re Phillip J. Brutus (Final Order 01/27/16).

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).