

**STATE OF FLORIDA  
COMMISSION ON ETHICS**

**Friday, December 1, 2023**

*Third Floor Courtroom, First District Court of Appeal  
2000 Drayton Drive  
Tallahassee, Florida*

**PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES**

At 8:34 a.m. Chair Ashley Lukis called the meeting to order with the following members present:

MICHELLE ANCHORS  
WILLIAM CERVONE  
TINA DESCOVICH  
FREDDIE FIGGERS  
LUIS M. FUSTÉ  
LAIRD A. LILE  
ASHLEY LUKIS  
ED MOORE  
WENGAY NEWTON, SR.

The presence of a quorum was noted.

Chair Lucas introduced the newly-appointed Commissioner, Laird A. Lile.

**Commissioner Descovich, seconded by Commissioner Fusté, moved to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2023, Public Session meeting. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.**

**CONSIDERATION OF FINAL ACTION – JOINT STIPULATION**

**Complaint No. 18-203, In re CHRISTINE ROBERTS**

Present were Todd I. Stone, Attorney for the Respondent; and Melody A. Hadley, Commission Advocate.

Ms. Hadley summarized the proposed joint stipulation calling for a finding of violation of Section 112.313(7)(a), Florida Statutes, and a recommended penalty of public censure and reprimand, and a civil penalty of \$1,500.

**Commissioner Moore, seconded by Commissioner Fusté, moved to approve the proposed joint stipulation. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.**

**Complaint No. 22-027, In re ERNESTO TORRES**

Present was Elizabeth A. Miller, Commission Advocate.

Ms. Miller summarized the proposed joint stipulation calling for a finding of violation of Article II, Section 8(g)(2), Florida Constitution, and Section 112.313(6), Florida Statutes, and a recommended penalty of public censure and reprimand, and a civil penalty of \$4,000.

**Commissioner Newton, seconded by Commissioner Cervone, moved to approve the proposed joint stipulation. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.**

#### **CONSIDERATION OF ADVOCATE'S SECOND MOTION TO DISMISS COMPLAINT**

##### **Complaint No. 19-180, In re KEITH JAMES**

Present were Ronald G. Meyer, Attorney for the Respondent; and Elizabeth A. Miller, Commission Advocate.

Ms. Miller presented her Motion to Dismiss.

**Commissioner Newton, seconded by Commissioner Cervone, moved to grant the Second Motion to Dismiss Complaint. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.**

#### **CONSIDERATION OF ADVOCATE'S MOTION TO DISMISS COMPLAINT – WILLFUL FAILURE TO FILE FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE**

##### **Complaint No. 18-174, In re MARY C. ESTIME-IRVIN**

Present were Mark Herron, Attorney for the Respondent; and Elizabeth A. Miller, Commission Advocate.

Ms. Miller presented her Motion to Dismiss.

Mr. Herron was heard by the Commission.

**Commissioner Newton, seconded by Commissioner Cervone, moved to grant the Motion to Dismiss for Lack of Jurisdiction. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.**

#### **CONSIDERATION OF ADVISORY OPINIONS**

##### **File 2805. CONFLICT OF INTEREST: SCHOOL BOARD REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS WITH A CREDIT UNION THAT DOES BUSINESS WITH SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS AND WITH A SCHOOL BOARD EMPLOYEE**

Commissioner Anchors disclosed that the requestor is her father's law partner.

Staff Attorney Joseph Burns explained the basis of the draft advisory opinion and the rationale behind its conclusion.

**Commissioner Cervone, seconded by Commissioner Fusté, moved to approve the draft opinion. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.**

**File 2807. FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE: MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION ON ETHICS DISCLOSING TRUST AND SECONDARY SOURCES OF INCOME ON CE FORM 6**

Present was Laird A. Lile, Requestor.

General Counsel Steven Zuilkowski explained the basis of the draft advisory opinion and the rationale behind its conclusion.

Mr. Lile was heard by the Commission.

**Commissioner Cervone, seconded by Commissioner Anchors, moved to allow Mr. Lile to withdraw Question 3 from the draft opinion. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.**

**Commissioner Anchors, seconded by Commissioner Fusté, moved to approve Questions 1 and 2 in the draft opinion. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.**

**Commissioner Newton, seconded by Commissioner Cervone, moved to direct staff to begin the rulemaking process to address the disclosure of legal clients as sources of income for later consideration by the Commission. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.**

## **CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE APPEALS**

### **HEARING**

No one was present for any of the appeals.

#### **FD19-081, In re SHAWNDEL KAISER**

Assistant General Counsel Gray Schafer explained the basis of the draft final order and the rationale behind its conclusion.

**Commissioner Newton, seconded by Commissioner Cervone, moved to approve the staff's recommendation. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.**

#### **FD19-088, In re CHRISTOPHER PETTIT**

Assistant General Counsel Gray Schafer explained the basis of the draft final order and the rationale behind its conclusion.

**Commissioner Cervone, seconded by Commissioner Anchors, moved to approve the staff's recommendations. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.**

## **NO HEARING**

No one was present for any of the appeals.

**FD19-066, In re GWENDOLYN HAYNES**  
**FD19-073, In re SHUNDRA DOWERS**  
**FD19-076, In re TAMIKA R. ROBINSON**  
**FD19-100, In re AARON ZEIGLER**

Assistant General Counsel Gray Schafer explained the basis of the draft final orders and the rationale behind its conclusion.

**Commissioner Lile, seconded by Commissioner Fusté, moved to approve the staff's recommendations. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.**

## **CONSIDERATION OF RULEMAKING**

### **Rule Hearing on amendments to Chapter 34-7.025, F.A.C.**

Assistant General Counsel Gray Schafer explained the changes to the rule regarding the ethics training requirement.

The Chair asked whether there was anyone present who wished to be heard on the proposed rule changes. No one requested the opportunity to be heard.

**Commissioner Cervone, seconded by Commissioner Newton, moved to adopt the proposed rule amendment. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.**

### **Rule Hearing on amendment to Chapter 34-12.750, F.A.C.**

Assistant General Counsel Gray Schafer explained the changes to the rule regarding the disposition of complaints under the Executive Branch Lobbying Registration statute.

The Chair asked whether there was anyone present who wished to be heard on the proposed rule changes. No one requested the opportunity to be heard.

**Commissioner Fusté, seconded by Commissioner Moore, moved to adopt the proposed rule amendment. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.**

## **REPORTS**

The Chair had no report.

Executive Director Kerrie Stillman had nothing to add to her written report previously provided to the Commissioners.

Executive Director Kerrie Stillman elaborated on her legislative update previously provided to the Commissioners.

Executive Director Kerrie Stillman updated the Commission on the successful Form 6 e-filing season, and advised on the upcoming launch of Form 1's.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further items on the agenda, the Public Session adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

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Diana Westberry, *Secretary*

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Ashley Lukis, *Chair*

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Date