


TO: Commission Members
FROM: Kerrie Stillman
Executive Director 
DATE: August 28, 2025
RE: Spending Authorization

James Waczewski of the Office of the Attorney General represents the Commission and other defendants in **Jonathan L. Owens v. State of Florida, Office of the Attorney General, Florida Commission on Ethics, and Division of Administrative Hearings**, Case Number 2025 CA 001007, (Fla. 2nd Circ. Ct., Leon County).

The legal fees are split three ways for the representation in the case. At this point in time, I do not anticipate the Commission's share of the legal fees will exceed my \$10,000 expenditure authority; however, I ask the Commission's approval to pay the Commission's legal bills in this matter, in the event they exceed my expenditure threshold.

Case Background

Plaintiff is the Respondent in Complaint No. 23-231, which, until recently, was about to be tried at DOAH by our Commission Advocate. On June 16, 2025, DOAH issued an order granting Plaintiff's/Respondent's emergency motion to stay the administrative proceedings. On June 18, 2025, the Commission and the other defendants in this case were served with the summons and verified complaint in this matter. The Plaintiff seeks a declaration that the ethics hearing at DOAH violates his First Amendment rights and that the Commission lacks jurisdiction to pursue any action against him for violating Section 112.313(8), F.S.