



**NEWS FROM:
THE JOINT COMMISSION ON PUBLIC ETHICS**

**DANIEL J. HORWITZ
CHAIR**

**SETH H. AGATA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JCOPE.NY.GOV

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT 518.408.3976

**JOINT COMMISSION ON PUBLIC ETHICS RELEASES 2016 MID-YEAR
LOBBYING DATA**

ALBANY (November 14, 2016) -- The Joint Commission on Public Ethics (“JCOPE”) today released data showing that clients of lobbyists spent \$120.2 million on efforts to influence government decision making in New York State over the first six months of 2016. This represents a decrease of \$10.7 million - approximately 8 percent - from lobbying expenditures during the same time period in 2015. The data also reveals that through June 2016, the 10 highest spending lobbying organizations accounted for 11 percent of all lobbying spending in the state.

The list of top lobbying spenders features significant turnover compared to the top spenders in the first half of 2015. The New York State Nurses Association led all organizations with \$2.3 million in lobbying expenditures, a nearly \$2 million increase over what it spent in the first half of 2015. Other top spenders, the Mario Cuomo Campaign for Economic Justice, Inc. and Uber Technologies Inc., appeared in the top 10 for the first time, with expenditures exceeding \$2 million and \$750,000, respectively. Of the 10 highest spending entities through June 30, only New York State United Teachers, Families for Excellent Schools, Inc., and Greater NY Hospital Association appeared on the 2015 top ten list.

The data shows that among the top spending organizations, the overwhelming majority of spending was allocated to expenses including advertising and events, but not traditional compensation of lobbyists, *i.e.*, among the top five spenders, other, non-personnel expenses accounted for more than 80 percent of their total spending. This continues a trend exhibited in 2015, in which the top spending lobbying organizations dedicated substantial resources to non-compensation expenses, while the total lobbying population showed a more balanced allocation of funds between compensation and other lobbying expenses.

Despite total spending being down from mid-year 2015, the top 10 lobbying firms received a nearly identical \$35.5 million in compensation and reimbursed expenses. Kasirer LLC leads all lobbying firms through June 2016 with \$5.27 million in total earnings. While the top-spending clients have significantly shifted, nine of the top 10 professional lobbying firms from the 2015 mid-year list remain on this report. New to the group of top firms is Ostroff Associates Inc., accounting for \$2.29 million.

Bolton St. Johns LLC led all lobbyists with 149 clients through June 2016, followed by James F. Capalino & Associates, Inc. and Kasirer LLC, which each registered to represent 148 clients.

These most recent figures come from data submitted to JCOPE by lobbyists, their clients and public corporations, covering lobbying activities from January 1 through June 30, 2016. Registered lobbyists and public corporations must file bi-monthly reports, including the amount of compensation and reimbursed expenses for lobbying activities that were received during the previous two months. For clients of lobbyists, filings must be submitted twice a year that detail what was spent on lobbying during the previous six months, including how much was spent on advertising.

As of June 30, 2016, there were 6,542 individual lobbyists reported on lobbyist registrations in New York State, representing 4,360 clients.

JCOPE has updated its publicly-available sets of the complete data filed by lobbyists, their clients, and public corporations to include reported information from the first half of 2016; that data can be found [here](#).

The following tables highlight the data for the first half of 2016:

Top 10 Clients (Total Expenditures)

January through June 2016

(Based on figures reported in 2016 Client Semi-Annual and Lobbyist Bi-Monthly Reports as of October 17, 2016)

CLIENT NAME	COMPENSATION & EXPENSES
NEW YORK STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION	\$2,286,554
RENT STABILIZATION ASSOCIATION OF NYC, INC	\$2,134,228
MARIO CUOMO CAMPAIGN FOR ECONOMIC JUSTICE, INC	\$2,022,539
FAMILIES FOR EXCELLENT SCHOOLS, INC	\$2,009,689
GREATER NY HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION, SUBSIDIARIES & AFFILIATES	\$1,158,026
NEW YORK STATE UNITED TEACHERS	\$998,126
HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE	\$777,311
UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC	\$752,974
UNITED FEDERATION OF TEACHERS	\$716,467
NEW YORK STATE TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION	\$686,926

Top 10 Retained Lobbyists (Total Compensation and Expenses)

January through June 2016

(Based on figures reported in 2016 Lobbyist Bi-Monthly Reports as of October 17, 2016)

LOBBYIST NAME	TOTALS
KASIRER LLC	\$5,271,566
BROWN & WEINRAUB, PLLC	\$4,373,742
BOLTON ST. JOHNS, LLC	\$4,279,175
JAMES F. CAPALINO & ASSOCIATES, INC.	\$3,784,366
PARK STRATEGIES, LLC	\$3,707,603
GREENBERG TRAUIG, LLP	\$3,306,743
WILSON ELSEER MOSKOWITZ EDELMAN & DICKER, LLP	\$3,174,059
HINMAN STRAUB ADVISORS, LLC	\$2,879,833
MANATT, PHELPS & PHILLIPS, LLP	\$2,422,608
OSTROFF ASSOCIATES, INC.	\$2,287,442