

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SESSION OF THE
MARCH 18, 2014
COMMISSION MEETING
OF THE JOINT COMMISSION ON PUBLIC ETHICS
HELD AT THE COMMISSION'S OFFICE LOCATED AT
540 BROADWAY
ALBANY, NEW YORK**

Chair: Daniel J. Horwitz

Members: Paul Casteleiro
Hon. Joseph Covello
Marvin Jacob
Seymour Knox, IV
Gary J. Lavine
David A. Renzi
Michael A. Romeo, Sr.
Hon. Renee R. Roth
George Weissman (*via* Face Time)

Members

Absent: David Arroyo
LaShann DeArcy
Mitra Hormozi
Hon. Mary Lou Rath

Staff: Letizia Tagliafierro, Executive Director
Monica J. Stamm, Chief of Staff and Deputy Counsel
Robert Cohen, Special Counsel and Director of Ethics and Lobbying Compliance
Martin L. Levine, Director of Audit and Review and Senior Counsel
John T. Milgrim, Director for External Affairs
Jeannine Clemente – Director of Administration
Pei Pei Cheng-deCastro, Senior Investigative Counsel
Shari Calnero, Senior Counsel and Manager of Training
Louis Manuta, Associate Counsel
Joanna Weiss, Associate Counsel
Deborah Novak, Executive Assistant
Patrick E. Coultry, Chief Investigator
Jack Patterson, Confidential Investigator
Peter Smith, Confidential Investigator
Lori Donadio, Confidential Legal Assistant

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Horwitz opened the Public Session and introduced and welcomed the newest member of the Commission, Michael Romeo, who was recently appointed by Governor Cuomo.

II. **MINUTES – PUBLIC SESSION – FEBRUARY 18, 2014**

Upon motion made by Commissioner Roth, which was seconded by Commissioner Renzi, the Minutes from the Public Session of the February 18, 2014 Commission Meeting were approved by unanimous vote.

III. **REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Training Update

Executive Director Letizia Tagliafierro provided an update on the Commission’s training program. The Commission has finalized the new online ethics orientation and submitted it to the Statewide Learning Management System. The new training program will be available to all State agencies shortly.

Regulations Update

Executive Director Tagliafierro provided an update on several proposed regulations before the Commission. The gift regulations will be published in the State Register on March 19, commencing the 30-day public comment period that will run until April 18th, 2014. The source of funding regulations are scheduled to be published in the State Register on March 26th, which will commence a 30-day comment period that will expire on April 25th, 2014. Therefore, the earliest these regulations will be back before the Commission is the April meeting. The public service announcement regulations will be submitted next, and they will be subject to a 45-day comment period. All of the proposed regulations are available on the JCOPE website.

IV. **NEW AND OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no new or other business.

V. **MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE LAW §94(19)(b)**

A motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Executive Law §94(19)(b) to consider confidential matters was made by Commissioner Covello and seconded by Commissioner Knox. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

VI. **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF ACTIONS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chair Horwitz announced that, during the Executive Session, the Commission considered several confidential investigative matters, commenced a substantial basis investigation, approved a number of investigative activities, closed a number of investigations, and approved a number of applications pursuant to Public Officers Law §73-8(b).

VII. **MOTION TO ADJOURN THE PUBLIC MEETING**

Upon motion made by Commissioner Jacob, seconded by Commissioner Knox, which was approved by unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned. Commissioner Roth was not present at this time.