



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

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Joint Commission on Public Ethics Releases 2016 Annual Report**

**\$243 Million Spent on State and Local Lobbying; Variety of Groups, Industries Among Top  
Spenders**

ALBANY – (June 8, 2017) – The Joint Commission on Public Ethics (“Commission”) today released its [2016 Annual Report](#) featuring highlights of its work over the past year, including its regulating of the \$242.7 million spent on lobbying at the state and local government levels, nearly the same as what it reported in 2015.

However, spending for retained and in-house lobbyists increased dramatically, breaking a record set in 2015. More than \$218 million was spent on compensation for lobbyists in 2016, nearly \$12 million, or 5.8 percent, higher than what was spent the previous year. Spending for advertising expenses dropped dramatically, declining by almost 45 percent, to \$9.9 million, and event-related expenses dropped as well, to just over \$640,000.

Total participation in lobbying also reached record levels in 2016, with more than 7,300 individual lobbyists listed on reports filed with the Commission. The number of lobbyists, clients, and total filings received all surpassed previous recorded highs.

In contrast to previous years, the list of top spending entities was not dominated by groups involved in one particular industry or subject area. Instead, other than ride-hailing service Uber, the list is made up of a combination of representatives from typically active industries, *i.e.*, real estate, education, and organized labor. The top spending entity was the Rent Stabilization Association of New York City (\$3.6 million), followed by the Greater New York Hospital

Association, the New York State Nurses Association, and Uber Technologies, Inc. Last year's top spending entity, Invest in Education Coalition, Inc. (formerly the Coalition for Opportunity in Education, Inc.), reported \$369,400 in lobbying expenditures for 2016, down from \$5.1 million in 2015. Also included in the 2016 top 10 were Families for Excellent Schools, Inc., New York State United Teachers, Healthcare Association of New York State, United Federation of Teachers, the New York State Association of Realtors, and the New York State Trial Lawyers Association.

The 10 highest-spending lobbying entities spent more than \$20 million, and accounted for eight-and-one-half percent of all lobbying spending. Within that group, about 63 percent of spending was allocated to advertisements or other expenses. As a comparison, 90 percent of all lobbying spending went to compensation and the remaining 10 percent covered other expenses. Thus, at the very highest levels, spending continues to be dominated by money spent on advertisements and other expenses, while lobbyist compensation continues to dominate the spending by the industry as a whole.

The list of the top professional lobbyists saw some changes in 2016. The top lobbyist was Kasirer LLC, reporting more than \$10.4 million in total compensation and reimbursed expenses, followed by Brown & Weinraub, PLLC with nearly \$9 million and Bolton St. Johns, LLC at just over \$8.5 million. Last year's top professional lobbyist, Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker, LLP, dropped to number 10 on the list, reporting just over \$4.2 million in total compensation and reimbursed expenses.

The complete source data filed by lobbyists and their clients was also published to the Commission's website, [jcope.ny.gov](http://jcope.ny.gov), today, and can be found [here](#).

In addition to lobbying activity data, the report also highlights the Commission's investigations and enforcement efforts in 2016, which included an investigation that resulted in assessing a civil penalty against a former member of the Assembly and levying the largest penalties by the Commission to date against a lobbying client. Other investigation and enforcement efforts included reviewing more than 200 potential investigative matters, the commencement of 25 investigations and the resolution of eight cases through settlements. Penalties resulting from

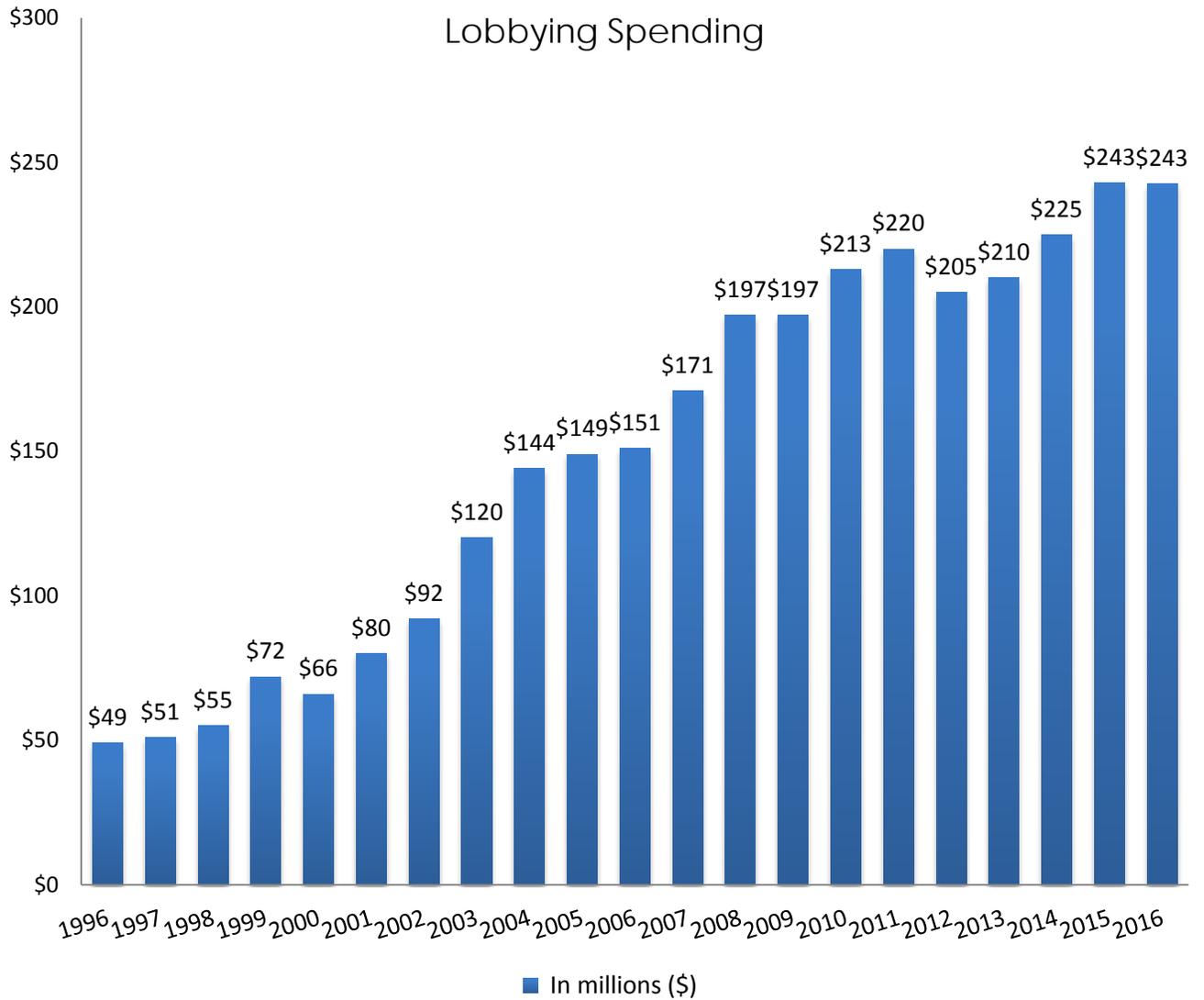
those investigations and enforcement actions totaled more than \$566,000 and involved a range of violations, including conflicts of interest, improper gifts, nepotism, failure to file financial disclosure statements, and post-employment issues. In addition, the Commission examined a number of matters involving alleged violations of the Lobbying Act, including improper gifts, failure to register as a lobbyist, and failure to submit required filings.

The report also includes a summary of legal guidance provided over the past year and updated data about the Commission's mandated training and education initiatives.

### ***2016 Lobbying Data Highlights***

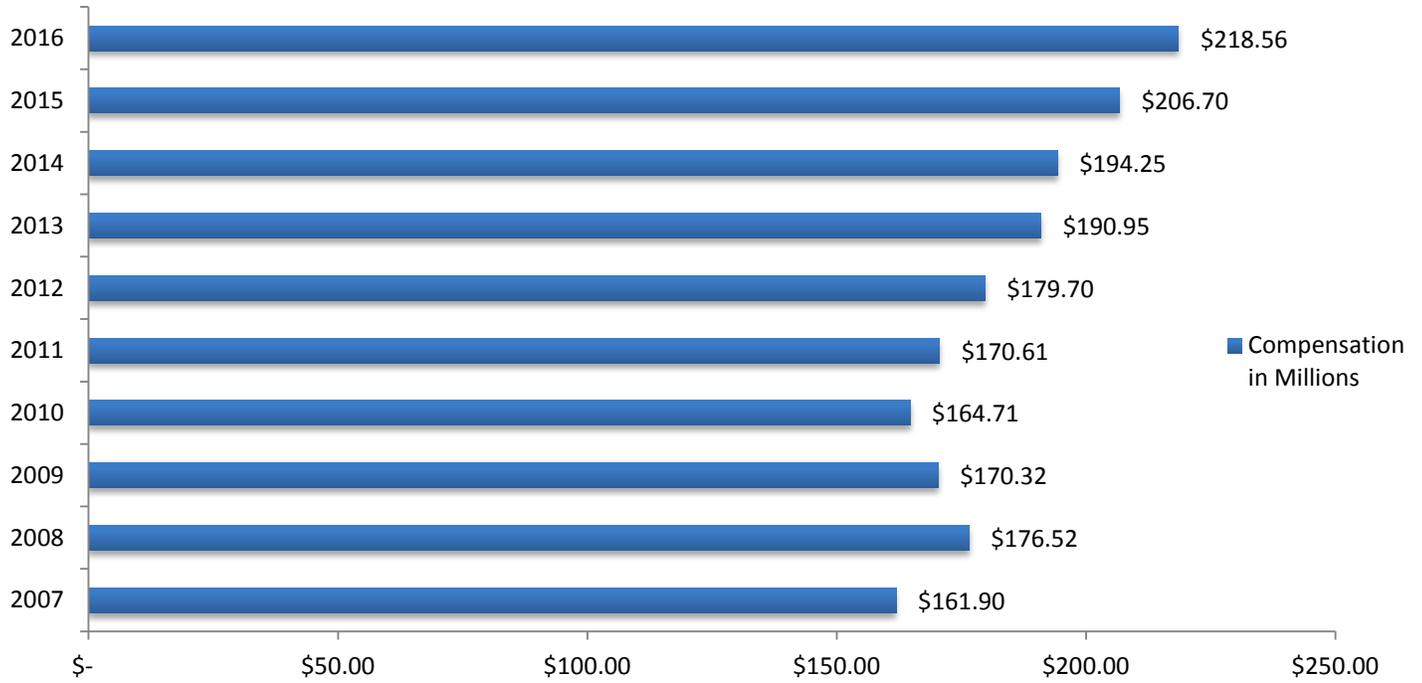
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The following tables summarize additional lobbying data.



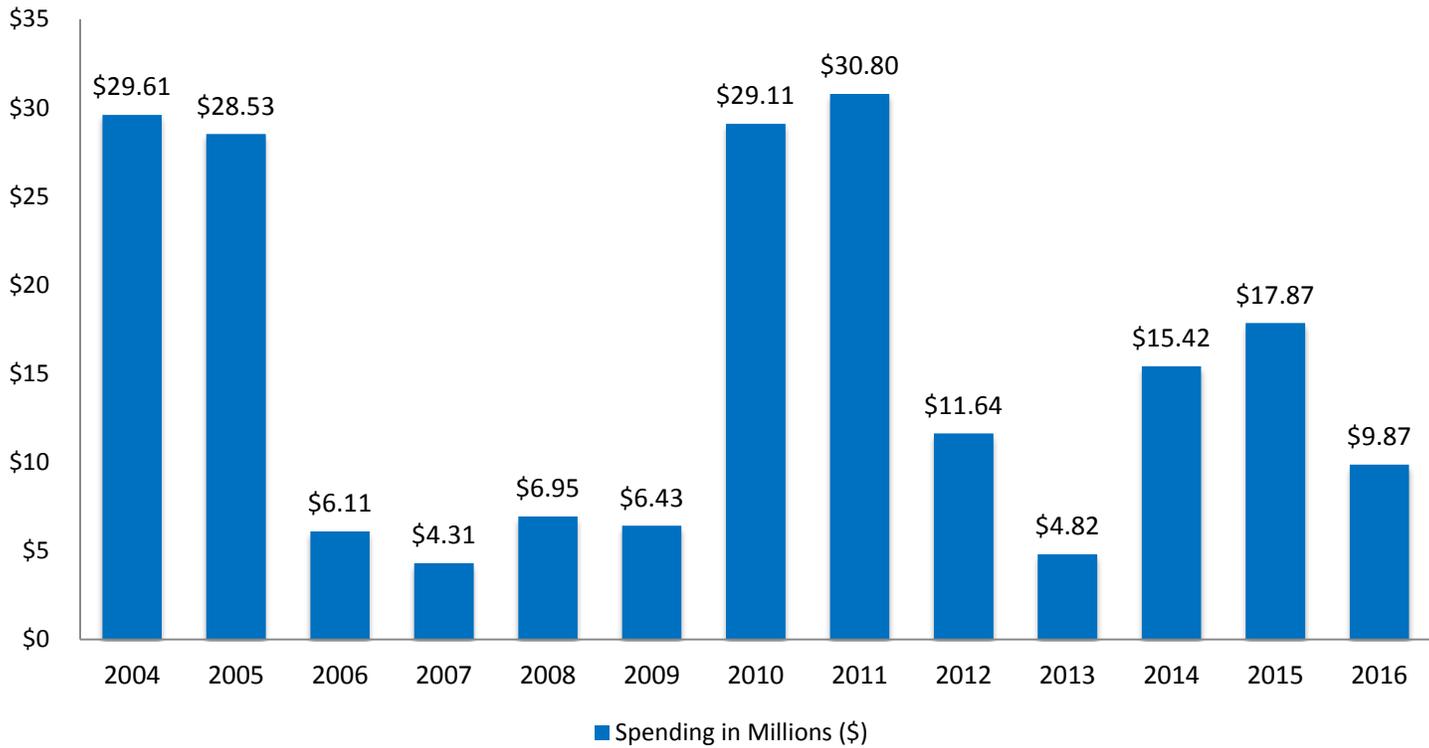
**Based on the combined figures of compensation and expenses reported on Client Semi-Annual, Lobbyist Bi-Monthly, and Public Corporation Reports**

## Total Compensation Paid to Retained or Employed Lobbyists



\* Based on compensation reported in Client Semi-Annual and Public Corporation Reports

### Reported Spending on Advertising



\* Based on advertising expenses reported in Client Semi-Annual and Lobbying Bi-Monthly Reports

## Lobbying Entities Ranked by Total Lobbying Expenditures 2016

Rent Stabilization Association of NYC, Inc.	\$3,671,046
Greater NY Hospital Association	\$2,858,030
Nurses Association (NYS)	\$2,375,034
Uber Technologies, Inc.	\$2,308,603
Families for Excellent Schools, Inc.	\$2,106,807
United Teachers (NYS)	\$1,579,404
Healthcare Association of NYS	\$1,548,680
United Federation of Teachers	\$1,333,253
Association of Realtors (New York State)	\$1,296,897
Trial Lawyers Association, Inc. (NYS)	\$1,296,150

★ Based on figures reported in 2016 Client Semi-Annual and Lobbyist Bi-Monthly Reports as of March 31, 2017

## Professional Lobbyists Ranked by Total Compensation and Reimbursed Expenses for 2016

Kasirer LLC (FKA Kasirer Consulting LLC)	\$10,423,685
Brown & Weinraub, PLLC	\$8,998,177
Bolton St. Johns, LLC	\$8,547,131
Park Strategies, LLC	\$7,180,702
Greenberg Traurig, LLP	\$6,827,322
Capalino, James F. & Associates, Inc.	\$6,535,580
Hinman Straub Advisors, LLC	\$5,570,751
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP	\$4,724,948
Ostroff Associates, Inc. (FKA Ostroff, Hiffa & Associates, Inc.)	\$4,640,706
Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker, LLP	\$4,234,381

★ Based on figures reported in 2016 Lobbyist Bi-monthly Reports as of March 31, 2017

Total Compensation and Reimbursed Expenses Paid to a  
Retained Lobbyist by a Single Client

2016

LOBBYIST	CLIENT	AMOUNT
Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel, LLP	SJC 33 Owner 2015, LLC (FKA SJ Owner LLC)	\$1,185,002
Riddett Associates, Inc.	Trial Lawyers Association, Inc. (NYS)	\$471,273
Shenker Russo & Clark LLP	Bankers Association, Inc. (NY)	\$405,000
Hinman Straub Advisors, LLC	Excelsus Health Plan, Inc.	\$402,775
Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker, LLP	Healthcare Association of NYS	\$396,531
Bolton St. Johns, LLC	Committee for Taxi Safety, Inc.	\$373,167
Metropolitan Public Strategies, Inc.	United for Affordable NYC, Inc.	\$372,500
Albany Strategic Advisors	Empire Resorts Inc.	\$360,434
Patrick B. Jenkins & Associates	Trial Lawyers Association, Inc. (NYS)	\$360,000
Metropolitan Public Strategies, Inc.	Mario Cuomo Campaign for Economic Justice, Inc.	\$350,750

\* Based on figures reported in 2016 Lobbyist Bi-monthly Reports as of March 31, 2017