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NEWS FROM:
THE JOINT COMMISSION ON PUBLIC ETHICS

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Joint Commission on Public Ethics Releases 2017 Annual Report

Just Over \$240 Million Spent on State and Local Lobbying; Variety of Groups, Industries
Among Top Spenders

ALBANY – (April 18, 2018) – The Joint Commission on Public Ethics (“Commission”) today released its 2017 Annual Report, featuring highlights of its work over the past year, including its regulating of the \$240.1 million spent on lobbying at the state and local government levels, about \$2.6 million less than the total spending reported the year before.

Total participation in lobbying also showed decreases in 2017, with just over 6,700 individual lobbyists listed on reports filed with the Commission, compared to the more than 7,300 listed on 2016 reports. While the number of lobbyists and clients went down, the total number of required filings and contracts received by the Commission was up.

Despite the overall decrease in lobbying spending in 2017, spending for retained and in-house lobbyists was higher than the record level set in 2016. More than \$221 million was spent over the past year on compensation for lobbyists, just over \$2.5 million more than what was spent the previous year. Spending for advertising expenses dropped significantly, declining by about 35 percent, to \$6.4 million. Event-related expenses dropped as well, to just over \$471,000.

This year’s list of the top ten highest lobbying spenders was not dominated by a single industry, but rather by a combination of representatives from typically active industries, i.e., health, real estate and construction, education, and organized labor. The top spending entity was the Greater New York Hospital Association, Inc. at \$2.8 million, followed by Uber Technologies, Inc., AARP,

and New York State United Teachers. Also included in the top ten were the New York State Trial Lawyers Association, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, United Federation of Teachers, Healthcare Association of New York State, Verizon, and Rent Stabilization Association of NYC, Inc.

The list of the top professional lobbyists changed slightly in comparison to 2016. Once again, the top lobbyist was Kasirer LLC, reporting almost \$11.5 million in total compensation and reimbursed expenses, followed by Brown & Weinraub, PLLC at \$11.1 million, and Bolton St. Johns, LLC at just over \$8.5 million. The list was rounded out by Greenberg Traurig, LLP, Park Strategies, LLC, Hinman Straub Advisors, LLC, James F. Capalino & Associates, Inc., Ostroff Associates, Inc., Pitta Bishop & Del Giorno LLC (the sole newcomer to this year's list), and Manatt, Phelps and Phillips, LLP.

The complete source data filed by lobbyists and their clients was also published to the Commission's website, jcope.ny.gov, today, and can be found [here](#). Tables summarizing some of the 2017 lobbying data highlights appear at the end of this release.

In addition to data on lobbying activity, the report also highlights the Commission's engagement in a rulemaking to develop the first set of comprehensive regulations under the Lobbying Act. Commission staff also continued to actively pursue investigations and enforcement actions for alleged violations of Public Officers Law and the Lobbying Act, commencing 14 investigations, settling eight matters, and making one criminal referral to the New York State Attorney General; those investigations and enforcement actions led to penalties totaling approximately \$123,000.

The report also includes a summary of legal guidance provided over the past year, including the development and issuance of three Advisory Opinions covering topics of general importance to State officers and employees and lobbying entities, publication of a new book, Ethics & Lobbying in New York State: A Comprehensive Guide, which provides in-depth guidance on a wide-range of common ethics issues, as well as updated data about the Commission's mandated training and education initiatives.

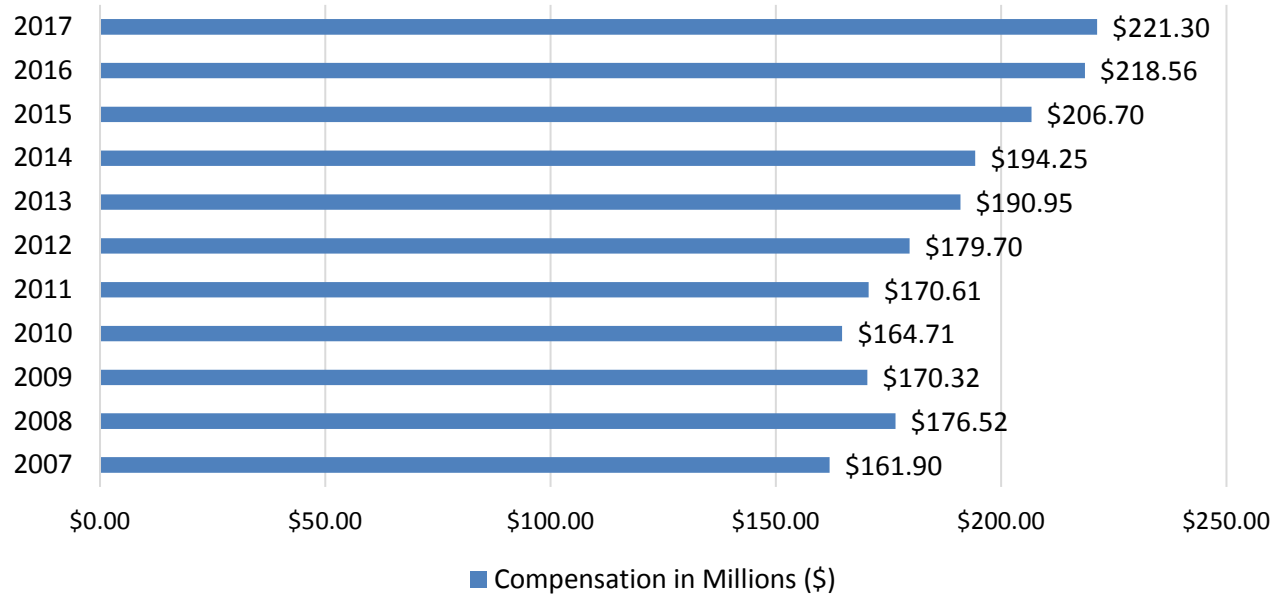
2017 Lobbying Data Highlights

The following tables summarize additional lobbying data.



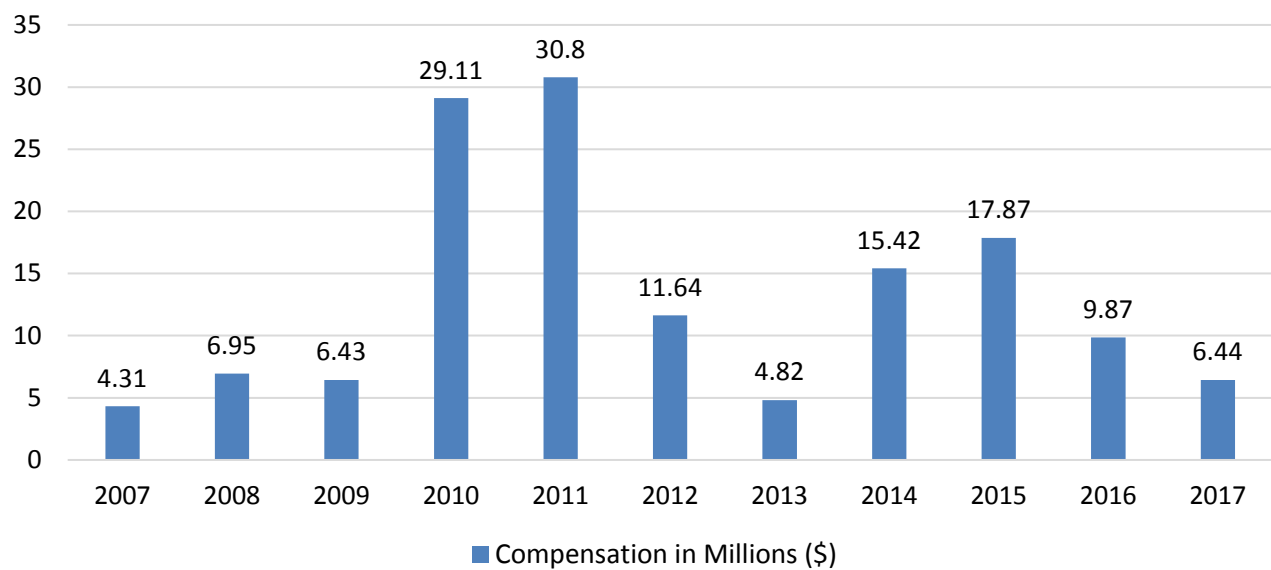
Based on the combined figures of compensation and expenses reported on Client Semi-Annual, Lobbyist Bi-Monthly, and Public Corporation Reports

Total Compensation Paid to Retained or Employed Lobbyists



Based on compensation reported in Client Semi-Annual and Public Corporation Bi-Monthly Reports

Reported on Spending on Advertising



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

Lobbying Entities Ranked by Total Lobbying Expenditures

2017	
GREATER NEW YORK HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION, INC.	\$2,867,422
UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC.	\$2,224,106
AARP	\$1,440,990
UNITED TEACHERS (NYS)	\$1,397,538
TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (NYS)	\$1,290,727
PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH AND MANUFACTURERS OF AMERICA	\$1,251,712
UNITED FEDERATION OF TEACHERS	\$1,170,125
HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATION OF NYS	\$1,084,838
VERIZON	\$1,032,213
RENT STABILIZATION ASSOCIATION OF NYC, INC.	\$1,022,530

Based on figures reported in 2017 Client Semi-Annual and Lobbyist Bi-Monthly Reports as of March 19, 2018

Professional Lobbyists Ranked by Total Compensation and Reimbursed Expenses

2017	
KASIRER LLC (FKA KASIRER CONSULTING LLC)	\$11,495,411
BROWN & WEINRAUB, PLLC	\$11,186,228
BOLTON ST. JOHNS, LLC	\$8,516,843
GREENBERG TRAURIG, LLP	\$7,888,423
PARK STRATEGIES, LLC	\$6,160,632
HINMAN STRAUB ADVISORS, LLC	\$5,996,564
JAMES F. CAPALINO & ASSOCIATES, INC.	\$5,933,390
OSTROFF ASSOCIATES, INC.	\$5,289,191
PITTA BISHOP & DEL GIORNO LLC (FKA PITTA BISHOP DEL GIORNO & GIBLIN, LLC)	\$5,001,878
MANATT, PHELPS & PHILLIPS, LLP	\$4,558,580

Based on figures reported in 2017 Lobbyist Bi-Monthly Reports as of March 19, 2018

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

2017		
LOBBYIST	CLIENT	AMOUNT
APCO WORLDWIDE LLC (FKA APCO WORLDWIDE INC.)	NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE, INC.	\$593,853
KRAMER LEVIN NAFTALIS & FRANKEL, LLP	DESIGN CENTER INC.	\$582,687
RIDDETT ASSOCIATES, INC.	TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (NYS)	\$472,025
J STRATEGIES INC.	PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH AND MANUFACTURERS OF AMERICA (PHRMA)	\$454,736
HINMAN STRAUB ADVISORS, LLC	EXCELLUS HEALTH PLAN, INC.	\$404,700
PATRICK B. JENKINS & ASSOCIATES	TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (NYS)	\$372,000
MIRRAM GROUP, LLC (THE)	GREATER NEW YORK HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION, INC.	\$360,473
BOLTON ST. JOHNS, LLC	COMMITTEE FOR TAXI SAFETY INC.	\$319,998
GREENBERG TRAURIG, LLP	AMERICAN LION LLC	\$303,889
ROFFE GROUP P.C. (THE)	EMBLEMHEALTH SERVICES COMPANY, LLC	\$301,260

Based on figures reported in 2017 Lobbyist Bi-Monthly Reports as of March 19, 2018