



**STATE OF NEVADA  
COMMISSION ON ETHICS**  
<http://ethics.nv.gov>

**MINUTES  
of the meeting of the  
NEVADA COMMISSION ON ETHICS**

**November 15, 2017**

The Commission on Ethics held a public meeting on  
Wednesday, November 15, 2017, at 1:30 p.m.  
at the following locations:

**Grant Sawyer State Building  
Room 4412  
555 E. Washington Avenue  
Las Vegas, NV 89101**

and via video-conference to:

**Nevada Legislative Building  
Room 3138  
401 S. Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701**

These minutes constitute a summary of the above proceedings of the Nevada Commission on Ethics. Verbatim transcripts are available for public inspection at the Commission's office located in Carson City.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call.

Chair Cheryl A. Lau, Esq. called the meeting to order in Las Vegas, Nevada at 1:30 p.m. Also present in Las Vegas were Vice-Chair Keith A. Weaver, Esq. and Commissioners Brian Duffrin, Barbara Gruenewald, Esq., P.K. O'Neill, Lynn Stewart, and Amanda C. Yen, Esq. Present for Commission staff in Las Vegas were Executive Director Yvonne M. Nevarez-Goodson, Esq., Commission Counsel Tracy L. Chase, Esq., Associate Counsel Judy Prutzman, Esq. and Executive Assistant Kari Pedroza. Present for Commission staff in Carson City, Nevada was Senior Legal Researcher Darci Hayden.

The pledge of allegiance was conducted.

2. Public Comment.

No public comment.

3. Approval of Minutes of the August 23, 2017 Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Gruenewald moved to approve the August 23, 2017 Minutes, Commissioner Stewart seconded the motion. The Motion was put to a vote and carried unanimously.

4. Report and recommendations by Executive Director on agency status and operations and possible direction thereon. Items to be discussed include, without limitation:

- Ethics Complaint Flow Chart (S.B. 84)
- Jurisdictional and Evidentiary Review Process (S.B. 84)
- Review Panel Process and Deferral Agreements (S.B. 84)
- Quarterly Case Status Update
- Upcoming Commission Meetings
- FY18 Budget Status
- Education and Outreach by the Commission
- Case Management System, Opinion Database and Commission Website

Ethics Complaint Flow Chart: Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson discussed the updated Ethics Complaint Flow Chart of the Commission identifying the procedure of an Ethics Complaint as a result of changes brought forth by Senate Bill 84 (79<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, 2017). It will be posted on the Commission's website.

Jurisdictional and Evidentiary Review Process: The Executive Director explained that all Ethics Complaints will be reviewed by the Commission for its jurisdictional and investigatory determination in order to streamline the process, eliminate jurisdictional appeals, and align the new process with Senate Bill 84 (79<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, 2017).

Review Panel Process and Deferral Agreements: Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson described the new three-member Review Panel process and the Panel's authority to resolve a case by a deferral agreement under the provisions of Senate Bill 84 (79<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, 2017). In particular, a deferral agreement will include terms and conditions for the deferral of any violation of the Ethics Law and if the terms and conditions are satisfied, the Commission will dismiss the Complaint.

Quarterly Case Status Update: Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson summarized the Case Status Log which identifies all pending cases before the Commission.

Upcoming Commission Meetings: Executive Director requested that Commissioners reserve the third Wednesday of every month and she will let Commissioners know in advance if a meeting will be canceled. She also informed the Commission that there would not be a formal meeting in December.

FY18 Budget Status: Executive Director briefly summarized the current status of the FY18 Budget. Specifically, the Commission experienced cost savings in the travel budget for the first half of the fiscal year as the result of fewer Commission meetings than anticipated, but those funds have been utilized to provide outreach and education to both state and local government entities throughout Nevada.

Outreach and Education: Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson provided an update of the ongoing efforts to increase the outreach and education to public employees throughout the State. She included a list of the jurisdictions throughout Nevada that she has provided training this fiscal year.

Case Management System, Opinion Database and Commission Website: Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson informed the Commissioners that the online searchable database of published opinions had been formally launched and is now available on the website, as well as the option to file complaints, requests for advisory opinions and statutory acknowledgements online.

Commissioner Stewart asked for an update on the Commission appointment vacancy and Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson assured the Commission that she would follow up with the Legislative Commission regarding the vacancy and provide an update to the Commissioners.

No Action was taken on this Item.

5. Commissioner Comments on matters including, without limitation, identification of future agenda items, upcoming meeting dates and meeting procedures. No action will be taken under this agenda item.

Chair Lau shared with the Commission that she attended a recent training presented by Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson and that Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson had done an excellent job.

6. Open Session for Public Comment.

No public comment.

7. Adjournment.

Commissioner Weaver moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Yen seconded the Motion. The Motion was put to a vote and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:11 p.m.

Minutes prepared by:

/s/ Kari Pedroza

Kari Pedroza  
Executive Assistant

/s/ Yvonne M. Nevarez-Goodson

Yvonne M. Nevarez-Goodson, Esq.  
Executive Director

Minutes approved January 17, 2018:

/s/ Cheryl A. Lau

Cheryl A. Lau, Esq.  
Chair

/s/ Keith A. Weaver

Keith A. Weaver, Esq.  
Vice-Chair