# Agenda Item 3



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

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

The Commission on Ethics held a public meeting on Wednesday, October 19, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. at the following location:

#### Grant Sawyer State Building Governor's Conference Room Suite 5100 555 E. Washington Avenue Las Vegas, NV 89101

#### Zoom Meeting Information

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86314108167?pwd=ZDIhTHpRNWFrNHk0bHk1ZStJZ0IFZz09

Zoom Meeting Telephone Number: 720-707-2699 \* Meeting ID: 863 1410 8167 Passcode: 244661

These minutes constitute a summary of the above proceedings of the Nevada Commission on Ethics. A recording of the meeting is available for public inspection at the Commission's office.

#### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call.

Chair Kim Wallin, CPA, CMA, CFM appeared in-person in the Governor's Conference Room in Las Vegas and called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. Also appearing in Las Vegas were Vice-Chair Brian Duffrin and Commissioners Barbara Gruenewald, Esq., Teresa Lowry, Esq., James Oscarson, and Amanda Yen, Esq. Commissioner Thoran Towler, Esq. appeared via videoconference. Commissioner Damian R. Sheets, Esq. was absent from the meeting. Present for Commission staff in Las Vegas were Executive Director Ross E. Armstrong, Esq., Commission Counsel Tracy L. Chase, Esq., Associate Counsel Elizabeth J. Bassett, Esq., and Executive Assistant Kari Pedroza. Senior Legal Researcher Darci Hayden appeared via videoconference.

The pledge of allegiance was conducted.

2. Public Comment.

There was no public comment.

#### 3. Approval of Minutes of the September 21, 2022 Commission Meeting.

Chair Wallin stated that all Commissioners were present for the September Commission Meeting, except for Commissioners Gruenewald and Yen who were excused and Commissioner Sheets who was absent from the meeting and would abstain from participating on this item.

Vice-Chair Duffrin noted one correction to the September meeting minutes.

Commissioner Lowry moved to approve the September 21, 2022 Commission Meeting Minutes with correction noted by Vice-Chair Duffrin. Commissioner Oscarson seconded the motion. The Motion was put to a vote and carried as follows:

Aye.
Aye.
Abstain.
Aye.
Aye.
Aye.
Abstain.

 Discussion and approval of a Proposed Stipulation concerning Ethics Complaint No. 19-126C regarding Qiong Liu, former City Manager, City of North Las Vegas, State of Nevada.

Chair Wallin introduced the Item asked the parties in the Complaint to identify themselves for the record. Andrea Champion, Esq. appeared on behalf of Qiong Liu, who was not in attendance but was provided proper notice of the Agenda Item and understood that the Commission would proceed in her absence. Associate Counsel Elizabeth J. Bassett, Esq. appeared on behalf of Executive Director Armstrong before the Commission in this matter.

Associate Counsel Bassett provided an overview of Ethics Complaint Case No. 19-126C (Liu) and the Proposed Stipulation. The Proposed Stipulation delineated two willful violations of NRS 281A.400 subsection (9) and NRS 281A.420 subsection (1), respectively, by Qiong Liu and outlined that Dr. Liu agreed to pay a fine of \$5,000 for each violation totaling \$10,000 and to complete Ethics Training within sixty (60) days of the execution of the Agreement.

Dr. Liu's counsel, Andrea Champion, Esq. commented that Associate Counsel Bassett provided a correct summary of the complaint and the proposed Stipulation and thanked Vice-Chair Duffrin and Commission staff for assistance in resolving the matter.

Commissioner Yen made a motion to accept the terms of the Stipulation as presented by the parties and direct Commission Counsel to finalize the Stipulation in appropriate form. Commissioner Oscarson seconded the motion. The Motion was put to a vote and carried as follows:

Chair Wallin:	Aye.
Vice-Chair Duffrin:	Abstain per NRS 281A.220(4).
Commissioner Gruenewald:	Abstain per NRS 281A.220(4).
Commissioner Lowry:	Aye.
Commissioner Oscarson:	Aye.
Commissioner Towler:	Aye.
Commissioner Yen:	Aye.

- 5. <u>Report by Executive Director on agency status and operations and possible direction</u> thereon. Items to be discussed include, without limitation:
  - Outreach and Education
  - Budget Status
  - Legislative Session Monitoring

<u>Outreach and Education:</u> Executive Director Armstrong provided information on recent trainings conducted and upcoming trainings scheduled. He informed the Commission that Associate Counsel Bassett had presented Ethics in Government Law training to the Canyon General Improvement District Board on October 11, 2022.

<u>Budget Status:</u> Executive Director Armstrong reported that the majority of the first semi-annual local government payments had been received by the Commission.

Executive Director Armstrong shared that expenses for the Commission Counsel retirement payout would be reconciled at the end of the fiscal year.

<u>Legislative Session Monitoring:</u> Executive Director Armstrong informed the Commission that there are 19 legislative bills that Commission staff would be monitoring. He explained that those bills were not necessarily directly related to the Commission but could affect public officers and employees.

Vice-Chair Duffrin asked how the Executive Director would share bill tracking progress with the Commission and Executive Director Armstrong responded he would provide updates via electronic mail.

Commissioner Oscarson requested timeline information for the bill draft request process and Executive Director Armstrong agreed to provide that to him via electronic mail.

Commissioner Gruenewald moved to accept the Executive Director's agency status report as presented. Commissioner Lowry seconded the motion. The motion was put to a vote and carried unanimously.

6. <u>Discussion of the ongoing Commission branding project including possible direction to the</u> <u>Executive Director on branding and logo design development.</u>

Chair Wallin introduced the item and asked Executive Director Armstrong to present.

Executive Director Armstrong presented the proposed logo samples and document examples provided in the meeting materials.

Chair Wallin thanked Executive Director Armstrong for incorporating the Commission's comments during the previous meeting into the proposed logos and asked for feedback from each of her fellow Commissioners on the provided logo samples.

Each Commissioner identified their preferred logo sample and provided further feedback to the Executive Director on slight variations to the Battleborn logo.

Vice-Chair Duffrin made a motion to direct the Executive Director to move forward consistent with the Commission's discussion and provide updated logo options at a future meeting for either additional direction or approval. Commissioner Yen seconded the motion. The motion was put to a vote and carried unanimously.

7. <u>Commissioner comments on matters including, without limitation, identification of</u> <u>future agenda items, upcoming meeting dates and meeting procedures. No action will</u> <u>be taken under this agenda item.</u>

Chair Wallin noted that the Commission would meet in person for its meeting in November in Northern Nevada depending on the number of Commission Counsel position applicants.

8. Public Comment.

There was no public comment.

9. Adjournment.

Commissioner Lowry made a motion to adjourn the public meeting. Commissioner Gruenewald seconded the motion. The Motion was put to a vote and carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:08 a.m.

Minutes prepared by:

Minutes approved November 16, 2022

<u>/s/ Kari Pedroza</u>

Kari Pedroza Executive Assistant

/s/ Ross Armstrong\_

Ross Armstrong, Esq. Executive Director Kim Wallin, CPA, CMA, CFM Chair

Brian Duffrin Vice-Chair

# Agenda Item 4



#### STATE OF NEVADA

#### **BEFORE THE NEVADA COMMISSION ON ETHICS**

In re **John Wesley Prudhont**, Former Treasurer, Nye County, State of Nevada,

Ethics Complaint Consolidated Case Nos. 22-033C, 22-034C

Subject. /

#### PROPOSED STIPULATED AGREEMENT

1. <u>PURPOSE:</u> This Stipulated Agreement resolves Ethics Complaint Case Nos. 22-033C and 034C before the Nevada Commission on Ethics ("Commission") concerning John Wesley Prudhont ("Prudhont"), Former Treasurer, Nye County, State of Nevada.

2. <u>JURISDICTION</u>: At all material times, Prudhont served as Treasurer of Nye County, State of Nevada and was a public officer as defined in NRS 281A.160. The Ethics in Government Law ("Ethics Law") set forth in NRS Chapter 281A gives the Commission jurisdiction over elected and appointed public officers and public employees whose conduct is alleged to have violated the provisions of NRS Chapter 281A. *See* NRS 281A.280. Accordingly, the Commission has jurisdiction over Prudhont in this matter.

#### 3. PROCEDURAL HISTORY BEFORE COMMISSION

a. On May 12, 2022, the Commission issued respective Orders on Jurisdiction, Investigation, and Consolidation regarding NRS 281A.400(7), including directing the Executive Director to serve a Notice of Additional Issues and Facts regarding NRS 281A.400(2) and (9) in Ethics Complaint Nos. 22-033C and 034C ("Ethics Complaints").

b. On May 12, 2022, staff of the Commission issued a *Notice of Complaint and Investigation* under NRS 281A.720(2), stating the allegations.

c. In lieu of an adjudicatory hearing before the Commission, Prudhont and the Commission now enter into this Stipulated Agreement.

**4. STIPULATED FACTS:** At all material times, the following facts were relevant to this matter:<sup>1</sup>

a. Prudhont served as the Nye County Treasurer from his appointment by the County Commission to fill a vacancy in 2019 until his resignation on April 9, 2022.

b. Between March 2020 and December 2021, and while serving in his role as Nye County Treasurer, Prudhont attended and graduated from an online Master of Business Administration program through Louisiana State University, Shreveport.

c. Prudhont performed tasks associated with attaining his master's degree during the Treasurer's Office hours, at a government facility and while utilizing other resources of the office.

5. <u>TERMS / CONCLUSIONS OF LAW</u>: Based on the foregoing, Prudhont and the Commission agree as follows:

a. Each of the stipulated facts enumerated in Section 4 of this Stipulated Agreement ("Agreement") is agreed to by the parties.

b. Allegations that Prudhont violated NRS 281A.400(2) and (9) are hereby dismissed by stipulation of the parties.

c. Prudhont's actions constitute a single course of conduct resulting in one violation of the Ethics Law, implicating the provisions of NRS 281A.400(7).

a. Based upon the consideration and application of the statutory mitigating criteria set forth in NRS 281A.775, the Commission concludes that Prudhont's violation in this case should be deemed a non-willful violation pursuant to NRS 281A.170 for the following reasons:

- 1) Seriousness of the Violation: Although the conduct occurred during Treasurer's Office hours, Prudhont was diligent to use his personal equipment to attend his courses.
- 2) Previous History: Prudhont has not previously been the subject of any violation of the Ethics Law or previous ethics complaints.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Stipulated Facts do not constitute part of the "Investigative File" as that term is defined by NRS 281A.775. All statutory and common law protections afforded to the Investigative File shall remain and are not affected by this Stipulated Agreement.

- 3) Cost of Investigation and Proceedings: Prudhont was diligent to cooperate with and participate in the Commission's investigation and resolution of this matter.
- 4) Mitigating Factors Such as Self-Reporting or Correction: There was no self-reporting or self-correction in this matter. However, Prudhont's willingness to engage in the process has resulted in a better understanding of Nevada Ethics Law and how his actions were improper in this matter.
- 5) Restitution Paid to Parties: Prudhont did not receive any financial benefit from his actions that would need to be paid back in restitution.
- 6) Financial Gain from Violation: Prudhont did not receive any direct financial gain as a result of his violation of the Ethics Law.

d. Prudhont agrees to complete ethics training approved by the Commission's Executive Director within sixty (60) days of approval of this Agreement.

e. The Commission admonishes Prudhont to familiarize himself with the Ethics Law for the purpose of making proper disclosures in the future and in furtherance of complying with the applicable requirements of the Ethics Law.

f. This Agreement depends on and applies only to the specific facts, circumstances and law related to the Ethics Complaint now before the Commission. Any facts or circumstances that may come to light after its entry that are in addition to or differ from those contained herein may create a different resolution of this matter.

g. This Agreement is intended to apply to and resolve only this specific proceeding before the Commission and is not intended to be applicable to or create any admission of liability for any other proceeding, including administrative, civil, or criminal, regarding Prudhont. If the Commission rejects this Agreement, none of the provisions herein shall be considered by the Commission or be admissible as evidence in a hearing on the merits in this matter.

#### 6. <u>WAIVER</u>

a. Prudhont knowingly and voluntarily waives his right to a hearing before the full Commission on the allegations in Ethics Complaint Case Nos. 22-033C and 22-034C and all rights he may be accorded with in regard to this matter pursuant to NRS Chapter

#### PROPOSED

Stipulated Agreement Case Nos. 22-033C, 22-034C Page 3 of 5 281A, the regulations of the Commission (NAC Chapter 281A), the Nevada Administrative Procedures Act (NRS Chapter 233B) and any other applicable provisions of law.

b. Prudhont knowingly and voluntarily waives his right to any judicial review of this matter as provided in NRS Chapter 281A, NRS Chapter 233B or any other applicable provisions of law.

7. <u>ACCEPTANCE:</u> We, the undersigned parties, have read this Stipulated Agreement, understand each and every provision therein, and agree to be bound thereby once approved by the Commission. In addition, the parties orally agreed to be bound by the terms of this Agreement during the regular meeting of the Commission on <u>November 16, 2022</u>.

DATED this	_day of, 20	)22.	John Wesley Prudhont
			FOR JOHN WESLEY PRUDHONT, Subject
DATED this	_day of, 20	)22.	Rob Bare, Esq. Law Office of Rob Bare
			FOR ROSS E. ARMSTRONG, ESQ. Executive Director Nevada Commission on Ethics
DATED this	_day of, 20	)22.	Elizabeth J. Bassett, Esq. Associate Counsel
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Approved as to form by:

#### FOR NEVADA COMMISSION ON ETHICS

DATED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_, 2022.

Tracy L. Chase, Esq. Commission Counsel

The above Stipulated Agreement is accepted by the Nevada Commission on Ethics: DATED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

By: Brian Duffrin Vice Chair By:

Damian Sheets, Esq. Commissioner

By: Barbara Gruenewald, Esq. Commissioner By:

Amanda Yen, Esq. Commissioner

By:

James Oscarson Commissioner

<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to NRS 281A.220(4), Chair Wallin and Commissioners Lowry and Towler, as assigned members to the Review Panel, are precluded from consideration of this matter.

Nevada Commission on Ethics

Case No.	22-034	
For officie	luce only	

Submitted Electronically on 03-27-2022



### **Received 3/28/22 NEVADA COMMISSION ON ETHICS**

### **ETHICS COMPLAINT**

NRS 281A.700 to 281A.790

**1. SUBJECT OF THE COMPLAINT -** person you allege violated provisions of NRS Chapter 281A, the NevadaEthics in Government Law. *(Please use a separate form for each individual.)* 

Subject Name: (Last, First)	Prudhont, Jol	nn Wesley	Title of Public Office: (Position)	Nye County Treasurer	
<b>Public Entity:</b> (Name of the entity employing this position)	Nye County Treasurer's Office				
Address:	170 N. Floyd St. Ste. #2		City, State, Zip Code:	Pahrump, NV 89060	
Telephone:	Work: 775-751- 4202	Other (home/cell):	Email:		

2. Describe the alleged conduct of the public officer or employee (subject) that you believe violated NRS Chapter281A. (Include specific facts and circumstances to support your allegation: times, places, and the nameand position of each person involved.)

For seeking/obtaining MBA on County time at direction and advise of our Union Attorney Adam Levine. During normal business hours of the Nye County Treasurers Office Monday - Friday 8:00am - 5:00pm, our current Treasurer John Prudhont used County time to achieve and complete his online College Courses from LSU Shreveport to get his MBA Degree during normal business hours at the Nye County Treasurer office beginning from the fall of 2019 thru the fall of 2021, and ignored his work ethics as a Treasurer to only have Chief Deputy Treasurer complete his duties for a 2 year period of time. help with his homework all on County time. He is also having his wife Eileen Prudhont run in our election for the Nye County Recorders Office, which I do believe is a conflict of interest, reconveyances and other property adjustments. He does have other jobs with his wife such as "John & Eileen Prudhont Business Brokers Licensed in Nevada & California. I would appreciate your effort, and time looking into this matter. Thank you

3. Is the alleged conduct <u>currently pending</u> before another administrative, law enforcement or judicial body? If yes, describe:

No

4. NRS Chapter 281A requires public officers and employees to hold public office as a public trust and avoid conflicts between public duties and private interests. (NRS 281A.020) What provisions of NRS Chapter 281A are relevant to the conduct alleged? **Please check all that apply.** 

Seeking or accepting any gift, service, favor, employment, engagement, emolument or economic opportunity for himself or person to whom he has a commitment in a private capacity which would tend improperly to influence a reasonable person in his position to depart from the faithful and impartial discharge of his public duties.
Using his position in government to secure or grant unwarranted privileges, preferences, exemptions or advantages for himself, any business entity in which he has a significant pecuniary interest, or any person to whom he has a commitment in a private capacity.
Participating as an agent of government in the negotiation or execution of a contract between the government and himself, any business entity in which he has a significant pecuniary interest or any person to whom he has a commitment in a private capacity.
Accepting any salary, retainer, augmentation, expense allowance or other compensation from any private source for himself or any person to whom he has a commitment in a private capacity for the performance of his duties as a public officer or employee.
Acquiring, through his public duties or relationships, any information which by law or practice is not at the time available to people generally, and using the information to further the pecuniary interests of himself or any other person or business entity.
Suppressing any governmental report or other document because it might tend to affect unfavorably his pecuniary interests or the interests of any person to whom he has a commitment in a private capacity.
Using governmental time, property, equipment or other facility to benefit his significant personal or pecuniary interest, or any person to whom he has a commitment in a private capacity. (Some exceptions apply).
A State Legislator using governmental time, property, equipment or other facility for a nongovernmental purpose or for the private benefit of himself or any other person, or requiring or authorizing a legislative employee, while on duty, to perform personal services or assist in a private activity. (Some exceptions apply).
Attempting to benefit his personal or pecuniary interest or the interests of any person to whom he has a commitment in a private capacity through the influence of a subordinate.
Seeking other employment or contracts for himself or any person to whom he has a commitment in a private capacity through the use of his official position.
Representing or counseling a private person for compensation on an issue pending before a public agency while employed, or within 1 year after leaving the service of a public agency, including before any state agency of the Executive or Legislative Department. (State and local legislators and part-time public officers and employees may represent/counsel private persons before agencies they do not serve, except local legislators may not represent/counsel private persons before other local agencies within the same county.)
Failing to sufficiently disclose his acceptance of a gift or loan, pecuniary interest, commitment in a private capacity to the interest of another person or the nature of any representatiation or counseling provided to a private person for compensation before another agency in the preceeding year that is reasonably affected by an official matter.
Failing to abstain from acting on an official matter which is materially affected by his acceptance of a gift or loan, pecuniary interest, or commitment in a private capacity to the interest of another person.
Bidding on or entering into a government contract in which he has a significant pecuniary interest. (Some exceptions apply).
Failing to file or timely file a Nevada Acknowledgment of Ethical Standards for Public Officers form.
Accepting or receiving an improper honorarium.
Requesting or otherwise causing a governmental entity to incur an expense or make an expenditure to support or oppose a ballot question or candidate during the relevant timeframe.
Negotiating or accepting employment from a business or industry regulated by or contracted with former public agency within one year after leaving the service of the agency. (Failing to honor the applicable "cooling off" period after leaving public service).

\*Pursuant to NRS 281A.065, a public officer or employee has a commitment in a private capacity to the following persons:

1. Spouse; domestic partner

- 2. Household member
- 3. Family member within 3<sup>rd</sup> degree of consanguinity/affinity.
- 4. Employer or spouses/domestic partner/houshold member's employer
- 5. Substantial and continuing business relationships, i.e. partner, associate, or business entity.
- 6. Substantially similar relationships to those listed above, including close, personal relationships akin to family and fiduciary relationships to business entities.

#### 5. YOU MUST SUBMIT EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT YOUR ALLEGATIONS. (NRS 281A.710 through 281A.715.)

<u>Attach</u> all documents or items you believe support your allegations, including witness statements, public or private records, audio or visual recordings, documents, exhibits, concrete objects, or other forms of proof.

**6.** <u>Witnesses</u>: Identify all persons who have knowledge of the facts and circumstances you have described, <u>as well as the nature of the testimony</u> the person will provide.

Name and Title:				
Address:			City, State, Zip:	
Telephone:	<u>Work:</u>	<u>Other (home/cell):</u>	Email:	
Nature of Testimony:				

Name and Title:					
Address:			City, State, Zip:		
Telephone:	<u>Work:</u>	Other (home/cell):	Email:		
Nature of Testimony:					

Name and Title:	Tracy Calderon				
Address:			City, State, Zip:		
Telephone:	<u>Work:</u>	Other (home/cell):	Email:		
Nature of Testimony:					

#### 7. Requesters Information:

Your Name:	
Your Address:	City, State, Zip:

Your Telephone:	<u>Day:</u>	<u>Evening:</u>	Email:	

#### Your identity as the Requester will be provided to the Subject if the Commission accepts jurisdiction of this matter, unless:

Pursuant to NRS 281A.750, I request that my identity as the requester of this Ethics Complaint remain confidential because (please check appropriate box):

A copy of this Complaint will be provided to the Subject. If your request for confidentiality is approved by the Commission, the Complaint will be redacted to protect your identity as the Requester. The Commission may decline to maintain the confidentiality of your identity as the Requester for lack of sufficient evidence of your employment status with the same public body, agency or employer, or proof of a bona fide threat of physical force or violence.

If the Commission declines to maintain my confidentiality, I wish to:

Withdraw my Complaint, OR

Submit the Complaint understanding that the Subject will know my identity as the Requester.

By my signature below, I affirm that the facts set forth in this document and all of its attachments are true and correct <u>to the best of</u> <u>my knowledge</u> and belief. I am willing to provide sworn testimony regarding these allegations. I acknowledge that this Ethics Complaint, the materials submitted in support of the allegations, and the Commissionâ€<sup>TM</sup>s investigation are confidential unless and until the Commissionâ€<sup>TM</sup>s Review Panel renders a determination. Certain Commission procedings and materials, including the Investigatory File remain confidential pursuant to NRS 281A.750 through 281A.760.



Date: 03-27-2022

You may file a Complaint using the Commissionâ€<sup>TM</sup>s <u>online form</u> submission at ethics.nv.gov (Preferred) or You must submit this form bearing your signature to the Executive Director via: **delivery/mail** to Nevada Commission on Ethics, 704 W. Nye Lane, Suite 204, Carson City, Nevada, 89703, **email** to NCOE@ethics.nv.gov, or **fax** to (775) 687-1279 Nevada Commission on Ethics

Case No.	22-033	
For officia	d use only	

Submitted Electronically on 03-27-2022



### Received 3/28/22 NEVADA COMMISSION ON ETHICS

### **ETHICS COMPLAINT**

NRS 281A.700 to 281A.790

**1. SUBJECT OF THE COMPLAINT -** person you allege violated provisions of NRS Chapter 281A, the NevadaEthics in Government Law. *(Please use a separate form for each individual.)* 

Subject Name: (Last, First)	Prudhont, Jol	າກ	Title of Public Office: (Position)	Nye County Treasurer
<b>Public Entity:</b> (Name of the entity employing this position)	Treasurer			
Address:	170 N. Floyd suite#2		City, State, Zip Code:	Pahrump, NV 89060
Telephone:	<u>Work:</u>	<u>Other (home/cell):</u>	Email:	

2. Describe the alleged conduct of the public officer or employee (subject) that you believe violated NRS Chapter281A. (Include specific facts and circumstances to support your allegation: times, places, and the nameand position of each person involved.)

Current Treasurer, John Wesley Prudhont, sought and completed college courses to earn an MBA during normal business hours while present, in office, at the Pahrump Nye Treasurer office from the period September 2019 through September 2021.

3. Is the alleged conduct <u>currently pending</u> before another administrative, law enforcement or judicial body? If yes, describe:

4. NRS Chapter 281A requires public officers and employees to hold public office as a public trust and avoid conflicts between public duties and private interests. (NRS 281A.020) What provisions of NRS Chapter 281A are relevant to the conduct alleged? **Please check all that apply.** 

□ NRS 281A.400(1)	Seeking or accepting any gift, service, favor, employment, engagement, emolument or economic opportunity for himself or person to whom he has a commitment in a private capacity which would tend improperly to influence a reasonable person in his position to depart from the faithful and impartial discharge of his public duties.
□ NRS 281A.400(2)	Using his position in government to secure or grant unwarranted privileges, preferences, exemptions or advantages for himself, any business entity in which he has a significant pecuniary interest, or any person to whom he has a commitment in a private capacity.
□ NRS 281A.400(3)	Participating as an agent of government in the negotiation or execution of a contract between the government and himself, any business entity in which he has a significant pecuniary interest or any person to whom he has a commitment in a private capacity.
□ NRS 281A.400(4)	Accepting any salary, retainer, augmentation, expense allowance or other compensation from any private source for himself or any person to whom he has a commitment in a private capacity for the performance of his duties as a public officer or employee.
□ NRS 281A.400(5)	Acquiring, through his public duties or relationships, any information which by law or practice is not at the time available to people generally, and using the information to further the pecuniary interests of himself or any other person or business entity.
□ NRS 281A.400(6)	Suppressing any governmental report or other document because it might tend to affect unfavorably his pecuniary interests or the interests of any person to whom he has a commitment in a private capacity.

▼ NRS 281A.400(7)	Using governmental time, property, equipment or other facility to benefit his significant personal or pecuniary interest, or any person to whom he has a commitment in a private capacity. (Some exceptions apply).
□ NRS 281A.400(8)	A State Legislator using governmental time, property, equipment or other facility for a nongovernmental purpose or for the private benefit of himself or any other person, or requiring or authorizing a legislative employee, while on duty, to perform personal services or assist in a private activity. (Some exceptions apply).
□ NRS 281A.400(9)	Attempting to benefit his personal or pecuniary interest or the interests of any person to whom he has a commitment in a private capacity through the influence of a subordinate.
□ NRS 281A.400(10)	Seeking other employment or contracts for himself or any person to whom he has a commitment in a private capacity through the use of his official position.
□ NRS 281A.410	Representing or counseling a private person for compensation on an issue pending before a public agency while employed, or within 1 year after leaving the service of a public agency, including before any state agency of the Executive or Legislative Department. (State and local legislators and part-time public officers and employees may represent/counsel private persons before agencies they do not serve, except local legislators may not represent/counsel private persons before other local agencies within the same county.)
□ NRS 281A.420(1)	Failing to sufficiently disclose his acceptance of a gift or loan, pecuniary interest, commitment in a private capacity to the interest of another person or the nature of any representatiation or counseling provided to a private person for compensation before another agency in the preceeding year that is reasonably affected by an official matter.
□ NRS 281A.420(3)	Failing to abstain from acting on an official matter which is materially affected by his acceptance of a gift or loan, pecuniary interest, or commitment in a private capacity to the interest of another person.
□ NRS 281A.430	Bidding on or entering into a government contract in which he has a significant pecuniary interest. (Some exceptions apply).
□ NRS 281A.500	Failing to file or timely file a Nevada Acknowledgment of Ethical Standards for Public Officers form.
□ NRS 281A.510	Accepting or receiving an improper honorarium.
□ NRS 281A.520	Requesting or otherwise causing a governmental entity to incur an expense or make an expenditure to support or oppose a ballot question or candidate during the relevant timeframe.
□ NRS 281A.550	Negotiating or accepting employment from a business or industry regulated by or contracted with former public agency within one year after leaving the service of the agency. (Failing to honor the applicable "cooling off" period after leaving public service).

\*Pursuant to NRS 281A.065, a public officer or employee has a commitment in a private capacity to the following persons:

- 1. Spouse; domestic partner
- 2. Household member
- 3. Family member within 3<sup>rd</sup> degree of consanguinity/affinity.
- 4. Employer or spouses/domestic partner/houshold member's employer
- 5. Substantial and continuing business relationships, i.e. partner, associate, or business entity.
- 6. Substantially similar relationships to those listed above, including close, personal relationships akin to family and fiduciary relationships to business entities.

#### 5. YOU MUST SUBMIT EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT YOUR ALLEGATIONS. (NRS 281A.710 through 281A.715.)

<u>Attach</u> all documents or items you believe support your allegations, including witness statements, public or private records, audio or visual recordings, documents, exhibits, concrete objects, or other forms of proof.

**6.** <u>Witnesses</u>: Identify all persons who have knowledge of the facts and circumstances you have described, <u>as well as the nature of the testimony</u> the person will provide.

Name and Title:				
Address:			City, State, Zip:	
Telephone:	<u>Work:</u>	Other (home/cell):	Email:	

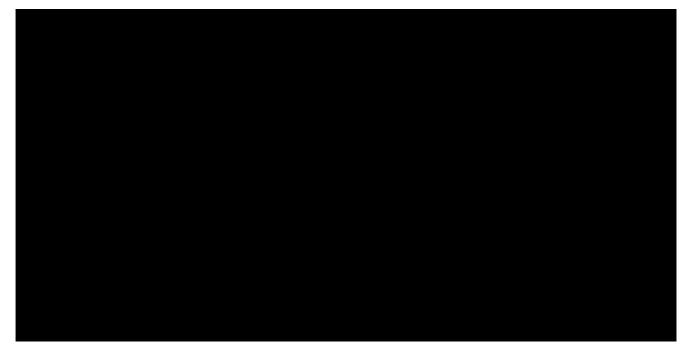
Nature of Testimony:			

#### 7. Requesters Information:

Your Name:				
Your Address:			City, State, Zip:	
Your Telephone:	<u>Dav:</u>	<u>Evening:</u>	Email:	

#### Your identity as the Requester will be provided to the Subject if the Commission accepts jurisdiction of this matter, unless:

Pursuant to NRS 281A.750, I request that my identity as the requester of this Ethics Complaint remain confidential because (please check appropriate box):



A copy of this Complaint will be provided to the Subject. If your request for confidentiality is approved by the Commission, the Complaint will be redacted to protect your identity as the Requester. The Commission may decline to maintain the confidentiality of your identity as the Requester for lack of sufficient evidence of your employment status with the same public body, agency or employer, or proof of a bona fide threat of physical force or violence.

If the Commission declines to maintain my confidentiality, I wish to:

Withdraw my Complaint, OR

Submit the Complaint understanding that the Subject will know my identity as the Requester.

By my signature below, I affirm that the facts set forth in this document and all of its attachments are true and correct <u>to the best of</u> <u>my knowledge</u> and belief. I am willing to provide sworn testimony regarding these allegations. I acknowledge that this Ethics Complaint, the materials submitted in support of the allegations, and the Commissionâ€<sup>TM</sup>s investigation are confidential unless and until the Commissionâ€<sup>TM</sup>s Review Panel renders a determination. Certain Commission procedings and materials, including the Investigatory File remain confidential pursuant to NRS 281A.750 through 281A.760.

	Date:	03-27-2022
Signatur	e:	
Print N	Jame:	
Voum	ay file a Completet using the CompletionôFTMs online form submission at athles my gay (Profer	rad) ar

You may file a Complaint using the Commissionâ€<sup>™</sup>s <u>online form</u> submission at ethics.nv.gov (Preferred) or You must submit this form bearing your signature to the Executive Director via: **delivery/mail** to Nevada Commission on Ethics, 704 W. Nye Lane, Suite 204, Carson City, Nevada, 89703,

Ethics Complaint Page 3 of 4 email to NCOE@ethics.nv.gov, or fax to (775) 687-1279



#### STATE OF NEVADA

#### **BEFORE THE NEVADA COMMISSION ON ETHICS**

In re **John Wesley Prudhont**, Treasurer, Nye County, State of Nevada, Ethics Complaint Case No. 22-033C Confidential

Subject. /

#### ORDER ON JURISDICTION, INVESTIGATION, AND CONSOLIDATION Pursuant to NRS 281A.715

The Nevada Commission on Ethics ("Commission") received an Ethics Complaint on March 28, 2022 regarding Nye County Treasurer John Wesley Prudhont ("Subject"). On May 12, 2022, pursuant to the requirements of the Nevada Ethics in Government Law set forth in NRS Chapter 281A ("Ethics Law") and NAC 281A.405, the Commission conducted its jurisdictional and evidentiary review of the record, including the Ethics Complaint, supporting evidence and the recommendation of the Executive Director.<sup>1</sup>

#### IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

The Commission accepts jurisdiction of this Ethics Complaint and directs the identity of the Requester be maintained as confidential under NRS 281A.750. Further, the Commission directs the Executive Director to investigate the alleged violations<sup>2</sup> and serve a *Notice of Complaint and Investigation* regarding the Subject's alleged violations of the following provisions of the Ethics Law:

**NRS 281A.400(7)** Using governmental time, property, equipment or other facility to benefit his significant person or financial interest, or any person to whom he has a commitment in a private capacity.

Separately, pursuant to NAC 281A.415, the Executive Director is directed to serve a *Notice of Additional Issues and Facts* regarding the following violations in addition to the allegations set forth in the Ethics Complaint:

**NRS 281A.400(2)** Using position in government to secure or grant unwarranted privileges, preferences, exemptions or advantages for himself, any business entity in which he has a significant pecuniary interest, or any person to whom he has a commitment in a private capacity.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The following Commissioners participated in this jurisdictional review: Chair Wallin, Vice-Chair Duffrin and Commissioners Gruenewald, Lowry, Oscarson, Sheets, Towler and Yen. <sup>2</sup> The Commission directs an investigation into the alleged allegations set forth in the Complaint including

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Commission directs an investigation into the alleged allegations set forth in the Complaint including those detailed in the Notice of Additional Issues and Facts. However, an investigation is not directed on the specific allegation that the Subject is benefiting his private business by having his spouse seek elected office, based upon a lack of sufficient evidence. See NRS 281A.710(2)(b).

**NRS 281A.420(9)** Attempting to benefit his personal or pecuniary interest or the interests of any person to whom he has a commitment in a private capacity through the influence of a subordinate.

In addition, the Commission finds good cause to consolidate the Ethics Complaint Nos. 22-033C and 22-034C for all future proceedings because they share common facts and issues. Therefore, the Commission hereby consolidates Ethics Complaint Nos. 22-033C and 22-034C pursuant to NAC 281A.260.<sup>3</sup>

DATED this <u>12<sup>th</sup></u> day of <u>May</u> 2022.

NEVADA COMMISSION ON ETHICS

/s/ Kim Wallin

Kim Wallin, CPA, CMA, CFM Commission Chair

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The Commission or the Chair may consolidate, in whole or in part, two or more ethics complaints if the Commission or the Chair determines that the ethics complaints, share common facts and issues. NAC 281A.260.

#### **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I certify that I am an employee of the Nevada Commission on Ethics and that on this day in Carson City, Nevada, I transmitted via Email and deposited for mailing, via U.S. Postal Service, certified mail, return receipt requested, through the State of Nevada mailroom, a true and correct copy of the foregoing **Order on Jurisdiction, Investigation, and Consolidation**, addressed as follows:

John Wesley Prudhont 3575 E. Polk Ave. Pahrump, NV 89061 Cert. Mail No.: 9171 9690 0935 0037 6368 35

Email: <u>electjohnprudhont@gmail.com</u>

Dated: <u>5/12/22</u>

Employee, Nevada Commission on Ethics

Order on Jurisdiction and Investigation Page 3 of 3



#### **BEFORE THE NEVADA COMMISSION ON ETHICS**

In re **John Wesley Prudhont**, Treasurer, Nye County, State of Nevada,

Ethics Complaint Case No. 22-034C Confidential

Subject. /

#### ORDER ON JURISDICTION, INVESTIGATION, AND CONSOLIDATION Pursuant to NRS 281A.715

The Nevada Commission on Ethics ("Commission") received an Ethics Complaint on March 28, 2022 regarding Nye County Treasurer John Wesley Prudhont ("Subject"). On May 12, 2022, pursuant to the requirements of the Nevada Ethics in Government Law set forth in NRS Chapter 281A ("Ethics Law") and NAC 281A.405, the Commission conducted its jurisdictional and evidentiary review of the record, including the Ethics Complaint, supporting evidence and the recommendation of the Executive Director.<sup>1</sup>

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

The Commission accepts jurisdiction of this Ethics Complaint and directs the identity of the Requester be maintained as confidential under NRS 281A.750. Further, the Commission directs the Executive Director to investigate the alleged violations<sup>2</sup> and serve a *Notice of Complaint and Investigation* regarding the Subject's alleged violations of the following provisions of the Ethics Law:

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**NRS 281A.400(2)** Using position in government to secure or grant unwarranted privileges, preferences, exemptions or advantages for himself, any business entity in which he has a significant pecuniary interest, or any person to whom he has a commitment in a private capacity.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The following Commissioners participated in this jurisdictional review: Chair Wallin, Vice-Chair Duffrin and Commissioners Gruenewald, Lowry, Oscarson, Sheets, Towler and Yen. <sup>2</sup> The Commission directs an investigation into the alleged allegations set forth in the Complaint including

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# **NRS 281A.420(9)** Attempting to benefit his personal or pecuniary interest or the interests of any person to whom he has a commitment in a private capacity through the influence of a subordinate.

In addition, the Commission finds good cause to consolidate the Ethics Complaint Nos. 22-033C and 22-034C for all future proceedings because they share common facts and issues. Therefore, the Commission hereby consolidates Ethics Complaint Nos. 22-033C and 22-034C pursuant to NAC 281A.260.<sup>3</sup>

DATED this <u>12<sup>th</sup></u> day of <u>May</u> 2022.

NEVADA COMMISSION ON ETHICS

/s/ Kim Wallin

Kim Wallin, CPA, CMA, CFM Commission Chair

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The Commission or the Chair may consolidate, in whole or in part, two or more ethics complaints if the Commission or the Chair determines that the ethics complaints, share common facts and issues. NAC 281A.260.

#### **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I certify that I am an employee of the Nevada Commission on Ethics and that on this day in Carson City, Nevada, I transmitted via Email and deposited for mailing, via U.S. Postal Service, certified mail, return receipt requested, through the State of Nevada mailroom, a true and correct copy of the foregoing **Order on Jurisdiction, Investigation and Consolidation**, addressed as follows:

John Wesley Prudhont 3575 E. Polk Ave. Pahrump, NV 89061 Cert. Mail No.: 9171 9690 0935 0037 6368 35

Email: <u>electjohnprudhont@gmail.com</u>

Dated: <u>5/12/22</u>

Employee, Nevada Commission on Ethics

Order on Jurisdiction and Investigation Page 3 of 3



#### STATE OF NEVADA

#### **BEFORE THE NEVADA COMMISSION ON ETHICS**

In re **John Wesley Prudhont**, Treasurer, Nye County, State of Nevada,

Ethics Complaint Consolidated Case Nos. 22-033C, No. 22-034C

Subject. /

#### REVIEW PANEL DETERMINATION AND REFERRAL ORDER NRS 281A.730; NAC 281A.440

The Nevada Commission on Ethics ("Commission") received two Ethics Complaints on March 28, 2022, regarding the alleged conduct of Subject John Wesley Prudhont ("Prudhont"). On May 12, 2022, the Commission instructed the Executive Director to consolidate the Ethics Complaints and investigate the alleged violations of NRS 281A.400(2), (7), and (9).

Prudhont is a public officer as defined in NRS 281A.160 and 281A.180, and the Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to NRS 281A.280 because the allegations contained in the Complaint relate to Prudhont's alleged conduct as a public officer and have associated implications under the Ethics Law.

On June 15, 2022, a Review Panel ("Panel") consisting of Chair Kim Wallin, CPA, CMA, CFM (Presiding Officer) and Commissioner Thoran Towler, Esq. reviewed the following: (1) Ethics Complaints; (2) Orders on Jurisdiction; Investigation, and Consolidation; (3) Prudhont's Response to the Complaints; and (4) Executive Director's Recommendation to the Review Panel with a Summary of Investigatory Findings.<sup>1</sup>

Under NAC 281A.430, the Panel unanimously finds and concludes that the facts establish credible evidence to support a determination that just and sufficient cause exists for the Commission to render an opinion in the matter regarding the alleged violations of NRS 281A.400(2), (7), and (9).

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>All materials provided to the Panel, except the Ethics Complaint and the Order on Jurisdiction and Investigation, represent portions of the investigatory file and remain confidential pursuant to NRS 281A.750.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

Based upon the just and sufficient cause determination, the Review Panel refers Ethics Complaint Nos. 22-033C and 22-034C to the Commission for further proceedings, which may include rendering an opinion on whether Prudhont violated NRS 281A.400(2), (7), and (9).

Dated this <u>21<sup>st</sup></u> day of <u>June</u>, 2022.

REVIEW PANEL OF THE NEVADA COMMISSION ON ETHICS<sup>2</sup>

By: <u>/s/ Kim Wallin</u> Kim Wallin, CPA, CMA, CFM Chair/Presiding Officer

By: <u>/s/ Absent</u>

Teresa Lowry, Esq. Commissioner

By: /s/ Thoran Towler

Thoran Towler, Esq. Commissioner

<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to NAC 281A.177(2), if a vacancy occurs in the membership of a review panel, the two remaining members have authority to act on all pending issued before the review panel.

#### **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I certify that I am an employee of the Nevada Commission on Ethics and that on this day in Carson City, Nevada, I transmitted a true and correct copy of the foregoing **REVIEW PANEL DETERMINATION AND REFERRAL ORDER** via electronic mail, as consented to by the Subject, addressed as follows:

John Wesley Prudhont

Email: electjohnprudhont@gmail.com

Dated: 6/21/22

Employee, Nevada Commission on Ethics



In re John Wesley Prudhont, Treasurer, Nye County, State of Nevada,

**Ethics Complaint** Consolidated Case Nos. 22-033C, No. 22-034C

Subject. /

#### WAIVER OF STATUTORY TIME REQUIREMENTS: ADJUDICATORY HEARING



I, John Wesley Prudhont, the above Subject, affirm that have read the provisions of NRS 281A.745 and hereby freely and voluntarily waive the sixty (60) day statutory time limit for the Commission to hold the adjudicatory hearing and render an opinion in this matter on any date which is set forth in a Notice of Hearing and Scheduling Order issued in these proceedings.

Dated: 6-22-22

John Prudhont John Wesley Prudhont



#### STATE OF NEVADA BEFORE THE NEVADA COMMISSION ON ETHICS

In re **John Wesley Prudhont**, Treasurer, Nye County, State of Nevada,

Ethics Complaint Consolidated Case Nos. 22-033C, No. 22-034C

Subject. /

#### WAIVER OF NOTICE REQUIRED UNDER NRS 241.033(1) TO CONSIDER CHARACTER, MISCONDUCT, OR COMPETENCE OF SUBJECT IN ETHICS COMPLAINT PROCEEDINGS

The Nevada Commission on Ethics ("Commission") will be holding various hearings, meetings, judicial review or appellate proceedings and other proceedings to consider the Subject's character, misconduct or competence as related to the above referenced Consolidated Ethics Complaints (collectively "Proceedings"). If the Proceedings are not exempt from Nevada's Open Meeting Law pursuant to NRS Chapters 241 or 281A, NRS 241.033(1) requires notice be personally served on Subject of the time and place of the meeting at least 5 working days before the meeting or sent by certified mail to the last known address at least 21 working days before the meeting.

Subject agrees to comply with all noticed deadlines and scheduled dates for the Proceedings, including those noticed by a posted public agenda, scheduled with the parties, or set forth in a Notice of Hearing and Scheduling Order and other issued Orders, including any amendments thereto.

I, John Wesley Prudhont, understand the statutory notice requirements of NRS 241.033 and hereby knowingly and voluntarily waive my rights thereto associated with any Proceedings. In doing so, I expressly consent to any discussion of my qualifications, competence, and character in the Proceedings. Prior to signing this waiver, I either had the opportunity to discuss this matter with my attorney or have voluntarily determined to proceed on my own accord, thereby waiving the right to consult with an attorney.

Dated this <u>7th</u> day of <u>November</u>, 2022.

By: John Wesley Prudhont John Wesley Prudhont



#### **BEFORE THE NEVADA COMMISSION ON ETHICS**

In re **John Wesley Prudhont**, Treasurer, Nye County, State of Nevada, Ethics Complaint Case Nos. 22-033C and 22-034C

Subject. /

## NRS 281A.745

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE**, the Nevada Commission on Ethics ("Commission") will hold a public meeting to consider a **Proposed Stipulated Agreement** regarding the allegations submitted in Ethics Complaint Nos. 22-033C and 22-034C at the following time and location:

When: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

Where: Nevada State Capitol Building Guinn Room 101 N. Carson Street, Second Floor Carson City, NV 89701

And via Zoom at:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84005817947?pwd=aTFOSHhWTy9LeDBTanZqMktGSkVqZz09 Zoom Meeting Telephone Number: 720-707-2699\*

> Meeting ID: 840 0581 7947 Passcode: 762207

Subject has waived the personal notice requirements of NRS 241.033 (Nevada's Open Meeting Law). If the Proposed Stipulated Agreement is approved, it will serve as the final written opinion in this matter pursuant to NRS 281A.135.

DATED: November 7, 2022

/s/ Tracy L. Chase

Tracy L. Chase, Esq. Commission Counsel

Notice of Hearing Page 1 of 2

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I am an employee of the Nevada Commission on Ethics and that on this day in Carson City, Nevada, I transmitted a true and correct copy of the foregoing **Notice of Hearing** via electronic mail to the Parties, as follows:

#### **Executive Director:**

Ross E. Armstrong, Esq. Executive Director Elizabeth J. Bassett, Esq. Associate Counsel 704 W. Nye Lane, Suite 204 Carson City, NV 89703 Email: rarmstrong@ethics.nv.gov

Email: <a href="mailto:ebassett@ethics.nv.gov">ebassett@ethics.nv.gov</a>

cc: <u>k.pedroza@ethics.nv.gov</u>

#### Subject:

John Wesley Prudhont c/o Rob Bare, Esq. Glenn Machado, Esq. Law Offices of Rob Bare, PLCC 150 Las Vegas Blvd. N. #1812 Las Vegas, NV 89101 Email: rob@robbarelaw.com Email: glenn@robbarelaw.com

DATED: November 7, 2022

Employee of the Nevada Commission on Ethics

# Agenda Item 5

## Commission Counsel SPECIFIC JOB DUTIES:

- <u>LITIGATION</u>: Legal assistance would be needed but no open cases and no anticipated petitions for judicial review before April 2024. Delegation depends on the type of legal matter. Represent the Commission, Review Panel, and Commission staff at the direction of the Commission in legal proceedings before local, state, and federal courts, including drafting legal memoranda to, and appearing and presenting arguments before, the courts and cooperating in related cases.
- 2. Obtain or employ conflict counsel, as permitted by NRS 281A.260.

## ADVISORY OPINIONS: - These duties can be delegated internally unless one of the internal attorneys has a conflict requiring abstention.

- 1. Review all filed requests for Advisory Opinions to determine whether the request is in proper form per statutory and regulatory requirements and prepare and issue appropriate notices.
- 2. Review request to determine Commission's jurisdiction of matter with concurrence of the Executive Director.
- 3. Correspond with Requester to provide jurisdictional determination, preliminary explanation of process or to request supplemental information.
- 4. Research and/ or assign legal research to SLR and/ or Associate Counsel.
- 5. Analyze and apply the law to the facts presented and discovered.
- 6. Prepare or approve draft Notices of Hearing, orders and other legal documents, make edits and direct service of the same.
- 7. Prepare draft opinions and/ or bench memos to the Commission in preparation for consideration of request for Advisory Opinions either by submission or hearing.
- 8. Supervise service of opinions, determine level of confidentiality of opinion including preparation of abstract opinions if the Requester does not waive confidentiality.
- 9. Represent the Commission in reconsiderations, re-hearings and other litigation relating to advisory opinions.

<u>ETHICS COMPLAINTS</u>: NRS 233B.122(1) precludes any agency member who acts as an investigator or prosecutor in any contested case to adjudicate such case. In addition, other rules and laws may apply such as the Rules of Professional Responsibility governing legal representation and the Ethics Law. These issues are being researched. In addition to the internal delegation option being researched, other options identified so far include Commission's request to utilize a deputy attorney general or retain outside counsel by contract. The duties within this area include:

- 1. Review complaint and evidence to assist in determination of Commission's jurisdiction of matter. No delegation issues identified
- 2. Assign and approve orders and notices to Subject and/ or Requester regarding jurisdiction. No delegation issues identified

- 3. Approve any legal forms such as subpoenas, Review Panel Determinations and other forms prepared on behalf of or presented to the Review Panel or the Commission for consideration. Delegation Issues Being Researched
- 4. Evaluate Executive Director recommendations to Review Panels and advise Review Panels of legal issues. Delegation Issues Being Researched
- 5. Review for legal form Review Panel Determinations and Deferral Agreements. Delegation Issues Being Researched
- 6. For referred complaint cases, prepare and issue notices and orders required by and as permitted by law. Delegation Issues Being Researched
- 7. Schedule settlement conferences if requested by parties and act as legal advisor for appointed settlement Commissioner:
- 8. Stipulations:
  - i. Advise parties regarding acceptable terms and conditions of stipulations on behalf of Commission. Delegation Issues Being Researched
- 9. Review draft language for legal form and advise Commission of legal considerations. Delegation Issues Being Researched
- 10. Hearings: Delegation Issues Being Researched
  - i. Act as the legal advisor to the Commission in all hearings including assisting on all scheduling matters as permitted by law including discovery, motions, hearings, and other deadlines.
  - ii. Prepare and cause to be served notices, scheduling orders and orders.
  - iii. Preside over pre-hearing conferences between parties and Chair of Commission.
  - iv. Initiate, research and prepare legal bench memos to the Commission advising on legal considerations of case, including legal motions.
  - v. Assist Commission during hearings to address legal considerations; respond to legal questions, i.e., legal objections, motions, and other rulings.
  - vi. Assist the Commission in its deliberations on evidence and law.
  - vii. Prepare opinions and direct service of matters on behalf of the Commission.
  - viii. Represent the Commission (not the parties) in judicial and appellate litigation.

# **LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS**: Legislative and regulatory duties can be delegated.

- 1. Recommend, review and draft proposed administrative regulations and legislation.
- 2. Represent Commission before regulatory and legislative bodies regarding proposed regulations and legislation.
- 3. Consider regulations and legislation from other jurisdictions of relevance to Commission's Mission.

<u>ADMINISTRATION AND SUPERVISION</u>: Duties related to delegation of authority for Ethics Complaints and meeting representation are still being researched. Here is a list of duties with notations on those that can be delegated.

- 1. Report legal status of all matters to Commission in closed meetings or open public meetings, as appropriate. Delegation Issues Being Researched
- 2. Ensure meetings and public hearings are prepared and conducted in accordance with appropriate laws and guidelines, including the Nevada Open Meeting Law.– Delegation Issues Being Researched
- Administer all activities related to Commission's legal matters including preparing legal documentation on behalf and in support of Commission business. Delegation Issues Being Researched
- 4. Communicate regularly and work closely with Commission Chair to organize Commission's activities and legal caseload. Delegation Issues Being Researched
- 5. With exception of legal matters prepared by or on behalf of the parties in adjudicatory proceedings pertaining to ethics complaint, supervise legal activities of Commission. Can be delegated to the Chair
- 6. Review and assign legal matters to Commission staff as appropriate. Can be delegated depending on the issue
- 7. Act as back-up to Executive Director in administrative and supervision duties over Commission Staff. Can be delegated
- 8. Review and assign legal matters to Senior Legal Researcher and Associate Counsel for advisory opinion matters and as otherwise permitted. Can be delegated
- 9. Assist Executive Director to evaluate performance of Senior Legal Researcher and Associate Counsel. Can be delegated
- 10. Other duties as assigned by the Commission or its Chair. Delegation depends on type of duty

#### PUBLIC RECORDS AND INQUIRIES: Can be delegated

- 1. Confirm compliance with applicable law and administer legal issues related to public records requests including policy updates, and review, calendar, and coordinate responses to receiverequests.
- 2. Assist in responding to citizen and other inquiries.

# Agenda Item 7



## *Executive Director Report – November 2022*

### **Education and Outreach**

Upcoming social media focus

• November: Newly Elected Official Education

Training and Technical Assistance

- Association of School Boards November 11
- Lander County December 13
- Post-election Requests
  - Washoe County
  - City of Las Vegas

#### **Online Learning System**

An initial contract request has been submitted to the Administrative Services Division. We need to run our own contract solicitation process. Our assigned contract officer with ASD is assisting with the process.

#### **Legislative Update**

- See attached spreadsheet for Bill Draft Requests currently identified to monitor
- Next steps
  - o Continue to answer any questions about our Bill Draft Request
  - Keep track of who is assigned to the Legislative Operations and Election Committee

#### **Commission Counsel Hiring Update**

- Set November 11 application deadline
- November 30: Interviews or other action by Personnel Subcommittee
- December 8: Commission hiring meeting (if referred by Personnel Subcommittee)
- Assistance from the Attorney General's Office

#### Nevada Commission on Ethics 82nd Legislative Session BDR Tracking

	BDR			
Track (Y/N)	Number	Торіс	Sponsor	Bill Number
	14	Revises provisions relating to public officers	Spearman	
	28	Revises provisions relating to confidential information	Buck	
	48	Revises provisions relating to boards and commissioners	Donate	
	103	Revises provisions governing the legislative measures that may be requested for a regular legislative session.	McArthur	
	120	Revises provisions governing public notice	Torres	
	124	Revises provisions governing state procurement	Watts	
	131	Revises provisions governing certain public employees	Scheible	
	147	Revises provisions governing civil litigation	Yeager	
	149	Revises provisions governing civil procedure	Cohen	
	155	Revises provisions governing collective bargaining	Peters	
	195	Revises provisions relating to the Legislature	Harris	
	197	Revises provisions relating to government administration	Goicoechea	
Y	264	Revises provisions relating to ethics in government	NCOE	
	285	Revisions provisions relating to state government administration	Buck	
	416	Makes various changes related to Open Meeting Law	AGO	
	418	Revises provisions related to state employees	AGO	
	422	Revises provisions relating to legal representation by the Attorney General	AGO	
	428	Makes changes relating to pro bono activities of attorneys in public employment	AGO	
	437	Revises provisisions governing the Commission on Judicial Discipline		
	468	COLA for employees in collective bargaining units	Gov	
	469	COLA for employees in collective bargaining units	Gov	

Last check through

469

# Agenda Item 8

## **Final Logo Selections**



Logo 1 – Large Nevada with sunburst



Logo 2 – Nevada inside inner circle and yellow burst



Logo 3 – Nevada inside inner circle and golden burst

Kim Wallin, CPA, CMA, CFM Chair

Brian Duffrin Vice-Chair



704 W. Nye Lane, Suite 204 Carson City, Nevada 89703 (775) 687-5469 • Fax (775) 687-1279 http://ethics.nv.gov

### PRESS RELEASE

#### Ethics Commission Releases Annual Report: Cases Rebound to Pre-Pandemic Levels

CARSON CITY, NEVADA (10/6/22) The Nevada Commission on Ethics has released its annual report for the fiscal year 2022. The annual review of Ethics Commission activity and future goals reveals that Ethics case activity has rebounded to pre-pandemic levels.

Commission Chair Kim Wallin emphasized: "As we continue into the fiscal year 2023, the Commission is focused on enhancing the public's faith and confidence in government through expanded education and outreach, helpful advisory opinions, and robust enforcement of Nevada's Ethics Law."

Some highlights from the report:

- 53 Advisory Opinions were requested by public officers and employees
- 96 Complaint Cases filed
- Over \$8,000 in penalties collected

Strategic Accomplishments from FY2022 include:

- Cleared the backlog of cases pending before the Commission
- Enhanced utilization of social media accounts to increase ethics awareness and education
- Diligent use of the Commission's complaint by motion process to initiate ethics cases when ethics violations are discovered or reported outside the complaint process

"As COVID restrictions have lifted we have been able to increase our training and outreach. Expanding our training options for public agencies at all levels of a government will remain a major priority for the year to come." said Executive Director Ross Armstrong.

The annual report is available for review here: NCOE Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Report

**CONTACT** Ross E. Armstrong Executive Director Contact: rarmstrong@ethics.nv.gov Kim Wallin, CPA, CMA, CFM Chair

Brian Duffrin Vice-Chair



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**CONTACT** Ross E. Armstrong Executive Director Contact: rarmstrong@ethics.nv.gov Kim Wallin, CPA, CMA, CFM Chair

Brian Duffrin Vice-Chair



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"As COVID restrictions have lifted we have been able to increase our training and outreach. Expanding our training options for public agencies at all levels of a government will remain a major priority for the year to come." said Executive Director Ross Armstrong.

The annual report is available for review here: NCOE Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Report

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# NEVADA COMMISSION ON ETHICS

PRESENTED BY ROSS ARMSTRONG, ESQ., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



# STATUTORY AND REGULATORY AUTHORITY

- Chapter 281A Nevada Revised Statutes Nevada Ethics Law
- Chapter 281A Nevada Administrative Code Ethics Regulations

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