



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

The Commission on Ethics held a public meeting on
Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.
at the following location:

**State Bar of Nevada
3100 West Charleston Boulevard, Boardroom
Las Vegas NV 89102**

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 and on the [Commission's YouTube channel](#).

1. Call to Order and Roll Call.

Chair Scott Scherer, Esq. appeared in person in Las Vegas and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Vice Chair Kim Wallin, CPA, CMA, CFM and Commissioners Teresa Lowry, Esq., John Miller, and Terry J. Reynolds also appeared in person. Commissioners Michael E. Langton, Esq. and Brianna Smith, Esq. appeared via video conference. Commissioner John T. Moran III, Esq. was absent. Commission staff present in person were Executive Director Ross E. Armstrong, Esq., Commission Counsel Elizabeth J. Bassett, Esq., Senior Legal Researcher Curtis Hazlett, Outreach and Education Officer Sam Harvey, Investigator Erron Terry and Executive Assistant Kari Pedroza.

2. Public Comment.

Bill Schrimpf attended via Zoom and provided verbal public comment under this item pertaining to Agenda Item 7, discussed past Commission decisions, and encouraged the Commission to be more aggressive with enforcement actions.

3. Approval of Minutes of the January 16, 2025, Commission Meeting.

Chair Scherer stated that Commissioners Langton and Miller were precluded from participating in this item; all of the remaining Commissioners may participate.

Vice Chair Wallin moved to approve the January 16, 2025, Commission Meeting Minutes as presented. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. The motion was put to a vote and carried as follows:

Chair Scherer:	Aye.
Vice Chair Wallin:	Aye.
Commissioner Langton:	Abstain.
Commissioner Lowry:	Aye.
Commissioner Miller:	Abstain.
Commissioner Reynolds:	Aye.
Commissioner Smith:	Aye.

4. Discussion and approval of Commission Proclamation honoring Commissioner Stan Olsen's service to the Commission.

Chair Scherer introduced the item, read the Commission Proclamation honoring Commissioner Olsen for the record.

Vice Chair Wallin thanked former Commissioner Olsen for his service.

Executive Director Armstrong stated that he would ensure that former Commissioner Olsen received the finalized Proclamation. He shared his appreciation for former Commissioner Olsen's passion for government.

Chair Scherer echoed Executive Director Armstrong's sentiment and thanked former Commissioner Olsen for his service to the Commission.

No action was taken on this Item

5. Discussion and approval of a Proposed Stipulated Agreement concerning Ethics Complaint No. 24-109C regarding Charles Green, Secretary/Treasurer, Board of Homeopathic Medical Examiners, State of Nevada.

Chair Scherer introduced the item and stated for the record that Vice Chair Wallin and Commissioner Lowry served as members of the Review Panel for this matter and would be precluded from participating in any further proceedings pursuant to NRS 281A.220(4).

Chair Scherer asked the parties to the Complaint to identify themselves for the record. Appearing on his own behalf was Executive Director Armstrong. Mont Tanner, Esq. appeared via Zoom video conference on behalf of Charles Green, who was not in attendance but was provided proper notice of the Agenda Item and understood that the Commission would proceed in his absence.

Executive Director Armstrong presented the Commission initiated Ethics complaint background and proposed stipulated resolution agreed upon and signed by the parties. He thanked Commissioner Lowry for her assistance as the Presiding Officer of the settlement conference in this matter which resulted in this agreement. Executive Director Armstrong outlined the terms and mitigating factors of the proposed stipulated agreement. Mont Tanner confirmed that the summary provided by Executive Director Armstrong was accurate.

Commissioner Miller made a motion to accept the terms of the Stipulated Agreement as presented by the parties and direct Commission Counsel to finalize the agreement in appropriate legal form. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. The Motion was put to a vote and carried as follows:

Chair Scherer:	Aye.
Vice Chair Wallin:	Abstain.
Commissioner Langton:	Aye.
Commissioner Lowry:	Abstain.
Commissioner Miller:	Aye.
Commissioner Reynolds:	Aye.
Commissioner Smith:	Aye.

6. Discussion and approval of a Proposed Stipulation for Consent Order concerning Ethics Complaint No. 24-130C regarding Ron Boskovich, Commissioner, Nye County, State of Nevada.

This Item was not heard.

7. Discussion and possible direction to Commission staff regarding the Commission's Reputational Goals in alignment with the adopted Strategic Plan.

Chair Scherer introduced the item and asked Commission Counsel Bassett for her presentation.

Commission Counsel Bassett provided the intent of the Agenda Item noting that one focus of the Commission's Strategic Plan is maintaining the public's trust in government. She shared the results of the reputational goals survey completed by the Commissioners and Commission staff. Commission Counsel Bassett thanked the survey participants for their feedback. The Commissioners discussed next steps for the reputational goals.

Commissioner Lowry thanked Mr. Schrimpf for providing timely and articulate public comment. She shared her view that while it is important to consider the Commission's perception of its reputation, the public's perception of the Commission's reputation should be measured and prioritized. Commissioner Lowry acknowledged that sometimes the Commission's hands are tied by law, specifically the jurisdiction as authorized in the Ethics law. She noted her tendency to lean toward education equal to accountability, not placing education ahead of adjudication, but equal importance in order to increase the public's confidence in government. Commissioner Lowry questioned whether the Commission's Outreach and Education department could be utilized to obtain public feedback regarding the Commission's reputation and outlined that understanding the Commission's internal perception, the general public's perception and stakeholders' perception would be beneficial in moving forward.

Chair Scherer asked Outreach and Education Officer Harvey if they could bring back some ideas on surveying public perception of the Commission's reputation at the April meeting. Outreach and Education Harvey responded that they could not as they will be out on family leave, however Executive Director Armstrong could provide the information. Vice Chair Wallin suggested that the survey be posted on the Commission's website followed by a press release about the survey and Outreach and Education Officer Harvey agreed.

Commissioner Reynolds stated that he was a state administrator for 21 years and in his experience it was the state managers' responsibility to work with elected officials and provide training about fiscal obligations ranging from travel to campaign finance and many managers didn't prioritize that training. He suggested that training be provided to state managers, trainers and government charter representatives. Chair Scherer agreed and added that appointees to small local government boards and commissions should also receive training.

Vice Chair Wallin echoed her fellow Commissioners' comments. She discussed the Commission's advisory opinion process, agreed that the process can sometimes get held up by the requesters, highlighted that on a few occasions the Commission was able to expedite opinions in emergent circumstances and shared her belief that the published opinions had improved, were much more succinct and easier to understand in the new format. She agreed that training is extremely important and stated that the Commission's training program has grown by leaps and bounds.

Chair Scherer noted that at the end of the day the Commission is an adjudicatory body and is tasked with considering the facts and circumstances of each individual case on its own merits.

Commissioner Langton stated that he is continually impressed by Commission staff's work and was surprised by the amount of work the Commissioners put in which is not realized by the public. He commended the staff, especially Executive Director Armstrong, for the depth of the analysis provided. Commissioner Langton added that he appreciates the Commission is not out for its pound of flesh and is focused on being a valuable resource for education.

No action was taken on this Item.

8. Report by Executive Director on agency status and operations.

Chair Scherer introduced the item and asked Executive Director Armstrong for his presentation.

Executive Director Armstrong referenced the Executive Director's report included with the meeting materials. He welcomed new Commissioner John Miller to the Commission and to his first meeting. Executive Director Armstrong informed the Commission about his plan to underfill the Associate Counsel position with current Senior Legal Researcher Hazlett who upon passage of the State Bar would automatically promote to the position. He acknowledged that the position had remained vacant for quite some time and shared that other state agencies are experiencing the same struggles in recruiting.

Commissioner Miller asked how long the Associate Counsel position had been vacant and Vice Chair Wallin responded that the position had been vacant almost a year.

Executive Director updated the Commission about the Legislative session, the Commission's presentation at the Joint Meeting of the Senate Committee and Assembly Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections on February 11, and outlined which proposed bills he was tracking. He agreed to continue to provide weekly legislative reports via email to the Commission.

Executive Director Armstrong informed the Commission of the progress on the implementation for each of the four strategic plan focus areas including the reputational study heard earlier in the meeting, outreach and education goals outlined in a staff meeting the day prior to the meeting, feedback from the January staff time study and the inclusion of funds to replace the Commission's case management system in the Governor's recommended budget.

Executive Director Armstrong shared that he attended the Commission's budget hearing the Monday prior, summarized the proceedings and provided information on the budget enhancements included in the biennial budget request. He noted that he provided adequate responses to the Committee's pre-hearing questions resulting in minimal questions asked at the budget presentation. Executive Director Armstrong shared information pertaining to the Commission's language access plan and anticipated next steps.

Executive Director Armstrong confirmed that there will only be a review panel in March and the April 16 meeting will be held in Reno.

There was discussion regarding proposed legislation's potential impact on the Commission and historical legislative benchmarks.

No action was taken on this Item.

9. Report on Ethics Outreach and Education.

Chair Scherer opened the item and asked Outreach and Education Officer (OEO) Harvey to provide the Outreach and Education presentation.

OEO Harvey referenced the written report included with meeting materials, highlighted the Commission's social media presence updates, and outlined the recent education and outreach efforts including the recently concluded newly elected officers training. They provided details on increased acknowledgment filings, newsletter subscription requests and upcoming scheduled training opportunities. OEO Harvey informed the Commission of the public records requests received since the last Commission meeting.

Commissioner Reynolds and Vice Chair Wallin asked questions about training personalization and engagement and OEO Harvey responded.

Vice Chair Wallin commented that the Nevada Ethics Online (NEO) is a great tool for new Commissioners, commended OEO Harvey on their hard work on behalf of the Commission.

No action was taken on this Item.

10. Commissioner Comments.

Vice Chair Wallin welcomed Commissioner Miller to the Commission and reiterated that Commissioners on the Ethics Commission can expect a lot of work. Chair Scherer agreed and noted a lot more work is conducted through confidential emails since the 1999 law passage. He added that since the work is performed confidentially the public doesn't see the whole of it which can be a double edged sword but is important to discourage sharing of confidential submissions.

Commissioner Langton requested a copy of SJR5 which was discussed during the Executive Director report item and Executive Director Armstrong agreed he would email the document to Commissioner Langton.

Commissioner Miller thanked his fellow Commissioners for the warm welcome, stated he was happy to be on the Commission, agreed that there is a lot of paperwork and that the Commission is an important aspect of government. He commented that he looked forward to working with the Commission.

Chair Scherer thanked Commissioner Miller and expressed that he was glad Commissioner Miller agreed to serve and is willing to devote his time to the Commission.

Chair Scherer asked if there would be any contested cases on the April agenda and Executive Director Armstrong clarified that there would be consideration of proposed stipulations not contested cases.

11. Public Comment.

There was no public comment.

12. Adjournment.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Minutes prepared by:

/s/ Kari Pedroza

Kari Pedroza
Executive Assistant

/s/ Ross Armstrong

Ross Armstrong, Esq.
Executive Director

Minutes approved February 19, 2025:

/s/ Scott Scherer

Scott Scherer, Esq.
Chair

/s/ Kim Wallin

Kim Wallin, CPA, CMA, CFM
Vice Chair