



# State of Nevada Ethics Manual

## Jurisdiction of the Commission

### Key Take Away

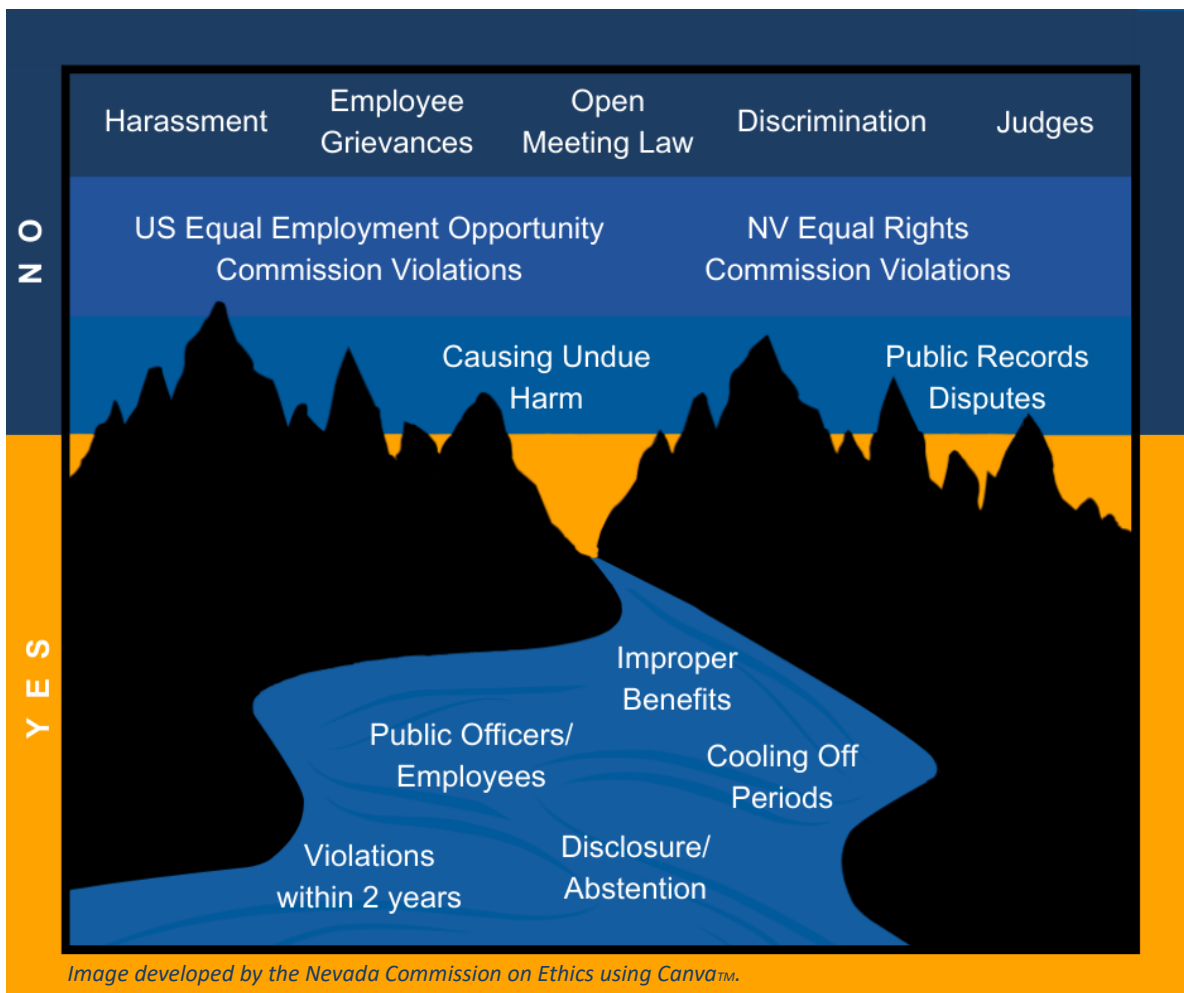
This section of the Nevada Ethics Manual explains when the Commission on Ethics can legally investigate, advise on, and enforce the Nevada Ethics Law. Broadly defined, allegations and advisory requests must pertain to a public officer or employee and a specific aspect of the Ethics Law ([see NRS 281A.182](#)). Understanding the Commission’s jurisdiction is important for public officers and employees to realize their duty to follow ethics laws and helps to ensure that complaints and advisory requests are filed promptly and only about matters that fall under the jurisdiction of the Commission.

### Is it within the Jurisdiction of the Commission?

#### Key Terms

**Jurisdiction:** The authority of the Commission over specific areas of law, timeframes, and personnel.

**Statute of Limitations:** A predefined period in which one can file a complaint.



*Image developed by the Nevada Commission on Ethics using Canva™.*

*This section of the manual aims to explain the Nevada Ethics Laws ([NRS Chapter 281A](#)) in plain language for educational purposes only. It's not meant to replace legal advice. If you need legal interpretation for a specific issue, please consult your agency's legal team or [seek an advisory opinion](#) from the Commission.*



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## Jurisdiction of the Commission

### **Advisory Opinion Request Jurisdiction**

The Commission can provide guidance to Public Officers or Employees regarding the propriety of their own past, present or future conduct under the ethics laws. ([see NRS 281A.675](#))

### **Statute of Limitations**

Advisory opinions have no statute of limitations. Complaints must be filed within two years after the alleged violation or the reasonable discovery of the alleged violation.

### **Who is Regulated by the Ethics in Government Laws?**

- Public Officers: Anyone elected or appointed to a position established by the state constitution, laws, or local regulations, involving the performance of public duties or responsibilities.
  - Former public officers/employees can still request advisory opinions up to one year after they leave public service if they are asking for relief from the strict application of the Ethics Laws' cooling off requirements. See the Cooling Off section of this manual.
- Public Employees: Anyone who works for the government, doing tasks assigned by a public official, and gets paid by the government for their work.
  - Complaints can still be filed against former public officers/employees if it has been less than two years since the alleged misconduct.
- The Commission has limited jurisdiction over the ethical conduct of members of the Nevada State Assembly and State Senate. See [NRS 281A.020\(2\)\(c\)](#).

#### *Exclusions:*

- *Any justice, judge, or other officer of the court system.*
- *Any member of a board, commission, or other body whose function is purely advisory.*
- *Any member in a special district who doesn't have the job of making the budget or approving how the district's money is spent.*
- *A county health officer appointed pursuant to [NRS 439.290](#).*

### **Sample Opinions**

- [In re Public Officer, Comm'n Op. No. 22-079A \(2022\)](#)
- [In re Public Officer, Comm'n Op. No. 11-18A \(2012\)](#)

### **Video Resources**

- [Commission Jurisdiction Training 15 min Video](#)

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