



Advisory Opinion 16-01: Lobbying Act Reporting Obligations for a Party Compensated for Consulting Services in Connection with Lobbying Activity

Advisory Opinion No. 16-01 expands upon precedent of the Commission addressing grassroots lobbying and the role of consultants in different types of lobbying efforts. The formal opinion was issued after eight months of extensive outreach and thoughtful consideration by the Commissioners. The guidance was first discussed during a public meeting in the spring of 2015, after which there was an extended comment period through the summer. A draft opinion was first presented for consideration in the fall, which was revised several times to address issues raised by the public. The final opinion, which reflected further amendments in response to public comments, was adopted by the Commission at the January 2016 meeting after substantial discussion.

Advisory Opinion No. 16-01 reflects the Commission's interpretation of the Lobbying Act, which has been and remains in effect. Below please find links to the advisory opinion, the public comments that were received by the Commission, and some FAQs to assist the regulated community in complying with their obligations under the Lobbying Act.

[Advisory Opinion](#) (approved January 26, 2016)

Frequently Asked Questions

- [Consultants Engaging in Direct Lobbying](#)
- [Grassroots Lobbying](#)
- [Consultants Engaging in Grassroots Lobbying](#)

Comments on Proposed Advisory Opinion and revisions prior to January 26, 2016

- [Emery Celli Brinckerhoff & Abady Comment Letter 12.1.15](#)
- [CEO Comment Letter](#)
- [Common Cause Comment Letter](#)
- [Hinman Straub Comment Letter](#)
- [New York City Bar Comment Letter](#)
- [NY Association of Convenience Stores Comment Letter](#)
- [Tully Construction Comment Letter](#)
- [Wilson Elser Comment Letter](#)
- [PC Public Affairs Comment Letter](#)
- [NY Advocacy Association Comment Letter](#)
- [Brennan Center for Justice Comment Letter](#)

[Initial Draft Proposal - 5-27-15](#)

- [Emery Celli Brinckerhoff & Abady Comment Letter 7.10.15](#)