

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SESSION OF THE
December 30, 2013
COMMISSION MEETING
OF THE JOINT COMMISSION ON PUBLIC ETHICS
HELD AT THE COMMISSION'S OFFICE LOCATED AT
540 BROADWAY
ALBANY, NEW YORK**

Present:

Chair: Daniel J. Horwitz (*via* Teleconferencing in NYC)

Members:

David Arroyo (*via* Teleconferencing in NYC)
Hon. Joseph Covello (*via* Teleconferencing in NYC)
Marvin E. Jacob (*via* Skype)
Seymour Knox, IV (*via* Teleconferencing in BUF)
Hon. Mary Lou Rath (*via* Teleconferencing in BUF)
David A. Renzi (*via* Skype)
Hon. Renee R. Roth (*via* Telephone)
George H. Weissman (*via* Teleconferencing in ALB)

Members

Absent:

LaShann DeArcy
Mitra Hormozi
Gary J. Lavine

Staff:

Letizia Tagliafierro, Executive Director
Robert Cohen, Special Counsel and Director of Ethics and Lobbying
Compliance
Martin L. Levine, Director of Audit and Review and Senior Counsel
John T. Milgrim, Director for External Affairs
Shari Calnero, Senior Counsel and Manager of Training
Deborah Novak, Executive Assistant
Patrick E. Coultry, Chief Investigator
Jack Patterson, Confidential Investigator

I. OPENING STATEMENT

Chair Horwitz opened the Public Session. Chair Horwitz thanked Commissioners Vincent DeIorio and Ellen Yaroshefsky for their service and important and valuable contribution to the Commission.

II. MINUTES - PUBLIC SESSION – OCTOBER 29, 2013

Commissioner Weissman stated that his recollection is that Commissioner Yaroshefsky had publicly announced her intention to resign from the Commission at the conclusion of the last meeting. Commissioner Weissman requested that the minutes be corrected on page 7 to reflect that Commissioner Yaroshefsky stated her intention to resign from the Commission.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Weissman, which was seconded by Commissioner Covello, the Minutes from the Public Session of October 29, 2013 Commission Meeting, as amended to include that Commissioner Yaroshefsky indicated her intention to resign from the Commission, were approved by unanimous vote.

Chair Horwitz welcomed Letizia Tagliafierro to her first meeting as Executive Director and, having worked with everyone in her previous position with the Commission, the Commissioners and staff look forward to continuing to do so in her new capacity as Executive Director.

III. REPORT FROM STAFF

Academic FDS filings

Executive Director Letizia Tagliafierro provided an update on the Academic Financial Disclosure Statement filings. The deadline for the filing was November 15, 2013. Staff is in the process of reviewing those filings and reaching out to those who have not yet filed. These filings are made available to the public upon request.

Lobbying Filings

Executive Director Tagliafierro provided an update on the lobbying filings. The lobbyist bi-monthly reports and client semi-annual reports are due on January 15, 2014. Executive Director Tagliafierro announced that the source of funding disclosures can now be filed on-line. The Commission now has an electronic form for source of funding which is available on JCOPE's website, along with instructions. Staff expects to send an e-blast to the regulated community within the next several days with instructions and a copy of the forms.

Update on Source of Funding Regulations

Executive Director Tagliafierro presented an update on the pending amendments to the source of funding regulations. The regulations were subject to a public comment period under SAPA which expired on December 23, 2013. Staff will review the comments that were received and present them for discussion at the next Commission Meeting.

IV. NEW AND OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Weissman asked when the Public Session Agenda for a Commission Meeting is posted on the Commission's website. Director for External Affairs John Milgrim stated that the Public Session Agenda is posted on the Commission's website the morning of the Commission Meeting. Commissioner Weissman suggested that consideration be given to posting the agenda on the Commission's website earlier, as part of the Commission's efforts in support of transparency. Chair Horwitz agreed this could certainly be accomplished, and other Commissioners agreed that the agendas should be posted as soon as possible.

A motion was made by Commissioner Weissman, which was seconded by Commissioner Renzi, to post the Public Session Agenda on the Commission's website as soon as the Commissioners have received their Commission Meeting packages. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

V. MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE LAW §94(19)(b)

A motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Executive Law §94(19)(b) was made by Commissioner Covello and seconded by Commissioner Arroyo. The motion was approved unanimous vote.

VI. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF ACTIONS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Horwitz reported that during the Executive Session, a number of investigative matters were discussed.

VII. MOTION TO ADJOURN THE PUBLIC MEETING

Upon motion made by Commissioner Arroyo, seconded by Commissioner Rath, which was approved by unanimous vote of those Commissioners present, the meeting was adjourned.