



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

New Jersey
Election Law Enforcement Commission

www.elec.nj.gov
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Welcome to ELEC





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MISSION STATEMENT

The essence of Democracy is an informed electorate. It is the fulfillment of this goal that the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) embraces as its valued mission.

Established in 1973, ELEC monitors the campaign financing of all elections in the State. Whether the election is for Governor or Mayor, member of the Legislature or a City Council, candidates and campaign organizations are required to file with the Commission contribution and expenditure reports.

The Commission also administers the law requiring candidates for the Governorship and Legislature to make public their personal finances prior to election day. Moreover, ELEC administers those sections of the law, which establish a filing obligation on the part of lobbyists and their clients. Finally, ELEC is responsible for enforcing various aspects of the Pay-to-Play law, particularly as it pertains to disclosure.

In addition, the Commission is responsible for administering partial public financing of gubernatorial primary and general elections, for rule making, and, as part of its regulatory duties, for holding public hearings. Finally, ELEC exercises its enforcement authority, ensuring the integrity of the financial aspects of the State's electoral process.

A major part of New Jersey's system of elections, the Election Law Enforcement Commission has upheld a tradition of fair, but energetic, administration of the State's financial disclosure laws. That tradition is strong today and will remain so in the future.

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THE COMMISSION

ERIC HECTOR JASO, CHAIRMAN

The state Senate on March 13, 2017 unanimously confirmed the nomination of Eric H. Jaso of Morristown to the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

Jaso, a Republican attorney, was nominated on September 8, 2016 by Governor Chris Christie.

Previous government appointments included serving as Deputy General Counsel at the U.S. Department of Education, working as Deputy Special Counsel to the New Jersey Senate Judiciary Committee investigating racial profiling, and serving as Associate Independent Counsel during the “Whitewater” investigation of former President Bill Clinton.

Jaso also serves as a public member of the New Jersey Urban Enterprise Zone Authority.

In 2011, he was chosen by Republicans to serve on the commission that redrew the boundaries of New Jersey’s U.S. House Districts.

Jaso has taught appellate advocacy as an Adjunct Professor at Seton Hall Law School.

He earned his law degree at the University of Chicago. He received his bachelor’s degree in Government with honors from Harvard.

His professional memberships include: Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey; National Hispanic Bar Association; Federalist Society; and Association of the Federal Bar of the District of New Jersey.

Jaso lives with his wife and son in Morristown, New Jersey.



Commissioner Marguerite Simon, Chairman Eric Jaso, and Commissioner Stephen Holden

Jaso is a partner at the law firm of Spiro Harrison in Short Hills. His practice focuses on complex litigation matters, including civil and criminal cases, primarily in the Federal courts.

From 2003 to 2008, Jaso served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the U.S. Attorney’s Office in New Jersey. Prior to that, he served as counselor to the Assistant Attorney General of the Criminal Division at the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C.



THE COMMISSION continued

STEPHEN M. HOLDEN, COMMISSIONER

The state Senate on March 13, 2017 unanimously confirmed the nomination of Stephen Michael Holden of Merchantville to the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

Holden, a Democratic attorney, was nominated December 12, 2016 by Governor Chris Christie.

Holden is Deputy General Counsel of the Delaware River Port Authority. He retired as a Superior Court judge upon reaching mandatory retirement age of 70 in 2013 though he later performed temporary service as a recall judge.

Between 1987 and 2003, during a period when he was a solo practitioner, he served as Counsel to the state Senate as well as Senate Parliamentarian.

During an earlier career as an educator, he was a teacher in the Philadelphia school system, an assistant professor at both Glassboro State College (now Rowan University), and Rutgers University, as well as an assistant dean and assistant professor at Bryn Mawr College.

Holden earned his law degree at Rutgers University Night School of Law. He obtained Ph.D. and M.S.S. degrees at Bryn Mawr College, and a B.S. degree with honors at Temple University.

He sits on the Audit, Ethics and Compliance committee of the Board of Directors of Cooper Health System. He also sits on the board of Bryn Mawr College Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research.

Holden is married with two daughters- one a public-school arts teacher, the other a nurse.

MARGUERITE T. SIMON, COMMISSIONER

Marguerite T. Simon became the 32nd person appointed to the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission since its creation in 1973 when the State Senate on June 29, 2017 unanimously approved her nomination.

She replaces Lawrence Weiss, who died while serving on the commission in 2011. Simon is a Democratic attorney who was nominated February 27, 2017 by Governor Chris Christie.

Simon serves as counsel to the firm of Javerbaum Wurgaft Hicks Kahn Wikstrom & Sinins PC of Springfield and Hackensack. Her practice is primarily concentrated in alternate dispute resolution. She serves as a mediator and arbitrator in private party and court appointed matters.

She also served as a state Superior Court Judge in Hackensack from 1984 until her retirement in 2004 when she was Presiding Judge of General Equity.

She has taught classes and seminars at the New Jersey Judicial College, Institute for Continuing Legal Education, and Bergen Community College.

Among her awards are Super Lawyer, New Jersey, Alternative Dispute Resolution, 2010 to present; and Professional Lawyer of the Year, New Jersey Bar State Bar Association and Bergen County Bar Association, both 2006.

Simon obtained her law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1961. She received her undergraduate degree from Barnard College in 1958.

Her professional affiliations include: Bergen County Bar Association, New Jersey State Bar Association and Women Lawyers in Bergen County.

She is married to Donald Howard. Together they have four children and ten grandchildren. She lives in Edgewater and Cape May.



THE COMMISSION continued

JEFFREY M. BRINDLE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jeffrey M. Brindle's experience as a regulator, as well as in various governmental and electoral capacities, allows him to bring a rare and broad-ranging perspective to the position of Executive Director.

Executive Director Brindle has authored 20 in-depth, analytical white paper reports on campaign financing and lobbying, many of which had a major influence on legislation. He also has published more than 180 articles in newspapers, magazines, and periodicals, including "Campaigns and Elections," "The New York Times," "Politickernj.com," "InsiderNJ.com," "NewJersey Newsroom.com," Public Integrity, "The Star-Ledger," "League of Municipalities Magazine," and "Spotlight."

As Executive Director, Brindle has worked to reduce the backlog of outstanding enforcement cases and speed up enforcement efforts.

He started the ELEC-Tronic newsletter in 2009 to help expand the agency's public profile, and has been a major contributor to the 130 issues that have appeared through April 2020.

Brindle has taken several initiatives to enhance ELEC's basic mission of disclosure. He instituted a database of local political contributions, making New Jersey one of the few states in the nation that provides access to such information. He greatly expanded the number of analytical press releases published on a regular basis by the agency. He also saw to it that more than 400 press releases prepared between 1983 and 2005 were made accessible on the ELEC website.

Annual reports, minutes and advisory opinions dating back to the agency's creation in 1973 also have been made available to the public through the agency's website, which, in 2010, was

recognized as "Best Official New Jersey Website" by the Documents Association of New Jersey.

As Deputy Director, Brindle authored the report on the Clean Elections Pilot Program, prepared several Cost Analysis Reports, and wrote a major report on the Commission's technological needs.

He also oversaw budgetary and personnel planning and development, participated in public policy development, and engaged in legislative and press relations. He also guided the Commission's transformation from a manual-based operation to a technological-based one; an effort begun in the 1990's.

The Executive Director managed governmental offices at various levels and branches of government and brings experience in electoral politics to the position. His academic credentials include a B.A. degree from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey and an M.A. degree in political science from Villanova University. He is also affiliated with the College of New Jersey (TCNJ) as an adjunct professor in the Political Science Department.

Prior to coming to ELEC in 1985, Brindle had been the Director of the Public Information Office at the State Department of Community Affairs, a Legislative Staff Director, Somerset County Deputy County Clerk, New Brunswick Public Information and Complaints Director, and Executive Director of the Union County Chapter of the March of Dimes.

He has also been a candidate for Assembly and a Municipal Chairman. Brindle and his wife Karen have four children.



THE COMMISSION continued

EDWIN R. MATTHEWS, LEGAL COUNSEL

Edwin R. Matthews was selected to be the Commission's Legal Counsel and began serving in that capacity in November, 2012.

Mr. Matthews is a partner with the Summit, New Jersey law firm of Bourne, Noll & Kenyon. He specializes in the areas of civil litigation, municipal law, appellate practice, personal injury, products liability, and tax appeals.

Upon graduation from Law School, Mr. Matthews served as a Law Clerk for Associate Justice Mark A. Sullivan of the New Jersey State Supreme Court and as an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey. He was twice recognized by the United States Attorney General for Sustained Superior Performance. Mr. Matthews has in the past served the Township of South Orange Village, as a member of its governing body, as its Municipal Court Judge, and as its Village Counsel.

Mr. Matthews, a Certified Civil Trial Attorney, is admitted in the State of New Jersey; United States District Courts for the District of New Jersey, the Southern District of New York, and the Eastern District of New York; United States Courts of Appeals for the Third Circuit and Second Circuit; the United States Supreme Court; and the State of New York. He has been designated Mediator for the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey as well as the New Jersey State Court Mediation Program. He has served as an Arbitrator for the Federal Court in New Jersey as well as a number of counties in the state court system. He served as a Member of the Committee on Character, appointed by the New Jersey Supreme Court (1993-2009.) His membership in a number of bar associations includes serving as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Trial Attorneys of New Jersey since 1986 and as its President from 2004 to 2005.

Mr. Matthews has lectured frequently at seminars on trial tactics, product liability, the Rules of Procedure and the Rules of Evidence. He is a Master of the Worrall F. Mountain Inn of Court and has been an adjunct faculty member of the School of Law and a Master of the Inn of Court at Seton Hall University School of Law.

Mr. Matthews served in the United States Marine Corps where he attained the rank of Captain. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat V, Navy Commendation Medal with Combat V, two Purple Heart Medals, Combat Action Ribbon, and the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal for service in Vietnam. Mr. Matthews has been recognized as a New Jersey Super Lawyer in the editions for 2009 through 2018. The New Jersey Commission on Professionalism presented him with its Professionalism Award in 2010.

Mr. Matthews received an A.B. degree from the College of the Holy Cross and J.D. degree from Seton Hall University School of Law.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Throughout its history the Commission has been known for its public outreach. At all times the Commission is prepared to assist candidates, treasurers, election-related committees, lobbyists, and public contractors in understanding and thereby fulfilling their reporting obligations.

As part of this educational outreach, training seminars for candidates, treasurers, and various and sundry political operatives are regularly held both in Trenton and throughout the State. Moreover, during 2019 webinar training was introduced, which attracted an additional 530 individuals for training.

This educational outreach, along with staff assistance to the regulated community both in person and by telephone has resulted in a compliance rate among filers of over 90 percent.

Despite this high rate of compliance with the Commission's disclosure requirements in 2019, one downside last year was the continued lack of a fourth member being appointed to the Commission.

By statute, the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) consists of four members. All members of the Commission are nominated by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate. No more than two members may be of the same political party.

Unfortunately, to this point there has been no movement toward the selection of a fourth Commissioner.

While the Commission has continued to pursue its mission of disclosure and accountability in campaign finance, lobbying, and pay-to-play effectively, the lack of a fourth member can complicate matters, particularly in the area of final decision determinations.

Seating a fourth member allows for final decisions to be rendered even when a Commission member is unavailable or needs to recuse herself or himself on a pending matter. This is because a majority

of the full complement of the four-member board is required to issue a final decision.

The need for a fourth Commissioner becomes more significant this year as preparations are made for the administration of the Gubernatorial Public Financing Program.

Upon the adoption of the fiscal year 2021 budget, the Commission will be hiring temporary public financing staff for the purposes of administering the program and distributing public matching funds to qualified gubernatorial candidates.

Though the day-to-day administrative aspects of the program will be carried out by staff, nevertheless, many important policy decisions involving gubernatorial candidates may have to be rendered by the Commission.

For this reason, it is doubly important that a full complement of bi-partisan members be available in the event important decisions need to be made as the 2021 gubernatorial contest begins to heat up.

As noted above, ELEC continues to emphasize and bolster its mission of disclosure and transparency. One way that it does so is through its pursuit of enforcement actions against alleged violators of the laws under the Commission's jurisdiction.

In this regard, the Commission has directed staff to undertake efforts to increase timeliness and efficiency of its investigations and to impose penalties that are both fair yet sufficient to not only penalize violators but to deter future violations and encourage compliance.

In conclusion the year 2019 was, all in all, a successful year for the Commission.

As Chairman, I proudly submit the Commission's Annual Report to the Legislature and look forward to another year working with my fellow Commissioners and professional staff to further the Commission's mission of transparency and accountability in New Jersey's campaign finance, lobbying, and pay-to-play.



Eric H. Jaso, Chairman



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REMARKS



Jeffrey M. Brindle, Executive Director

As we approach the 2020 general election expect plenty of spending, particularly on the part of independent, outside groups.

This expected deluge of outside group spending is predictable not only because of federal

contests, including those for President and Congress, but also because of a ballot question calling for the legalization of recreational marijuana.

Democrats will be attempting to hold on to historically Republican House seats they captured in 2018 and Republicans will be hustling to win them back. Additionally, the ballot question involving marijuana legalization will be hotly contested by outside groups in support and opposition to the measure.

As a result, it becomes a priority for the Legislature to enact legislation that will require "electioneering communications" by independent outside groups to be publicly disclosed.

In addition to legislation that would capture election activity by these groups, thereby redounding to the benefit of the public, the increasing influence by these groups can also be offset by the enactment of legislation that strengthens political parties, increases contribution limits and reforms pay-to-play.

The Commission has made several recommendations in this regard. The proposals include removing political parties from the pay-to-play law while placing special interest PACs under it. They also include allowing state parties to participate in gubernatorial elections, increasing their contribution limits to adjust to campaign inflation, and ending the ban on county parties contributing to each other.

In addition, the Commission has recommended that the State's pay-to-play law be simplified yet at the

same time strengthened in terms of disclosure and enforcement. This can be established by creating one State law, requiring contractors to disclose contributions to independent groups, requiring all contracts of \$17,500 to be disclosed, placing special interest PACs under the law, eliminating the fair and open loophole, and allowing contractors to contribute \$1,000 rather than the current limit of \$300.

All of these reforms taken together, would strengthen political parties, enhance disclosure and enforcement of pay-to-play, and offset the growing influence of independent groups.

Thus, working toward the enactment of these reforms will be important in 2020. Pushing for landmark legislation that will improve the State's electoral system will be only part of the legacy of the current year.

Efforts to continue to modernize the Commission's computer operational systems will continue as well as attempts to enhance compliance with its wide body of laws under its jurisdiction. From plans to broaden training by holding seminars in Trenton as well as at various locations throughout the State to enforcing campaign finance, lobbying, and pay-to-play laws, the Commission's mission of disclosure will be energetically pursued.

However, in light of these goals, as well as the ever-increasing complexity of the laws under its jurisdiction, it would be very helpful if the Legislature and Governor were to increase the Commission's operating budget.

For over ten years, the Commission's operating budget has been a continuation budget so it's important for an increase to be considered in order for the Commission to maintain its current status as one of the premier boards of its kind in the nation.

With this in mind, it is important to emphasize that service to the public is over and above all other responsibilities of the Commission. Staff at ELEC will continue to provide the public, media, and filing community with the attention it deserves.



EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

Unlike most similar state agencies, ELEC's jurisdiction over campaign financing extends to every candidate running for local, county or state political office, from fire district commissioner to Governor, as well as to public ballot questions. It also regulates lobbyists and professional fundraisers, and requires hundreds of public contractors to file disclosure reports annually.



Larry Higgs sits down with Jeff Brindle to discuss Dark Money in New Jersey politics.
April 29, 2019

To help the public understand these responsibilities, ELEC works hard to enhance the public's awareness and understanding of the Commission. It also provides voters with important information in the areas of campaign finance, gubernatorial public financing, lobbying, and pay-to-play.

ELEC fulfills this role using a variety of means, including columns, newsletters, news releases, white papers, testimony on legislation, speaking engagements and individual meetings.

In 2019, ELEC Chairman Eric Jaso, Executive Director Jeff Brindle and staff provided content for 12 newsletters. Brindle also wrote 16 columns on topics ranging from the need for disclosure by dark money groups, U.S. Supreme Court rulings, lobbying by the marijuana industry, the growing influence of independent special interest groups, pay-to-play reform, and the potential impact of voter turnout on campaign spending.

Last year, Deputy Executive Director Joseph Donohue prepared 19 analytical press releases and the agency also issued 42 public advisories.

Brindle testified twice in 2019 in support of legislation that would have required broader disclosure for independent committees participating in elections.

The bill won overwhelming, bipartisan support from the Legislature, and was signed by Governor Phil Murphy in June 2019. But the legislation was challenged in federal court mainly due to a provision that would have forced groups waging major media campaigns for or against legislation to disclose the names of people and/or groups funding that activity. A federal judge issued a preliminary injunction in October 2019 preventing the enforcement of the bill.



Compliance and Information
Kim Key

Brindle made guest appearances at Eagleton Institute of Politics, the New Jersey Matters interview show on WJLP, NJTV and 101.5. The Executive Director along with staff members also held regular meetings with legislative leaders and staff, members of the Governor's Office, Attorney General's Office, New Jersey Office of Information Technology, New Jersey State Commission of Investigation, League of Municipalities, and the New Jersey Association of Counties.



EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH continued

Educational programs for candidates and treasurers are an important part of ELEC’s outreach efforts. In 2019, ELEC’s compliance staff under director Stephanie Olivo regularly held in-person assistance, in-house training sessions, online sessions, and webinars. By law, training is mandatory for treasurers of gubernatorial, State Senate, and Assembly campaigns. It is also required of treasurers of legislative leadership committees and State party committees. All told, the Compliance staff conducted 68 seminars with a total of 530 attendees.



**IT Director Anthony Giancarli receiving Award from Chairman Eric H. Jaso
State commendation for innovation and efficiency.**

ELEC’s outreach efforts are directly related to its underlying mission of transparency and accountability. For a small agency with just 65 staff members, implementing the broad scope of ELEC’s statutory responsibilities is a challenge. ELEC’s continuing reputation for being one of the most service-oriented agencies in state government is a sign that its dedicated staff is meeting that challenge



**Issue Ads a “Powerful Weapon”
in the Lobbyist Arsenal**
Published by: Insidernj.com

By Jeffrey Brindle | November 25, 2019

NEW JERSEY 101.5

Shining a Light on “Dark Money” in New Jersey Politics

“The best way to deal with money in politics is to ensure it flows to accountable parties and candidates.”

By Jeff Brindle | January 23, 2019

New Year Could Bring Expansion of Disclosure Rules for Independent Groups, Anti-Sexual Harassment Training for Campaigns and Broader Disclosure for Lobbyists

While independent spending by special interest groups in legislative elections fell to its lowest point in eight years in 2019, the need for expanded disclosure by these groups persists despite passage of reform legislation during the last year.

During the 2019 election, which included all 40 assembly seats and one special election for the first legislative district senate seat, spending by independent groups fell to \$5.8 million.

That was just two years after a record \$27.8 million was spent on an election that featured all 120 legislative seats.

Independent Spending in State Legislative Elections- 1999-2019

YEAR	AMOUNT	HOUSES RUNNING
1999	\$ 113,255	A
2001	None	S,A
2003	\$ 4,857	S,A
2005	\$ 3,476	A
2007	\$ 165,000	S,A
2009	\$ 15,999	A
2011	\$ 1,835,500	S,A
2013	\$16,025,694	S,A
2015	\$11,836,544	A
2017	\$27,855,085	S,A
2019	\$ 5,856,004	A
Total	\$63,424,826	
1999-2007	\$ 286,588	
2009-2019	\$63,424,826	

The drop in independent spending in 2019 is more likely a pause during a low-key election year, not a lasting decline.

Since 2009, special interest groups have independently spent \$63.4 million on legislative campaigns. In sharp contrast, the total between 1999 and 2007 was just \$286,588.

Independent groups are not going away.

New Jersey’s current statute requires minimal disclosure by independent spenders in elections. Only those who explicitly urge voters to elect or defeat candidates must file reports with ELEC. And those reports are required to list only expenses, not donors.



Joseph W. Donohue, Deputy Director

Nor is disclosure required for groups that use more indirect, issue-oriented advertisements to promote or oppose candidates. The federal government and 23 states require full transparency for these so-called “electioneering” communications.

A bill (S-150) requiring such disclosure won overwhelming approval in both legislative houses in June 2019. Governor Phil Murphy reluctantly signed the bill. He was concerned in part about the constitutionality of a separate requirement for donor disclosure by groups that run advertising campaigns involving state legislation or regulations.

Largely due to that provision, three non-profit groups filed federal lawsuits seeking to block passage of the legislation. U. S. District Judge Brian Martinotti on October 2, 2019 issued a preliminary injunction that prevented its enforcement pending further review.



LEGISLATIVE REVIEW & RECOMMENDATIONS continued

In March, the judge made the injunction permanent after the state declined to appeal, essentially meaning the original bill is dead. The injunction does not preclude ELEC staff from continuing to seek passage of new legislation requiring full disclosure by independent groups engaged in election-related activities. At least three bills have been introduced- two Democratic, one Republican- aimed at achieving this end.

ELEC could face a major new challenge in the coming year- setting up policies and procedures targeting sexual harassment in political campaigns.

Senator Vin Gopal (D-11th) is preparing legislation with bi-partisan sponsorship that would require ELEC to develop mandatory anti-harassment training programs for candidates and treasurers.

ELEC also would have to develop model anti-harassment policies for adoption by campaigns. ELEC would be enabled to investigate allegations of harassment if campaigns fail to conduct their own investigations.

Another potential change this year could be a push for more disclosure by lobbyists.

A bill (S-4305) sponsored by Senate President Stephen Sweeney in the previous legislation session would require lobbyists to provide more detailed information to ELEC about expenses on an array of professional services.

These include consulting, strategic planning, legal, political, public relations, research, digital, advertising and other services. Currently, there is no such public accounting, and the undisclosed use of such services by lobbyists has been decried by some as “shadow lobbying.” Sweeney’s bill also would eliminate a 20-hour threshold for reporting of lobbying activity.

The legislation won approval from a Senate committee on December 16, 2019. But it was not approved by the Legislature before the 218th legislative session expired January 14, 2020.

At this writing, no new bill had been introduced. But the concept was endorsed in February by Governor Phil Murphy, who intends to include more lobbying disclosure in a broad government reform package he intends to seek.

In December 2017, ELEC Executive Director Jeff Brindle called for expanded lobbying disclosure to address this problem.



Information Technology
Anthony Giancarli and Kim Swartz



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Enact legislative changes to strengthen political parties. These include raising contribution limits to adjust for inflation, exempting party entities from pay-to-play contribution limits, allowing state parties to spend directly on gubernatorial elections and ending the ban on party transfers during primaries.

Potential Benefit: The rapid rise of independent groups has seriously weakened political parties, which are more accountable and transparent because they have long been required to file detailed disclosure and spending reports. Taking steps to shift money away from independent groups to parties should benefit voters by leading to more disclosure, which is one of the simplest, cheapest ways to keep official abuses in check.

Broaden the governmental activities law to include lobbying of local governmental entities and to require more disclosure by professionals who advise lobbyists.

Potential Benefit: Current law requires disclosure by lobbyists who try to influence state officials, but not those who try to influence county or municipal officials. This expansion of disclosure requirements will make the public better aware of influence peddling at local levels of government. **For instance, dozens of New Jersey municipalities enacted bans on recreational marijuana in 2018 but no one knows who lobbied them.** In recent years, lobbyists increasingly have sought the services of professionals in areas such as public relations, political, legal, and digital and television advertising. Disclosure by

these so-called “shadow” lobbyists will provide the public with a more complete picture of lobbying activity in today’s digital age. Also seek statutory authority to require lobbyists to provide more details on their quarterly reports when they lobby on substantive matters on their quarterly reports. This might include date and location of meeting, name and title of official or officials who took part in the meeting, and the specific reason for the meeting.

Simplifying and standardizing “pay-to-play” laws by having just one law that applies to state, county and municipal contractors, ending the “fair and open” loophole, lowering from \$50,000 to \$17,500 the threshold for annual disclosure by contractors, raising from \$300 to \$1,000 the amount contractors can contribute, and including special interest PACs under the law. Contributions by contractors to independent groups should be disclosed.

Potential Benefit: A dizzying array of laws and executive orders have created a maze-like system for trying to limit pay-to-play abuses. It creates confusion and difficulty for both the regulated community and regulators along with needless legal costs. Extending the prohibition that applies to state contractors to county and municipal contractors should greatly reduce the “pay-to-play” influence of business entities.

When candidates spend campaign funds on dinners or other meetings, they must keep detailed records about who attended the event, what was purchased and why they considered the expense “ordinary and necessary.”

Potential Benefit: More disclosure for the public and less chance that a candidate will misuse campaign funds for personal use.



LEGISLATIVE REVIEW & RECOMMENDATIONS continued

Enact legislation authorizing public financing in the event of a special gubernatorial election.

Potential Benefit: Would ensure that candidates involved in a special election can avail themselves of public financing just like candidates in regular election years.

Enact legislation that would require any state and local candidates in New Jersey setting up legal defense funds to disclose their contributions and expenditures in reports filed with ELEC.

Potential Benefit: Closes a gap in current law, which requires no such disclosure.

Requiring school board candidates to file candidate certified statements (A-1 forms) if they raise no contributions or make no expenditures.

Potential Benefit: School board candidates are the only candidates except for write-in candidates who are not required to make such a declaration. Given that spending on school elections grew steadily during the past decade, fuller disclosure by candidates seems warranted.

Expand the 48-hour notice requirement for continuing political committee (PACs) expenditures to require that they file notices for expenditures made to May Municipal, Runoff, School, and Special Elections.

Potential Benefit: More disclosure, since an increasing amount of money is being spent on local elections.

Change the filing date for personal financial disclosure statements to improve efficiency.

Potential Benefit: Personal financial disclosure forms of candidates discourage

conflicts of interest by revealing information about the wealth and assets of those who seek elected office. Providing candidates with more time in which to carefully complete these forms, along with a less confusing due date, will enhance compliance and disclosure with the law.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Cost Savings and Efficiencies.

- Eliminate the gubernatorial spending qualification threshold.
- Lengthen Commissioner terms to six years from three years and select the Commission Chairman or Chairwoman for a fixed term.

Strengthen Campaign Finance, Personal Financial Disclosure and Lobbying Laws.

- Enact legislation that gives statutory force to Commission prohibition against the use of campaign funds to pay legal bills that arise from criminal allegations.



*Sarah Ballentine
Legal Intern*



STATUTORY HISTORY OF ELEC

LAW	CREATED/ESTABLISHED	EFFECTIVE DATE
<i>Election Law Enforcement Commission</i>	P.L. 1973, c.83 (N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1 et seq.) "The New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act"	April 24, 1973
<i>Gubernatorial Public Financing Program</i>	P.L. 1974, c.26 (N.J.S.A. 19:44A-27 et seq.)	May 6, 1974
<i>Gubernatorial Public Financing Program Extending to Primary Elections</i>	Signed by Governor Brendan Byrne (Chapter 74)	July 23, 1980
<i>Personal Financial Disclosure Program</i>	P.L. 1981, c.129 (N.J.S.A. 19:44B-1 et seq.)	May 1, 1981
<i>Lobbying Program</i>	P.L. 1981, c.150 (N.J.S.A. 52:13C-18 et seq.)	May 22, 1981
<i>Continuing Political Committee Quarterly Reporting</i>	P.L. 1983, c.579 (amendments to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1 et seq.)	January 17, 1984
<i>Lobbying Reform</i>	P.L. 1991, c.243 (amendments to N.J.S.A. 52:13C-18 et seq.)	January 1, 1992
<i>Campaign Finance Reform</i>	P.L. 1993, c.65 (amendments to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1 et seq.)	April 7, 1993
<i>Street Money Reform Law</i>	P.L. 1993, c.370, (codified as N.J.S.A. 19:44A-11.7)	January 7, 1994
<i>Uniform Recall Election Law</i>	P.L. 1995, c.105, (codified as N.J.S.A. 19:27A-1 et seq.)	May 17, 1995
<i>Political Identification Law</i>	P.L. 1995, c.391, (codified as N.J.S.A. 19:44A-22.2 and 22.3)	February 1, 1996
<i>Non-Profit Disclosure by Gubernatorial Candidates</i>	P.L. 2001, c.20, (codified as N.J.S.A. 19:44A-27 et seq.) Denies eligibility for public financing to gubernatorial candidates who oversaw a 527 or 501(c) non-profit group within four years of their candidacies unless the candidate discloses contributions and expenditures by those committees.	January 30, 2001
<i>Contribution Limit Changes</i>	P.L. 2001, c.384 (amendments to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1 et seq.)	January 8, 2002
<i>Campaign Financing Reform Initiatives</i>	P.L. 2004, c.19, 21, 22, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 123, and 174 (amendments to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1 et seq.)	June 16, 2004 through January 1, 2006
<i>2005 Clean Elections Pilot Project</i>	P.L. 2004, c.121	August 11, 2004
<i>Lobbying Law Expansion</i>	P.L. 2003, c.255 and P.L. 2004, c.20, 27, 34, 36, 37, and 38 (amendments to N.J.S.A. 52:13C-18 et seq.)	April 13 through August 16, 2004
<i>Pay-to-Play Contracting Reform</i>	(amendments to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1 et seq.). P.L. 2004, c.19 (codified as N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.3 - 20.12) P.L. 2005, c.51 (codified as N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.13 - 20.25) P.L. 2005, c.271 (codified as N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.26 - 20.27)	January 1, 2006 October 15, 2004 January 1, 2006 January 5, 2006



STATUTORY HISTORY OF ELEC continued

<i>2007 Clean Elections Pilot Project</i>	P.L. 2007, c.60	March 28, 2007
<i>Office of Lieutenant Governor</i>	P.L. 2009, c.66	June 26, 2009
<i>Solicitation Ban on Public Property</i>	P.L. 2011 c.204	January 17, 2012
<i>Eliminates the Requirement of Candidates to File Duplicate Copies of Campaign Treasurer's Reports with County Clerks</i>	P.L. 2014, c.58 and N.J.A.C. 19:25-8.12	January 1, 2015
<i>Requires Governmental Affairs Agents to Disclose Compensation Received from State or Local Government Entities</i>	P.L. 2017, c.49 and N.J.A.C. 52:13C-21	May 1, 2017
<i>Requires Gubernatorial Ballot Statements to be Posted Online</i>	P.L. 2017, c.177 and N.J.A.C. 19:44A-37	July 21, 2017



*Steve Kimmelman
Research Assistant*



COMPLIANCE DIVISION

ELEC’s Compliance Division faced a major challenge in 2019 as the agency rolled out a web-based reporting filing system enabling all candidates and committees to now file their reports online.

Compliance staff met that challenge by creating new training programs to be conducted as in-house seminars, webinars and outside seminars. Webinars were highly attended and were then recorded and posted on the website for further guidance for users.



In addition to helping to implement

the new e filing system and responding to normal daily requests from the regulated committee, staff also began preparing for the upcoming 2021 Gubernatorial election. ELEC will play a major role in the campaign since it oversees the well-regarded gubernatorial public financing system that was a national first in the 1970s. The electronic filing program for gubernatorial candidates participating in the public financing program has been revamped since the last election in 2017. There will also be an improved program for processing applications for public financing. These advances will be advantageous to the candidates and staff as ELEC attempts to prudently oversee the disbursement of public funds for the 2021 election.

Each day, Compliance staff strive to help candidates, treasurers, lobbyists, public contractors, and professional fund-raisers meet their legal obligations under the laws governing ELEC. With the

primary purpose of assisting the regulated community, staff is available in person and over the phone to provide guidance regarding statutory and regulatory requirements relative to campaign finance, lobbying, pay-to-play and the gubernatorial public financing program. Assistance is provided to individuals that are candidates for public office and their treasurers, political committees and continuing political committees, governmental affairs agents and those represented by them and business entities contracting with public entities. The assistance culminates in disclosure reports that help keep



Front row: Kim Key, Gianna Leonardo, and Desiree DeVito.
Back row: Nancy Fitzpatrick, Maite Hopkins, Milene Matos, Daniel Horowitz, Stephanie Olivo, Walter Leavey, Jr., Monica Triplin-Nelson, Carl Skurat, and Titus Kamal.

candidates honest, inform the public and media, and generally help foster the system of open government. Staff also assists interested members of the public with instruction on the use of the website to search and locate available data and reports, and with Open Public Records requests.



COMPLIANCE DIVISION continued

In 2019 compliance staff continued to serve the needs of the regulated community and the public on matters it oversees. These include election cycle reporting by candidates, joint candidate committees and political committees, which included candidacies for state legislative assembly seats for the primary and general, for local primary and general, school board, fire district and the May Municipal election; quarterly reporting relating to candidates, political party committees, legislative leadership committees and continuing political committees; registration of governmental affairs agents; annual and quarterly lobbying disclosure; registration of professional campaign fundraisers and quarterly fundraising activity; and business entities with contracts with public entities.

Compliance staff members aid all regulated groups and individuals by providing direct mail reminders, delinquent and non-filer letters, guidance documents and reference materials for filing requirements and due dates for filing obligations. After obtaining the names of candidates, the division is in immediate and frequent contact with those with filing obligations.



Compliance and Information

From Left: Monica Triplin-Nelson and Titus Kamal

REGULATED GROUP	NUMBER	REPORTS FILED
Candidates and Committees	7,414	27,242
Public Contractors	2,101	2,391
Lobbyists (Avg)	945	6,390
Professional Fundraisers (Avg)	15	51
Total	10,475	36,074

ELECTION	# OF CANDIDATES	# OF COMMITTEES
Fire Commissioner	58	3
April Schoolboard	58	10
May Municipal	100	17
Primary	2130	344
General	2200	424
November Schoolboard	1998	89
Total	6,544	870



COMPLIANCE DIVISION continued

Business Entity Disclosure of Contract and Contributions for 2018 reported in 2019

2,114 BUSINESS ENTITIES	NUMBER OF CONTRACTS	TOTAL AMT OF CONTRACTS
Reported Contracts	19,344	\$9,915,068,587
Reported Contributions	7,986	\$ 9,800,047

Annual reports filed by public contractors with ELEC that list their contracts and political contributions are received electronically or are scanned by compliance staff so they can be conveniently viewed on ELEC's website. Compliance officers review every report for compliance with the applicable law and regulations and to associate the reports with the appropriate filing entity for easy web searching and review. Compliance staff swiftly notify contractors if they need to make corrections to their disclosure reports.

Compliance staff creates regulatory guidance documents, gives informational seminars, responds to telephone inquiries and assists individuals that appear in-person. Compliance officers will travel around the state if necessary in response to groups who request training and information seminars.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE	
Seminars/Webinars	68
Seminars Participants	530
Trained Treasurers	263
Telephone Assistance	10,190
Public Room Assistance	203
Open Public Records Responses	34

Compliance staff continuously attempts to review disclosure reports for assistance with data collection for analytical press releases. It also regularly seeks improvements to forms and ELEC's website to better accommodate the regulated community. Staff reviews statewide election reports

for contribution and expenditure totals and conducts a review of annual lobbyist reports to allow for the preparation and posting of analytical data.

Since its creation, ELEC has developed as one of the most service-oriented agencies in state government. One of the main reasons is the Compliance Division's commitment to excellent customer service to both the regulated community and the public. Whether compliance is assisting over the phone, in a seminar or at a conference or convention, every effort is made to provide information and instruction on properly completing the disclosure forms and to provide the public with accurate and meaningful disclosure of information to promote the intent of the law and regulations. Compliance staff can be made available outside the office to provide informational seminars or training sessions, or to attend conferences or conventions. Providing helpful, courteous service each day to the regulated community and the public is our highest priority.



COMPLIANCE DIVISION continued



Campaign Training Seminar and How to File Electronically

Location: Morris County Democratic Headquarters

By: Assistant Compliance Officer Maite Hopkins

LAW DIVISION

LEGAL SECTION

The Legal Section is responsible for preparing advisory opinions and regulations, and interpreting and enforcing the disclosure laws under the jurisdiction of the Commission. Complaints, final decisions, advisory opinions, and regulations are posted on the Commission’s website, thereby providing the public with timely and convenient access to legal resources. The Legal Section also provides guidance to the Commission staff in all aspects of the Commission’s work.

limit, failure to file final reports, and late and non-filing of contribution, expenditure and depository information by candidates and political party committees. Regarding matters transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL), the Legal Section workload also included discovery, filing briefs and exceptions, as well as status and settlement conferences with administrative law judges. As of the end of the year, 99 cases were ongoing.

FINAL DECISIONS

At the conclusion of each case in which a complaint has been issued, the Commission issues a final decision which may impose monetary penalties. The Commission issued 176 final decisions in 2019 for violations of the Campaign Act, and received a total of \$136,665.85 in fines.



From left: Nichole DeFazio, Tia Dinh, Theresa J. Lelinski, Gail L. Shanker, Amanda S. Haines, Demery J. Roberts, Kelley Keane-Dawes and Ben Kachuriner.

ADVISORY OPINIONS

COMPLAINTS

The Campaign Act authorizes the Commission to issue complaints alleging violations of the Campaign Act and seeking monetary penalties. The Legal Section issued 113 complaints in 2019. Of the 113 complaints, 9 resulted from investigative matters, and 104 from non-filer recommendations arising from the 2017 general election. These complaints alleged 48-hour notice violations, currency contributions over the \$200

The Campaign Act authorizes the Commission to issue advisory opinions to assist the regulated community in complying with the law. Advisory opinions are issued upon request and are posted on ELEC’s website. The Commission issued one advisory opinion in 2019, Advisory Opinion 01-2019 (AO 01-2019), which was requested by New Jersey Community Initiatives (NJCI). NJCI is a continuing political committee (CPC) that is registered with ELEC as an independent expenditure committee only. NJCI asked whether it could retain



LAW DIVISION continued

the services of a professional campaign fundraiser (PCFR), who is also a “candidate” under the Campaign Act, and remain in compliance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-9(h) (Section 9(h)). Section 9(h) prohibits a candidate from participating, directly or indirectly, in the management or control of a political committee or CPC.

CONCLUSION

Interpreting and enforcing the provisions of law are critical elements of effective administration of the campaign and lobbying financial disclosure entrusted to the Commission and its Legal Section. The Legal Section continues to meet its challenges in a professional and responsible manner, to enforce

the laws fairly and uniformly, and to treat all Respondents with the due process they are afforded under the law.



Legal Team Meeting

From Left: Theresa J. Lelinski, Nichole DeFazio, and Ben Kachuriner

NJCI represented that all its communications would identify that the PCFR is an outside professional, would be paid her customary fee, would not be involved or exercise discretion in the management/control of NJCI, and that NJCI would not make any independent expenditures in support of the PCFR’s campaign for elected office. Based on the facts represented by NJCI, the Commission concluded that NJCI could retain the services of the PCFR, who was also a candidate, as long as: (1) the PCFR does not directly or indirectly participate in the management or control of NJCI, and, (2) NJCI does not make any coordinated expenditures with the PCFR’s candidate committee.

LAW DIVISION continued

REVIEW AND INVESTIGATION SECTION

The Review and Investigation consists of a Director, six investigators and two support staff.

In calendar year 2019, the Review and Investigation Section closed 43 investigations. The investigations primarily focused on the incomplete or untimely filing of campaign reports, campaign report information such as; complete disclosure of contribution and expenditure information, receipt of excessive contributions, and reporting obligations of individuals and/or entities that expended funds independently of the candidate.

REQUESTS FOR INVESTIGATION

Any member of the public can request an investigation by completing the Confidential Request for Investigation form, which can be found on the Commission's web site, www.elec.state.nj.us. The Requests for Investigation continue to be a major source of information regarding alleged violations of the Reporting Act as many members of the public continue to hold accountable their elected officials. When submitting a Request, it is helpful if the complainant provides as much information as possible; such as copies of campaign literature, photographs of campaign signs and any other information that may support the alleged reporting violation. However, these Requests cannot be filed by facsimile.



Front row: Tamico Flack, Pam Kinsey, Laura Jurkiewicz, and Danielle Hacker.
Back row: Marcus Malmignati, Shreve Marshall, Brett Mead, Christopher Guear, and Matthew Krinsley.



LAW DIVISION continued

The Commission received a total of 85 Requests for Investigation in calendar year 2019.

The Commission also initiates investigations as a result of staff's review of reports filed with the Commission and as a result of a story that may have appeared in a news article. In calendar year 2019, the Commission determined to open a total of 13 new investigations. The Commission does not release any information to the public, indicating how it may have learned of a specific reporting violation, or comment as to how an investigation is initiated.



Review and Investigation

From Left: Brett Mead and Danielle Hacker

established. The subpoenas are issued for the production of documents that are needed to corroborate the financial information that was reported by the respondents or obtain more accurate information to assist the respondents with their filing obligations. In calendar year 2019, the section issued 131 subpoenas.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING AND OTHER LEGAL SUPPORT

The Section's investigators also review the Commission's files for records of candidates and entities participating in an election who have failed to file any reports.

The R & I section also assists the attorneys in the Legal Section with follow-up enforcement activity such as locating addresses for sheriff's service of complaints and in the preparation of cases for hearings before the Office of Administrative Law. In this instance, the investigator is required to prepare as the State's witness in the cases in which the respondents do not waive their right to such hearings. The investigators are also called upon to review amended reports filed by respondents in response to

Commission complaints.

INVESTIGATIONS

In most cases, in order to complete investigations, the R&I Section will issue a subpoena either to entities that are the subject of the investigation or to financial institutions where a designated campaign or organizational depository is



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

ELEC takes seriously its responsibility to disclose and disseminate information quickly, accurately and effectively to the public. Achieving this mission is a constant challenge given the ever-changing world of technology



Front row: Shirley Bryant, Kim Swartz, Aydan Altan, Anthony Giancarli, and Brenda Brickhouse.
Back row: Peter Palaitis, Elias Amaya, Lou Solimeo, Susan Danley, Helen Kelly, Bettie Michael, Ken Colandrea, and Brian Robbins.

ELEC has prided itself at being on the forefront of many of these changes, most recently through the use of “cloud” technology.

This recent trend means using the internet to deliver services such as email, storage, backup, and data retrieval and analysis to individual computer users by linking them to massive data centers. Traditionally, personal computer owners had to download, run and update programs on their machines to access such services.

In 2019, ELEC became one of the first state agencies to integrate cloud technology into its computer operations.

A highly anticipated online browser-based electronic filing system called ELEC eFile became operational in January 2019 and was successfully deployed to the cloud.

After a year of voluntary use by candidates and committees, the application has been warmly received by ELEC users. One advantage is that it

enables them to access the system virtually anywhere using a web browser with a laptop, tablet, or hand-held computer. Users no longer run into software or hardware compatibility problems. Nor do they have to worry about frequent updates.

ELEC eFile finally enabled Continuing Political Party (CPC) committees (also

called PACs) to file electronically instead of submitting paper reports. This application features a user-friendly dashboard to easily manage contribution and expenditure activities. The system allows users to keep track of all report filings and amendments. It also automatically updates aggregate totals for donors who make multiple contributions. Periodic reports that must be filed with ELEC can be easily generated, including 48-hour notices required close to the election.

With the next election for gubernatorial approaching in 2021, the Gubernatorial Electronic Filing System (GEFS) was added to ELEC eFile.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION continued

GEFS is used by candidates participating in the public financing matching funds program. The IT department worked tirelessly with the compliance department to design a filing system that is easy-to-use yet still provides all the bells and whistles needed by users.

information or corrections can be quickly resent. Because the reporting process has been simplified, campaign officials can spend less time fulfilling public disclosure obligations and more time on the campaign trail.



Information Technology

From Left: Ken Colandrea, Lou Solimeo, and Peter Palaitis

Reports submitted by gubernatorial candidates are meticulously reviewed by ELEC staff before any public funds are given to the campaign. Images of each contribution along with supporting documentation must be submitted for examination. Contributions are not considered valid without full background information, including names, addresses, employer name and other donor details.

GEFS offers a fast, convenient method to add images into the program while maintaining an accurate record of all required information. Once final reports are submitted to ELEC, supplemental

For all users, the requirement to obtain a registration and PIN number is one of the main security features of the ELEC eFile system. This two-part unique identifier coupled with a user's email creates a secure account. The registration and PIN combination is also used as a person's electronic signature.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION continued

In the past, the application to obtain a registration and Pin required the form to be downloaded, completed, signed and then faxed to ELEC for processing. This year ELEC is offering a new electronic form that ends the need to manually sign applications. Over 2,400 applications already have been processed so far.

ELEC's IT staff is vigilant about database management and data security. ELEC has upgraded its SQL Server backend database used to house all reports and related information filed by candidate, committees and other filing entities. Newer versions of software eliminate security gaps, increase performance, stability and data integrity.

Overall, this has been a very productive year for the IT department. The department contains experienced employees in both software development and help desk support. Close to 1,800 help desk calls were handled during the past year. As the commission moves to mandatory electronic filing, this number is expected to increase. We encourage anyone with questions about using our online systems to call during business hours. We are glad to help.

DATA ENTRY SECTION

One of the major goals of the agency is provide timely and accurate information to the public. ELEC's data entry staff plays an integral role in achieving this objective.

As usual, ELEC's data entry staff has been hard at work this year. One of their jobs is to diligently key into ELEC's searchable database information from reports filed by various fundraising committees.



Information Technology

From Left: Elias Amaya and Ken Colandrea

The data entry staff also is responsible for the timely processing of new registration and PIN applications. Since the registration and PIN number takes the place of a signature on a report, a manual review by a staff member is an important safeguard



HOMEPAGE

Governor Phil Murphy • Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver

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Introducing ELEC's new web-based Electronic File Filing System for R3 (CPC/LLC/PPC) and R1 Filers. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to register for upcoming Webinars. >>

Where To Find

Complaints and Final Decisions	Contributions and Expenditures	Candidate or Committee Reports	Lobbying Reports
Press Releases	Pay to Play Reports	Advisory Opinions	News Letters, White Papers and Other Publications

Press Releases

- [Meeting Agenda](#)
March 11, 2020
- [Lobbying](#)
March 9, 2020
- [Enforcement Actions](#)
March 4, 2020
- [Meeting Agenda](#)
March 2, 2020
- [Annual Lobbying](#)
February 27, 2020

Spotlight On

Jersey Matters Dark Money



'Dark money' flows into NJ politics and none of it has to be accounted for

[northjersey.com](#)

ELEC-Tronic Newsletter
Issue 129 March 2020 ▶

2018 Annual Report

White Paper No. 27 ▶

The Challenge of Campaign Financing Regulation in the 21st Century ▶

Outside Spending Legislative Races Crushes Previous Records

[NJTVNEWS](#)

Contribution Limits

View contribution limits for candidates, parties, political committees and PACs ▶

Disclosure Dates

Pending report disclosure dates ▶

Additional Info

5 Priority ELEC Recommendations

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FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

BUDGET



Christopher Mistichelli
Director of Administration

One of the major areas of responsibility for the Finance and Administration Division is the preparation, analysis, and management of the Commission’s budget. The Commission’s fiscal year 2020 Direct State Services adjusted appropriation is \$4,988,000 which is an increase of \$358,000 from the fiscal year 2019 Direct State Services adjusted appropriation. This increase is to offset salaries and OIT’s Cost Allocation Recovery charges. Thus, the Finance and Administration Division staff continued to work to ensure the accurate budgeting and management of expenditures.

During 2019, the Finance and Administration Division continued to play an integral role in the successful operations of the Commission, by providing important management and employee services. Among the major areas handled and overseen by the Division are budget planning and analysis, purchasing/procurement, personnel and payroll administration, mail processing, and facilities management. Additionally, the Finance and Administration Division oversees multi-function devices and all other machinery maintenance for the entire Commission. Finally, reception services for the Commission are housed within the Finance and Administration Division. A great source of pride for all associated with the Commission is the fact that all telephone inquiries are still courteously and efficiently handled personally by a knowledgeable staff member and are not simply forwarded to a voicemail or telephone menu.



Front Row: Barbara Doose, Cheryl Lippincott, and Samantha Schutzbank.
Back Row: Kelvin Fisher, Aracelis Brown, Tamika McCoy, Christine Clevenger, Christopher Mistichelli, and Elaine Salit.



FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION DIVISION continued

During 2019, the Finance and Administration Division staff worked tirelessly with other Commission Divisions to ensure the efficient management of the budget and the purchasing of necessary supplies and services, in order to keep the Commission functioning at an optimal level.

PERSONNEL

Another major area of responsibility for the Finance and Administration Division is the coordination and management of personnel activities for the entire Commission. The Finance and Administration Division staff successfully worked with the Civil Service Commission and the Governor's Office during 2019 to comply with all State personnel rules and regulations in backfilling positions. This has allowed overall staff levels to remain unchanged over the past few years.



Finance and Administration
Christine Clevenger

OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

In addition to handling budget, fiscal and personnel matters for the Commission, the Finance and Administration Division is also responsible for general administrative functions, such as reception, mail processing, overseeing machinery and equipment maintenance, and acting as the Commission's liaison with Building Management. During 2019, the Division continued to work to maintain an atmosphere where all other Divisions could focus solely on their respective roles within the Commission, without concern for these day-to-day administrative issues.

CONCLUSION

By providing important management and employee services in a timely and professional manner, the Finance and Administration Division has been an integral part of the Commission. During 2019, the Division operated within the parameters established by the Department of Treasury and the Governor's Office and continued to handle all responsibilities effectively.



Finance and Administration
Elaine Salit



FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION DIVISION continued

In FY 2021, the Commission anticipates an appropriation of \$5,233,000 based on the Governor’s Budget Message.

COMPARISON OF FISCAL YEARS 2019 AND 2020 ORIGINAL DSS APPROPRIATIONS		
	FISCAL-2019	FISCAL-2020
Salaries and Wages	3,957,000	4,232,000
Printing and Supplies	45,000	45,000
Services Other Than Personal	626,000	709,000
Maintenance and Fixed Charges	2,000	2,000
Total Operational	\$4,630,000	\$4,988,000



Receptionists Cheryl Lippincott and Samantha Schutzbank
Providing Assistance to the Public

2019 EVALUATION DATA	
Disclosure Reports (Total	36,074
Campaign & Quarterly	27,242
Lobbyist	6,390
Pay-to-Play	2,391
Professional Campaign Fundraiser	51
Investigations	43
Complaints	113
Public Assistance Requests	13,014
Fine Collection	\$136,666
Lobbying Annual Fees	\$432,325
Campaign Fundraiser Annual Fees	\$13,000



COMMISSION STAFF & ORGANIZATION CHART

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JOSEPH W. DONOHUE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Christopher Vigale
Elbia L. Zeppetelli
Renee Zach
Steven Kimmelman

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Michel Donato-Suarez
Milene Matos
Nancy Fitzpatrick
Titus Kamal
Walter Leavey, Jr.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

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Samantha Schutzbank

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Gail L. Shanker, Esq.
Kelley Keane-Dawes, Esq.
Maureen Tilbury
Nichole DeFazio, Esq.
Theresa J. Lelinski, Esq.
Tia Dinh, Esq.

REVIEW AND INVESTIGATION

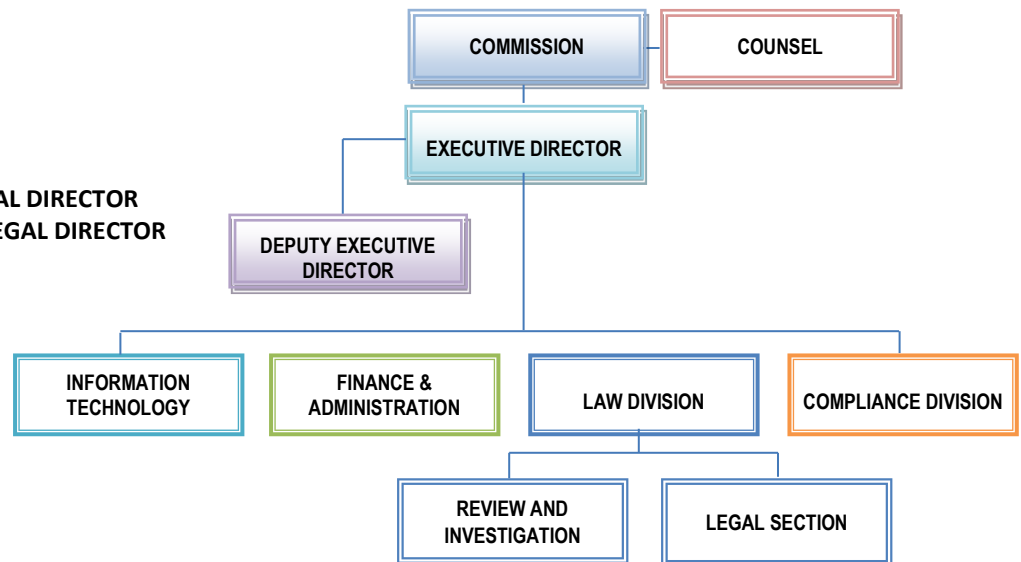
SHREVE E. MARSHALL, JR., DIRECTOR

Brett Mead
Christopher Gear
Danielle Hacker
Laura Jurkiewicz
Matthew Krinsley
Marcus Malmignati
Pamela Kinsey
Tamico Flack

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

ANTHONY GIANCARLI, DIRECTOR

Aydan A. Altan
Brenda A. Brickhouse
Brian Robbins
Darlene Kozlowski
Elias J. Amaya
Elizabeth Michael
Helen Kelly
Kim Swartz
Ken Colandrea
Louis Solimeo
Maryanne Garcia
Peter Palaitis
Shirley R. Bryant
Susan Danley





ELEC OVERVIEW

1973

Frank P. Reiche, Chair
Judge Sidney Goldmann, Vice Chair
Judge Bartholomew Sheehan,
Commissioner
Florence P. Dwyer, Commissioner

1974-1979

Frank P. Reiche, Chair
Judge Sidney Goldmann, Vice Chair
Josephine Margetts, Commissioner
Archibald S. Alexander, Commissioner

1980-1981

Judge Sidney Goldmann, Chair
Josephine Margetts, Vice Chair
Andrew C. Axtell, Commissioner
M. Robert DeCotiis, Commissioner

1982-1983

Andrew C. Axtell, Chair
M. Robert DeCotiis, Vice Chair
Justice Haydn Proctor, Commissioner
Alexander P. Waugh, Jr., Commissioner

1984-1986

Andrew C. Axtell, Chair
Alexander P. Waugh, Jr., Vice Chair
Justice Haydn Proctor, Commissioner
Owen V. McNanny III, Commissioner

1987-1988

Judge Stanley G. Bedford, Chair
Owen V. McNany, III, Vice Chair
Andrew C. Axtell, Commissioner
David Linett, Commissioner

1989-1990

Judge Stanley G. Bedford, Chair
Owen V. McNany, III, Vice Chair
David Linett, Commissioner
S. Elliott Mayo, Commissioner

1991-1992

Owen V. McNany, III, Chair
Judge Stanley G. Bedford,
Commissioner
David Linett, Commissioner

1993-1994

Owen V. McNany, III, Chair
William H. Eldridge, Vice Chair
David Linett, Commissioner

1995

William H. Eldridge, Chair
Owen V. McNany, III, Vice Chair
David Linett, Commissioner
Michael Chertoff, Commissioner

1996

Judge Ralph V. Martin, Chair
David Linett, Vice Chair
Paula A. Franzese, Commissioner

1997-2000

Judge Ralph V. Martin, Chair
David Linett, Vice Chair
Paula A. Franzese, Commissioner
Lynnan B. Ware, Commissioner

2001

Judge Ralph V. Martin, Chair
Paula A. Franzese, Vice Chair
Lynnan B. Ware, Commissioner
Susan S. Lederman, Commissioner

2002-2003

Judge Ralph V. Martin, Chair
Paula A. Franzese, Vice Chair
Susan S. Lederman, Commissioner
Peter J. Tober, Commissioner

2004-2006

Jerry Fitzgerald English, Chair
Peter J. Tober, Vice Chair
Albert Burstein, Commissioner
Judge Theodore Z. Davis, Commissioner

2007

Jerry Fitzgerald English, Chair
Peter J. Tober, Vice Chair
Albert Burstein, Commissioner

2008-2009

Jerry Fitzgerald English, Chair
Peter J. Tober, Vice Chair
Albert Burstein, Commissioner
Judge Amos C. Saunders, Commissioner

2010

Jerry Fitzgerald English, Chair
Judge Amos C. Saunders, Vice Chair
Albert Burstein, Commissioner
Ronald DeFilippis, Commissioner

2011

Ronald DeFilippis, Chairman
Walter F. Timpone, Vice Chairman
Judge Amos C. Saunders, Commissioner
Judge Lawrence Weiss, Commissioner
(Appointed 4-2011 - Deceased 11-13-2011)
Jerry Fitzgerald English, Commissioner
(Retired 3-15-2011)

2012-2015

Ronald DeFilippis, Chairman
Walter F. Timpone, Vice Chairman
Judge Amos C. Saunders, Commissioner
(Deceased 8-16-2015)

2016

Ronald DeFilippis, Chairman
Walter F. Timpone, Vice Chairman
(Resigned 5-2-2016)

2017

Ronald DeFilippis, Chairman
(Retired 7-2017)
Eric H. Jaso, Chairman
Stephen M. Holden, Commissioner
Eric H. Jaso, Commissioner

2018-2019

Eric H. Jaso, Chairman
Stephen M. Holden, Commissioner
Marguerite T. Simon, Commissioner

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

1973-1976	David F. Norcross
1976-1981	Lewis B. Thurston, III
1981-1984	Scott A. Weiner
1984-2009	Frederick M. Herrmann
2009-Present	Jeffrey M. Brindle

LEGAL COUNSEL

1973-1994	Edward J. Farrell
1994-2012	James P. Wyse
2012-Present	Edwin R. Matthews

CONSULTANT

1973-1978, 1982, 1986-1988
Herbert E. Alexander