

**STATE OF FLORIDA
COMMISSION ON ETHICS**

Friday, March 6, 2026

*First Floor Meeting Room, First District Court of Appeal
2000 Drayton Drive
Tallahassee, Florida*

PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

At 9:07 a.m. Chair Jon M. Philipson called the meeting to order with the following members present:

MICHAEL H. HELLMAN
JOSEPH OGLESBY
JON M. PHILIPSON
JEREMY M. RODGERS
ABBEY L. STEWART
LINDA STEWART

Paul D. Bain and Laird A. Lile were absent from the meeting.

The presence of a quorum was noted.

Commissioner Rodgers, seconded by Commissioner Linda Stewart, moved to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2026 Public Session meeting. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Rodgers, seconded by Commissioner Abbey Stewart, moved to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2026 Public Video Conference meeting. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF REMAND – DOAH RECOMMENDED ORDER – ATTORNEY FEES AND COSTS

Complaint Nos. 23-262, 23-264, 23-270, 23-278 (cons.), In re MICHELE MYERS

Present were Susan Smith Erdelyi, Attorney for the Respondent; Michele Myers, Respondent; Kimberly J. Fernandes, Attorney for Complainant Kevin To; and Mark Herron, Attorney for Complainant Christopher "Doc" Bailey.

Staff Attorney Amelia Naomi summarized the background of the matter, including the Recommended Order from the DOAH ALJ and a staff draft order of remand to the ALJ.

Ms. Fernandes, Mr. Herron, and Ms. Erdelyi were heard by the Commission.

Commissioner Philipson, seconded by Commissioner Hellman, moved to approve the recommended order. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF FINAL ACTION – JOINT STIPULATION

Complaint No. 22-116, In re PAULE VILLARD

Present was Joseph C. Burns, Commission Advocate.

Mr. Burns summarized the proposed joint stipulation calling for a finding of violation of Section 112.3145(5), Florida Statutes, and a recommended penalty of public censure and reprimand, and a total civil penalty of \$500.

Commissioner Oglesby, seconded by Commissioner Linda Stewart, moved to approve the proposed joint stipulation. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Complaint No. 25-034, In re RONTERRIOUS GREEN

Present was Melody A. Hadley, Commission Advocate.

Ms. Hadley summarized the proposed joint stipulation calling for a finding of violation of Section 112.313(7), Florida Statutes, and a recommended penalty of public censure and reprimand, and a civil penalty of \$1,500.

Commissioner Linda Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Rodgers, moved to approve the proposed joint stipulation. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF WITHDRAWAL OF ADVISORY OPINION

File 2830. NEPOTISM RESTRICTIONS FOR CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

General Counsel Steven Zuilkowski updated the Commission and explained the basis of the request to withdraw the advisory opinion.

Commissioner Abbey Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Linda Stewart, moved to grant the withdrawal request. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF ADVISORY OPINION

File 2832. FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS: FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR A SPECIFIED STATE EMPLOYEE ON A LONG-TERM LEAVE FROM EMPLOYMENT TO PURSUE MILITARY SERVICE

Commissioner Rodgers disclosed that he served as Deputy Mayor and City Councilmember of Boca Raton as well as was mobilized on orders while there.

Staff Attorney Amelia Naomi explained the basis of the draft advisory opinion and the rationale behind its conclusion.

Commissioner Rodgers moved to amend the draft opinion, but then withdrew the motion.

Commissioner Philipson, seconded by Commissioner Abbey Stewart, moved to approve the draft opinion, with amendments. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE APPEALS

HEARING

No one was present for this appeal.

FD21-072, In re FLORENE LITTHCUTT NICHOLS

Staff Attorney Stephanie Novenario explained the basis of the draft final order and the rationale behind its conclusion.

Commissioner Oglesby, seconded by Commissioner Rodgers, moved to approve the staff's recommendation. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

NO HEARING

No one was present for any of the appeals.

**FD21-040, In re AUDREY WILLIS
FD21-052, In re DOUGLAS HODGSON
FD21-055, In re CALEB DECIUS
FD21-061, In re JERRY TORRANCE
FD21-069, In re JEFFREY PHIPPS
FD21-073, In re ROBERT (HUNT) DAVIS
FD24-020, In re JAY BRENT PICHARD**

Commissioner Linda Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Hellman, moved to take up all appeals together. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Rodgers, seconded by Commissioner Oglesby, moved to approve the staff's recommendations. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF ORDER DECLARING FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FINE UNCOLLECTIBLE

Commissioner Linda Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Oglesby, moved to declare this fine uncollectible. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF 2026 CALL CENTER CONTRACT

The Chair asked whether there was anyone present who wished to be heard on the matter. There was no one.

Executive Director Kerrie Stillman explained her spending authority is limited to \$10,000 and requested the approval of the expenditure for the 2026 e-filing call center contract in the amount of \$164,728.52.

Commissioner Linda Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Hellman, moved to approve the Executive Director's expenditure authority in the amount of \$164,728.52 for the e-filing call center. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

REPORTS

The Chair thanked the Commissioners for their attendance.

Executive Director Kerrie Stillman elaborated on her written Executive Director's report previously provided to the Commissioners. She introduced the Advocate's new assistant, Gabriella Garcia. She also introduced new part-time clerks, Estefania Gama and Bryan Romer.

Executive Director Kerrie Stillman updated the Commission on ethics-related bills in the 2026 legislative session.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items on the agenda, the Public Session adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

Diana Westberry, *Secretary*

Jon M. Philipson, *Chair*

Date