

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**TO:** Members, Commission on Ethics

**FROM:** Kerrie Stillman  
Executive Director

**DATE:** November 17, 2021

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### ADVISORY OPINIONS

The Commission on Ethics did not issue any opinions at its October meeting. It has rendered 2,689 opinions since its inception in 1974.

### LITIGATION

Case Number 1D21-3115, Patrick Loebig v. Florida Commission on Ethics - This is an appeal of CEO 21-9 regarding the Taxpayer Rights Advocate.

On November 3, 2021, a rule challenge was filed at DOAH in Carlos Beruff v. Florida Commission on Ethics, Case No. 21-3339RX, alleging that a portion of the materials incorporated by reference into Rule 34-8.202, F.A.C., consisting of a portion of the instructions that accompany the CE Form 1 constitute an invalid exercise of delegated legislative authority. The petition seeks consolidation with DOAH Case No 21-2890EC currently pending before the Division and asks that Mr. Beruff be awarded attorney's fees and costs pursuant to Section 120.595(3), F.S. On November 12, 2021, an Order of Consolidation was issued consolidating DOAH Case Nos. 21-2890EC and 21-3339XX pursuant to Rule 28-106.108, F.A.C.

### FINANCES

As of October 31, we've spent \$837,143.63 (32.18%) of our appropriation, with 33.33% of the FY gone.

### PUBLIC SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS / PUBLICATIONS / HONORS

Gray will be conducting a 2-hour training for the Broward County School Board via Zoom, on December 7.

Steve provided a 1-hour training on financial disclosure and conflicts of interest to the Florida School Board Attorneys Association.

### STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please welcome Staff Attorney Suhail Chhabra to our team. He joined our staff at the beginning of November.

Attached to this report is recent correspondence received in appreciation of the work of Kathy, Gray, and Steve.

## **PENDING ORDERS IMPOSING PENALTIES**

### **GOVERNOR**

Complaint No. 15-178, In re Michael S. Murphy (Final Order 08/03/16)  
Complaint No. 17-108, In re Joel Davis (Final Order 06/13/18)  
Complaint No. 17-088, In re Cheryl Thomas-Hughes (Final Order 12/12/18)  
Complaint No. 16-062, In re Dennis McDonald (Final Order 10/30/19)  
Complaint No. 16-130, In re Frantz Pierre (Final Order 09/15/21)  
Complaint No. 18-211, In re Thomas L. Clyce (Final Order 02/10/21)  
Complaint No. 18-168, In re Dustin Daniels (Final Order 04/21/21)  
Complaint No. 18-047, In re Brian Burkeen (Final Order 04/21/21)  
Complaint No. 19-192, In re Marilyn D. Sconions (07/28/21)  
Complaint No. 19-158, In re Thomas R. Hardee [Referral] (Final Order 04/21/21)  
Complaint No. 19-154, In re Doug Belden (Final Order 03/10/21)  
Complaint No. 20-054, In re Milissa Holland (Final Order 09/15/21)  
Complaint No. 20-124, In re Francis David Bourrie (Final Order 06/09/21)  
Complaint No. 20-125, In re Muhammad Amin (Final Order 10-27-21)  
Complaint No. 20-225, In re Alexis P. Rodriguez (Final Order 10-27-21)  
Complaint No. 21-077, In re Reginald Sessions (Final Order 10-27-21)

### **HOUSE**

Complaint No. 18-026, In re Kim Daniels (Final Order 01/30/19)  
Complaint No. 20-206, In re Jackie Toledo (Final Order 10-27-21)  
Complaint No. 20-211, In re Tracie Davis (Final Order 10-27-21)

## **PENDING ACTION ON STATUTORILY-GENERATED LOBBYING FIRM AUDIT MATTERS (GOVERNOR AND CABINET)**

Complaint No. 16-017, In re Dean Mead (Probable Cause 01/27/17)  
Complaint No. 16-018, In re Buigas and Associates (Probable Cause 01/27/17)  
Complaint No. 16-019, In re DDarling Consulting (Probable Cause 01/27/17).  
Complaint No. 16-174, In re Kathy Till and Associates, Inc., (Probable Cause 08/02/17)  
Complaint No. 16-170, In re Capitol Group, Inc., (Probable Cause 10/25/17)  
Complaint No. 16-173, In re Johnson Strategies, LLC (Probable Cause 12/13/17)  
Complaint No. 16-175, In re Sayfie Law Firm (Probable Cause 10/25/17)  
Complaint No. 17-132, In re Andrew J. Liles (Probable Cause 08/01/18)  
Complaint No. 17-134, In re Lester Abberger (Probable Cause 08/01/18)  
Complaint No. 17-135, In re Pruitt and Associates (Probable Cause 08/01/18)  
Complaint No. 17-136, In re Wilson and Associates, LLC (Probable Cause 08/01/18)  
Complaint No. 17-137, In re TC Wolfe (Probable Cause 08/01/18)  
Complaint No. 19-031, In re Impact GR (Probable Cause 09/18/19)  
Complaint No. 20-055, In re All Florida Solutions, Inc. (Probable Cause 03/10/21)  
Complaint No. 20-056, In re Carr Allison (Probable Cause 03/10/21)  
Complaint No. 20-058, In re Pyle and Associates (Probable Cause 03/10/21)

## Steverson, Kathryn

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**From:** Steverson, Kathryn  
**Sent:** Monday, August 30, 2021 10:34 AM  
**To:** 'Kirt Rusenko'  
**Subject:** RE: Financial Disclosure Form 1F

Mr. Rusenko,

Thank you for your kind words and please let us know if you need anything else.

*Kathryn Steverson*

*Assistant to the Executive Director*

*Florida Commission on Ethics  
P.O. Drawer 15709  
Tallahassee, FL 32317-5709  
(850) 488-7864  
(850) 488-3077 (Fax)  
[www.ethics.state.fl.us](http://www.ethics.state.fl.us)*

**Physical address:**

325 John Knox Road  
Building E, Suite 200  
Tallahassee, FL 32303

**From:** Kirt Rusenko <[rusenkoki@aol.com](mailto:rusenkoki@aol.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 30, 2021 10:04 AM  
**To:** Steverson, Kathryn <[STEVERSON.KATHRYN@leg.state.fl.us](mailto:STEVERSON.KATHRYN@leg.state.fl.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: Financial Disclosure Form 1F

Thank you so much Ms. Steverson! You were an awesome help! If I were your boss, I would give you a substantial raise for your knowledge and quality of your work!

Dr. Kirt Rusenko  
1109 Saint Johns Church Road  
Hampstead, NC 28443

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Steverson, Kathryn <[STEVERSON.KATHRYN@leg.state.fl.us](mailto:STEVERSON.KATHRYN@leg.state.fl.us)>  
**To:** [rusenkoki@aol.com](mailto:rusenkoki@aol.com) <[rusenkoki@aol.com](mailto:rusenkoki@aol.com)>  
**Sent:** Mon, Aug 30, 2021 9:45 am  
**Subject:** Financial Disclosure Form 1F

Mr. Rusenko,

It was nice to speak with you over the phone. Per your request I have attached a Form 1F for you leaving your position January 28, 2021. Please file both the Form 1 that you have and the 1F with your Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections.

Have a wonderful day.

**Kathryn Steverson**

*Assistant to the Executive Director*

*Florida Commission on Ethics*

*P.O. Drawer 15709*

*Tallahassee, FL 32317-5709*

*(850) 488-7864*

*(850) 488-3077 (Fax)*

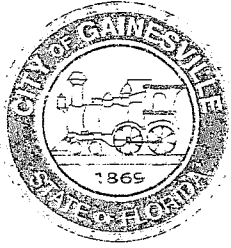
*[www.ethics.state.fl.us](http://www.ethics.state.fl.us)*

**Physical address:**

325 John Knox Road

Building E, Suite 200

Tallahassee, FL 32303



# City of Gainesville

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Lauren Poe, Mayor



August 30, 2021

Mr. Gray Schafer, Senior Attorney  
Florida Commission on Ethics  
P.O. Drawer 15709  
Tallahassee, FL 32317-5709

Dear Mr. Schafer,

On behalf of the Gainesville City Commission, I wish to extend to you our sincerest appreciation for the excellent presentation you gave on ethics. The depth of information and examples you provided enlarged our broader understanding of the role of public official.

For the time, effort, and patience you exercised to update and enlighten us, please accept the gratitude of this City, its Commission, and our Gainesville community.

Sincerely,

Lauren Poe  
Mayor

LP:blb

**From:** Cliff Repperger <[cliff@whitebirdlaw.com](mailto:cliff@whitebirdlaw.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 15, 2021 6:35 PM  
**To:** Shillinger-Bob <[Shillinger-Bob@MonroeCounty-FL.Gov](mailto:Shillinger-Bob@MonroeCounty-FL.Gov)>  
**Cc:** Klancke, Caroline <[KLANCKE.CAROLINE@leg.state.fl.us](mailto:KLANCKE.CAROLINE@leg.state.fl.us)>  
**Subject:** RE: Commission on Ethics contact

Bob (Caroline),

Thanks. I appreciate your response. I was able to speak with Senior Attorney Steven J. Zuilkowski today. Mr. Zuilkowski simply could not have been more helpful and responsive in addressing my question.

I am all good for now.

Best regards,

Cliff Repperger

**Clifford R. Repperger, Jr., Esq.**  
**Partner**

p. 321.327.5580 | f. 321.327.5655

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Melbourne, FL 32901  
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**WHITEBIRD**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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**From:** Shillinger-Bob <[Shillinger-Bob@MonroeCounty-FL.Gov](mailto:Shillinger-Bob@MonroeCounty-FL.Gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 15, 2021 3:18 PM  
**To:** Cliff Repperger <[cliff@whitebirdlaw.com](mailto:cliff@whitebirdlaw.com)>  
**Cc:** Klancke, Caroline <[KLANCKE.CAROLINE@leg.state.fl.us](mailto:KLANCKE.CAROLINE@leg.state.fl.us)>  
**Subject:** RE: Commission on Ethics contact

Cliff:

Caroline Klancke has replaced Chris Anderson as the General Counsel for the Florida Commission on Ethics. I've worked with Ms. Klancke on a number of matters over the years when she was an Assistant General Counsel and have always found her to be an excellent resource and sounding board for those of

us representing public officials and agencies. Ms. Klancke is copied here in the CC line of this email; she can also be reached by phone at (850) 488-7864.

Good luck. Bob



Bob Shillinger  
County Attorney  
Monroe County Attorney's Office  
1111 12th Street, Suite 408  
Key West, FL 33040  
(305) 292-3470  
(305) 292-3516 (facsimile)

Note, Florida has a broad public records law. Any information you send to this address, including your contact information, may be subject to public disclosure.

**From:** Cliff Repperger <[cliff@whitebirdlaw.com](mailto:cliff@whitebirdlaw.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 15, 2021 2:31 PM  
**To:** Shillinger-Bob <[Shillinger-Bob@MonroeCounty-FL.Gov](mailto:Shillinger-Bob@MonroeCounty-FL.Gov)>  
**Subject:** Commission on Ethics contact

#### CAUTION

Bob,

Last year, you responded to email on the Local Government Lawyer listserv regarding a potential conflict of interest by providing Chris Anderson's office contact phone number. Apparently he has since retired this year at the end of August. Do you happen to have any additional contact information for Mr. Anderson or a referral to anyone at the Commission on Ethics who you find equally as helpful? I have a question regarding an issue I am trying to get some guidance on.

Best regards,  
Cliff Repperger

**Clifford R. Repperger, Jr., Esq.**  
**Partner**

p. 321.327.5580 | f. 321.327.5655

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