

## NEVADA

### INTRODUCTION

The Nevada Commission on Ethics has jurisdiction over current and former public officers and public employees. [Nev. Rev. Stat. § 281A.280\(1\)](#). A “public officer” includes elected officials, appointed officials who exercise discretionary policy making and members of the legislature. [Nev. Rev. Stat. § 281A.160](#). A “public employee” is an individual who performs duties under the control of a public officer and is paid by state, county, or local government to do so. [Nev. Rev. Stat. § 281A.150](#).

The [Secretary of State](#) has authority over financial disclosure statements.

### SCOPE OF SANCTIONS

Personnel actions – The Commission can issue admonishments, reprimands or censure, depending on the circumstances. [Nev. Rev. Stat. § 281A.785\(2\)](#). [It can also file a complaint in the appropriate court for removal of a public official, not subject to impeachment. Nev. Rev. Stat. § 281A.790\(4\)](#).

Injunctions – The Commission can require the public officer or employee to comply with all provisions of the state ethics code, complete trainings, follow a remedial course of action, issue a public apology, and comply with conditions and limitations on future conduct. [Nev. Rev. Stat. § 281A.785\(1\)\(a\)](#).

Fines – The Commission can impose civil penalties (a) not to exceed \$5,000 for the first willful violation, (b) not to exceed \$10,000 for a separate, second willful violation, and (c) not to exceed \$25,000 for a separate, third willful violation. [Nev. Rev. Stat. § 281A.790\(1\)](#). If the violation has resulted in a financial benefit to the public official or employee, the Commission may require, in addition to the penalties, the official or employee to pay a civil penalty not to exceed twice the value of the financial benefit. [Nev. Rev. Stat. § 281A.790\(3\)](#).

### ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS for 2016, 2017, and 2018, if available

#### 1. How many complaints were filed?

FY2016 – 77 complaints were filed.<sup>1</sup>

FY 2017 – 43 complaints were filed.<sup>2</sup>

FY 2018 – 55 complaints were filed.<sup>3</sup>

#### 2. How many complaints were dismissed?

FY2016 – 68 complaints were dismissed.<sup>4</sup>

FY 2017 – 31 complaints were dismissed.<sup>5</sup>

FY 2018 – 39 complaints were dismissed.<sup>6</sup>

**3. How many cases were resolved with a finding of no ethics violation?**

FY 2016 – This information cannot be determined.

FY 2017 – This information cannot be determined.

FY 2018 – This information cannot be determined.

**4. How many cases were resolved with a finding of an ethics violation?**

FY 2016 – 3 cases were resolved with a finding of an ethics violation.<sup>7</sup>

FY 2017 – 5 cases were resolved with a finding of an ethics violation.<sup>8</sup>

FY 2018 – 16 cases were resolved with a finding of an ethics violation.<sup>9</sup>

**5. What sanction was adopted?**

FY 2016 – Fines ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 were adopted.<sup>10</sup>

FY 2017 – Fines ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,500 were adopted.<sup>11</sup>

FY 2018 – A variety of sanctions including letters of caution, letters of instruction, and fines ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,159.40 were adopted.<sup>12</sup>

**ARE THE DECISIONS PUBLICLY AVAILABLE?**

Yes – decisions are published on the Commission’s website.<sup>13</sup>

**SOURCES**

State of Nevada Commission on Ethics, FY 2016 Annual Report,

[http://ethics.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/ethicsnv.gov/content/Resources/Annual\\_Reports/2016\\_FINAL\\_Annual\\_Report\\_VC\\_ymng\\_vc.pdf](http://ethics.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/ethicsnv.gov/content/Resources/Annual_Reports/2016_FINAL_Annual_Report_VC_ymng_vc.pdf)

State of Nevada Commission on Ethics, FY 2017 Annual Report,

[http://ethics.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/ethicsnv.gov/content/Resources/Annual\\_Reports/FY17%20Annual%20Report%20FINAL.pdf](http://ethics.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/ethicsnv.gov/content/Resources/Annual_Reports/FY17%20Annual%20Report%20FINAL.pdf)

State of Nevada Commission on Ethics, FY 2018 Annual Report,

[http://ethics.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/ethicsnv.gov/content/Resources/Annual\\_Reports/FY18\\_Annual\\_Report.pdf](http://ethics.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/ethicsnv.gov/content/Resources/Annual_Reports/FY18_Annual_Report.pdf)

State of Nevada Commission on Ethics, Opinions Database, <http://ethics.nv.gov/Opinions/>

**NOTES**

Between FY 2017 and FY 2018 legislation was implemented that changed the terminology and ‘streamlined the process’ for filing ethics complaints. Because of this the terms used to gather information in the annual reports also changed.

During the period covered, a number of cases remained pending from one fiscal year to the next and cases that carried over may have been double counted.

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- <sup>1</sup> FY 2016 Annual Report, pg 7, Total 3<sup>rd</sup> Party RFOs Received.
- <sup>2</sup> FY 2017 Annual Report, pg 8, Total 3<sup>rd</sup> Party RFOs Received.
- <sup>3</sup> FY 2018 Annual Report, pg 11, Ethics Complaints Received.
- <sup>4</sup> FY 2016 Annual Report, pg 7, Total Rejected 3<sup>rd</sup> Party.
- <sup>5</sup> FY 2017 Annual Report, pg 8, Total Rejected 3<sup>rd</sup> Party.
- <sup>6</sup> FY 2018 Annual Report, pg 12, Sum of No Jurisdiction (14) and Jurisdiction & Lack of Evidence (25).
- <sup>7</sup> FY 2016 Annual Report, pg 9, Total sanctions imposed.
- <sup>8</sup> FY 2017 Annual Report, pg 8, 3<sup>rd</sup> Pty Stips/Orders.
- <sup>9</sup> FY 2018 Annual Report, pg 12, Sum of all Pre-Panel and By-Panel Ethics Complaints Resolved by Letters of Caution/Instruction or Deferral Agreements.
- <sup>10</sup> FY 2016 Annual Report, pg 9.
- <sup>11</sup> FY 2017 Annual Report, pg 9.
- <sup>12</sup> FY 2018 Annual Report, pg 16.
- <sup>13</sup> Opinions Database