

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

The 2015 annual report, which is mandated by [§7-2-104](#) of the Public Ethics Law, provides a summary of the work conducted by the ethics commission during the calendar year just ended. This and other information about the commission is available on its [website](#). A copy of this report is also available in print upon request. The information provided in this report refers to calendar year 2015, unless otherwise indicated.

MEMBERS

The commission included the following members during some portion of 2015¹:

Name	Party	Dates of Appointment and Reappointment	Date of Term Expiration
Katherine Cawood	Democrat	August 20, 2012	April 30, 2016
Cathleen M. Conlyn	Republican	October 20, 2014	April 30, 2015
Emerson C. Davis Replaced V. Miller	Republican	November 18, 2013	April 30, 2017
Charles J. Gast Resigned June 1, 2015	Republican	May 1, 2015	April 30, 2019
Jonathan P. Kagan Replaced C. Caldwell	Democrat	July 2014, May 2015	April 30, 2019 Held over until May 12, 2015
Carol S. Lewnes	Republican	May 1, 2011	April 30, 2015
Craig A. Reynolds Chair	Democrat	2008, 2012	April 30, 2016
Lawrence W. Ulvila, Jr. Replaced Donna M. Schaeffer	Republican	November 16, 2015	April 30, 2016
Donna M. Schaeffer Resigned Oct. 7, 2015	Republican	March 11, 2014	April 30, 2016
J. Adger Stokes Replaced Charles J. Gast	Republican	July 6, 2015	April 30, 2019

¹ Vanessa Carter, whose term began on May 1, 2015, was not appointed until January 19, 2016.

The commission's staff includes Betsy K. Dawson, the director, and Gina Scerbo, the commission secretary, both of whom work on a part-time basis.

The commission met 11 times during the year.

INQUIRIES

The commission received 87 ethics inquiries as well as many lobbying, financial disclosure, and other types of inquiries. (Inquiries from lobbyists and other filers are not numbered or summarized unless they result in an administrative decision from the ethics commission.) The sources and primary issues raised in these inquiries were:

Employees	27
Appointed Officials	22
Elected Officials	17
Citizens	4
Covered Volunteers	4
Lobbyists	6
Anonymous	4
Outside Agency	1
Other	2

The primary issue raised in these inquiries break down as follows:

Gifts	23
Prestige of office	22
Secondary employment	12
Non-participation	11
Other	12
Asst/Representation	5
Lobbying	2

ADVISORY OPINIONS

The commission issued 27 advisory opinions. Each opinion is summarized on the commission's [website](#) and in the quarterly newsletter, the *Ethics Update*. Opinions on specific issues may now keyword searched through the new search engine available on the [opinions](#) page. Note that only advisory opinions issued from 2009 are available on the website at this time. (Earlier advisory opinions are accessible through the [old website](#). That page is no longer being updated.) The full text of each opinion is also available through these links.

Some requests for advice are handled by the staff directly, in cases where there is sufficient precedent to provide guidance or where time does not permit the consideration

of the inquiry by the full commission. In each case, the ethics commission subsequently reviewed and retroactively approved each response.

COMPLAINTS

The commission received three complaints of ethics violations. After investigation, two of the complaints were dismissed for lack of evidence; one of these complaints was also dismissed because of the complainant’s breach of the confidentiality agreement. The third complaint was resolved by consent agreement.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS

The commission is charged with the responsibility of reviewing each financial disclosure (FDS) and conflict of interest (COI) statement received from county employees and covered volunteers, for completion, accuracy, and for potential conflict of interest. This year the commission received 205 disclosure statements as follows:

Regular employees and covered volunteers	185
New employees	7
Departing employees	13

Each statement of covered filers was reviewed as required by law and employee filers were notified of, and directed to correct, all omissions or deficiencies. All disclosure statements, including corrections and additions, are available for inspection and copying with advance notice. The statements of volunteers who are required to file but are not otherwise covered by the ethics law were not reviewed.

There were five late filings for which the commission collected \$2,630.00 in late fees. These late fees were returned to the general fund.

There were 35 requests to examine/copy filings. As required by law, all filers whose statements were examined were notified of that fact in writing.

LOBBYING

The commission received 76 lobbying registrations from 55 lobbyists.

Lobbying registrations, employer authorizations, and activity reports are public documents. The ethics commission staff received, reviewed, and compiled the statistics on 116 activity reports. There were two late activity reports filed and the commission collected \$80 in late fees and returned that amount to the general fund.

The following information summarizes the compensation and expenditures reported by registered lobbyists in 2015:

Compensation paid to lobbyists	\$316,779.57
Office expenses in addition to compensation	24,234.00
Professional and technical research and assistance	0.00

Publications or letter writing campaigns.....	300.00
Witnesses	542.00
Meals and beverages for county employees and their immediate families.....	195.00
Special events (parties, dinners, athletic events, entertainment, and other functions)	25.80
Food, lodging, or other expenses at a conference or meeting.....	65.00
Other gifts	0.00
Miscellaneous expenses	416.00

LOBBYISTS REGISTERED IN 2015

Shaila Aery	Rockwell Collins
Erin Appel	Telmate
Bruce C. Bereano	Maryland Self-Storage Association
Nathan Betnun	Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Inc.
Harry C. Blumenthal	G.W. Koch Assoc., Inc. Two Rivers Development Company LLC
Danny G. Boyd	Snyder Development Corporation
Robert W. Burdon	Annapolis and Anne Arundel County Chamber of Commerce, Inc.
George A. Carras	S/C Odenton Holdings, LLC
Robert A. Costa	Discovery Village WRYR Community Radio, Inc.
Charles F. Delavan	B&S/Eggerl, LLC – Parkside EZ Storage / Siena Corp. PR II Arundel Gateway Land, LLC
Eric M. DeVito	Classic Group, LLC Elm Street Development Company, Inc.
Joseph F. Devlin	Hartz Mountain Industries, Inc. U.S. Home Corporation dba Lennar
Robert J. DiPietro	Greenberg Gibbons Commercial, Inc. Ribera Development, LLC
Gerard Evans	Milestone Communications
Hayley Evans	Milestone Communications
Ann M. Fligsten	Growth Action Network of AA Co., Inc. (GAN, Inc.)
Hannah Powers Garagiola	Verizon Maryland, Inc.
Gil Genn	Feld Entertainment, Inc.

Joshua Greenfeld	Maryland Building Industry Association
LaTara Harris	AT&T
Julia Howes	Southern Anne Arundel Chamber of Commerce
Diane Hutchins	The Maryland Zoo In Baltimore
Alan J. Hyatt	HOL-DAV Management, Inc. Telegraph Holdings, LLC
Joseph R. Jackson	Northrop Grumman Electronic Systems
Robert Johnston	Anne Arundel County Association of REALTORS
Brittany Jones	Baltimore Gas and Electric (BGE)
Lisa Harris Jones	AutoReturn
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer	American Coatings Association
Brett S. Lininger	DME Consulting
Claire C. Louder	West Anne Arundel County Chamber of Commerce
Walter E. Lynch	The Maryland Jockey Club
Sean R. Malone	AutoReturn
American Joe Miedusiewski	DME Consulting
Ellen G. Miller	S/C Odenton Holdings, LLC
Robert D. Miller	HOL-DAV Management, Inc. Telegraph Holdings, LLC
Wayne Newton	Messick Group, Inc.
John S. Pantelides	The Anne Arundel County Alliance For Fair Land Use Chesapeake Landscaping and Design, Inc. Clarence and Margaret Jordan OM JAI DEVI MA, LLC
Midgett S. Parker, Jr.	Payne Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church
Thomas J. Pilon	St. John Properties, Inc.
David M. Plott	Anna Chaney Lennar Multifamily Communities, LLC Shelter Development, LLC
David Pollin	The Buccini/Pollin Group
Patricia Schiavone	Rockwell Collins
Frances Schmidt	Northern Anne Arundel County Chamber of Commerce

Steven F. Schroeder	The Buccini/Pollin Group
Linda M. Schuett	Bates School Limited Partnership Boys & Girls Clubs of Annapolis and Anne Arundel Co.,Inc. Enterprise Homes Goode Companies, Inc. Gunther Refuse Service, Inc. Magothy Associates, LLC
Lawrence Scott	Corvias Solutions, LLC
Christopher O. Sheehan	Stifel Nicolaus & Company
David M. Sheehan	Glen Abbey, LLC, Glen Abbey II, LLC, Glen Abbey III, LLC, Glen Abbey IV, LLC, Glen Abbey V, LLC S/C Odenton, LLC, S/C Odenton II, LLC, S/C Odenton III, LLC
Matthew C. Tedesco	Abraham's Garden Assisted Living
Andrew M. Teeters	Shelter Development, LLC
H. Walter Townshend, III	Baltimore Washington Corridor Chamber
Joy Weber	Alkermes, Inc.
Sager A. Williams	Baltimore Gas & Electric Company OM JAI DEVI MA, LLC
J. Steven Wise	American Coatings Association
Linda S. Zahn	Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce

EDUCATION

The ethics commission staff presented 13 small-group training sessions to 138 county employees. Training includes the use of multi-media as well as printed hand-outs and copies of the *Pocket Guide*, a mini-brochure summarizing the ethics law's conflicts of interest provisions. At the request of the personnel office, the ethics commission also provides the *Pocket Guide* to all new employees. The *Pocket Guide* is for the present, available to the public upon request.

The commission also provides, upon request, two brochures: *What You Need to Know about the Public Ethics Law- Lobbyists* and *What You Need to Know about the Public Ethics Law- Vendors and Contractors*.

The commission published five issues of its online newsletter, the [Ethics Update](#). Although the *Update* is an online publication, it is available in printed form upon request. In 2014, the ethics commission added a new feature to its website, "Ethics in the News," aggregating articles about public ethics issues around the country.

The ethics commission continues to be a member of the Council on Governmental Ethics Laws (COGEL), an international organization of ethics agencies and ethics law practitioners. Due to budget and travel constraints, the director has been unable to attend the annual COGEL conference for the last ten years.

BUDGET

Saving money while performing the duties assigned to the commission by the Anne Arundel County Charter has always been a priority. Use of email has largely replaced paper- the commission sends all notifications and disclosure forms to county employees by email in lieu of first-class mail. The commission also requests all disclosure filers (covered volunteers and lobbyists) to accept email notifications and to access all forms via the commission's website. Many of these filers have agreed to accept email only notifications.

The ethics commission returned almost \$1,959.00 to the general fund from its operating budget in addition to the \$2,710.00 collected in late fees, at the end of the fiscal year.

CONCLUSION

The commission holds its regular meetings on the second Monday of each month at 4:00 p.m. in the conference room at the commission office. Contingent meetings are also scheduled for specific dates but are only held if called by the Chair. The dates of all scheduled meetings are available online.

Questions or comments about this report are welcome and may be mailed, [emailed](#), or faxed to the ethics commission.

Respectfully submitted on February 22, 2016 by:

Anne Arundel County Ethics Commission:

Craig A. Reynolds, Chair
Vanessa Carter
Katherine Cawood
Emerson C. Davis
Jonathan P. Kagan
J. Adger Stokes
Lawrence W. Ulvila, Jr.