

Municipal Ethics in New York:

**A Primer for Attorneys
and Public Officials**

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MARK DAVIES, ESQ.

Mark Davies is the Executive Director of the Conflicts of Interest Board. He is a native of Long Beach, California who moved to New York in 1968 to attend Columbia University, where he majored in German and English. Following his graduation in 1971, Mr. Davies studied Germanic Philology at Philipps-Universität in Marburg, Germany on a one year fellowship. Upon his return to the United States, Mr. Davies enrolled in Columbia Law School, a choice he made after considering other options, including seminary and a medieval studies program at Yale.

Mr. Davies graduated law school in 1975 and began his legal career at Donovan, Leisure, Newton & Irvine, a Wall Street firm. He later taught at St. John's Law School and was a visiting professor at Fordham Law School. While teaching, he also worked as counsel to a small firm in Westchester focusing on municipal law. In 1987, Governor Mario Cuomo asked Fordham Law School's Dean John D. Feerick to head up the Moreland Act Commission to investigate municipal corruption throughout the state. Feerick asked Mr. Davies to lead the non-New York City division of the Commission. In 1988, he returned to Fordham Law School as a visiting professor teaching, New York Practice, which since 1990 he has continued to teach as an adjunct professor. Between 1990 and 1992, Mr. Davies served as Executive Director of the Temporary State Commission on Local Government Ethics, which investigated municipal conflicts of interest and proposed a new state municipal ethics law to replace Article 18 of the General Municipal Law. Mr. Davies returned to private practice when, in late 1993, he interviewed for the New York COIB, a position he began in 1994 and has held ever since.

JULIA DAVIS, ESQ.

Julia Davis is Director of Annual Disclosure and Special Counsel at the New York City Conflicts of Interest Board. She previously served as Deputy Commissioner for Legal Affairs/General Counsel at the New York City Business Integrity Commission, Inspector General at the New York City Department of Investigation, Principal Court Attorney to Judge Gerald Sheindlin (ret.) of Bronx Supreme Court, Criminal Term, and an Assistant District Attorney in the Kings County District Attorney's Office. She has lectured and written articles on anti-corruption, government ethics, and Megan's Law issues. She received her J.D. from American University's Washington College of Law and her A.B. from Smith College.

ROBERT J. FREEMAN, ESQ.

Bob Freeman has worked for the New York State Committee on Open Governments since its creation in 1974 and was appointed executive director in 1976. He received his law degree from New York University and a B.S. in Foreign Service from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. Mr. Freeman has addressed numerous government-related organizations, bar associations, media groups and has lectured at various colleges and universities. He has also spoken on open government laws and concepts throughout the United States, as well as Canada, the Far East, Latin America and Eastern Europe, and has taught the only course in an American law school on public access to government information. He is the

CONTRIBUTOR BIOGRAPHIES

recipient of numerous honors, and in the spring of 2010, received the John Peter Zenger Award from the New York News Publishers Association and was selected by the National Freedom of Information Coalition and the Society of Professional Journalists for their Heroes of the 50 States award and induction into The Open Government Hall of Fame. Most recently, Mr. Freeman was given the Lifetime Achievement Award by the New York State Associated Press Association.

BREANNE E. INJESKI, ESQ.

Breanne Injeski is the Deputy Director of Enforcement for the City of New York's Conflicts of Interest Board, where she helps oversee the Board's enforcement program. Prior to that, she served as Assistant Counsel to the Board. She regularly speaks and writes on legal issues involving conflicts of interest and ethics in New York City government and has been a regular presenter at the "Annual Citywide Seminar on Ethics in New York City Government" at New York Law School since 2007. She has been a member of the New York City Bar Association's Professional Ethics Committee and Government Ethics Committee. She received undergraduate degrees in Political Science and Strategic Communications from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and her law degree from Georgetown University Law School, where she was Notes and Comments Editor of the *Tax Lawyer*.

SUNG MO KIM, ESQ.

Sung Mo Kim has spent over a decade in public service, having served as Deputy General Counsel at the New York City Council, Procurement Counsel at the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and Deputy General Counsel at the Conflicts of Interest Board. Prior to joining City service, he served over three years as a criminal defense attorney at the Nassau County Legal Aid Society. Mr. Kim has chaired the Technology Committee of the New York State Bar Association's Municipal Law Section and has served on the Section's Executive Committee. He is currently the Associate General Counsel at the Queens Borough Public Library.

MICHAEL P. LEONE, ESQ.

Michael Leone received his Bachelor's degree in education and Certificate of Advanced Study from SUNY Brockport and his Juris Doctor from the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Law. He also earned an advanced certificate in Strategic Human Resources Management from Cornell University, School of Industrial and Labor Relations, and a Certificate in Taxation Law from SUNY at Buffalo School of Law.

During his years in private practice, Mr. Leone represented a number of municipalities, including serving as general counsel. In addition to advising municipal clients on the legal concerns involved in running day-to-day operations, he has extensive experience in contract negotiations, contract administration, planning and zoning, environmental concerns, FOIL requests, employee issues and NYS Civil Service requirements.

STEVEN G. LEVENTHAL, ESQ.

Steven G. Leventhal is an attorney and a CPA, with extensive experience in the areas of Securities Arbitration, Commercial Litigation, Tax Planning and Litigation, Business Relations, Real Property Transactions, Professional Ethics, Wills, Trusts, Estate Planning and Probate, Municipal Affairs and Land Use Regulation. Mr. Leventhal has lectured and written extensively on the subjects of government, legal and corporate ethics. He is frequently engaged to provide ethics advice, training and continuing professional education programs for municipal officers and employees throughout the State, municipal associations, bar associations, law firms and universities.

MARTIN L. LEVINE, ESQ.

Martin Levine is the Director of Lobbying and Financial Disclosure Compliance and Senior Counsel at the N.Y. State Joint Commission on Public Ethics, where he oversees the administration and review of state and local lobbying activity under the New York's Lobbying Act, as well as the financial disclosure statements filed by state officers and elected officials. While at JCOPE, Martin has led the compliance division's expansion to meet new oversight responsibilities, establishing dedicated units for identifying filing irregularities, implementing major reporting and compliance applications, and authoring new guidance on the intersection between lobbying, strategic consulting, and public relations. He is a frequent speaker on New York lobbying and ethics regulation, including to the Council on Government Ethics Laws, the N.Y. State Bar Association, and various trade associations.

Prior to JCOPE, Mr. Levine worked on the federal response to the 2008 financial crisis, serving as an advisor to U.S. Representative Elijah E. Cummings, and for inspectors general at the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Federal Housing Finance Agency. He began his career at the Maryland General Assembly and then as counsel to the City of Baltimore Employees' Retirement Systems. He is a graduate of the Case Western Reserve University School of Law and the University of Maryland.

RALPH P. MICCIO, ESQ.

Ralph Miccio served as Special Counsel to both the New York State Temporary Commission on Lobbying and the Commission on Public Integrity.

CAROL L. VAN SCOYOC, ESQ.

Carol L. Van Scoyoc has served as Chief Deputy Corporation Counsel of the City of White Plains since 1995. One of her duties is as legal advisor to the City's Board of Ethics. Previously, she served as an Assistant Chief Deputy Westchester County Attorney. She is the Chair of the Local and State Government Law Section of the New York State Bar Association. She has authored a number of articles appearing in the *Municipal Lawyer* and has been published in the *New York Law Journal*. She is a Past President of the Westchester County Bar Association, Past Chair of its Municipal Law Section, and is Editor-in-Chief of the *Westchester Bar Journal*. She is an Adjunct Professor at Pace University's Graduate School of Public Administration and a former Adjunct Assistant Professor at Iona College.

Ms. Van Scoyoc received NYSBA's 2012 Award for Excellence in Public Service and the *Westchester Business Journal's* 2011 Above the Bar Award for Outstanding Public Service Attorney. She is a *summa cum laude* graduate of Manhattan College, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and earned her law degree from Pace University School of Law, and was a published senior editor of the *Pace Law Review*.

PHILIP A. ZISMAN, ESQ.

Philip Zisman has served as the Executive Director of the Association of Inspectors General since 2011. The Association has over 1,300 members consisting of federal, state, local and international inspectors general, their staffs, and other professionals who work to ensure government accountability and integrity. In addition to his work for the Association, Phil is also a Distinguished Lecturer at the City University of New York, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, in the Department of Public Management. He teaches graduate level courses in public labor law, ethics and government inspection and oversight.

From 1998 to 2010, he served as the Inspector General for the City of Yonkers, NY. In 2010–11, he supervised investigations into conspiracies involving claims for compensation for damages incurred as a result of the BP/Deepwater Horizon offshore oil well explosion and oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. He received his law degree from American University, Washington College of Law, in 1986.