

## ETHICS COMMITTEE MEETING

January 21, 2015

### ITEM 7f. COGEL Conference Report

#### **COGEL 2014**

**The sessions attended by Jerry D. Anderson are listed below. An oral report on these sessions will be part of the January 21, 2015 Ethics Committee Meeting.**

#### **Technology Update and Roundtable**

Monongahela Room, 17th Floor

Moderator: **Jared DeMarinis**, Director, Division of Candidacy and Campaign Finance, Maryland State Board of Elections

Panelists: **Esteve Mede**, Security Officer, Federal Election Commission

**Jeff Chumley**, Supervisor IT SPEC, Federal Election Commission

**Richard Gerling**, Director Information Technology Services, Missouri Ethics Commission

This revamped session (formerly the Electronic Filing Roundtable) focuses on the use of technology in elections, campaign finance and lobbying. Come share your challenges and learn about successes in this interactive multi-disciplinary discussion. We explore current trends in the electronic filing field, pressing security concerns and benefits and challenges of the RFP process including deciding whether in-house or vendor software is the best approach for your agency.

#### **Navigating Change: Change, Transitions, New Laws & Mandates**

Conference Center B, Conference Level

Moderator: **Paul M. Nick**, Executive Director, Ohio Ethics Commission

Panelists: **Steven I. Berlin**, Executive Director, Chicago Board of Ethics

**Nailah Byrd**, Inspector General, Cuyahoga County, Ohio

**Maria Bazile**, Compliance, Information & Training Manager, Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission

We live in an unscripted world where change is the only predictable element. Major legislative overhaul, staff turnover, new boards or commission members, or even the creation of an entirely new agency or agency restructuring after a scandal – these are just some of the changes that COGEL members have faced over the years. Join us to learn from your COGEL friends and colleagues on how best to navigate the storms of change – and maybe even come out stronger as an agency and a person.

#### **Plenary Session – Conference Kickoff**

Grand Ballroom, 17th Floor

36th Annual Conference Opening Remarks: **Patricia Young**

2014 COGEL President, Assistant Staff Director, Federal Election Commission

Program Kick-Off Remarks: **Darrin Lim and Nola Western**

2014 Conference Program Committee Co-Chairs

#### **Plenary Presentation: “Government Reform and Innovation: A Pittsburgh Perspective”**

For Pittsburgh Mayor **Bill Peduto**, government reform and innovation are priorities of his administration. He made a name for himself by writing the most comprehensive package of government reform legislation in Pittsburgh’s history. He shares his observations and experiences with implementing such aggressive reforms and why he is proud to not be a “typical mayor.”

#### **Ethics Update: Latest News and Trends in Governmental Ethics**

Allegheny Room, 17th Floor

Moderator: **Paul M. Nick**, Executive Director, Ohio Ethics Commission

Panelist: **Steven I. Berlin**, Executive Director, Chicago Board of Ethics

This popular and interactive session covers news and trends in the areas of governmental ethics and conflicts of interest. Panelists highlight developments in legislation, litigation, advisory opinions, and enforcement since the Quebec COGEL Conference in 2013.

Hear highlights from the annual COGEL Bluebook: Ethics Update, which surveys ethics agencies from Canada and the U.S. Audience participation is encouraged for a lively, informative discussion - a perfect way for the ethics community to kick off the COGEL conference.

### **Plenary Luncheon**

Urban Room, 17th Floor

Presentation of the 2014 COGEL Award: **Lynn Morrison**

#### **Plenary Conversation: "A Veteran Political Reporter's "Fresh" Perspectives on Ethics and Scandal"**

**Dave Davies** is a nationally-recognized journalist who has covered local politics and ethics scandals in Philadelphia for over 30 years and appears regularly on NPR's "Fresh Air." In this COGEL Conversation, Davies sits down with Program Committee Co-Chair, Darrin Lim to provide a political reporter's perspective on the issues that matter most to the COGEL community.

### **Campaign Finance Update I: The "Must Know" Litigation of 2014**

Monongahela Room, 17th Floor

Moderator: **Chris Skinnell**, Nielsen Merksamer Parrinello Gross & Leoni, LLP

Panelists: **Kevin Deeley**, Acting Associate General Counsel for Litigation, Federal Election Commission

**Paul S. Ryan**, FEC Program Director & Associate Legal Counsel, Campaign Legal Center

**Nola Western**, Deputy Chief Electoral Officer, Elections British Columbia

This popular panel leads an interactive discussion of significant developments in campaign finance litigation in the U.S. and Canada at the various levels of government, as summarized in the COGEL Blue Book: Campaign Finance Update, made available at this session. The discussion features Kevin Deeley of the FEC, who shares the latest federal developments, including the U.S. Supreme Court's decision concerning aggregate contribution limits in *McCutcheon v. FEC* and the reaction among states with similar laws. Attendees will be asked to comment on high profile court actions in their jurisdictions, such as legal challenges to statutes and enforcements

### **Plenary Presentation: "Missing the Forest for the Trees: Why Acting Legally and Ethically Matters"**

Building a culture of ethics and changing behavior is no easy task. **Paul Liebman**, Chief Compliance Officer at the University of Texas at Austin, explores the reasons why it is so important to act legally and ethically at work and how we can stay focused on making good choices in spite of the many pressures and distractions of everyday life.

### **Electronic Communication Makes Your Life Easier, Or Does It?**

Allegheny Room, 17th Floor

Moderator: **Camille Jobin-Davis**, NYS Committee on Open Government

Panelists: **Maria J.K. Everett**, Executive Director, Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council

**Tom Hood**, Executive Director, Mississippi Ethics Commission

**Nikki Gramian**, Deputy Director, Federal Office of Government Information Services

The digital age has brought about a proliferation of communication in various forms. Some public officials have multiple email accounts for managing volume, and some conduct public business via private email accounts. But questions abound when it comes to access. While access to such records typically depends on content, not location; where should public records be created and then where should they be retained? With the burgeoning volume of public records being created in the digital age how can access be equitably provided? The panel addresses these hot topics.

### **Presenting with Panache**

Conference Center B, Conference Level

Guest Speaker: **Michael E. Balmert, Ph.D.**

Professor of Communication, Carlow University, Pittsburgh PA

COGEL members are intelligent, educated, accomplished. Yet, how many of us worry that, when faced with giving a speech or presenting legislative testimony, we will bore our audience or become a nervous wreck? Public speaking is an acquired skill that improves with sound advice and practice. This session offers insights and tips that will turn your next speech into a presentation with panache!

**Susan Willeke**, Education and Communications Administrator with the Ohio Ethics Commission, introduces Dr. Balmert as our special guest speaker. Dr. Balmert is a professor and former chair of the communication department within the School for Social Change. He has taught an array of courses including: Communication Ethics, Leadership and Communication, Conflict Management, Leadership and Ethics, Professional Presentations, and Persuasion.

## **Plenary Session**

Grand Ballroom, 17th Floor

### **Plenary Presentation: "Mr. Smith Goes to Prison: How a Rising Star Landed Behind Bars"**

He was once a rising star in politics, but **Jeff Smith's** trajectory came to a smashing halt with a federal conviction. Smith takes the stage to share his story of conspiracy, campaign finance violations, FBI wiretaps and now, redemption. Smith is a Professor of Politics and Advocacy at the New School in New York. He co-authored, "The Recovering Politician's Twelve Step Program to Survive Crisis," which is a must-read for anyone working in politics. The book will be available for purchase for only \$10 and Mr. Smith will sign copies following his presentation.

### **Sitting on a Data Mine: Managing, Accessing, and Analyzing Information**

Conference Center A, Conference Level

Moderator: **Kristin E. Izumi-Nitao**, Executive Director, Hawaii Campaign Spending Commission

Panelists: **Peter Quist**, Research Director, Follow the Money

**Eric Friedman**, Assistant Executive Director for Public Affairs, New York City Campaign Finance Board

**Kathy Kiely**, Managing Editor, Sunlight Foundation

**Bob Lannon**, Developer, Sunlight Foundation

Does your agency collect and store information electronically or does it acquire electronic data and analyze it for public consumption? Do you want to increase transparency by showcasing campaign finance, ethics, or lobbyist records in a more visually attractive, user friendly, and dynamic way?

Join the discussion on the role of data, how to use it, what is trending, and what are the costs or considerations.

The panelists share strategies on how they have used technology to increase citizen engagement and political accountability. From "Amazon-esque" fast checkout applications to interactive websites, you will hear about various analytic tools used to simplify systems as well as "connect-the-dots" to tell stories from the data your agency manages.

### **Tips & Tricks: Maximizing Your Effectiveness with Your Commissioners**

Frick Room, Conference Level

Moderator: **Wesley D. Bizzell**, Assistant General Counsel, Altria Client Services Inc.

Panelists: **Anthony Herman**, Partner, Covington & Burling

**Craig C. Dilger**, Chair, Kentucky Registry of Election Finance

How can you best facilitate the work of your agency's commissioners in a way that meets both their goals and yours? Relying on the experiences of commissioners and senior agency staff members, this session shares practical tips and tricks you can use to ensure you and your staff are effectively working with your agency's commissioners to achieve great results.

