

## Fostering Public Confidence

Miami-Dade County's Home Rule Charter was amended by voters in 1996 to create an independent Commission on Ethics and Public Trust to review, interpret, advise and enforce laws ensuring integrity and transparency in local government. The quasi-judicial board has five members serving staggered terms of four years and is supported by a staff of professionals.

The Commission has jurisdiction over elected officials, employees and advisory board members in Miami-Dade County and its 35 municipalities when affected by one of the following laws:

- The Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance
- The Citizens' Bill of Rights
- The Ethical Campaign Practices Ordinance
- The Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund Ordinance.
- Municipal Ethics Ordinances



### Commission Members

Kerry E. Rosenthal, Chair  
Dawn E. Addy, Vice Chair  
Judge Seymour Gelber  
Magda Abdo-Gomez  
Erica Wright

Robert A. Meyers, Executive Director

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## Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust



## Educate, Advise, Enforce

## The Mission

The Ethics Commission is dedicated to bolstering public trust in government by informing citizens about political campaigns, lobbying, procurement, conflicts of interest and other laws that ensure elections and government decision making are transparent, fair and proper.

The Commission performs three primary functions: **Advice-giving, Enforcement and Education and Outreach.**

### ADVICE-GIVING

Anyone within the jurisdiction of the Ethics Commission may ask for an interpretation or the applicability of ordinances within the Ethics Commission's purview.

A Request for Opinion is a formal written question based on a specific situation. The circumstances and applicability are discussed and ruled on at an open meeting of the Ethics Commission. All official opinions are binding.

Inquiries are informal advisory opinions rendered by the legal staff and reviewed by the Executive Director. An inquiry is answered only when the issue is one that the Ethics Commission has formerly addressed in previous opinions.

### ENFORCEMENT

The Ethics Commission is empowered to subpoena, audit and investigate all facts and persons subject to a complaint of non-compliance.

Anyone may file a complaint by submitting a written notarized form that can be downloaded at [www.miamidadeethics.com](http://www.miamidadeethics.com)

The complaint must allege a violation within the jurisdiction of the Ethics Commission, be based on substantial personal knowledge, and include as much evidence as possible. Information and tips may also be left anonymously online at [miamidadeethics.gov](http://miamidadeethics.gov) or on the **Ethics Hotline: 786-314-9560.**



Once the staff confirms the complaint is legally sufficient and the Commission finds there is probable cause,

the matter can be set for public hearing. The Advocate is also authorized to initiate complaints on his own. The Ethics Commission does not hear complaints that allege violations of state or federal law.

If the Commission finds a violation has been committed, members will issue an order imposing a penalty which may include fines, public reprimands, letters of instruction or other actions.

### EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

The Ethics Commission is committed to informing the public, candidates, elected and appointed officials, advisory board members and government employees on proper standards of conduct through a variety of efforts:

#### **Model Student Ethics Program:**

Students interactively consider and resolve ethical dilemmas.

#### **Municipal Ethics Training:**

For all elected city officials and employees.

#### **Campaign Skills Seminars:**

Information on contributions, the Ethical Campaign Practices Ordinance, post-election audits, public funds, and other rules related to running for office.

#### **Candidate Ethics Forums:**

Debates on issues related to public trust and transparency for those seeking city, county, school board or other local offices.

#### **Mandatory Training for County**

**Advisory Boards:** A review of the Sunshine Law, the Public Records Act, and the County's Conflict of Interest / Code of Ethics Ordinance.

#### **Ethics Training for All:**

For community councils, private, professional, religious, civic or advocacy organizations. Call 305-350-0630 to schedule a speaker or workshop session.