



## TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

### Executive Session Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2025, 9:06 a.m.  
Capitol Extension, Room E1.014  
Austin, Texas 78701



**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Randall H. Erben, Chair; Chris Flood, Vice Chair, Patrick W. Mizell, Geanie W. Morrison, Richard S. Schmidt, Joseph O. Slovacek, and Mark Strama, Commissioners.

**COMMISSIONERS NOT PRESENT:** Sean Gorman.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Neha Abhyankar, Brandon Barrett, Margie Castellanos, Carmen Dalpiaz, David Guilianelli, Jessie Haug, Cristina Hernandez, Jordan Hunn, J.R. Johnson, Natalie McDermon, Amy Padilla, Mark Pillsbury, Lindsay Powers, Margaret Sanchez, Patti Shannon, Jim Tinley, Lucky Usionya, Samantha Vasquez, and Bill Wilson.

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## MINUTES

These minutes are a summary record of the Commission's actions at the meeting. For a detailed record of discussions and statements made by persons speaking at the meeting, please consult the video recording located on the Texas House of Representatives' audio/video website here: <https://house.texas.gov/video-audio/capitol-events/>.

### **Agenda Item 1: Call to Order; Roll Call.**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Erben. J.R. Johnson, Executive Director, called the roll. All Commissioners were present except for Commissioners Gorman, Mizell and Slovacek.

Commissioners Mizell and Slovacek appeared during this agenda item.

### **Agenda Item 2: Executive session pursuant to Section 551.071, Government Code, Consultation with Attorneys, and Section 551.074, Government Code, Personnel Matters; Closed Meeting.**

A. Discussion of pending litigation to seek legal advice relating to the following:

- i. Cause No. D-1-GN-17-001878: *Texas Ethics Commission v. Michael Quinn Sullivan*, in the 250<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court, Travis County, Texas; Cause No. 03-17-00392-CV: *Michael Quinn Sullivan v. Texas Ethics Commission*,

in the Third Court of Appeals at Austin, Texas; Cause No. 03-21-00033, *Michael Quinn Sullivan v. Texas Ethics Commission*, in the Third Court of Appeals at Austin, Texas; Cause No. 18-0580, *Michael Quinn Sullivan v. Texas Ethics Commission*, in the Supreme Court of Texas; and Cause No. 24-803, *Michael Quinn Sullivan v. Texas Ethics Commission*, in the U.S. Supreme Court.

- ii. Cause No. D-1-GN-21-003269: *Michael Quinn Sullivan v. Texas Ethics Commission*, in the 459th Judicial District Court, Travis County, Texas; and related case, Cause No. 03-22-00133-CV: *Michael Quinn Sullivan v. Texas Ethics Commission*, in the Third Court of Appeals, Austin, Texas.
- iii. Case No. 4:23-cv-00808-P, *Institute for Free Speech, a nonprofit corporation and public interest law firm, vs. J.R. Johnson in his official and individual capacities as Executive Director of the Texas Ethics Commission; Mary Kennedy, Chris Flood, and Richard Schmidt in their official capacities as commissioners of the Texas Ethics Commission; and Randall Erben, Chad Craycraft, Patrick Mizell, Joseph Slovacek, and Steven Wolens, in their individual and official capacities as commissioners of the Texas Ethics Commission*, in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas, Fort Worth Division.
- iv. Cause No. PD-0310-23, *Ex Parte John Morgan Stafford*, in the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.
- v. Cause No. D-1-GN-23-008068, *In re Christopher Paddie*, in the District Court for the 419th Judicial District Court, Travis County, Texas.
- vi. Cause No. 22-CV-1130, *Matt Wiggins v. Texas Ethics Commission*, in the 122nd Judicial District Court, Galveston County, Texas.
- vii. Cause No. 2023-DCL-01478, *Valleywide Pharmacy and DMI, Inc., vs. Texas Ethics Commission, by and through its Executive Director, J.R. Johnson, in his official capacity*, in the 445th Judicial District Court, Cameron County, Texas.
- viii. Civil Action 1:24-CV-500, *LIA Network v. J.R. Johnson, in his official capacity as Executive Director of the Texas Ethics Commission, et al.*, in the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, Austin Division.
- ix. Cause No. 2024-DCL-03953, *Ruben Cortez, Jr. v. Texas Ethics Commission*, in the 404<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court, Cameron County, Texas.
- x. Cause Nos. PD-0522-21, PD-0523-21, PD-0524-21, & PD-0525-21, *Ex Parte Robbie Gail Charette*, in the Court of Criminal Appeals of Texas.

B. Discussion of contemplated litigation and to seek legal advice regarding the collection of imposed penalties.

- C. Discussion to seek legal advice regarding Chapter 104 of the Texas Civil Practices and Remedies Code and possible action regarding the purchase of directors' and officers' liability insurance.
- D. Discussion to seek legal advice and about anticipated litigation regarding 1 Tex. Admin Code § 20.1(17) and Tex. Elec. Code § 251.001(12).
- E. Discussion and possible action related to personnel matters.
- F. Reconvene in open session.

Reconvened in open session at 10:37 a.m. Chair Erben made an announcement regarding the Commission's response to Tex. Att'y Gen. Op. No. KP-0484 (2025).

**Agenda Item 3:        Recess or continue to "Agenda 2" noticed for the same time and place as this agenda.**

Meeting adjourned at 10:39 a.m. by unanimous consent.