

# North Dakota Ethics Commission Special Meeting

Minutes of November 14, 2022

MS Teams

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Paul Richard at 11 a.m. The following members of the Ethics Commission were also present: Vice Chair David Anderson, Commissioners Ron Goodman, Ward Koeser, and Cynthia Lindquist, Legal Counsel Allyson Hicks, Executive Director Rebecca Binstock, and Office Manager Holly Gaugler.
2. **Agenda and Instructions for Special Meeting:** Chair Richard reminded the Commission that discussion for the meeting is limited to the agenda item which includes discussion of complaints and assignment of a Special Assistant Attorney General and no other matters may be discussed.
3. **Recusal of Legal Counsel:** Legal Counsel Allyson Hicks informed the Commission of her recusal from all discussion regarding complaint numbers 22-010 and 22-012 along with her recusal on previous pending complaints due to a conflict of interest which would be a violation of her professional ethical duty.
4. **Executive Session:** The Commission entered executive session at 11:04 to discuss complaints 22-03 through 22-10 and 22-12 and the appointment of a Special Assistant Attorney General. The authority for closing this portion of the meeting is N.D.C.C. §§ 54-66-12(1), 54-66-12(3), and 44-04-19.2(1) - information regarding the content and parties to a complaint to the Ethics Commission is confidential. Included in executive session: Chair Richard, Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioners Goodman, Koeser and Lindquist, Executive Director Binstock, and Office Manager Holly Gaugler.
5. **Action on Appointment of Special Assistant Attorney General:** The Commission returned from executive session at 11:17 a.m. The Commission agreed upon the appointment of a Special Assistant Attorney General with the following action:

**Motion:** Chair Richard moved to Appoint Patricia Monson with the Center for Mediation & Consultation (CMC), PLLC, as Special Assistant Attorney General for Complaint Nos. 22-003 through 22-010 and 22-012 with Executive Director Binstock to draft a letter to Claire Ness, Chief Deputy Attorney General, requesting the appointment. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Koeser. Chair Richard called for a roll call vote. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

6. **Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

Approved on 11/30/2022

Rebecca Binstock, Executive Director, North Dakota Ethics Commission

