

MARILYN HUGHES
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



STATE OF OKLAHOMA
ETHICS COMMISSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 16, 2009

**ETHICS COMMISSION TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARING
ON CONSTITUTIONAL ETHICS RULES
IN OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA**

OKLAHOMA CITY. The Oklahoma Ethics Commission has scheduled a second public hearing on proposed rules and amendments to current provisions of the Constitutional Ethics Rules ["the Rules"], Section 257:1-1-1 et seq. of the Rules of the Ethics Commission, 74 O.S. Supp. 2009, Ch. 62, App. It will be held at the State Capitol Building, 2300 N. Lincoln Boulevard, Room 534A, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on Friday, December 18, 2009, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. The hearing is free of charge and open to the public.

The purpose is to elicit input from the public on proposed provisions, rule amendments and/or requests for legislative action. The proposals under consideration are located on the Commission website at: www.ethics.ok.gov. The public is invited to the hearing as well as the regular meeting of the Commission which follows.

The Rules, which are developed by the five-member citizen Commission, are presented to the Governor and both Houses of the Legislature each year. If not disapproved by the Legislature, subject to the Governor's veto, they become law. The Rules regulate the ethical conduct of state officers and employees, as well as the ethical conduct of state campaigns.

The Commissioners hear testimony year round from citizens, officeholders and advocacy groups. Each November, the Commission holds a public hearing in Northern Oklahoma, followed by one in December in Oklahoma City. This permits the Commission to reach a wider audience. A third public hearing is often held in January, as well.

According to Oklahoma Constitution Article 29, Section 3(C), the promulgated Rules may be submitted to the Legislature and the Governor at only one time per year: on the second day of the legislative session.

Members of the Commission are appointed to five-year terms. No more than one member may represent a congressional district, and no more than three may be of the same political party. One each is appointed by Oklahoma's Governor, the Senate President Pro Tempore, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Attorney General.

Jo Pettigrew currently serves as Ethics Commission Chairwoman, Bob McKinney, as Vice Chairman. James Loy, John Raley and Karen Long serve as members.

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