

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 19, 2007

**ETHICS COMMISSION TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARING
ON CONSTITUTIONAL ETHICS RULES**

OKLAHOMA CITY. The Oklahoma Ethics Commission has scheduled a public hearing on proposed rules and amendments to current provisions to the Constitutional Ethics Rules [“the Rules”], Section 257:1-1-1 et seq. of the Rules of the Ethics Commission, 74 O.S. Supp. 2006, Ch. 62, App. Weather permitting, it will held Monday, January 22, 2007, at 10:00 o’clock a.m. in room 511A of the Capitol Building, 2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The hearing is free of charge and open to the public.

The purpose of the hearing is to elicit input on proposed provisions, rule amendments and/or requests for legislative action. The hearing will be followed by a regular meeting of the Commission at which the members will vote on whether to adopt rules and amendments to be submitted to the Legislature in year 2007. The public is encouraged to attend it, as well.

The Rules, which are promulgated 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 and advocacy groups, like Common Cause Oklahoma. 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

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a wider audience. A third public hearing is typically held in January.

In the event of inclement weather, the Commission will re-schedule the event to a later date in January. According to Oklahoma Constitution Article 29, Section 3(C), the promulgated Rules may only be submitted to the Legislature one time per year: on the second day of the legislative session. A copy of the rules document must also be provided the Governor.

Members of the Commission are appointed to five year terms. No more than one congressional district may be represented at a time and no more than three may be of the same political party. One each is appointed by Oklahoma's Governor, the Senate Pro Tempore, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Attorney General. Jim Loy of Chickasha currently serves as Chairman, Don Bingham of Tulsa, as Vice Chairman, with Ken Elliott of Oklahoma City, John Raley of Ponca City and Bernice Shedrick of Afton, as members.

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