

NEW YORK
CITY BAR

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ETHICS

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July 9, 2014

BY FIRST CLASS MAIL

Honorable Andrew Cuomo
Governor
State of New York
Executive Chamber
Capitol Building
Albany, New York 12224

Honorable Jeffrey Klein
Majority Coalition Leader
New York State Senate
Legislative Office Building, Room 913
Albany, New York 12247

Honorable Brian Kolb
Minority Leader
New York State Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 933
Albany, New York 12248

Honorable Sheldon Silver
Speaker
New York State Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 932
Albany, New York 12248

Honorable Dean Skelos
Majority Coalition Leader
New York State Senate
Legislative Office Building, Room 909
Albany, New York 12247

Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Democratic Conference Leader
New York State Senate
Legislative Office Building, Room 907
Albany, New York 12247

Re: JCOPE/LEC Review Panel – June 1, 2014 Deadline to Appoint

Dear Governor Cuomo, Senator Klein, Assembly Member Kolb, Speaker Silver, Senator Skelos and Senator Stewart-Cousins:

The New York City Bar Association, through its Committee on Government Ethics, takes an ongoing interest in ethical matters in state government. The Association is writing to inquire about the status of the appointment of a panel to review the work of the Joint Commission on Public Ethics (JCOPE) and the Legislative Ethics Commission

THE ASSOCIATION OF THE BAR OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
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(LEC). As you know, such review is required by Section 21 of Part A of Chapter 399 of the laws of 2011, which provides:

No later than June 1, 2014, the governor and the legislative leaders shall jointly appoint a review commission to review and evaluate the activities and performance of the joint commission on public ethics and the legislative ethics commission in implementing the provisions of this act. On or before March 1, 2015, the review commission shall report to the governor and the legislature on its review and evaluation which report shall include any administrative and legislative recommendations on strengthening the administration and enforcement of the ethics law in New York state. The review commission shall be comprised of eight members and the governor and the legislative leaders shall jointly designate a chair from among the members.

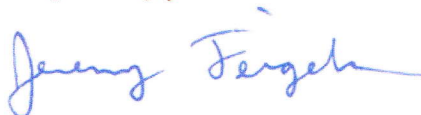
There has been no public announcement of the appointment of the review commission. Informal inquiries by the Association have not yielded any information about the status.

Accordingly, we are writing to ask if each of you can advise as to your view of when these appointments will be announced. It is our sincere hope that the legislative intent and clear mandate of Section 21 will be fully carried out, and that the appointments will be made forthwith, certainly within the next 30 days, so that the work of the review commission can proceed in a meaningful way. We note that the statutory deadline of March 1, 2015 for the issuance of the review commission's report is less than seven months away; time is of the essence.

The Association looks forward to appearing before the review commission to discuss the important issues before it. Some of those issues are addressed in the Association's recent report, "Hope for JCOPE" (copy enclosed).

On behalf of the Association, we thank you in advance for your responses, and for your ongoing commitment to improving the State's public integrity safeguards.

Respectfully yours,



Jeremy Feigelson

cc: JCOPE, Attn: Daniel Horwitz, Esq., Chair
LEC, Attn: Senator Andrew Lanza and Assembly Member Charles Lavine, Co-Chairs;
Lisa Reid, Esq., Executive Director/Counsel
New York City Bar Association, Attn: Evan Davis, Esq. and Dan Karson, Esq., Co-Chairs, Subcommittee on JCOPE/LEC, Committee on Government Ethics

Enclosure