

**ALABAMA ETHICS COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**October 4, 2023  
9:30 a.m.  
9<sup>th</sup> Floor, RSA Union Building  
Montgomery, Alabama**

The Alabama Ethics Commission met on October 4, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. in the Public Service Commission Hearing Room on the 9<sup>th</sup> Floor of the RSA Union Building.

**Commission Members Present:**

Honorable John Plunk, Chair  
Honorable Lyn Stuart, Ret. Chief Justice, Vice-Chair  
Honorable Stanton H. McDonald, Member  
Honorable BG (R) Edward Crowell (USAF), Member

**Commission Members Absent:**

**Commission Staff Present:**

Thomas B. Albritton, Executive Director  
Brian Paterson, Assistant General Counsel  
Cynthia Raulston, Special Assistant to the Director  
Byron Butler, Executive Assistant to the Director  
Chris Clark, Chief Special Agent  
Dustin Lansford, Senior Special Agent  
Chris McCay, Senior Special Agent  
Brian Baker, Special Agent  
Dylan Baker, Special Agent  
April Innes, Special Investigator  
Kayla Pfeil, Lobbyist/Principal Liaison

Mr. Plunk served as chair for the meeting, called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m. and introduced Father Duncan Johnston of St. John's Episcopal Church, Montgomery, Alabama, who gave the invocation.

**Old Business:**

Approval of the minutes from the August 2, 2023, meeting:

*General Crowell moved to adopt the minutes as written. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

**New Business:**

**FCPA Appeals**

**Libertarian Party of Alabama**

Mr. Paterson explained the request for the Civil Penalty Appeal. Mike Jones, General Counsel, Alabama Secretary of State was present to speak and answer any questions. Attorney Bill Espy spoke on behalf

of the Libertarian Party of Alabama. *Chief Justice Stuart moved to uphold two penalties and offenses that were imposed on June 12, 2023, and set aside the twelve penalties and offenses. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

**Faith Family Freedom Coalition Metro Mobile PAC**

Mr. Paterson explained the request for the Civil Penalty Appeal. Mike Jones, General Counsel, Alabama Secretary of State was present to speak and answer any questions. Dr. Martin Cantino, President spoke on behalf of the Faith Family Freedom Coalition Metro Mobile PAC. *Mr. McDonald moved to set aside the penalties and offenses. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

**Robert Lewis Najor**

Mr. Paterson explained the request for the Civil Penalty Appeal. Mike Jones, General Counsel, Alabama Secretary of State was present to speak and answer any questions. *General Crowell moved to set aside the penalties and offenses. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

*At 9:49 a.m. General Crowell moved that the Commission go into Executive Session. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

*At 11:02 a.m. General Crowell moved that the Commission go back into Open Session. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

**Case No. 2023-0007**

**Nikki Donald, (Former) Employee, University of South Alabama**

*Chief Justice Stuart moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exist cause to hold that Nikki Donald has committed a minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act, and further moved that this case be handled administratively and referred for review and appropriate legal action to the District Attorney of the appropriate Judicial Circuit. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.*

**Case No. 2023-0079**

**Aretha Butler, Personnel Assistant, Eufaula City Schools**

*General Crowell moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exist cause to hold that Aretha Butler has committed a minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act, and further moved that this case be handled administratively and referred for review and appropriate legal action to the District Attorney of the appropriate Judicial Circuit. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.*

**Case No. 2023-0182**

**Tiffany Jemison, Sales Associate I, Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board**

*General Crowell moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists insufficient facts to hold that Tiffany Jemison, has violated the Alabama Ethics Act. He further moved that this case be closed. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.*

**Case No. 2023-0088**

**Jason Barnett, (Former) Teacher, Football Coach and Athletic Director, Citronelle High School**  
*Mr. McDonald moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists insufficient facts to hold that Jason Barnett, has violated the Alabama Ethics Act. He further moved that this case be closed. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.*

**Case No. 2023-0089**

**Whitney Barnett, (Former) Teacher and Cheer Coach, Citronelle High School**  
*Mr. McDonald moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists insufficient facts to hold that Whitney Barnett, has violated the Alabama Ethics Act. He further moved that this case be closed. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.*

**Case No. 2022-0439**

**Nicholas Richardson, Employee, Alabama Forestry Commission**  
*Chief Justice Stuart moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, probable cause exists that Nicholas Richardson violated the Alabama Ethics Act, and further moved that this case be referred for review and appropriate legal action to the District Attorney of the appropriate Judicial Circuit. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.*

**Case No. 2023-0168**

**Erica Bates, Teacher, Phenix City Board of Education**  
*Mr. McDonald moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Erica Bates has committed a minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act, and further moved that this case be handled administratively and referred for review and appropriate legal action to the District Attorney of the appropriate Judicial Circuit. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.*

**Case No. 2023-0176**

**Tacorra Minefield, ASA II, Alabama Board of Pardons and Paroles**  
*General Crowell moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Tacorra Minefield has committed a minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act, and further moved that this case be handled administratively and referred for review and appropriate legal action to the District Attorney of the appropriate Judicial Circuit. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.*

**Cases Recommended for Dismissal**

The following cases were presented to the Commission by Executive Director Albritton, with the recommendation that they be dismissed: **Case No. 2022-0401; Case No. 2022-0420; Case No. 2023-0166 and Case No. 2023-0255.** *Chief Justice Stuart moved that the Commission dismiss the cases as recommended. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.*

**Case No. 2022-0214**

**Luther Winn, Board Member, Greene County Industrial Development Authority**

*General Crowell moved that on June 7, 2023, the Alabama Ethics Commission unanimously found Luther Winn, Board Member, Greene County Industrial Development Authority, had committed one (1) minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act and approved an administrative resolution at the request of the Respondent. The Commission forwarded the case to the District Attorney of the 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit who approved the administrative resolution on or before August 10, 2023. Accordingly, I hereby move as follows: 1) An administrative penalty in the amount of \$250.00 be ordered by the Commission to be paid to the Ethics Commission by cashier's check, money order, or online payment on or before November 22, 2023; 2) There is no restitution owing for this minor violation. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.*

*General Crowell moved that the Commission accept the consent decree pertaining to Case No. 2022-0214. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.*

**Case No. 2023-0038**

**Dontae Bailey, (Former) Corrections Officer, City of Foley**

*Chief Justice Stuart moved that on August 2, 2023, the Alabama Ethics Commission unanimously found Dontae Bailey, (Former) Corrections Officer, City of Foley, had committed one (1) minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act and approved an administrative resolution at the request of the Respondent. The Commission forwarded the case to the District Attorney of the 28<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit who approved the administrative resolution on or before August 14, 2023. Accordingly, I hereby move as follows: 1) An administrative penalty in the amount of \$100.00 be ordered by the Commission to be paid to the Ethics Commission by cashier's check, money order, or online payment on or before November 22, 2023; 2) There is no restitution owing for this minor violation. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.*

**Case No. 2023-0053**

**Victor Sims, (Former) Police Officer, City of Homewood Police Department**

*General Crowell moved that on August 2, 2023, the Alabama Ethics Commission unanimously found Victor Sims, (Former) Police Officer, City of Homewood Police Department, had committed one (1) minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act and approved an administrative resolution at the request of the Respondent. The Commission forwarded the case to the District Attorney of the 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit who approved the administrative resolution on or before August 14, 2023. Accordingly, I hereby move as follows: 1) An administrative penalty in the amount of \$50.00 be ordered by the Commission to be paid to the Ethics Commission by cashier's check, money order, or online payment on or before November 22, 2023; 2) There is no restitution owing for this minor violation. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.*

**Case No. 2023-0145**

**Oliver Youngblood, Social Services Case Worker I, Macon County Department of Human Resources**  
*Chief Justice Stuart moved that on August 2, 2023, the Alabama Ethics Commission unanimously found Oliver Youngblood, Social Services Case Worker I, Macon County Department of Human Resources, had committed one (1) minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act and approved an administrative resolution at the request of the Respondent. The Commission forwarded the case to*

*the District Attorney of the 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit who approved the administrative resolution on or before September 25, 2023. Accordingly, I hereby move as follows: 1) An administrative penalty in the amount of \$100.00 be ordered by the Commission to be paid to the Ethics Commission by cashier's check, money order, or online payment on or before November 22, 2023; 2) There is no restitution owing for this minor violation. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.*

## **Other Matters**

### **Case No. 2021-0408**

*Keiona Rogers, Former Social Worker, Montgomery County Department of Human Resources Chief Justice Stuart moved that on June 8, 2022, the Alabama Ethics Commission unanimously found Keiona Rogers, Former Social Worker, Montgomery County Department of Human Resources, had committed one (1) minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act and approved an administrative resolution at the request of the Respondent. The Commission forwarded the case to the District Attorney of the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit who approved the administrative resolution on January 30, 2022. Accordingly, I hereby move as follows: On April 5, 2023, an administrative penalty in the amount of \$200.00 was ordered by the Commission. The Commission hereby approves a payment plan with monthly installments in the amount of \$25.00 on the remaining balance of \$135.00, to be paid to the Ethics Commission by cashier's check, money order, or online payment to be paid in full no later than July 24, 2024. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.*

### **Case No. 2021-0391**

*Gladys Thomas, Financial Services Coordinator, Alabama Industrial Development Training Institute General Crowell moved that on October 5, 2022, the Alabama Ethics Commission unanimously found Gladys Thomas, Financial Services Coordinator, Alabama Industrial Development Training Institute, had committed one (1) minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act and approved an administrative resolution at the request of the Respondent. The Commission forwarded the case to the District Attorney of the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit who approved the administrative resolution on or before October 20, 2022. Accordingly, I hereby move as follows: On December 9, 2022, an administrative penalty in the amount of \$250.00 was ordered by the Commission. The Commission hereby approves a payment plan with monthly installments in the amount of \$50.00 on the remaining balance of \$200.00, to be paid to the Ethics Commission by cashier's check, money order, or online payment to be paid in full no later than July 24, 2024. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.*

## **Adjournment**

*There being no further business at 11:18 a.m., General Crowell moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.*

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission is Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. in the Purchasing Auditorium



**John Plunk, Chair**



**Thomas B. Albritton, Executive Director**



**Byron Butler, Recording Secretary**