

**ALABAMA ETHICS COMMISSION
MINUTES**

**August 6, 2025
9:30 a.m.
9th Floor, RSA Union Building
Montgomery, Alabama**

The Alabama Ethics Commission met on August 6, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. in the Public Service Commission Hearing Room on the 9th Floor of the RSA Union Building.

Commission Members Present:

Honorable BG (R) Edward Crowell (USAF), Member
Honorable J. David Dodd, Member
Honorable Greg Pappas, 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
Jamaeica Singleton, Administrative Support Assistant

General Crowell served as chair for the meeting, called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. and introduced Pastor Jim Botts from Vaugh Forest Church, Montgomery, Alabama, who gave the invocation.

Old Business:

Approval of the minutes from the June 4, 2025, meeting:

Mr. Dodd moved to adopt the minutes as written. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.

New Business:

Advisory Opinion No. 2025-02

Requested by Jeffrey Barksdale, District Attorney, 34th Judicial Circuit

Mr. Paterson explained the request for Advisory Opinion No. 2025-02. ***Mr. Pappas moved to adopt Advisory Opinion No. 2025-02 as written. Mr. Dodd seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.*** Opinion No. 2025-02 holds that an elected district attorney may teach an online or evening course in business law for compensation at a university, so long as this part-time employment occurs outside of the regular business hours of the office of the district attorney, the district attorney does not use equipment facilities, time, materials, human labor or other public property under their discretion or control in the performance of the part-time employment and did not use his or her position as leverage to obtain the part-time employment. A district attorney may engage in part-time or self-employment for compensation with a non-state entity, provided the employment occurs outside of the regular business hours of the office of the district attorney, the district attorney does not use equipment facilities, time, materials, human labor or other public property under their discretion or control in the performance of the part-time employment and did not use his or her position as leverage to obtain the part-time employment.

Advisory Opinion No. 2025-03

Requested by Gregory L. S. Harris of Gregory L. S. Harris and Associates L.L.C.

Mr. Paterson explained the request for Advisory Opinion No. 2025-03. ***Mr. Dodd moved to adopt Advisory Opinion No. 2025-03 as written. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.*** Opinion No. 2025-03 holds that a person hired as an independent contractor through a private company is not considered to be a “public employee” for the purposes of the Ethics Act. The Ethics Act does not prohibit an independent contractor providing services to a municipality from providing additional services through their separate business to the municipality.

FCPA Appeals

Austin Wade Phillips

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. ***Mr. Dodd moved to set aside the penalty and offense. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.***

Gregory P. Barnes

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. ***Mr. Dodd moved to set aside the penalty and offense. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.***

Gordon Hubbard Davis Jr.

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. ***Mr. Dodd moved to set aside the penalty and offense. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.***

Joshua McLaughlin

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. ***Mr. Dodd moved to set aside the penalty and offense. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.***

Robert Daniel Busby

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. ***Mr. Dodd uphold the fine and offense for the first violation. Remit the fine and offense for violations two through five. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.***

Marlon Chad Williamson

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. ***Mr. Dodd moved to set aside the penalty and offense. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.***

Alabama Medical 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. ***Mr. Dodd moved to set aside the penalty and offense. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.***

Catherine Cartagena

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. ***Mr. Dodd moved to set aside the penalty and offense. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.***

Jesse Battles

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. ***Mr. Dodd moved to set aside the penalty and offense. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.***

John Archibald Russell IV

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. ***Mr. Dodd moved to set aside the penalty and offense. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.***

Stephen McArthur

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. ***Mr. Dodd moved to***

set aside the penalty and offense. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.

John David Chambers

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. *Mr. Dodd moved to set aside the penalty and offense. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

Kenneth LeBlanc

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. *Mr. Dodd moved to set aside the penalty and offense. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

Tiffany McIntyre

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. *Mr. Dodd moved to set aside the penalty and offense. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

Warren William Young

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. *Mr. Dodd moved to set aside the penalty and offense. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

Kristin Williams

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. *Mr. Dodd moved to set aside the penalty and offense. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

Jude Washington

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. *Mr. Dodd moved to set aside the penalty and offense. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

Joseph Clarence Shell

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. *Mr. Dodd moved to set aside the penalty and offense. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

Micheal Beck

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. *Mr. Dodd moved to set aside the penalty and offense. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

Randall Holt Clark, Jr.

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. *Mr. Dodd moved to set aside the penalty and offense. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

Heather Wooten

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. *Mr. Dodd moved to set aside the penalty and offense. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

At 9:47 a.m., Mr. Dodd moved that the Commission go into Executive Session. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.

At 10:27 a.m., Mr. Pappas moved that the Commission go back into Open Session. Mr. Dodd seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.

Case No. 2024-0230

Monica Bryant, Deputy County Administrator, Perry County Commission

Mr. Dodd moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists insufficient facts to hold that Monica Bryant has violated the Alabama Ethics Act. He further moved that this case be closed. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2024-0348

Kelvin Moultrie, Employee, Alabama Department of Labor

Mr. Pappas moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Kelvin Moultrie 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. Dodd seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2025-0037

Dr. Carol Johnston, Professor, Auburn University

Mr. Dodd moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Dr. Carol Johnston 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. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2024-0304

Evelyn Moore, Finance Director, Town of Grove Hill

Mr. Dodd moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Evelyn Moore 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. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 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. 2024-0212; Case No. 2024-0345; Case No. 2024-0352; Case No. 2024-0409; Case No. 2024-0410; Case No. 2024-0411; Case No. 2025-0010; Case No. 2025-0012; Case No. 2025-0013; and Case No. 2025-0131.** *Mr. Dodd moved that the Commission dismiss the cases as recommended. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.*

Case No. 2024-0083

Nicole Stockman, (Former) Teacher, Athens City Schools

General Crowell moved that on December 4, 2024, the Alabama Ethics Commission unanimously found Nicole Stockman, (Former) Teacher, Athens City Schools, 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 39th Judicial Circuit who approved the administrative resolution on July 28, 2025. 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 December 3, 2025; 2) There is no restitution owing for this minor violation. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2024-0350

Patrick White, Parks / Recreation Director, City of Fairhope

Mr. Dodd moved that on June 4, 2025, the Alabama Ethics Commission unanimously found Patrick White, Parks / Recreation Director, City of Fairhope, 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 28th Judicial Circuit who approved the administrative resolution on June 16, 2025. 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 December 3, 2025; 2) There is no restitution owing for this minor violation. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.

Other Matters

At 10:35 a.m., Director Albritton presented the Commission with the proposed 2026 Commission dates. Mr. Pappas moved the dates be adopted. Mr. Dodd seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.

Adjournment

There being no further business at 10:36 a.m., Mr. Pappas moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Mr. Dodd seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with all those present voting.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission is October 1, 2025.


Edward F. Crowell, Chair


Thomas B. Albritton, Executive Director


Byron Butler, Recording Secretary