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STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

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PRESS RELEASE

State Ethics Commission Appoints Two Commissioners and Announces Settlement involving Republican campaign advertisements

Albuquerque, NM, July 30, 2024 – The State Ethics Commission is pleased to announce that two Commissioners have been recently appointed to four-year terms. At an open meeting held at the State Capitol on July 26th, the four legislatively Commissioners re-appointed current Commissioner Jeff Baker to a second and final four-year term for the independent/minor-party seat. The four legislatively Commissioners also interviewed candidates for a Republican seat and, following those interviews, appointed the Honorable Gary L. Clingman to a four-year term. Justice Clingman joins the Commission following a career in the New Mexico judiciary, having served as a District Judge for the Fifth Judicial District Court and an Associate Justice on the New Mexico Supreme Court. Commissioners Baker and Clingman will begin their respective terms on August 11, 2024.

Under the State Ethics Commission Act, the four legislatively appointed Commissioners appoint the remaining two members of the seven-member State Ethics Commission. State Ethics Commissioners may serve, at maximum, two four-year terms. The bipartisan Commission is comprised of three Democratic members, three Republican members, and one independent/minor-party member.

The Commission also announces a settlement with the Republican Party of New Mexico to conclude the administrative matter, *Kokinadis v. Republican Party of New Mexico*, SEC Case. No. 2024-15. In that matter, the complainant alleged that the Republican Party of New Mexico (“RPNM”) issued advertisements in support of candidates that, while the advertisements disclaimed that they were “paid for by the Republican Party of New Mexico,” they failed to disclaim that a candidate authorized the advertisement, in violation of the Campaign Reporting Act. Section 1-19-26.4(A) of that Act requires that campaign advertisements contain information indicating who paid for and who authorized the advertisement. At an open meeting on July 29, 2024, the Commission unanimously approved a settlement agreement under which the RPNM agreed to pay a \$500 civil penalty for a single violation of the Campaign Reporting Act in exchange for dismissal of the administrative complaint.

About the State Ethics Commission

The State Ethics Commission is an independent, constitutional state agency with the authority to enforce civil violations of New Mexico’s governmental ethics and disclosure statutes, including the Campaign Reporting Act. The Commission is comprised of three Democratic Commissioners, three Republican Commissioners, and one independent Commissioner who is registered as “decline to state.” For more information about the State Ethics Commission, visit www.sec.nm.gov.