



The COE

PALM BEACH COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS NEWSLETTER

Spring/Summer 2026

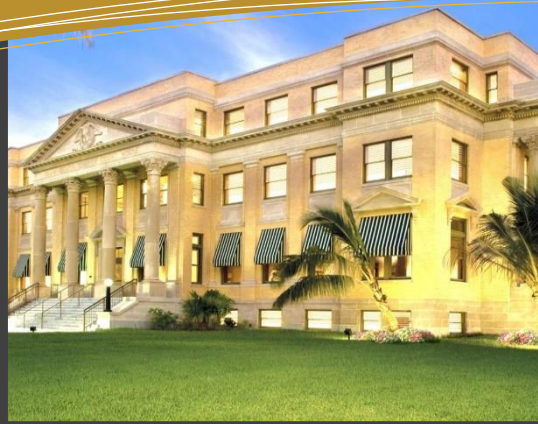
Mission Statement

The mission of the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics is to foster integrity in public services, to promote the public's trust and confidence in that service, and to prevent conflicts between private interests and public duties.

The ONE Ethics Movement

The Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics and the Office of the Inspector General were both established in 2010. The ONE Ethics movement speaks to our independent but collective and collaborative efforts to provide objective oversight of ethics in our local government.

COE Hotline:
877-766-5920



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The Commission on Ethics

15 Years of Building Public Trust

Over fifteen years of celebrating ethics in action—and our mission continues with renewed passion.

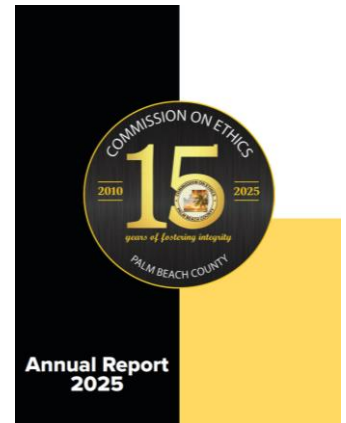
Voters established the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics with a clear purpose: to ensure local government operates with integrity, accountability, and transparency. Today, that mission remains as strong as ever.

Through education, practical guidance, and independent oversight, the Commission on Ethics equips public officials and employees to make decisions that align with the Code of Ethics. The Commission also aims to empower residents to better understand how their government works—and why ethics matter.

The Commission on Ethics seeks to foster a culture where ethical conduct is standard practice. In doing so, the Commission continues to strengthen public trust and safeguard the public interest throughout Palm Beach County.

The Commission on Ethics remains committed to building on its legacy, advancing ethical leadership, and ensuring that public service always serves and benefits the public good.

A Look Back: 15 Years of Impact



- 600 Live Training Sessions**
- 200 Outreach Presentations**
- 565 Advisory Opinions**
- 280 Complaints Investigated**
- 6,500 Gift Forms Reviewed**

Ethics Training

Sec. 2-446

Officials and employees, as public servants, are considered stewards of the public trust and should aspire to the highest level of integrity and character. Officials and employees shall be informed of their ethical responsibilities at the start of their public service and shall receive updates and training materials on ethics issues throughout the span of their public service.

The county administrator or municipal administrator, as applicable, shall establish, by policy, a mandatory training schedule for all officials, employees, and local government attorneys as defined in Florida Statutes §112.313, which shall include mandatory periodic follow-up sessions. This policy may also address ethics training for entities that receive county or municipal funds as applicable.

The commission on ethics shall develop and deliver, or contract with other entities to develop and deliver, training programs. The commission on ethics shall coordinate and cooperate with all affected county or municipal entities, agencies, boards, departments, councils, and commissions to ensure that effective and meaningful training experiences are delivered in a timely and efficient manner.

New Ethics Commissioner Brings Decades of Investigative Experience



Welcome Commissioner Alan Blass

If there's one phrase that defines Alan Blass's career, it's this: follow the money. Newly appointed to the Commission on Ethics, Blass brings more than 45 years of experience, uncovering complex financial wrongdoing in both the public and private sectors.

As founder of AIB Forensics in South Florida, Blass has built a reputation as a trusted expert in high-stakes matters—from fraud and white-collar crime to construction disputes and high-net-worth divorce cases. Attorneys and government agencies rely on his ability to translate dense financial data into clear, credible analysis, both in reports and on the witness stand.

Blass has extensive public sector experience, including serving as Deputy Chief Auditor for the New York City Department of Investigation. In that

role, he conducted undercover operations and testified in organized crime and public corruption cases.

He later helped shape the field of corporate forensic accounting at Kroll Associates. One of his most notable assignments came after the September 11 attacks, when he monitored deconstruction costs at the World Trade Center site. During that assignment, he uncovered serious billing irregularities during a critical recovery effort.

A longtime leader in the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, Blass has served as president of chapters in New York and South Florida and founded the Palm Beach County chapter.

In his new role, he continues to champion ethics, accountability and mentorship—principles that have defined his career.

Kudos & Special Thanks

A special thank you to **Palm Beach County, the City of Lake Worth Beach, the Town of Lake Park, and the City of Palm Beach Gardens** for recognizing March as Ethics Awareness Month and for supporting efforts to promote integrity in local government.





Get Involved Request a speaker

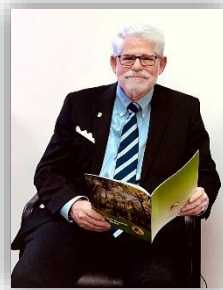
The Commission on Ethics offers dynamic training programs that ignite ethical insight, sharpen your skills, and empower civic-minded individuals and groups to advocate for integrity. Guided by our passionate ethics experts, you will learn how ethics play a vital role in our community and discover ways to support a culture of ethical excellence in public service. Whether you belong to a civic, business, professional, or educational organization, these programs promise to energize your ethical commitment and make an impact!

To schedule a speaker, contact us.

561-355-1915

Upcoming Events

- **We're coming to YOU!**
 - The ONE Ethics movement is on the road to meet you in your local community at your local library. Stay tuned!
 - West Boca Library, April 2026
 - Belle Glade, Summer 2026
 - Jupiter, Fall 2026
- **Monthly Commission on Ethics Meetings**
 - The first Thursday of each month at 1:30 pm at the Governmental Center or on PBC TV Channel 20.
 - Join us to see a glimpse of our COE Commissioners and staff at work for YOU.



Farewell Commissioner Kridel

Since October 2013, Commissioner **Michael Kridel** has served the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics, where he set a high standard for ethical oversight. His dedication, fairness, and thoughtful analysis have touched every decision. As the

longest-serving commissioner so far, Michael Kridel is warmly wished all the best in his future endeavors by the Commission on Ethics staff.

Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics
300 North Dixie Highway, Suite 450
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

CONNECT WITH US

Visit: www.palmbeachcountyethics.com

Call: 561-355-1915

Email: ethics@pbc.gov

Follow: [@pbccoe](https://twitter.com/pbccoe)  



Got Ethics? When faced with a possible ethical dilemma, local public officials and employees are encouraged to follow the *Ask First, Act Later* motto. The COE staff is available to help you understand your responsibilities under the Code of Ethics. See our FAQ page online.

TOP 10 ETHICS RULES

for Public Officials and Employees

1. ALWAYS...ASK FIRST, ACT LATER

GIFTS

2. You may not accept more than \$100 per year in gifts from a lobbyist, principal or employer of a lobbyist or person or entity that does business with your employer.
3. Gifts from persons or entities which total more than \$100 per year, other than those prohibited above, must be reported on a form. There are 11 gift exceptions. Immediately refuse or return prohibited gifts.

USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION

4. You may not use your official position to give a special financial benefit to yourself, broadly defined family members, an outside employer or business and other defined entities, or "corruptly" use your authority for any person's benefit.
5. You may not contract with, or do business with, your employer. There are 5 exceptions.
6. Travel expenses, given by persons or entities who are vendors or bidding to be vendors of your governmental employer are prohibited unless waived by your governing body, or unless they are from another governmental entity.

OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT

7. Generally, subject to your employer's rules, you may work for an outside employer that does not do business with your county or municipal employer. It may even be permissible to work part-time for an outside employer that does do business with your employer, if certain conditions are met.

VOTING CONFLICTS

8. Officials and advisory board members may not participate in and vote on matters which give a special financial benefit to themselves, or those within a chain of relationship(s).

MISCELLANEOUS

9. You may not use "inside information" to benefit yourself or others. You must be honest in statements made on your employment application. If you have hiring authority, or the ability to advocate to one who does, you may not hire or promote the hiring of a broadly defined family member.
10. The Code of Ethics imposes other restrictions on lobbyists, advisory board members and the activities of certain employees after they leave employment.