



San Francisco Ethics Commission

Annual Report
July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008

The Ethics Commission is pleased to present this report on the activities, progress, and accomplishments of its thirteenth year of operation to the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, and citizens of San Francisco.

Susan J. Harriman
Chairperson

San Francisco Ethics Commission
25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 220
San Francisco, CA 94102

Email: ethics.commission@sfgov.org
Web site: www.sfgov.org/ethics
Telephone: 415/252-3100
Fax: 415/252-3112

SAN FRANCISCO ETHICS COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT FY 2007-2008

The Ethics Commission serves the citizens of San Francisco, City employees, elected and appointed officials, and candidates for public office by enforcing the City's governmental ethics laws, providing education about their provisions, and serving as a repository for information.

The Commission acts as filing officer for campaign finance disclosure statements; audits statements for compliance with state and local laws; administers City laws regulating lobbyists and campaign consultants; investigates complaints alleging ethics law violations; serves as the filing officer for financial disclosure statements required from City officials; raises public awareness of ethics laws; researches and proposes ethics-related legislative changes; and provides ethics advice to candidates, office-holders, public officials, City and County employees and the general public.

The Commission is pledged to a high standard of excellence in government accountability, and to that end has worked not only to implement the law, but also to amend existing law or create new law that will further the principle of the voters' right to know and to ensure integrity in government decision-making and in the campaigns of those who wish to govern.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE THIRTEENTH YEAR

The Commission continued to deliver a diverse array of work products and services to the citizens of San Francisco:

- Enforced reporting requirements for political committees, campaign consultants, lobbyists, and City officials;
- Conducted compliance audits of campaign finance committees;
- Continued the constant review of the Campaign Finance Reform Ordinance, making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on changes to strengthen, clarify, and update campaign finance law. Drafted and adopted regulations to implement such changes;
- Nearly completed five years worth of work on the Statements of Incompatible Activities after dozens of hours of deliberation by the Ethics Commissioners and hundreds of hours of meetings and discussions with department heads and personnel and hundreds more hours of meet and confer sessions with union representatives. These documents are set to go into effect in 2008;
- Continued a far-reaching evaluation of the potential need for changes in the lobbyist program;
- Conducted an in-depth policy analysis and followed through with a number of policy updates and changes. Also adopted legislative changes recommended by the Board of Supervisors;

- Conducted on-going sessions of its educational program on conflicts of interest, incompatible activities, candidate and treasurer information, campaign finance, public finance, on-line filing, lobbying, and other issues under its jurisdiction surpassing the record number of sessions reached in the previous year;
- Provided informal written or oral advice and responded to requests for formal written advice letters;
- Implemented a new state-of-the-art electronic filing system and began expanding the nature and number of documents available online;
- Facilitated “Interested Persons Meetings” for the general public to provide input on issues under consideration by the Commission;
- Conducted hearings on requests for waivers from conflict of interest laws; and
- Responded to hundreds of citizen inquiries.

MANDATES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

The Commission’s work covers ever-growing responsibilities, demanding consistent innovation in this extended period of budget shortfalls that impact funding and personnel. The Commission uses a five-year planning format to anticipate growth of staff and the dual needs for the Commission to better meet its currently existing mandates and to expand its abilities to regulate campaign finance activities and conflict-of-interest laws. The five-year plan is personnel-based and is adjusted yearly in consideration of budgetary influences, the creation of new laws and regulations under the Commission’s jurisdiction, and housekeeping issues related to equipment, software and office space. In the long-term, the Commission estimates that it will require more than 30 staff members to provide top-quality service and remains committed to a sensible growth structure towards this goal.

Campaign Finance Regulation and Reporting

The Commission enforces the City's Campaign Finance Reform Ordinance (CFRO), which sets voluntary ceilings on campaign expenditures by candidates and imposes mandatory limits on contributions to candidates.

The Commission regularly reviews the operation of the CFRO, as well as the other City ordinances under its jurisdiction, enacts enabling regulations, and proposes substantive and operational changes. It also advises on amendments proposed by the Board of Supervisors.

Under the Charter, the Commission serves as filing officer for five categories of local candidates and committees:

1. Candidates seeking election to local office and their controlled committees,
2. Committees formed or existing primarily to support or oppose candidates seeking election to local office,
3. Committees formed or existing primarily to support or oppose qualification or passage of a ballot measure being voted on only in San Francisco,

4. County general-purpose committees active only in San Francisco, and
5. Candidates and candidate committees for county central committee office.

As filing officer, the Commission promotes compliance by candidates and committees and maintains records of reports filed. It audits campaign statements and imposes penalties for failure to adhere to filing deadlines and reporting requirements. It also distributes the fine policy to all filers and imposes fines for late statements.

Regular semi-annual filings for active committees took place on July 31, 2007 and January 31, 2008. The November 2007 election occasioned the additional filing of pre-election reports on October 5 and October 26. A report was also due on October 30, 2007 and April 30, 2008 from ballot measure committees exempt from semi-annual reports but which make financial contributions toward the passage or defeat of other measures. The Commission reminded committees of the deadlines, sent out notices to delinquent filers, and posted reports on its web site, www.sfgov.org/ethics/.

Staff has endeavored to send out more advance notices than previous years through mail, email and phone calls in order to reduce the number of late filings.

Public Financing

San Francisco's public financing program for candidates for the Board of Supervisors was adopted through a ballot measure (Proposition O) in November 2000. The Commission administered the public financing program in elections for candidates for the Board of Supervisors in 2002, 2004 and 2006. Another public financing cycle began in 2008 and will run through the November 2008 election and end thirty days thereafter. The public financing program provides candidates running for the Board of Supervisors with partial public grants to fund their campaigns. The Commission developed the program with the intent that it would provide candidates a neutral source of additional funding; encourage more candidates to run for office; allow candidates to spend more time discussing the issues and spend less time fundraising; and encourage candidates to limit their spending.

During the period covered by this report, substantial changes were adopted by the Commission and the Board of Supervisors to alter the public financing programs. First, the separate programs for Mayor and Board of Supervisors (BOS) were merged into a single program with a combined revolving fund. Money for this financing is to be set aside from the General Fund at a rate of \$2.75 per City resident each year. Previously, the Mayoral program had a separate fund and the BOS program depended on biannual appropriations. Spending caps were raised to \$1.3 million for the Mayoral program and to \$140,000 for the BOS program. Also, the processes of using a single cap for the Mayoral program and district caps for the BOS program were discarded in favor in individual spending caps being adjustable based on a formula accounting for candidate and independent expenditures.

In 2008, elections will be held in Districts 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9 and 11. (District Four is included due to the fact that former Supervisor Ed Jew vacated office on January 12, 2008.) Forty-two candidates are running in these seven districts for the BOS in 2008. By comparison, 25 candidates in five districts appeared on the November 2006 ballot, while a total of 65 candidates in seven districts and 28 candidates in five districts appeared on the November 2004 and November 2002 ballots, respectively. In 2008, there are five “open seats” (including District Four, which has a non-elected incumbent). There was one in 2006 and one in 2004.

No candidate received any public funds in the 2007 Mayoral race. Two candidates applied: Tony Hall qualified for public funding but dropped out of the race shortly thereafter; (Chicken) John Rinaldi applied but did not meet the initial qualifying threshold. The Commission heard a series of appeals from Mr. Rinaldi regarding his application for public funds. Ultimately, the Commission determined that he did not meet the threshold of raising \$25,000 from at least 250 contributors by the 70th day before the election as required by law.

Staff created a comprehensive report on the 2007 Public Financing Program which is available on the Commission web site.

CFRO Amendments

In continuing its extensive review of the Campaign Finance Reform Ordinance, the Ethics Commission approved a number of changes as briefly described in the next paragraph. The Board of Supervisors ultimately adopted these changes and the Mayor signed them into law. Additionally, the Commission made major changes in the Public Finance Program as described previously in this report.

Provisions considered and adopted included those that:

- Require persons making independent expenditures of \$1,000 or more to pay for mass mailings that support or oppose candidates for City elective office to file those mailings and itemization of costs with the Ethics Commission;
- Require persons conducting or paying for telephone persuasion polls to disclose information to call recipients during the telephone calls and to file disclosure reports with the Ethics Commission;
- Require certain committees that are raising or spending funds to support or oppose a local measure to file financial disclosure documents with the Commission during signature gathering periods;
- Implement Charter provisions directing the Controller to administer a whistleblower program and investigate reports of complaints concerning the misuse of City funds, improper activities by City officers and employees, deficiencies in the quality and delivery of government services, and wasteful and inefficient City government practices. Several of the proposed amendments formalized steps that the Controller had already undertaken to establish a whistleblower program;

- Expanded disclosure and filing requirements to persons that make mass mailings that support or oppose a candidate for City elective office ;
- Clarified the definitions of matching and qualifying contributions;
- Conformed the individual expenditure ceiling for candidates for the Board of Supervisors to the ceiling in the new public finance law;
- Clarified how total opposition spending and total supportive spending are determined;
- Clarified the trust account limit for a publicly-funded Mayoral or Supervisorial candidate;
- Set forth the process for closing out a campaign contingency account;
- Set forth a rule that personal services for contracts under section 1.126 include consulting, architecture, engineering, design, legal, finance, accounting, janitorial, medical treatment, transportation, underwriting, insurance and security services;
- Determined that a committee controlled by a candidate for the purposes of section 1.126 includes either a committee formed to support or oppose a candidate for City elective office or a committee formed to support or oppose a local ballot;
- Set forth the method by which the individual expenditure ceiling of a candidate for the Board of Supervisors or for Mayor may be raised;
- Created guidelines regarding Mayoral and Supervisorial candidates who are bound by the individual expenditure ceiling of \$140,000 for supervisorial candidates and \$1,375,000 for mayoral candidates;
- Identified the forms that persons making independent expenditures, electioneering communications or member communications that clearly identify a candidate for the office may be required to file;
- Set forth the filing requirements related to mass mailings made by persons other than candidates; and
- Adopted dozens of regulations related to the execution of the new public financing program.

The Commission also adopted a host of operational regulations to implement the new amendments.

Audit Program

The California Political Reform Act of 1974 and the City's CFRO require officeholders and candidates as well as campaign committees that support or oppose ballot measures or candidates to file finance statements disclosing campaign contributions and expenditures made in connection with a campaign.

The Commission serves as filing officer for statements required to be filed locally. The statements cover disclosure of monetary and non-monetary contributions including loans and enforceable promises, expenditures, unpaid bills and miscellaneous increases to cash. Filers must also keep detailed records of receipts and expenditures of \$25 or more.

The Commission audits the statements for compliance. Its process is outlined in an audit manual available to the public. Filers are selected for audit by random drawing at

Commission meetings, or are targeted based on preliminary staff reviews. In addition, all publicly financed candidates are audited.

In March, the Commission selected 10 campaign and ballot measure to be conducted in 2008. Although the Commission staff conducted 20 audits in the previous calendar year, the workload associated with the Public Finance Program of 2008 will take up a great deal of staff audit time. Should time and resources prove available, staff will conduct additional random audits. Staff may determine the need to conduct targeted audits at any time. Audits are posted on the Commission's web site as they are completed.

Statements of Incompatible Activities

Proposition E, passed by the voters in 2003, required departments, boards, and commissions to file Statements of Incompatible Activities, or SIAs, with the Commission, listing activities that are incompatible with the public duties of officers and employees.

Staff expects that universal implementation of SIA documents will take place in calendar year 2008. In anticipation of this, staff established a universal training protocol so that affected personnel of every department have access to information and training in the requirements of the SIAs. This year, staff provided training on the SIA to attendees at the City University Human Resource Certificate Pilot Program. Participants in the training included employees from the Department of Human Resources, Public Utilities Commission, Human Services Agency, the Controller's Office and the Department of Public Health.

The Commission recognizes that in order for these documents to be effective, such information and training are essential components of implementation.

As stated earlier, work on the SIAs has been nearly completed. In addition to the dozens of hours the Ethics Commissioners have spent deliberating the language in the SIAs, the Commissioners' combined efforts in the studying of the draft documents and the researching and creation of ideas and solutions involved hundreds of hours of work on their own time.

Staff has created a platform for notification of all City employees when the SIAs go into effect and will be conducting training throughout City agencies using both an outreach protocol and pursuant to requests of departmental management.

Sunshine Ordinance Declarations

The San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance requires department heads and commissioners who are required to file Statements of Economic Interests ("SEIs") with the Ethics Commission to sign an annual declaration stating under penalty of perjury that they have read the Sunshine Ordinance and have attended, or will attend, an annual training on the Sunshine Ordinance.

A number of those required to file took advantage of the online Ethics and Sunshine training option in lieu of the live training offered in March 2008, which was jointly hosted by the Ethics Commission and the City Attorney.

Lobbyist Registration and Reporting

Lobbyists are required by ordinance to register with the City and file quarterly reports of any activity intended to influence local legislative or administrative action. The Commission reviews lobbyist statements to ensure completeness and accuracy. It assesses penalties for failure to adhere to deadlines and other requirements.

Registration is triggered by a threshold level of activity based on the number of City officials contacted and/or the amount of payments received or made. The threshold varies according to the type of lobbying engaged in.

Statements must disclose which City officials were contacted, the positions advocated by the lobbyist, and any campaign contributions or gifts donated. Contract lobbyists are required to disclose the names of their clients and how much money they received from them. Lobbyists who advocate on their own behalf are required to disclose payments made for the purpose of influencing local legislative or administrative action.

The Commission summarizes statements in quarterly reports it issues soon after the filing deadlines. The reports are posted on the Commission's web site.

At the close of the fiscal year, there were 45 lobbyists registered with the Commission reporting about \$5.9 million in earnings for the fiscal year.

The Commission conducted two reviews of the Lobbyist Ordinance during the year and directed the staff to propose changes to the ordinance. Staff conducted surveys of other jurisdictions and held interested persons meetings in order to foment a series of proposed amendments to the program. At its May meeting, staff sought the Commission's guidance on whether to make proposals to alter the monetary and contact threshold limits to qualify as a contract, organization and business, or expenditure lobbyist, to require employee lobbyists of contract lobbyists to register, to define when all lobbyists must register after meeting their respective thresholds, and to adopt new exemptions to the definition of "contact." The Commission directed the staff to continue to study the issue, seek additional public input on the matter and to refine the staff proposals based on the additional research. Staff expects to bring a new set of recommendations to the Commission in 2008.

Campaign Consultant Registration and Reporting

The Regulation of Campaign Consultants Ordinance, passed in 1997, requires anyone who earns \$1,000 or more in a calendar year from activity as a campaign consultant to register with the City and submit quarterly reports.

Campaign consultants are required to report names of clients, services provided, payments received, contributions and gifts made to local officials, and other information. The Commission prepares summaries of the quarterly filings, posts them on the web site, and publishes a manual. During the fiscal year, more than 27 campaign consultants reported earnings of about \$3.1 million.

Investigations and Enforcement

The San Francisco Charter charges the Ethics Commission with authority to investigate alleged violations of laws governing campaign finance, lobbying, conflicts of interest, and government ethics. In addition, the Improper Government Activities Ordinance, also known as the Whistleblower Ordinance, directs the Commission to investigate charges of retaliation directed against complainants.

During the year, the Enforcement staff resolved 26 cases, including five that went to settlement (settlement summaries are available on the Commission web site). A number of other cases remain under investigation.

The Commission had two notable Enforcement efforts during the year, as detailed below.

Due to allegations of official misconduct, the Mayor suspended Supervisor Edmund Jew. Under Charter Section 15.105, when the Mayor suspends an elective officer, “The Ethics Commission shall hold a hearing not less than five days after the filing of written charges. After the hearing, the Ethics Commission shall transmit the full record of the hearing to the Board of Supervisors with a recommendation as to whether the charges should be sustained.” Supervisor Jew submitted a motion to dismiss written charges of misconduct and to terminate proceedings; the Mayor submitted an opposition brief. At a November 2007 hearing, Commissioners considered the briefs and determined to move ahead with proceedings on the matter. The Commission proceeded to provide direction on the process, parameters and protocol for the hearing. However, on January 10, 2008, the parties in the above matter announced that they had reached a settlement in the quo warranto and official misconduct actions. As a result, Supervisor Jew resigned on January 11, 2008. The Commission therefore determined that further hearings on the matter were no longer required. The Commission was ably served on a pro-bono basis by attorneys at the law firm of Orrick, Herrington and Sutcliffe, led by Melinda Haag.

At the December 10, 2007 Commission meeting, the Commissioners found probable cause that former Supervisor Tony Hall committed several violations of the Campaign Finance Reform Ordinance and the Political Reform Act. This finding prompted staff to continue an investigation of these allegations and the Commission subsequently discussed the preliminary matters of the case at its May 12, 2008 meeting. A public Hearing on the Merits was held on June 9, 2008 on the Hall matter and was continued into July, 2008. The matter remains pending. (Please note: The respondent is presumed to be innocent unless and until such time that the Ethics Commission completes the hearing on the merits and determines that the Respondent committed the alleged violations.)

The Commission has also commenced in 2008, for the first time, to conduct random spot audits of Statements of Economic Interest that are filed within each department rather than at the Ethics Commission.

Policy Recommendations

The Commission is charged with making policy recommendations on issues under its jurisdiction. It has been proactively reviewing the breadth of campaign finance law and actively making recommendations and drafting proposals for change.

Among the policy changes adopted during the year are those that:

- Establish more consistency in the fines collections and settlement processes;
- Require that the selection of committees to be audited occur no later than the March meeting of the Commission each year;
- Require staff to provide more timely notice of late filings due and the late fines and forfeitures that may be assessed;
- Except for pre-election and late reports, give committees a window of opportunity to correct missing or incorrect information on campaign reports;
- Require that staff annually distribute a matrix regarding the formula for granting of waivers or reductions in fines;
- Determined that the Commission generally will not take enforcement or fines actions against candidates and committees that raise or spend \$5000 or less during an election year;
- The Commission will review the posting of the non-filer list to allow for a temporary removal of a name on the list to permit time for a cure and to remove names once the applicable statute of limitations has passed;
- The Commission will no longer use specific written notice except in unusual circumstances;
- The Commission will coordinate, to the extent possible, all fines, forfeitures and enforcement actions against any single committee;
- In making waiver determinations, the Commission will take into account a committee's self-reporting of errors;
- Except where law specifically provides otherwise, accept documents as timely filed if they are postmarked by the due date;
- Establish a policy of not including candidates/committees that spend less than \$5,000 per election cycle in audit pools or subject them to late fines except in certain circumstances and also establish a "non-materiality" standard for infractions of less than 10% of revenues or expenditures or \$10,000, whichever is lower; and
- Generally extend the time to file amendments or information.

The Commission endeavors to create new legislation that makes campaign finance and ethics laws and regulations more effective while being easier to comprehend and also works as a partner with the Board of Supervisors in effecting positive changes to the

Administrative Code, the Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code and other statutes governing the City.

Education and Outreach

The Commission has a strong institutional commitment to educate the public about San Francisco's ethics laws and to support campaign reform and government accountability efforts consistent with City policy throughout the state and elsewhere.

It conducts ongoing informational programs about ethics-related laws and requirements. It produces educational materials and actively publicizes its outreach activities through public notices.

In 2008, staff conducted workshops and meetings on more than 70 occasions on the following main agendas: public financing, online filing and the new electronic filing system, the Lobbyist Ordinance, candidate forums for Supervisor, forums for treasurers, Statements of Economic Interests, political club outreach, and individual City agency conflict of interest seminars. Staff also conducted one-on-one sessions with officials and employees. Further, staff, along with Commission members, conducted five ethics seminars for delegations of international visitors from over twenty nations.

The Commission works to educate City and County employees in individual departments regarding ethics rules with a focus on conflict of interest laws. Commission staff has created – and constantly updated -- presentations that instruct civic employees on the several laws – local and state – that prescribe conflict of interest rules. While complex, these trainings help present the requirements in a common-sense approach. The feedback from such presentations has been quite positive and the Commission will endeavor to continue such outreach on an ever-wider basis as staffing levels allow. As noted earlier, staff has prepared a large-scale presentation process to coincide with the execution of Statements of Incompatible Activities.

Advice and Opinions

The Commission is charged with interpreting and applying the conflict laws under its jurisdiction, requiring that it consider requests for waivers, which it routinely does, and that it issue formal and informal written advice on matters requiring interpretation.

Commission staff is available each workday to answer public inquiries about San Francisco ethics laws. During the course of the year, the number of inquiries run into the hundreds, if not more.

Electronic Advances

Starting in 2008, the Ethics Commission converted its online filing operations from the limited-capability system that it used previously to a state-of-the-art application operated by the private vendor Netfile. Working with Netfile, staff has been able to provide the

user community with a much easier and comprehensive program and the reactions have been nearly universally favorable. Staff continues to work with Netfile to upgrade and expand system capabilities.

In addition, staff has created much greater access to filings made at the Ethics Commission for online users. For the first time, staff is scanning all forms on file at the Commission for recent years; this means that the public will have access to paper-only documents that have never been available to online users. Previously, people searching for paper documents could only view them at the Ethics Commission office; now they have the option to view them online. This scanning project is ongoing.

For the first time in 2008, the Commission authorized and began accepting the filing of Statements of Economic Interests online, which provides greater convenience for filers and greater access for the public. The Commission is also in the process of creating access to Ethics Commission training modules online, so that the regulated community will have opportunities to attend public trainings or to satisfy training requirements at their own convenience.

AFFILIATIONS

The Commission is a member of the Council on Governmental Ethics Laws (COGEL) and participates in its annual conference. The 2007 conference was held in Victoria, Canada and featured addresses by experts on governmental ethics from around the world and workshop sessions on campaign finance, freedom of information, electronic filing, and lobbying regulation among others. Over 300 participants attended, including members of the San Francisco staff and Commissioner Gusukuma.

BUDGET

The Commission's annual approved budget totals are as follows:

FY 94 - 95	\$157,000
FY 95 - 96	261,000
FY 96 - 97	313,274
FY 97 - 98	394,184
FY 98 - 99	475,646
FY 99 - 00	610,931
FY 00 - 01	727,787
FY 01 - 02	877,740
FY 02 - 03	1,156,295
FY 03 - 04	909,518
FY 04 - 05	1,052,389
FY 05 - 06	1,382,441

FY 06 - 07 8,416,109* (1,711,835 non-grant funding)

FY 07 - 08 3,592,078 ** (2,261,877 non-grant funding)

*Includes 6,704,274 front-loaded funding for Mayoral Election Campaign Fund

**Includes 1,358,747 annual set-aside for the Election Campaign Fund

The proposed budget adopted by the Commission for 2008-2009 included a proposed increase of \$472,200. However, due to budget shortfalls, the Ethics Commission faced substantial funding decreases, although ultimately it experienced an extremely mild reduction.

MEMBERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION

Commission membership was as follows:

<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Appointed By</u>	<u>Dates of Service</u>
Jamienne S. Studley	City Attorney	1-2007 to 2-2008 2-2008 to 2-2014
Eileen Hansen	Board of Supervisors	2-2005 to 2-2011
Susan J. Harriman	Mayor	3-2006 to 2-2012
Charles L. Ward	District Attorney	7-2006 to 2-2007 2-2007 to 2-2013
Emi Gusukuma	Assessor	3-2004 to 2-2010

Commissioner Susan Harriman was elected to serve as Chair beginning in March 2007 and was reelected in 2008 for an additional year. Commissioner Emi Gusukuma was elected Vice-Chair for both these periods. Commissioner Charles Ward was re-appointed by the District Attorney to a full term commencing in February of 2007. Commissioner Jamienne Studley was re-appointed by the City Attorney to a full term in February of 2008. Both Commissioners Ward and Studley had served in short-term vacancies left by departing members.

The Ethics Commission had a staff of nineteen, supported by temporary staff and interns throughout the year. Staff included Executive Director John St. Croix; Deputy Executive Director Mabel Ng; Assistant Deputy Director Shaista Shaikh; Auditors John Chan, Menaka Mahajan and Selina Chan; Public Finance Clerk Marvin Ford; Office Manager Jen Taloa; Campaign Finance Officer Kristian Ongoco; Fines Collection Officer Oliver Luby; Campaign Finance Assistants Jarrod Flores and Demarie Dizon; Chief Enforcement Officer Richard Mo; Assistant Investigators Paul Solis, Garrett Chatfield and Catherine Argumedo; Investigations Clerk Carmen Torres; IT Officer Steven Massey; and Education and Outreach Coordinator Judy Chang. Temporary staff included Campaign Finance Assistants Felipe Colin, Y-Ting Hsiao and Dawn Lin. In addition to the staff above, interns included: Kenji Shimodaira, a student at Boston University; Justin Tsui, a student at UC Berkeley; Michael Sember and Anna Sember, students at Bowdoin College; Jane Kim, a student at St. Ignatius Preparatory School; and Anthony

Zamora, Kerry Richards, Lauren de la Rosa, Ian King and Kendall Burian, all of San Francisco State University.

FUTURE INITIATIVES

The Commission will continue to fulfill its mandated duties in the forthcoming years, with a particular focus on achieving the following priority objectives:

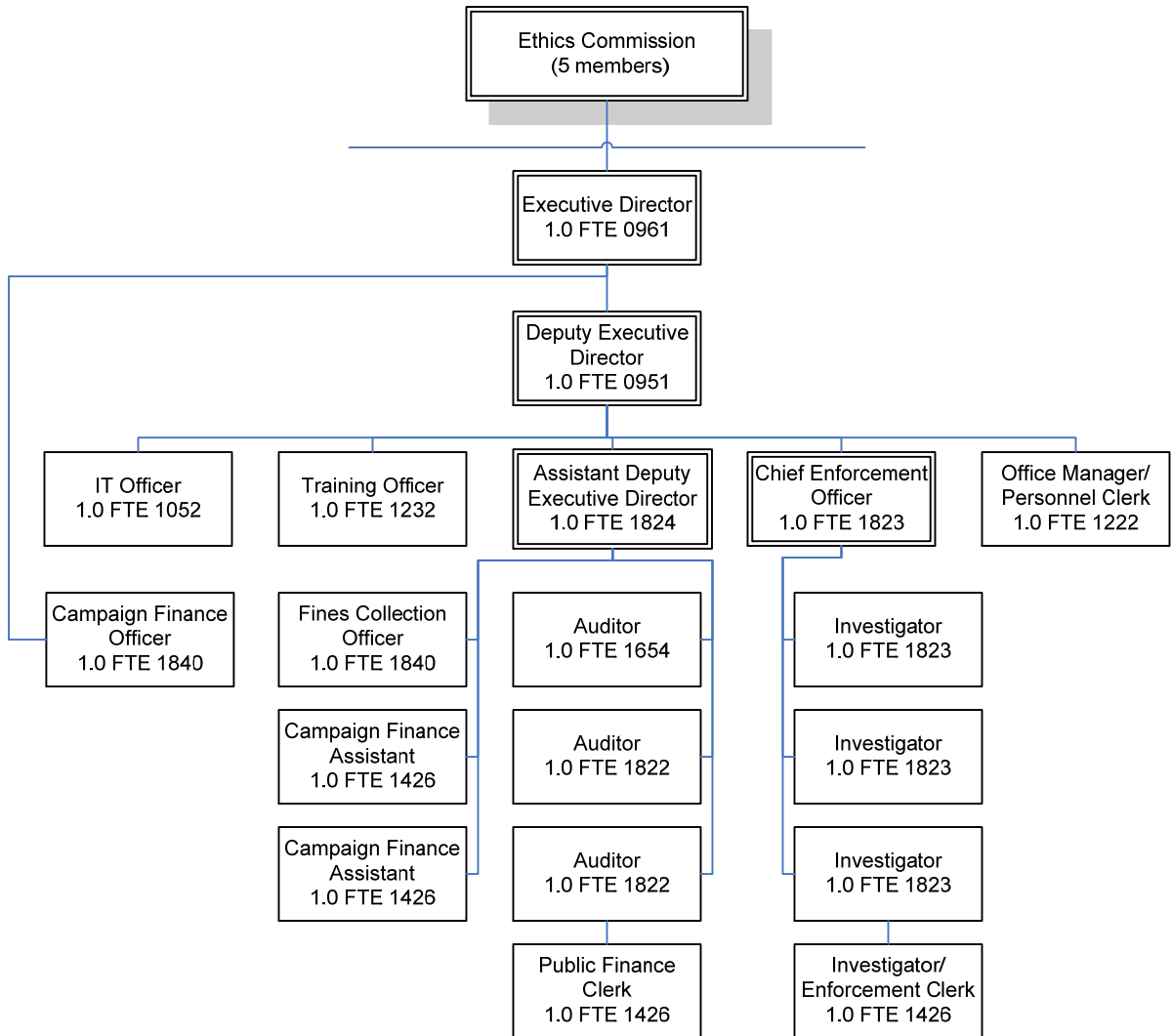
- The Commission is dedicated to increasing public confidence in its mission and to delivering fairness both in its actions and the perception of its actions.
- The Commission will actively demonstrate its commitment to the education of the public, the regulated community, the City's leadership body and the employees of the City and County through continued educational forums, seminars, online tutorials and other outreach mechanisms in order to strengthen both the understanding of and adherence to the laws under the Commission's jurisdiction.
- The Commission will continue the ongoing process of reviewing, updating and renewing the Campaign Finance Reform Ordinance in order to keep pace with changes in policy, technology, civic needs and campaign modernization.
- The Commission will expand its communications and improve its relations with the general public and work to ensure that there is general understanding in the community about the Commission's work, mission and decision-making processes.
- The Commission will work continually to expand the scope of its enforcement and investigation activity, to analyze the needs and accomplishments in this area and to make productive use of staff and other resources.
- The Commission will place new emphasis on resolving conflicts of interest and also the appearance of conflicts of interest by City agencies, officials, department heads and candidates and campaigns through both the education and investigations processes.
- The Commission will complete the ongoing review of the Lobbyist Ordinance and conduct a review of the Campaign Consultant program in order to seek improved regulations and reporting requirements.
- The Commission will work with various City departments, boards and commissions to implement Statements of Incompatible Activities for the respective departments, boards and commissions. The Commission has devoted and will continue to devote many hours of staff time to training City officers and employees and members of the public about these new requirements.
- The Commission and staff will take advantage of training, education and other opportunities that will help advance its capabilities.
- The Commission will endeavor to provide timely and comprehensible advice.
- The Commission will work to secure sufficient budget resources to meet its mandates.
- The Commission will continue to monitor the application of laws within its jurisdiction and will continue to propose amendments and regulations as appropriate.

Respectfully Submitted,

John St. Croix, Executive Director

San Francisco Ethics Commission

FY 07-08



S:\Commission\Annual Report\2007-2008\final 10.7.08.doc