



Ethics Office Monthly Report

APRIL 2024

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ETHICS SYMPOSIUM

On April 10, the Ethics Office planned and hosted the Southern California Ethics Symposium, co-sponsored by LA Metro and Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass. The event was the first-ever conference of government ethics and independent oversight officials in Southern California. It featured opening remarks by Board Chair Ortega, and Director Pressman was a speaker on one of three expert panels. There were over 60 participants including staff from the City of Los Angeles Mayor's Office, LA Metro, U.S. Department of Labor Office of Inspector General, Los Angeles City Ethics Commission, and other government agencies.



EDUCATION

At eight separate events in April, staff provided ethics training to over 400 employees, including sessions at Mills and Jensen Water Filtration Plants. Since initiating new trainings last December, the Ethics Office has provided ethics training to over 1,250 employees. Staff presented an Ethics Office overview for ten new hires at New Employee Orientations hosted by Human Resources.

COMPLIANCE

Continued management of the Form 700 annual filing season, which began January 1, 2024, and ended April 2, 2024. Staff continues efforts to obtain full compliance for Metropolitan.

Assisted directors and employees with their Annual, Assuming Office, and Leaving Office Form 700 filings. Assistance included filing for multiple positions, troubleshooting the electronic filing system, and notifications of deadlines.

ADVICE

Addressed 32 advice matters related to the following: conflicts of interest, financial disclosure, gifts, and other ethics-related topics.

INVESTIGATIONS

Received six complaints involving the following allegations:

- An employee received outside income from a restricted source.
- A manager received outside income from a restricted source.
- A manager used derogatory ethnic slurs in the workplace.
- A Metropolitan official verbally disparaged and sexually harassed staff.
- An employee retaliated against a coworker for protected EEO activity.
- An employee was dishonest with a coworker about a work-related matter.

We referred three of these matters to the EEO Office.

ADVICE AND INVESTIGATIVE DATA

Advice Matters	32
Compliance Assistance	21
Complaints Received	6
Investigations Opened	0
Pending Investigations	6