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PRESS RELEASE

The State Ethics Commission announces oral argument in the appeals of the hearing officer's decision in Administrative Case No. 2022-006, Tim Eichenberg v. Laura Montoya

Albuquerque, NM, November 9, 2023 – Today, the State Ethics Commission announces the setting of oral argument in the appeals of the hearing officer's decision in Administrative Case No. 2022-006, *Eichenberg v. Montoya*. The oral argument will take place on **December 15, 2023, at 9:00 AM**. Since the Commission's inception in July 2019, this hearing will be the first oral argument on appeal in an administrative case.

The appeals relate to the administrative complaint that former State Treasurer Tim Eichenberg filed against current State Treasurer Laura Montoya. On October 3, 2023, the Honorable Alan C. Torgerson (Ret.), presiding as hearing officer, concluded that Laura Montoya violated the Campaign Reporting Act by knowingly receiving \$10,000 in "straw donor" campaign contributions and ordered her to pay a civil penalty of \$1,000.00. For more information about that order, please [read the Commission's press release regarding Hearing Officer Torgerson's Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.](#)

Following the Hearing Officer's order, Complainant Tim Eichenberg and intervening General Counsel of the State Ethics Commission, Walker Boyd, each appealed, claiming that Respondent Montoya should forfeit any contribution received as a result of an unlawful solicitation. Respondent Montoya has cross

appealed, claiming that Hearing Officer Torgerson’s findings and conclusions are reversible error and based on a lack of substantial evidence.

To read the notices of appeals, the Hearing Officer’s order, and other filings related to this case, please visit the following link: [State Ethics Commission: Case Management & Filing System \(nm.gov\)](#)

The Commission will hear oral argument on December 15, 2023, at 9:00 AM in the Executive Board Room at Science and Technology Park, located at 851 University Blvd. SE, Park Center on the 2nd floor, room 201. Parking can be located at 801 Bradbury Dr. SE. Members of the public and media are encouraged to attend.

A livestream of the oral arguments will be available on the Commission’s website: [Meetings | New Mexico State Ethics Commission \(nm.gov\)](#).

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.