



STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

Commission Meeting Minutes of September 11, 2026, 1:00 PM **[Subject to Ratification by Commission]**

Call to Order

Chair Castillo called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

1. Roll Call

Chair Castillo called roll; the following Commissioners were present:

Hon. Celia Foy Castillo, Chair (attended virtually)
Jeffrey L. Baker (attended virtually)
Stuart M. Bluestone (attended virtually)
Hon. Gary Clingman (attended virtually)
Hon. Dr. Terry McMillan (attended virtually)
Dr. Judy Villanueva (attended virtually)

2. Approval of Agenda

Chair Castillo sought a motion to approve the September 11, 2026, agenda. Commissioner Baker moved to approve the agenda; Commissioner Bluestone seconded. Hearing no discussion or objections, Chair Castillo conducted a roll-call vote. All present Commissioners voted in favor. The agenda was approved.

3. Approval of August 21, 2026, Commission Meeting Minutes

Chair Castillo sought a motion for approval of the minutes of the August 21, 2026, meeting. Commissioner Bluestone moved to approve the minutes; Commissioner Baker seconded. Hearing no discussion or objections, the August 21, 2026, meeting minutes were approved unanimously by all present Commissioners.

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Commission Meeting Items

---Begin Executive Session---

Chair Castillo sought a motion to enter executive session. Commissioner Clingman moved to enter executive session under NMSA 1978, § 10-15-1(H)(7) (attorney-client privilege pertaining to litigation). Commissioner Villanueva seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, Chair Castillo conducted a roll call vote, and all Commissioners voted unanimously to enter executive session.

5. Discussion regarding current and potential litigation:
(Farris)

I. Shepard v. Farris and N.M. State Ethics Commission

---End Executive Session---

Matters discussed in closed meeting were limited to those specified in motion to enter executive session. After concluding discussion of these matters, the Commission resumed public session upon an appropriate motion pursuant to NMSA 1978, § 10-15-1(J).

6. **Resolutions**
(Farris)

Commissioner Bluestone sought a motion to waive the attorney client privilege over attorney-client communication dated February 24, 2025, and the memorandum that asked the Commission to authorize civil action against Joseph Shepard as the President of Western New Mexico University. Commissioner Clingman seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, Chair Castillo conducted a roll call vote, and all Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the resolution.

7. **Discussion of next meeting**
(Castillo)

Chair Castillo confirmed the next regularly scheduled meeting will take place on Friday, October 2, 2026.

8. **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

9. **Adjournment**

Chair Castillo raised the adjournment of the meeting. With no objections made, the meeting adjourned at 1:34 PM.