



# A Symposium on Ethics for Texas State Agencies

*Capitol Extension Auditorium*

*Oct. 20, 2016, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.*

## AGENDA

**9 a.m. Welcome**

*David A. Reisman, Chief Ethics Officer, Texas Health and Human Services Commission*

**9 – 9:10 a.m. Opening Remarks**

*Cecile Young, Chief Deputy Executive Commissioner, HHSC*

**9:10 – 9:30 a.m. Legislative Outlook**

A look at the upcoming legislative session and possible ethics initiatives.

*State Representative John Kuempel, Chair  
House Committee on General Investigating and Ethics*

**9:30 – 10:40 a.m. Panel: Contracting Reform—Ensuring Ethical Practices in Contracting**

An interactive presentation on the implementation of ethics reforms in agency contracting and procurement.

*Ron Pigott, Deputy Executive Commissioner, Procurement and Contracting, HHSC; Jacob Pugh, Contract Oversight Manager, Legislative Budget Board; Benito Ybarra, Chief Compliance Officer, Texas Department of Transportation; Kristin Alexander, Compliance Division Director, Texas Department of Transportation; Martin Zelinsky, General Counsel, Department of Information Resources*

*Moderated by Toya Cirica Bell, Deputy Chief Ethics Officer, HHSC*





**10:40 - 11:20 a.m. Can You Hire Me Now? The Revolving Door and Other Conflicts of Interest**

A conversation about the ways in which conflicts of interest may arise at state agencies, including an exploration of current post-state employment restrictions.

*David A. Reisman, Chief Ethics Officer, Health and Human Services Commission  
Jerry McGinty, Chief Financial Officer, Texas Department of Criminal Justice*

**11:20 a.m. – 12 p.m. Meet the Texas Ethics Commission**

Highlights and advice on common employee questions from the agency charged with administering and enforcing Texas' ethics laws.

*Natalia Luna Ashley, Executive Director, Texas Ethics Commission*

**12 – 1 p.m. Lunch, on your own**

\*Capitol Grill located across from entrance to auditorium.

**1 – 1:50 p.m. Getting in Hot Water**

A perspective from the press on actions that can get you into trouble.

*Emily Ramshaw, Editor-in-Chief, Texas Tribune*

**1:50 – 2:40 p.m. Panel: Re-Thinking Your Agency's Ethics Policy**

A discussion on the power of harnessing innovation and creativity to address persistent questions such as the acceptance of benefits and outside activity, just to name a few.

*David A. Reisman, Chief Ethics Officer, HHSC  
Amanda Crawford, General Counsel, Office of the Attorney General  
Dr. Fernando Gomez, Vice Chancellor and General Counsel, Texas State University System*

**2:40 p.m. – 3:40 p.m. Panel: Elevating Your Ethics Culture**

An exchange of best practices and new approaches to elevating ethics in the culture of your agency through an ethics policy, ethics training, websites, outreach, performance measures and more.

*Toya Cirica Bell, Deputy Chief Ethics Officer, HHSC  
David Timberger, Director of General Law Division, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
Ron Steffa, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Texas Department of Criminal Justice*

**3:40 p.m. – 4 p.m. Closing Remarks**

*David A. Reisman, Chief Ethics Officer, HHSC  
Toya Cirica Bell, Deputy Chief Ethics Officer, HHSC*