STATE OF NEW JERSEY STATE ETHICS COMMISSION P.O. Box 082 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0082 (609) 292-1892

> STATE OF NEW JERSEY STATE ETHICS COMMISSION COMMISSION CASE NO. 43-14

IN THE MATTER OF CRYSTAL M. FELICIANO, SUPERVISING AUDITOR, OFFICE OF THE STATE COMPTROLLER **Administrative Action**

CONSENT ORDER

WHEREAS, the State Ethics Commission ("Commission") is authorized to initiate, receive, investigate, review, and hear complaints regarding violations of the New Jersey Conflicts of Interest Law, *N.J.S.A.* 52:13D-12 *et seq.* ("Conflicts Law"), applicable rules of the Commission, *N.J.A.C.* 19:61-1.1 *et seq.*, the Uniform Ethics Code and any agency code of ethics by any State officer or employee or special State officer or employee; and

WHEREAS, this matter was brought before the Commission by a complaint filed with the Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Commission conducted an investigation of all matters and issues raised by the complaint;

WHEREAS, as a result of the investigation, the Commission and Crystal M. Feliciano ("Feliciano") desire to enter into a final and complete resolution of all matters and issues raised thereby;

IT IS THEREFORE agreed by the parties as follows:

- 1. Feliciano has been employed by the Office of the State Comptroller ("OSC") since June 2008. She currently serves as a Supervising Auditor.
- 2. Feliciano was involved with Paul Perez's ("Perez") campaign for mayor of Trenton in 2014. Feliciano recorded a radio advertisement for Perez and completed various administrative duties for the campaign. Feliciano also promoted a Perez campaign event and posted information regarding another Perez campaign event on a personal social media account.
- 3. In addition, Feliciano was involved in organizing and promoting an event hosted by Trenton City Council President Zachary Chester ("Chester"). Feliciano's name appeared on a social media site as a contact person for the event which was "Paid for by Chester for Council."
- 4. Feliciano did not give notice to the OSC Ethics Liaison Officer that she intended to be involved in political activities on behalf of either Perez or Chester.
- 5. Feliciano also used her State-issued laptop, email, scanner and printer for activities unrelated to her State duties. Feliciano's email contained documents related to the Perez campaign for Mayor of Trenton, as well as documents of a personal nature and/or documents related to her outside activities. Feliciano had over five hundred personal emails unrelated to her official duties stored on her State email account.
- 6. It is the Commission's position that Feliciano violated sections 23(e)(3) and (e)(7) of the Conflicts Law by misusing State time and resources for personal matters and to support her outside activities, and Section V of the Uniform Ethics Code ("UEC") by engaging in political activity on her personal social media accounts prohibited by *N.J.S.A.* 52:15C-4(b), which prohibits a professional employed by OSC from signing or using her name in connection with political or campaign literature, and from printing, publishing or distributing such materials.

7. It is Feliciano's position that the event which she promoted for Chester was a community event intended to raise money to renovate a nearby church, not a political event.

8. Feliciano acknowledges that her political activities were prohibited by *N.J.S.A.* 52:15C-4(b) and are in violation of Section V of the UEC. Feliciano also acknowledges that, in hindsight, she violated sections 23(e)(3) and (e)(7) of the Conflicts Law by misusing State time and resources.

9. The parties agree to enter into this Consent Order in settlement of all matters and issues that are involved herein. In consideration thereof, Feliciano agrees to pay a civil penalty of \$3,000.00. An initial payment of \$500.00 will be due within sixty (60) days of the date on which this Consent Order is fully executed; \$500.00 will be due within ninety (90) days of execution of the Consent Order; \$500.00 will be due within one-hundred-twenty (120) days of execution of the Consent Order; \$500.00 will be due within one-hundred-fifty (150) days of execution of the Consent Order; \$500.00 will be due within one-hundred-eighty (180) days of execution of the Consent Order; and a final payment of \$500 will be due within two-hundred-ten (210) days of execution of the Consent Order.

Cleptal Melician	Dated: 6/9/15.
Crystal M. Felician	
andren S. B	Dated: 6/16/15
State Ethics Commission	
By: Andrew S. Berns, Chair	
Kromed Grans	Dated: 6/18/15
State Ethics Commission	Dateu. 4/11/1

By: Susana E. Guerrero, Executive Director