

# The Washington State Executive Ethics Board

**Address:**

2425 Bristol Court SW  
Olympia, WA 98504

**Website:**

[www.ethics.wa.gov](http://www.ethics.wa.gov)

**Contact:**

Chair Marilee Scarbrough  
Phone: (360) 252-3017  
Vice Chair Paul Zellinsky  
Phone: (360) 662-9850

**Agency Responsibilities:**

The mission of the Executive Ethics Board is to provide ethics awareness to statewide elected officers and all other officers and employees in the executive branch, boards and commissions, and institutions of higher education on the Ethics in Public Service Act. The Board's legislative mandates under RCW 42.52 include:

- Developing educational materials and training;
- Adopting rules and policies governing the conduct of business by the Board;
- Issuing advisory opinions;
- Investigating, hearing, and determining complaints;
- Imposing sanctions including reprimands and monetary penalties;
- Recommending to the appropriate authorities suspension, removal from position, prosecution, or other appropriate remedy; and
- Establishing criteria regarding the levels of civil penalties appropriate for violations of the Ethics in Public Service Act and rules adopted under the Act.
- Reviewing whether contracts or grants between a state officer or employee and a state agency would be in conflict with the proper discharge of the state employee's official duties.

**Board Members:**

The Executive Ethics Board consists of five members who are appointed by the Governor. Three members are public citizens and two members are state civil service employees. Except for members who are completing partial terms of appointment, all other members serve a single five-year term. Each member shall serve for the term of the appointment and until a successor is appointed. Current Board members are:

- (1) Chair Marilee Scarbrough, state employee - term ends September 30, 2005.
- (2) Vice Chair Paul Zellinsky, public citizen – term ends September 30, 2006.
- (3) Professor James Vache, public citizen – term ends September 30, 2004.
- (4) Trish Akana, state employee – term ends September 30, 2007.
- (5) Evelyn Yenson, public citizen – term ends September 30, 2008.

The Executive Ethics Board conducts regular meetings on the second Friday of each month, except August and December.

Staff is provided to the Executive Ethics Board as employees of the Office of the Attorney General. In addition, the Attorney General provides legal counsel to the Board itself and to Board Staff who prosecute cases. Board staff consists of three full-time employees and one or two part time interns. The Board's budget for 3-05 biennium is nearly \$700,000. In the 05-07 biennium, the Board is requesting an increase of 1.5 FTE to provide staff resources commensurate with the upward trend in the number of complaints and investigations. The Board's operating budget is included under the Attorney General's agency budget.

### **Executive Ethics Board's Goals and Objectives:**

The Board is updating its strategic plan to provide for a long-range strategy and plan of action for accomplishing its mission. The Board's goals for calendar year 2005 are:

- *Raise ethics awareness and communication.*
- *Fulfill Board's legislative-mandated responsibilities for conflict of interest laws.*
- *Align Board priorities with processes and procedures that bring about greater efficiencies and effectiveness.*

### **Most Pressing Issues or Challenges Facing the Executive Ethics Board:**

On the horizon, the Executive Ethics Board anticipates the continuing challenge of overlaps in investigations conducted by the State Auditor's Office and the Board. This is a problem for the Board in that whistleblower investigations can include ethics violations as well. Since whistleblower disclosure would jeopardize confidentiality, the State Auditor's Office sends referrals to the Board for ethics violations that require the Board to conduct its own investigation.

Another issue creating a problem for the Board concerns the efficient use of Board time spent deliberating on stipulations and orders for recurring ethics violations, such as improper internet use. The Board is assessing how to approach ethics training and education so that the sanctions for a violation are communicated as one possible deterrent for employees and through awareness, an ethical environment exists throughout state government.

## Board Member Listing by Board Position

### EXECUTIVE ETHICS BOARD (GS210)

Agency	100 - Office of Attorney General	Senate Conf.	N	Positions:	Maximum 005
Authority	Governor, Speaker of the House, President of Senat	Public Disc.	Y		Minimum 001
Authoriztn.	RCW 42.52.350	Term Length	060		Actual 005
Rem. Auth.	GC	Meetings/Yr.	10		

Pos. #	Name and Address	Status	Race	Appointed	Expires
001	Akana, Trish (Ms.) PO Box 432 Olympia, WA 98507	A	C	11/30/2003	09/30/2007
		Terms Served	01		
		Position	a member		
		Comments	Classified Employee		

Pos. #	Name and Address	Status	Race	Appointed	Expires
002	Vache, James 6425 North Victor Spokane, WA 99208	A	C	03/13/2000	09/30/2004
		Terms Served	01		
		Position	a member		
		Comments	State Auditor Nominee		

Pos. #	Name and Address	Status	Race	Appointed	Expires
003	Zellinsky, Sr., Paul (Mr.) 1135 Wheaton Way B3 Bremerton, WA 98310	A	C	05/13/2002	09/30/2006
		Terms Served	01		
		Position	a member		
		Comments	Governor Appointee		

Pos. #	Name and Address	Status	Race	Appointed	Expires
004	Scarbrough, Marilee 5727 South Mason Avenue Tacoma, WA 98409	A	AA	11/18/2003	09/30/2005
		Terms Served	01		
		Position	a member		
		Comments	Exempt Employee		

Pos. #	Name and Address	Status	Race	Appointed	Expires
005	Yenson, Evelyn P. 121 Vine Street, Unit 405 Seattle, WA 98121	A	AP	03/31/2004	09/30/2008
		Terms Served	01		
		Position	a member		
		Comments	Attorney General Nominee		