



*Queen
Anne's
County*

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

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Advisory Opinion from April 18, 2011

The Commission reconsidered an Advisory Opinion #11-03, which was a request from a citizen relating to a member of the Queen Anne's County Planning Commission and a potential conflict of interest existing when his attorney appears before him, as a planning commission member.

The Commission determined that given a very specific set of facts, as in the relationship between this Planning Commission member and his attorney as described, there was no actual conflict of interest, but there was an appearance of conflict of interest, under §8-11 A (3), while the parties are in an on-going contractual relationship for representation. Because their relationship and the pending litigation is a matter of public record and public knowledge, a reasonably informed member of the public could infer that the relationship would impair the impartiality and independent judgment of the Planning Commission member when his attorney appears before him on an unrelated matter. The Commission expressly reserves rendering an opinion on whether such an appearance would continue after the representation ceases.

Opinion #11-04