

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION



*Queen  
Anne's  
County*

The Liberty Building  
107 North Liberty Street  
Centreville, Maryland 21617

Telephone 410-758-4406  
Facsimile 410-758-6913

Tina Miles, Clerk  
Lynn Knight, Attorney

**The Ethics Commission**  
Robert Mueller, Esquire, Chairman  
Kendall Ruffatto, Esquire  
Reverend Nanese A. Hawthorne  
Benjamin C. Tilghman, Jr.  
Harold O. Wilson

Advisory Opinion of January 10, 2011

The Commission considered the facts that were provided regarding a potential conflict of interest with a County Commissioner selling insurance products to the County and/or County employees.

The Commission determined that an actual conflict of interest exists for that financial association under the Conflict of Interest section of the Queen Anne's County Public Ethics Law, §8-11 A (2) (b), and that an appearance of a conflict of interest exists for that financial association under §8-11 A (7). Specifically, if a County Commissioner and/or his business was "doing business with" the County and its employees, it would violate subsection (2) (b). Further, a County Commissioner reasonably appearing to an informed member of the public to be "intentionally using the prestige of [his] office...for [his] own private gain or that of another" would violate subsection (7).

\*Note: The Ethics Commission issued a prior Advisory Opinion, being 07-03, with a similar fact pattern.

Advisory Opinion 11-01