

John Steiner

John Steiner is the Integrity Officer for the City of Austin, Texas. He is responsible for the creation and implementation of a City-wide ethics initiative. He is a central resource for information for City management, staff, the City Council and City board and commission members on matters of government ethics and public integrity.

As a direct report to the City Manager, he works to resolve integrity ethical issues as they arise across City departments. Integrity issues include matters related to use of government property, conflicts of interest, outside employment, political activity, gifts to public servants, bribery and threats, and other issues that affect the fact or appearance of improper influence on the behavior of City employees or violations of laws applicable to public servants in the discharge of their duties. He conducts regularly scheduled training, creates training materials, initiates training on current policies, and uses information gained in the training program to develop revised, job-specific policies.

John is a graduate of the University of Texas (B.A. 1975) and the University of Texas School of Law (J.D. 1982). He has been at the City of Austin since 1995. In 1992 he was named the first Executive Director of the newly-created Texas Ethics Commission, the agency that administers campaign finance, lobby, and ethics laws in Texas. Before that he was a member of the Texas Attorney General's Opinions Committee specializing in the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Texas Open Records Act, public finance, municipal law, and election law.

As a board member of The Council On Governmental Ethics Laws (COGEL), he is interested in helping COGEL extend its reach to local governments, which face the same issues as state and provincial governments, and which increasingly have their own ethics, campaign finance, lobby regulation, and open government programs.