

INTRODUCTION: The Roles of A Commissioner

Merrill Smith, Jr., Chairman, Prince
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Commission

What is a Commission?

- ▶ A body or group of people, officially tasked with carrying out a particular function.
- ▶ May have enforcement powers

What is a Commissioner?

- ▶ a person appointed to a role on or by a commission.
- ▶ A body or group of people, officially tasked with carrying out a particular function.

Roles May Vary

- ▶ Quasi-Judicial
- ▶ Public Liaisons
- ▶ Public Advocates
- ▶ Mediators
- ▶ In general, the roles of a Commissioner may vary depending on the code that created them
- ▶ May be totally independent of appointing official, etc

Commissioners as Adjudicators

- ▶ Must be Impartial
- ▶ Advisory Board
- ▶ Establish Policies
- ▶ Can be confusing
- ▶ Maintain Control of hearings.
- ▶ Litigants may try to control the process if control isn't maintained

Potential Powers:

- ▶ In certain jurisdictions, commissions may be authorized by statute to;
 1. Issue subpoenas
 2. Bring an action to a hearing
 3. Decide on cases of discriminations
 4. Levy fines and penalties
 5. Hold public hearings under oath with court reporter, etc.
 6. Hear and decide on appeal cases