

**STATE SENATOR
JANE CLARE ORIE
40TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT**

SENATE Box 203040
ROOM 362, THE STATE CAPITOL
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3040
717-787-6538 • FAX: 717-787-8625
E-MAIL: jorie@pasen.gov
WEBSITE: senatororie.com

LA CASA BLANCA BUILDING
9400 MCKNIGHT ROAD, SUITE 105
PITTSBURGH, PA 15237
412-630-9466 • FAX: 412-635-2199

2525 ROCHESTER ROAD, SUITE 207
CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP, PA 16066
724-776-3500 • FAX: 724-776-3582



Senate of Pennsylvania

DEC 23 2010

COMMITTEES

**RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS,
VICE CHAIR**

**COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND RECREATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**

**AGING AND YOUTH
FINANCE
JUDICIARY**

**JOINT HOUSE AND SENATE AUTISM
COMMITTEE, CHAIR**

LUPUS, CHAIR

AMERICAN-ITALIAN CAUCUS

ARTHRITIS AND OSTEOPOROSIS CAUCUS

**FIREFIGHTER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES
CAUCUS**

HUNGER CAUCUS

IRISH CAUCUS

CO-SPONSORSHIP MEMO #23

TO: ALL SENATORS

FROM: Senator Jane C. Orie

DATE: December 22, 2010

RE: Ethics Act amendments

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'JCO', written over the 'FROM' line of the memo.

- Disclosure of actual income
- Requiring the judiciary to file with the State Ethics Commission

I plan on introducing legislation to amend the Public Official and Employee Ethics Act to require the disclosure of the actual amount of all reportable income received by public officials and state employees who are currently required to file with the State Ethics Commission. This would include Senators, Representatives, the Governor, the Attorney General, the Auditor General, and the Treasurer.

I also plan to include in the proposed language an attempt to bring the Judiciary back under the coverage provided by the Ethics Act, solely as it relates to the reporting requirements to the State Ethics Commission. In 1983 the PA Supreme Court ruled that the Ethics Law was unconstitutional as it applied to the Judiciary based upon "Separation of Powers" and encroachment on the Constitutional authority of judiciary, a co-equal branch of government. Since that time the Court has also excluded all their employees from the Ethics Act. The Court did adopt a rule requiring justices and judges to file annual statements with the Court. However, it is my understanding that the rule may not include everyone appointed to positions where a ruling or decision is made (such as special masters, arbitrators and top court administrators) and are not available online.

At a time in our Commonwealth when all co-equal branches of government are viewed negatively by the public we need to provide more transparency and disclosure.

Should you wish to co-sponsor this bill, please contact Kacie Morrell in my Harrisburg office at 787-6538 or email kmorrell@pasen.gov.

JCO/mas