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**IN THE MATTER OF  
LAWRENCE SALVA,  
BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEMBER,  
ROWAN UNIVERSITY**

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**STATE ETHICS COMMISSION**  
  
**Commission Case No. 13-15**  
**DECISION**

## **BACKGROUND**

Rowan University requests an exception to Executive Order 14 (Corzine 2006) (“EO 14”) on behalf of Rowan University Board of Trustee Member Lawrence Salva (“Salva”), who is also an Executive Vice-President of the Comcast Corporation (“Comcast”). Comcast has been a vendor to Rowan University for many years and has several small contracts with the University, none of which has required public advertising for bids or approval from the University’s Board of Trustees.

EO 14 prohibits a member of a State college or university governing board from being employed by or deriving or receiving any compensation from a firm, association, or partnership that does business with the institution that the board member governs. The term “doing business with” is defined to mean “providing or receiving any goods or services or otherwise engaging in a transaction involving the exchange of anything of value.” Pursuant to paragraph 5 of EO 14, however, the State Ethics Commission is authorized to grant exceptions from this prohibition if “in the judgment of the Executive Director, the entity that is doing business with the institution is doing so pursuant to a contract awarded in accordance with the competitive bidding laws applicable to that institution or the public interest requires an exception to be made.”

## **APPLICATION**

According to the information provided, in his capacity as a Rowan University Board of Trustee member, Salva was not involved in the negotiation or award of the Comcast contracts. The contracts identified are permissible under the State College Contracts Law and are not required to be publicly advertised for bids because they fall below the current bid threshold amount of \$30,700. Moreover, these contracts are for public utility services and did not require approval by the Board of Trustees. Based on the information provided, Rowan has complied with the applicable competitive bidding laws in awarding these contracts to Comcast.

## **DECISION**

The Commission grants Salva an exception to the provisions of EO 14. In his official State capacity, however, Salva must recuse himself from any matters involving Comcast.

**DECISION RENDERED BY THE  
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION ON  
THE 14<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF APRIL, 2015**