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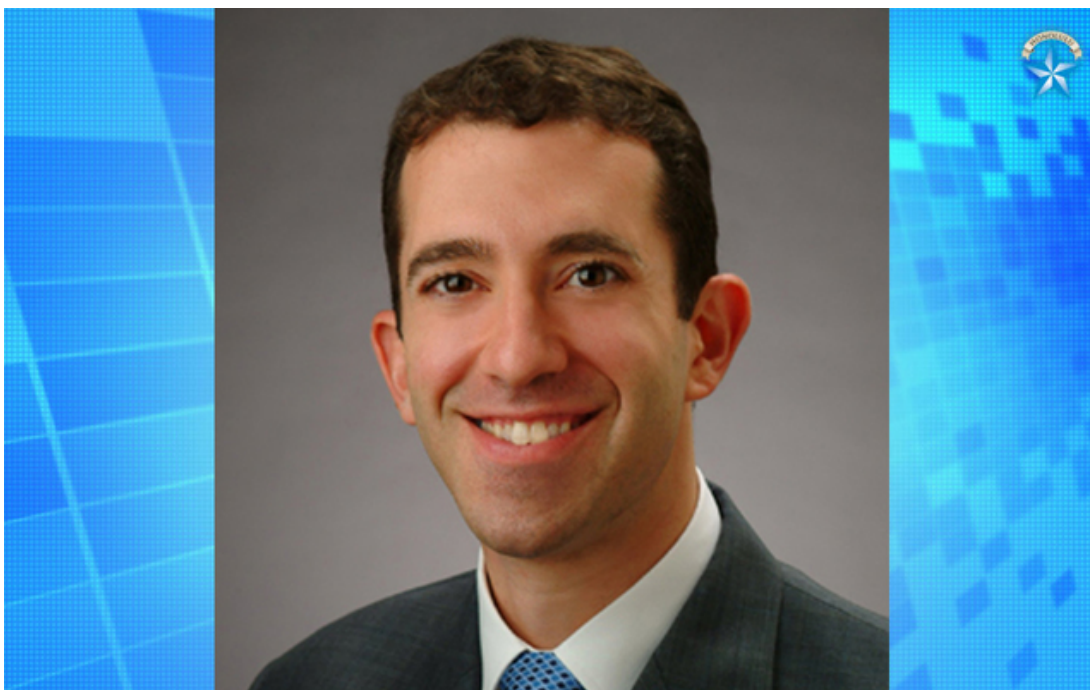
ACLU's Gluck to lead state Ethics Commission

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Daniel Gluck

The State Ethics Commission chose Daniel M. Gluck, legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii, as its new director today, replacing Les Kondo, who was appointed state auditor in April.

Gluck is leaving the ACLU and will start his new position Aug. 1.

The position of ethics chief can be a high-profile and thankless job. Kondo shifted to the auditor's office after sparking controversy for his hard-nosed approach to interpreting the state's ethics laws.

Gluck is used to handling hot topics as legal director and former senior staff attorney for the ACLU, where he focused on civil rights, including constitutional law and anti-discrimination cases.

"We are excited to have Gluck join the commission's staff as executive director," Commission Chairwoman Susan DeGuzman said. "He possesses stellar academic and professional credentials and has demonstrated the temperament and skills to help fulfill the commission's mission."

The executive director oversees enforcement of the State Ethics Code and the Lobbyists Law, educates state employees on their ethical duties and provides legal advice to the commission. The commission investigates wrongdoing and has the power to levy fines.

Gluck said he was honored to be chosen and would work respectfully with all stakeholders. He added that he believes most government employees and lobbyists want to behave ethically.

"I will work to ensure our state's lawmakers, employees, and lobbyists adhere to the highest ethical standards," he said in a statement.

Gluck attended Cornell University and Harvard Law School, where he was president of the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau. He later clerked for a Hawaii Supreme Court justice and a U.S. District judge in Honolulu. He also worked for the Honolulu office of Alston Hunt & King before joining the ACLU staff in 2007.



Executive director's salary, which is set by statute, is \$138,935 a year.

The ethics code prohibits favoritism, conflicts of interest and accepting gifts that are intended to influence or reward state employees for their official actions.

Shortly after Kondo was hired in January 2011, he infuriated some legislators when he told them they could no longer accept free tickets from lobbyists to attend expensive charitable fundraisers. He also cracked down on state employees accepting free golf outings, meals and other gifts.

Last year, Kondo and the commission set off a firestorm after advising teachers to stop traveling free as chaperones on out-of-state field trips they'd organized with tour companies for their students.

The Hawaii State Teachers Association challenged the commission in court and Circuit Judge Rhonda Nishimura invalidated the Ethics Commission's travel advice last month.

She said that because it applied to a broad group — all teachers — rather than just an individual case, it was subject to official rule-making, which involves public input.

Honolulu's longtime city ethics director, Chuck Totto, agreed to step down last month after butting heads with city leaders.

