

HOME/NEWS

St. Simons lawyer named to State Ethics Commission

Attorney Hillary Stringfellow to be on the commission.

By **Walter C. Jones** Wed, Jun 30, 2010 @ 10:57 pm | updated Thu, Jul 1, 2010 @ 5:21 am

ATLANTA - St. Simons Island attorney Hillary Stringfellow is House Speaker David Ralston's appointment to the State Ethics Commission, his office announced Wednesday.

The five-member board hears complaints alleging violations of campaign-finance laws. The members are appointed by the governor, lieutenant governor and speaker, all Republicans. Pending before the board are a number of complaints against several leading candidates for statewide office, including one against donors for Republican gubernatorial hopeful John Oxendine that has been stalled partly due to the vacancy.

Stringfellow will fill an open seat left on the panel since the resignation of Robert Proctor, who stepped down after news reports that he failed to pay a fine levied against him by the commission years before. Proctor was one of several appointments made in the weeks that Mark Burkhalter served as speaker following Glenn Richardson's own resignation over his ex-wife's charges he had an affair with a utility lobbyist.

Ralston, on his election as speaker in January, promised to restore integrity to state government.

"Hillary will bring a fresh, new perspective to a commission tasked with ensuring accountability and transparency in government," he said. "She is a reliable, tough, independent thinker of unquestioned integrity who will fulfill her duties with the highest standards in this service to our state."

Stringfellow, who practices law in Brunswick, is a member of the Judicial Nominating Commission that recommends to the governor who should be appointed to fill vacant judge seats across the state.

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