

THE PUBLIC SERVICE PUZZLER

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AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We've reached the end of 2022 here at the Conflicts of Interest Board, and you know what that means — no, not that the \$50 Gift Rule is resetting (the Gift Rule's \$50 annual limit covers all items received during *any* 12-month span, sorry!) — it's time for another delightfully New Year's-themed COIB Comedy Caption Contest!

Take a look at the cartoon below, give it a think, and then [email us](#) your absolute *best* government ethics or Chapter 68-related caption, and our esteemed staff of ethics experts/comedy dilettantes will select the one we find the funniest for highlighting in the first issue of 2023! If you need some inspiration, or are struggling to find the perfect ethics comedy angle, just check out our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page to review all the different topics we covered this year. Thanks for reading the Public Service Puzzler, and here's to another year of ethical City service!



LAST ISSUE'S BIG WINNER: LISA BRANDQUIST!



Congratulations to last month's Puzzler winner, Lisa Brandquist, who managed to put together the pieces of that issue's — gotta say *quite challenging* fill-in-the-blanks-and-also-word-search puzzle — and get the answer: "Call for Advice." Let's get to know our winning public servant!

What is your City/office title?

My title is the Assistant Department Advocate in the Office of Employment and Disciplinary Matters (a.k.a. the Advocate's Office).

What do you do in your job?

My job is to review employee disciplinary matters for trial readiness at the Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings ("OATH"). Once at OATH, I represent the Department of Sanitation by presenting documentary evidence and witness testimony in an administrative trial to prosecute employee misconduct. Another large portion of my job is to act as a liaison between the Department and COIB to review our employees' submissions of their outside employment for any potential conflicts of interest or Chapter 68 violations.

So you really know your Chapter 68! How long have you been working for the City?

I have worked for the City since 2016. I began my career with the City at the NYC Department of Environmental Protection as an attorney in their Office of Labor Relations & Discipline. After 5 great years at DEP, in October 2021, I transferred to the NYC Department of Sanitation and hit the ground running with New York's Strongest! I'm proud to represent my family's third generation of DSNY employees.

What do you do for fun?

I recently started bringing my Mini Australian Shepherd, Louie, to agility courses. It's a great workout for my dog (and me!), but it's especially fun and adorable to see my 8 year old dog jump over hurdles, run through tunnels, climb the "A-frame" and walk the balance beam — who said you can't teach an old dog new tricks?

Not me! OK, last question: what's a fun fact someone wouldn't know about you just from looking?

I have 2 fun facts! The first is that by the age of 7, I memorized all of the U.S. state capitals, and the second is that I can play both the flute and the tenor saxophone (although I'm sure I'm a bit rusty now).

Certainly better than I would be! Thanks again, Lisa, for playing and winning the Puzzler!