

## Press Releases

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### 02-24-11 Orange County Officials Participate in Ethics Training

#### *At Statewide Conference of Counties*

number of Orange County officials participated in a special four-hour Ethics and Integrity in Government training at the 2011 Legislative Conference of the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) hosted in Albany recently.

NYSAC developed the training program especially for elected and appointed county officials. It was co-sponsored by the State Commission on Public Integrity, the Dennis A. Pelletier County Government Institute, and Cornell University. It's modeled after the program implemented by Governor Andrew Cuomo.

"As public servants – whether elected or appointed – it is our duty to uphold the public trust. Participation in this training will help our public officials address ethical statutes and rules that apply to those who serve the public good so that we may better serve the residents of our County," said Orange County Executive Edward A. Diana as he presented certificates of completion to many of the Orange County officials who participated in the training program. Diana also serves as First Vice President on the NYSAC Board of Directors.



Orange County Executive Edward A. Diana presented certificates of completion to some of the County officials who recently completed a special four-hour Ethics and Integrity in Government training at the annual New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) Legislative Conference in Albany. From left to right, James O'Donnell, Deputy County Executive; Mary Coleman, Deputy County Clerk; County Executive Diana; Donna Benson, County Clerk; Richard Mayfield, Director of Operations; Steve Gross, Commissioner of Human Resources.

The ethics course covered New York's Public Officers Law, Civil Service Law, and addressed ethical principles applicable to public employees and those who interact with them. Specifically, training topics included the State's Commission on Public Integrity, financial disclosure statements, nepotism, outside activities, post-employment restrictions, and gifts.

"We are pleased to have offered this important, timely and specialized training to our county officials," said NYSAC Executive Director Stephen J. Acquario, who noted that most government officials have an intuitive sense of what is right and act accordingly. "This course discussed the nuts and bolts of New York's ethics laws, and addressed the public integrity principles that guide the interactions of our local government officials."