

# THE TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

## WHISTLEBLOWER POLICY

### GENERAL POLICY

All employees, directors and officers of The Texas State Historical Association (TSHA) will be protected from any disadvantage caused by raising legitimate concerns and shall report suspected illegal activities within the organization.

### PURPOSE

TSHA encourages its employees, directors and officers to maintain high ethical standards. This whistleblower policy is meant to provide a confidential and effective means for reporting suspected violations of the law. It further serves to protect individuals who report suspected violations from retaliation in any form.

### SAFEGUARDS

#### **Confidentiality**

An individual may report a suspected violation anonymously or on a confidential basis, keeping in mind that in the course of the investigation it may become necessary that the source of the complaint be identified.

#### **Retaliation**

No individual who reports a suspected violation in good faith, whether or not the allegation turns out to be correct, shall be subject to any form of retaliation, including harassment, demotion, or firing, by the TSHA or its employees. Anyone who retaliates against a complainant shall be subject to disciplinary action.

TSHA will not retaliate against employees who disclose or threaten to disclose to a supervisor or a public body, any activity, policy, or practice of TSHA that the employee reasonably believes is in violation of a law, or a rule or regulation mandated pursuant to law, or is in violation of a clear mandate or public policy concerning the health, safety, welfare, or protection of the environment.

#### **Malicious Allegations**

An individual is not required to prove the truth of an allegation, but is required to act in good faith. Any individual who does not act in good faith in reporting a suspected violation may be subject to disciplinary action.

### PROCEDURE

#### **Open Door Policy**

If an employee reasonably believes that some policy, practice or activity of TSHA is in violation of the law, or a clear mandate or public policy, the employee should share his or her questions, concerns, suggestions, or complaints with someone who may be able to address them properly.

If the concerns are not addressed, the individual should make a formal complaint as outlined below.

### **Reporting Violations**

If an individual reasonably believes that some practice of TSHA, a member of the board of directors or a board committee, an employee of TSHA, or another individual or entity with TSHA has a business relationship is in violation of the law, the employee must file a written complaint with TSHA's Executive Director or TSHA's President.

### **Handling Reported Violations**

The Executive Director or President will contact the complainant within 10 business days and acknowledge the reported violation was received. The complainant will be notified about what actions will be taken. If no further action or investigation is to follow, an explanation for the decision will be given to the complainant.

Any complainant who reasonably believes that he or she has been retaliated against in violation of this whistleblower policy shall follow the same procedures as they did when he or she filed the original complaint.

My signature below indicates my receipt and understanding of this policy. I also verify that I have been provided with the opportunity to ask questions about the policy.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Title or Position: \_\_\_\_\_

To be signed by each member of the TSHA Board and each TSHA officer and employee