

ALBANY, NY-- (12/2/99) -- The Council On Governmental Ethics Laws (COGEL) has asked the New York State Board of Elections to demonstrate their new electronic filing system for campaign finance reporting at their national convention, which is being held in Providence, Rhode Island, during the week of December 5, 1999.

John Flicker, Manager of Data Processing Services for the Board and the prime architect of the Board's state-of-the-art system will display and operate the system at the conference for the benefit of state officials from the entire country. New York's system is like no other currently operating in the United States and has become sought after by several governmental units, most notably the state of Kentucky. Mr Flicker and his staff have shared the system's parameters and their expertise with Kentucky and others with the enthusiastic endorsement of the Board's Chairman, Neil Kelleher, the commissioners and the Board's entire management team.

Mr. Flicker is responsible for the development and implementation of several innovative systems in use by the State Board, including the National Voter Registration Tracking and Administration System, the Petition Checking System, the National Change of Address System and other internal management tools based on an Oracle data base. Mr. Flicker's long state service and technical expertise led to the development and creation of the Electronic Filing System from the ground up, within budget parameters by using in house staff only. This was accomplished in less than two years and, as the Legislature mandated, was implemented and on the Internet by July 15,1999.

COGEL is the outgrowth of a conference of executives of federal and state "ethics" agencies held in December of 1974. The meeting brought together representatives of agencies responsible for enforcement of campaign finance, lobbying and conflict of interest laws, in order to exchange information among these newly created ethics agencies. After several yearly meetings of this ad hoc group, COGEL was born at a conference in Minneapolis in 1978 and continues today as a clearinghouse of ideas for state and federal agencies.