

Minutes

January 25, 2007

The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board of the Office of State Ethics held its regular meeting and an executive session on Thursday, January 25, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. in Conference Room 2-A, 2nd floor, 18-20 Trinity Street, Hartford, CT 06106.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson at 1:01 p.m.

The following members of the Board were in attendance:

- Patricia T. Hendel, Chairperson
- Robert Worgaftik, Vice Chairperson
- Scott A. Storms, Board Member
- Enid Oresman, Board Member
- Dennis Riley, Board Member
- Michael Rion, Board Member
- Jaclyn Bernstein, Board Member
- Sister Sally J. Tolles, Board Member
- Rebecca Doty, Board Member

The following staff members of the Office of State Ethics were in attendance:

- Benjamin Bycel, Executive Director
- Christine V. Vieira, Office Assistant/Clerk
- Patrick Lamb, Assistant Ethics Enforcement Officer
- Brian O'Dowd, Assistant General Counsel
- Barbara Housen, General Counsel
- Cynthia Isales, Assistant General Counsel
- Mark Wasielewski, Assistant Ethics Enforcement Officer
- Peter Lewandowski, Assistant General Counsel

The following topics were discussed during the meeting (numbers do not correspond with agenda):

1. Benjamin Bycel, Executive Director, reviewed his Director's report for the Board. Please see the Executive Director's report for entirety.
 - a. A new Office Assistant will begin in early February.
 - b. Iris D'Oleo-Edwin and David Noell worked very hard on the Lobbyist Filing System. The next task at hand is exploring the Statements of Financial Interests online and we believe we will meet the filing deadline of 5/1/07.

- c. He has met with the Leadership of the House and staff people and we have newly proposed “Q” as those interested parties have indicated that the proposal won’t pass as drafted. (The newly revised proposal was passed around). “Q” is the 3rd most important issue for the legislature this session.
 - d. Payments to the Board Members for services rendered in their official capacity have been sent out and should be received by mid-next week. If you have any questions or discrepancies, please call Ben or Wendy.
2. Minutes for the December 14, 2006 meeting were presented to the Board. **Patricia Hendel, Chairperson, entertained a motion for approval. The motion was moved by Board member Enid Oresman and seconded by Vice-Chairperson Robert Worgaftik. Seven (7) Board members voted in favor. Sister Sally & Rebecca Doty, Board Members, abstained as they were not in attendance for the 12/14/6 meeting.** As noted in the meeting by Board Member Michael Rion, these minutes were much more helpful and detailed.
3. The 2007 calendar year regular Board meeting schedule was presented in its entirety.
4. Peter Lewandowski, Assistant General Counsel, spoke to the draft response to request for Advisory Opinion No. 4580 which came to the Legal division from Thomas K. Jones, Ethics Enforcement Officer of the Office of State Ethics, inquiring as to whether his continuing involvement in an adjunct teaching position at the University of Connecticut School of Law (Law School) in any way violates the Code of Ethics for Public Officials. **Chairperson Hendel entertained a motion for discussion (not voting) of the advisory opinion. The motion was moved by Board Member Michael Rion and seconded by Board member Sister Sally Tolles. The vote was unanimous to discuss the opinion. Chairperson Hendel entertained a motion to adopt the advisory opinion. Six (6) Board members voted not to adopt the advisory opinion and three (3) Board members, Michael Rion, Dennis Riley, and Sister Sally Tolles voted to adopt the opinion.**
5. Cynthia Isales, Assistant General Counsel, spoke to the reconsideration of Advisory Opinion No. 97-20 inquiring about the application of General Statutes §1-84(o) and §1-97(d) to registered client lobbyists and for §1-84(o), who constitutes the executive head of an agency. **Chairperson Hendel entertained a motion to adopt the advisory opinion. The motion was moved by Board member Rion and seconded by Board member Oresman. All Board members voted unanimously in favor.**

6. Cynthia Isales, Assistant General Counsel, spoke to the request for Advisory Opinion No. 4441 received from Patrick Lamb, Assistant Ethics Enforcement Officer, asking about how the requirement that a legislative reception be “publicly noticed” is satisfied. **Board Member Riley entertained a motion to adopt the advisory opinion. The motion was moved by Board Member Scott Storms and seconded by Board Member Oresman. All Board members voted unanimously in favor.**

7. Brian O’Dowd, Assistant General Counsel, spoke to the draft response to a request for consideration from Attorney Martin Libbin, Deputy Director, Legal Services Unit, Judicial Branch, Court Operations Division. Attorney Libbin has asked how the gift ban in §1-84(m) of the Connecticut General Statutes applies to gifts given to employees of the judicial branch by attorneys admitted to practice law in Connecticut. More specifically, he asks, for purposes of that provision: (1) whether such attorneys are “directly regulated” by the Superior Court, and (2) whether the judicial branch and its components constitute a single state “department or agency”. It shall be noted that due to a possible conflict of interest, Board Members Sister Sally Tolles and Scott Storms removed themselves from the Board room as this discussion and vote ensued. **Chairperson Hendel entertained a motion to adopt the advisory opinion. The motion was moved by Board Member Riley and seconded by Vice Chairperson Worgaftik. All Board members present (7) voted unanimously in favor.**

8. Draft regulations have been given to the Board to review changes that are being suggested by the OSE.

The discussion was opened to public comments and a gentleman visiting from Massachusetts inquired about a letter and was referred to the originator of the letter, DAS.

Board Member, Scott Storms, suggested the following line to be added after approval of minutes pertaining to public comment: “Public Comment in relation to agenda items” it should be mentioned before discussion of opinions so that the Board may take comments from the public into consideration. “Public Comment” will also be added before the conclusion of the Board meeting.

Benjamin Bycel, Executive Director of the OSE also suggested that the Board entertain a different location within the state of CT to allow for transparency and to let the Citizens of CT know that we do listen to them.

The Board Members briefly discussed the possibility of loss of pensions by state officials convicted of a felony. It was suggested that the discussion be placed on the agenda for February’s Board meeting.

The public session of the Board meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m. and the Citizen’s Ethics Advisory Board Members entered into Executive Session. **Board Member**

Scott Storms moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the preliminary evaluation process of the Executive Director. Board Member Dennis Riley seconded and the Board voted unanimously to go into Executive Session.

The Board Members came out of Executive Session at 3:40 p.m. **Board Member Storms motioned to adjourn the Executive Session. Dennis Riley seconded the motion. The seven (7) remaining Board Members---Patricia Hendel, Chairperson, Robert Worgaftik, Vice-Chairperson, and Board Members Michael Rion, Dennis Riley, Enid Oresman, Jaclyn Bernstein, and Scott Storms---voted unanimously to adjourn the Executive Session and the Board meeting.** The Board meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine V. Vieira
Clerk, Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board

Approved: _____