

September 27, 2012

### Advisory Opinion Update

On September 20, 2012, the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board met and decided on the opinion summarized below. Click the AO number below to read the full text of the opinion.

#### **ADVISORY OPINION NO. 2012-10, Application of the Code of Ethics for Independent Contractors Hired by a Quasi-Public Agency**

The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board concluded that the restrictions in General Statutes §1-86e do not apply to consultants and independent contractors hired by quasi-public agencies.

### Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board Action – Use of Office Provision

#### **Connecticut Citizen's Ethics Board Issues \$10,000 Penalty**

John Tricarico, formerly of Southington and a former employee at the Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency, used his authority in violation of the Code of Ethics over a subcontractor to solicit free or discounted gifts, services and other items of value, which included lunch and dinners, tickets to Red Sox and Yankee baseball games, tickets to concerts, the use of subcontractor vehicles for personal use and job interviews for relatives.

The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board imposed a \$10,000 civil penalty.

Section 1-86(e) of the Code of Ethics prohibits a person hired by the state as a consultant or independent contractor to use the authority provided to the person under the contract "... to obtain financial gain for the person, an employee of the person or a member of the immediate family of any such person or employee..."

View: (1) Complaint for [Docket No.: 2011-69](#) in the Matter of John Tricarico.

### Enforcement Actions – Revolving Door Provision

**Docket No. 2011-60:** In the Matter of a Complaint against Cira Romann. On September 12, 2012, the Ethics Enforcement Officer of the Office of State Ethics ("OSE") and the Respondent settled this matter by entering into a Stipulation and Consent Order. The OSE and Respondent later entered into an agreement to suspend payment of penalty on September 20, 2012. The Complaint alleged that the Respondent, a former employee of the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) violated section 1-84(q) for counseling, authorizing and/or sanctioning" the former employee to violate the Code by (1) encouraging the former state employee to represent an individual with a pending CHRO action by introducing them; (2) providing the former state employee with confidential information regarding the CHRO matter in which the former state employee represented the individual; and (3) providing the former state employee with updates regarding the CHRO's strategy with respect to the matter in which the former state employee represented the individual. Respondent was penalized \$6000 for her conduct, \$4000 of which was suspended by the Board.

**Docket No. 2011-57:** In the Matter of a Complaint against Tucker McWeeney. On September 21, 2012, the Ethics Enforcement Officer of the Office of State Ethics ("OSE") and the Respondent settled this matter by entering into a Stipulation and Consent Order. The Complaint alleged that the Respondent, a former employee of the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) violated section 1-84b(b) for representing someone for compensation before his former agency within a year of his departure from CHRO. Respondent paid a penalty of \$2500 in resolution of the matter.

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