

January 31, 2012

Advisory Opinion Update

On January 26, 2012 the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board met and decided on the opinions, summarized below. Click on the AO number to read the full text of the opinion.

[ADVISORY OPINION NO. 2012-1](#), Application of the Code of Ethics to Commission of Education

The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board concluded that, because the Commissioner of Education has no financial interest in either Achievement First or Amistad Academy, and because neither entity is an "associated" business, he is free to take official action that would affect charter schools generally or those entities specifically.

[ADVISORY OPINION NO. 2012-2](#), Application of the Code of Ethics to Members of the Connecticut Bar Examining Committee

The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board concluded that members of the Connecticut Bar Examining Committee ("CBEC"), appointed by judges, are not public officials pursuant to General Statutes §1-79 (k). CBEC members are not, therefore, subject to the Code of Ethics for Public Officials.

You may search Advisory Opinions by using the search engine located at the top right side of our website: www.ct.gov/ethics.

Administrative Lobbying – Be Aware

While legislative lobbying (any lobbying that affects legislation) is generally easy to understand, the less-obvious administrative lobbying can go unnoticed.

Administrative lobbying means lobbying that affects the rules or regulations of an executive agency. This also includes lobbying that affects the actions of an executive or quasi-public agency regarding a contract, grant, award, purchasing agreement, etc.

All individuals or entities who pay or receive \$2,000 in a calendar year for legislative lobbying, administrative lobbying, or a combination of the two, must register with the OSE and wear an identifying badge. If you notice that someone visiting your agency is engaging in lobbying activity but is not registered, please refer them to the OSE for assistance.

A complete list of registered lobbyists as well as associated [lobbyist reports](#) are available on our website.

Updates to Ethics Liaison List

The Office of State Ethics maintains a [liaison/compliance officer list](#). Consolidations, reorganizations and other changes at state agencies may result in changes to this list. Please send any deletions or additions to this list, including names and email addresses, to nancy.nicolescu@ct.gov.

Designation of Filers of Statements of Financial Interests

As we begin to prepare for the May 1, 2012 Statements of Financial Interests filing deadline; retirements, layoffs and reorganizations may require changes to the list of required SFI filers.

Please take some time during the upcoming weeks to update the list of SFI filers using the [online filing system](#). If you have forgotten your password, follow these instructions to access your personal and secure online account:

1. Visit the [online filing system](#).
2. Click on "Forgot Password?" at the upper right hand of the screen.
3. Enter your current state e-mail address.

A unique password will then be e-mailed to you. For additional information or assistance please contact Ann.Morgan@ct.gov.

Education and Training 2012

Pursuant to Section 1-81 of the Connecticut General States the Office of State Ethics is responsible to provide yearly training to all state employees regarding the Code of Ethics.

In-Person Training

The Office of State Ethics will continue to offer in-person training to public officials, state employees, lobbyists, state contractors, and other interested groups. To schedule a training workshop, please fill out the [Training Request Form](#) or contact the OSE at 860-263-2400.

The February monthly general training on the Code of Ethics for Public Officials and State Employees will take place at the OSE on **Wednesday, February 22, 2012**. Please register new employees and any employee who may have missed a training opportunity.

Online Training

This interactive, [online training](#) course on the Code of Ethics for Public Officials and State Employees has recently been revised and updated to provide more content and to reflect changes in the law. Those who finish this training will receive a printable certificate to verify course completion.

Web-streaming Video

The [Web-streaming video](#) version of our comprehensive ethics training features presentations from numerous OSE staff members regarding the provisions of the Code of Ethics. This training can be viewed as a whole, or in parts that cover specific sections of the law. Such training is also available on DVD; free copies are provided to state agencies and other regulated groups upon request.

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