

August 31, 2009

New Advisory Opinions

On August 27, 2009, the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board met and decided on two new opinions, summarized below. Click on the AO number to read the full text of the opinion.

[AO 2009-7](#), Application of the Code of Ethics for Public Officials to a Member of the Renewable Energy Investments Board

The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board concluded that a Renewable Energy Investments (aka Clean Energy Fund) Board Member may take official action regarding a loan request, as he has neither a substantial nor potential conflict of interests.

[AO 2009-8](#), Application of the \$1,000 Limit to the "Major Life Event" Gift Exception

The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board concluded that the \$1,000 gift limit for a major life event applies to the aggregate of all things of value provided by a restricted donor to a public official for the occasion. For example, in the event of a wedding, \$500 could be given at the bachelor party and \$500 could be presented at the reception, as the aggregate is in keeping with the \$1,000 limit. On the other hand, it would be impermissible for \$1,000 to be given at the bachelor party and \$1,000 to be given at the reception, as the aggregate would be \$2,000 for one event, thus over the permitted limit.

Special Notice for HR Directors

Employees leaving state service receive a packet for departing officials from their Human Resources Department. This packet contains a checklist for the departing official to complete. Please remind your HR Director that the checklist should include a box denoting whether or not the departing employee was a designated SFI filer. The presence of this "SFI Designee" box will give your agency and the OSE a valuable heads-up and will help ensure that the departing individual is timely notified of his or her final filing requirement.

Quarterly Training at OSE

The OSE will host a quarterly training session on Part I of the Code of Ethics for State Employees at its office on October 14, 2009, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. This is the perfect opportunity for new state employees as well as any employees who might have missed an in-person training event at your agency. ***Space is limited to 15 participants and registration is required. The registration deadline for this session is October 9, 2009.*** To register, send an e-mail to meredith.trimble@ct.gov and include: participant's name, agency, e-mail address and phone number. Registration will be on a first-come-first-served basis. The OSE is located at 18-20 Trinity Street, Suite 205, Hartford, CT.

We will begin the program again in January 2010, and will expand our offerings to include roundtable workshops on specific areas of the Ethics Code such as gift provisions, outside employment, and leaving state service.