

August 24, 2010

Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board

The regular meeting of the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board of the Office of State Ethics which was scheduled to be held on Thursday, August 19, 2010, at 1:00 p.m. was cancelled. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 23, 2010, at 1:00 p.m. on the 5th Floor, State Elections Enforcement Commission, Conference Room, 18-20 Trinity Street, Hartford, CT, 06106.

Ethics Matters Conference 2010 – Save the Date

October 1, 2010, is a significant date for the Office of State Ethics. On this date five years ago, the members of the newly-created Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board began operations of the Office of State Ethics, which was established following the dissolution of the State Ethics Commission. Five years later, the Office of State Ethics is a fully operational regulatory agency fulfilling its mission to ensure honesty, integrity and accountability in state government by providing education and interpretation of the State Codes of Ethics for public officials, state employees and lobbyists; fairly and vigorously prosecuting violations, when necessary; and providing transparency for Connecticut's citizens through the lobbyist reporting system and the financial disclosure system for public officials and state employees.

Event: Ethics Matters Conference 2010

Keynote speaker: Dr. Michael Rion

Date: Friday, October 1, 2010

Location: Legislative Office Building, 2nd Floor

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Be sure to take a look at the full event [agenda](#) and register online today.

Please inform your agency employees of this event.

Liaison Feedback

In 2008, the OSE sought feedback about the educational tools we provide to liaisons. We're doing so again. In addition to providing this monthly communication to you for dissemination to your agency personnel, training materials for your use are available on our website. To determine what is working and what we can improve upon, we need your feedback:

- What is your process for sharing information contained in the monthly emails?
- Are you utilizing the following education tools? If so, how?
 - in-person training
 - quarterly roundtables
 - online training
 - PowerPoint presentations
 - guides
 - handouts
 - streaming video on our website
 - posters
 - DVDs (copies available on request)
- What other actions are you practicing at your agency, such as serving as the point person for legal questions asked by your agency personnel and keeping a record of the OSE-supplied answers; or keeping your agency's own ethics policy up to date and on file with the OSE, in some cases asking for the OSE's review before the policy is disseminated?
- Do you have a FAQ that you would like to see addressed in this forum?
- What can we do to further support you?

Please e-mail feedback to me at carol.carson@ct.gov by September 3, 2010. I will summarize the comments and 'best practices' in a future message.

Quarterly Roundtable – What is a Gift and Can I Accept It?

The OSE will host its next quarterly roundtable on Thursday, October 14, 2010, from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the OSE office. The topic for this roundtable is “**What is a Gift and Can I Accept It?**” Anyone who is interested in learning more about gift restrictions and exceptions is encouraged to attend. Participants will also have the opportunity to receive in-depth responses to any other questions regarding the Code of Ethics. ***Space is limited to 15 participants and registration is required. The registration deadline for this session is October 7, 2010.***

To register, send an e-mail to yolanda.perez@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.

Answer of the Month: Pursuing Post-State Employment While Still Employed by the State

Generally, a state employee is permitted to discuss potential post-state job opportunities with private entities. For exceptions to this general rule, see Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-84b (c), (d), and (e). However, to avoid a use of state position for financial gain, the state employee must have nothing to do with his or her potential employer's state business while he or she is actively pursuing a particular job opportunity. Active pursuit of a job opportunity has been defined as the point at which the state employee is scheduled for an interview with the prospective employer. If a state employee is required to take an action having to do with his or her potential employer's state business, the state employee must prepare and deliver to his or her superior a written statement describing the potential conflict, and the superior must then refer the particular matter to someone at or above the state employee's level. (Please note that the state employee must also abide by the Code's revolving-door provisions once he or she leaves state service.)

Make Ethics Visible – New Poster!

The OSE is pleased to provide you with the seventh in a series of ethics posters ([attached](#)) for use in your agency. Feel free to post or distribute as you like, and look forward to more to come! Previous posters are available in the [Public Information](#) page of the OSE website, along with other materials addressing a variety of issues.