

March 29, 2010

New Advisory Opinions

On March 25, 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.

[Advisory Opinion No. 2010-2](#), Application of the Code of Ethics for Public Officials to Various Boards and Committees Affiliated with the Board of Education and Services for the Blind.

The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board concluded that members of the Board of Directors of the Board of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB) are "public officials," under the Code of Ethics, and are therefore subject to the Code and its revolving door restrictions. Members of other BESB-affiliated committees named in the opinion that are established to advise, recommend or consult with a public official or branch of government are not "public officials" solely by virtue of such membership and are thus not subject to the Code's restrictions, including the revolving door restrictions. Further, members of these bodies are not prohibited from receiving benefits as clients of BESB by virtue of their service on them.

[Advisory Opinion No. 2010-3](#), Complimentary Tickets to an Inaugural Ball Offered to Public Officials by the Event's Sponsor.

The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board concluded that public officials invited by the Trustees of the First Company Governor's Foot Guard to attend the Inaugural Ball by virtue of their state positions may accept admission to the event, including any food or beverage provided there, under the charitable/civic-event gift exception in General Statutes § 1-79 (e) (14).

Quarterly Roundtable – Necessary Expenses

The OSE will host its next quarterly roundtable on April 15, 2010 from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. The topic for this roundtable is **Necessary Expenses**. Anyone who seeks an overview of necessary expenses including active participation in an event, permissible reimbursement of travel expenses from various sources, and filing with the OSE 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 April 8, 2010.***

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.

Statements of Financial Interests

The annual Statements of Financial Interests (SFIs) are due to the OSE by May 1, 2010. If you are a liaison with SFI designees in your agency, please utilize the [online system](#) to monitor the status of your filers and send them periodic reminders. If you are an SFI filer, please take a few moments and complete your form [online](#) today!

Make Ethics Visible – New Poster!

The OSE is pleased to provide you with the second in a series of ethics posters ([attached](#)) for your use in your agency. Feel free to post or distribute as you like, and look forward to more to come!