

# State Elections Enforcement Commission

## Press Release



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### **STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION ORDERS MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR MAKING A CONTRIBUTION IN THE NAME OF ANOTHER**

**HARTFORD, CT** – July 23, 2008 - The State Elections Enforcement Commission adopted a stipulated agreement today to settle a case which originated from a referral by the United States Attorney.

The settlement was reached with two attorneys from the Danbury area: Jack Garamella and Christopher Leonard. Both are partners in the law firm Collins, Hannafin, Garamella, Jaber & Tuozzolo, P.C. Each attorney paid the maximum \$2,000 civil penalty under these facts for making a contribution in the name of another. Jack Garamella gave \$500 to Chris Leonard and asked him to make a \$500 contribution to the 2004 re-election campaign of State Senator David Cappiello, because he did not wish to be identified as giving a contribution to a Republican while he was seeking the Democratic office of Judge of Probate.

Leonard made a prohibited contribution by accepting the money, and then writing a check in his name to the Cappiello campaign. The Commission imposed the maximum civil penalty as it considers this a serious violation. Concealing the true source of a candidate contribution frustrates the purpose of disclosure laws.

During the investigation, the Commission worked cooperatively with the U.S. Attorney's office, and the Respondents fully cooperated with the Commission's investigation.

For more information please contact Nancy S. Nicolescu, Director of Communications, Legislative Affairs and Candidate Services for the State Elections Enforcement Commission at [nancy.nicolescu@ct.gov](mailto:nancy.nicolescu@ct.gov).

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## SEEC Grants Awards to Candidate Only Three Commission Meetings Remain

HARTFORD, CT – September 26, 2008 – The State Elections Enforcement Commission approved 27 grant applications at the Commission meeting Wednesday. The grant application deadline is October 10<sup>th</sup>

The final three Commission meetings to consider grant applications are October 1<sup>st</sup>, October 8<sup>th</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup>. Candidates who have not yet applied for a grant must submit their applications before 5:00 p.m. October 2<sup>nd</sup> to be considered at the October 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Commission has encouraged applicants to apply early to avoid missing critical deadlines which would result in failure to qualify for a grant.

To date, 270 candidates have declared that they intend to participate in the Citizens' Election Program for the 2008 General Election; 62 State Senate candidates and 208 State Representative candidates.

Since the program was launched June 3, 2008, 155 candidates have received General Election Grants from the Citizens' Election Program; 22 State Senate grants and 133 State Representative grants.

The following candidates received grants Wednesday: Themis Klarides, Lori Musco, Bob Duff, Catherine Johnson, Michelle Cook, David Bauer, Scott Saunders, Ellen Wink, Deb Peruzotti, Kathy Tallarita, Richard Ferrari, Robert Russo, Michael Royston, John Rigby, Timothy O'Brien, Lawrence Miller, John Harkins, Brett Eisenlohr, Gail Hamm, John Hetherington, Robert Godfrey, Jim O'Rourke, Ryan Barry, John Piscopo, Robert Heagney, Matthew Conway and Christopher Perone.