Public Comment: Advisory Opinion No. 2019-3

On September 12, 2019, Attorney Ernestine Yuille Weaver of the Connecticut State Colleges & Universities filed a Petition for Advisory Opinion on behalf of the Connecticut Community Colleges (CCC), asking the Citizen’s Ethics Advisory Board (Board) to address the following issue:

How to comply with the State Code of Ethics while enabling educational travel opportunities for CCC students when these opportunities must be purchased from third parties who rely on CCC faculty to recruit and coordinate students to travel during breaks and while faculty are on their personal time; and, in exchange, faculty are provided the opportunity to participate on the excursion free of cost.

At its September 19, 2019 regular meeting, the Board voted to grant the Petition, agreeing to issue an Advisory Opinion, and voted to order the matter set for a hearing, which will be conducted by two of its members, who will ascertain the facts and report thereon to the Board with a recommendation for action.

Prior to the hearing (which will likely take place in early November), the Board, pursuant to § 1-92-39 (a) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, is providing an opportunity for comments (relevant facts, legal arguments, and opinions) from persons interested in this issue.

The comment period will run for 30 days, commencing October 1, 2019. Comments must be received on or before 5:00 p.m. October 31, 2019, must reference proposed Advisory Opinion No. 2019-3, and must be addressed to the Legal Division, CT Office of State Ethics, 18-20 Trinity St., 2nd Floor, Hartford, CT 06106. Comments may be filed electronically at ose@ct.gov or on paper. All comments are “public records” and, upon request, will be disclosed in their entirety under the State’s Freedom of Information Act.

The Petition for Advisory Opinion submitted on behalf of the Connecticut Community Colleges and related public information can be accessed at www.ct.gov/ethics. All materials can be obtained at the OSE’s offices.

For additional information contact: Legal Division, Office of State Ethics at 860-263-2400 or at ose@ct.gov.

September 30, 2019

Peter Lewandowski, Executive Director
Office of State Ethics