



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

CITIZEN'S ETHICS ADVISORY BOARD OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS 18-20 Trinity Street, Hartford, CT 06106

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 21, 2019 REGULAR MEETING

The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board ("Board") of the Office of State Ethics ("OSE") held a Regular Meeting on Thursday, November 21, 2019, in the 5th Floor Conference Room, 18-20 Trinity Street, Hartford, CT 06106.

Chair of the Board, Dena Castricone, called the meeting to order at 1:09 p.m.

The following Board members were present:

Dena Castricone, Chair
Mary Bigelow
Charles F. Chiusano
Karen Christiana
N. Beth Cook

Jason Farrell, Vice-Chair
Kevin Johnston
Cheryl Lipson
Nichelle Mullins

The following staff members of the OSE were present:

Peter Lewandowski, Executive Director
Brian O'Dowd, General Counsel
Mark Wasielewski, Ethics Enforcement Officer
Nancy Nicolescu, Director of Education &
Communications
Marianne Sadowski, Deputy General Counsel
Marc Crayton, Deputy Ethics Enforcement
Officer

Diane Buxo, Assistant General Counsel
Jennifer Montgomery, Assistant Ethics
Enforcement Officer
Malissa Hurry, Paralegal
Alaaedin Ali, Information Technology
Analyst III
Melissa Hamilton, Clerk of the Board

The following topics were addressed during the meeting:

1. Karen Christiana, an appointee of the Speaker of the House to the Board, was sworn in by the Board's Chair, Dena Castricone.
2. The appointment of Melissa Hamilton as Clerk of the Board was presented to the Board for approval.

On the motion of Ms. Cook, seconded by Ms. Lipson, the Board voted nine (9) to zero (0) to appoint Melissa Hamilton as Clerk of the Board.

3. The minutes of the October 17, 2019 Regular Meeting were presented to the Board for approval.

On the motion of Mr. Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Lipson, the Board voted eight (8) to zero (0), with Ms. Mullins abstaining, to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2019 Regular Meeting.

4. Deputy Ethics Enforcement Officer Marc Crayton explained the process of the random selection of client lobbyists for the audit, pursuant to General Statutes § 1-96a (b), while Chair Castricone noted that fifteen (15) lobbyists will be selected: the first ten (10) lobbyists will be subjected to the audit and the next five (5) lobbyists will serve as alternates in the event any of the first ten (10) selected lobbyists were audited in the prior two audit periods. Executive Director Lewandowski added that immediately following the selection of the lobbyists for audit, the names will be posted on the OSE's webpage.
5. The following client lobbyists were chosen randomly for audit, pursuant to General Statutes § 1-96a (b). The audits will be conducted in the order that the lobbyists were selected. The period to be audited is January 1, 2017, to December 31, 2019.

- CSC Holdings, LLC
- AFCO AvPORTS Management LLC
- Seanco LLC
- Apple Inc.
- 1st Alliance Lending LLC
- Walmart, Inc.
- CT Chapter of the American Society of Landscape
- CleanSlate Centers, Inc.
- Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center
- CT Association for the Performing Arts

Lobbyist that were chosen randomly to serve as alternates:

- The Birken Manufacturing Company
- Hartford HealthCare
- Connecticut After School Network
- CT Medical Cannabis Council, Inc.
- CT Association of Prosecutors

6. Chair Castricone presented the Chairperson's report. She presented the proposed 2020 schedule for the regular meetings and the UAPA hearings to the Board for review and adoption. Chair Castricone stated that she will serve as the Hearing Officer for the UAPA hearing(s) on January 16, 2020.

On the motion of Mr. Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Mullins, the Board voted nine (9) to zero (0) to approve the 2020 regular Board meeting and UAPA hearing schedule.

7. General Counsel O'Dowd discussed the Petition for Advisory Opinion from Senator Derek Slap, and recommended that the Board grant the Petition. He noted that in the future his letter to the Board accompanying any Petitions will be more substantive, offering reason(s) for recommendation or disapproval.

Following discussion and on the motion of Ms. Cook, seconded by Mr. Johnston, the Board voted nine (9) to zero (0) to grant the Petition for an Advisory Opinion from Senator Derek Slap.

8. The Board reviewed and considered Hearing Officer Jason Farrell's Report and the proposed final decision in the Matter of Raymond Dussault, Docket No. 2019-02UP.

Following discussion and on the motion of Mr. Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Mullins, the Board voted nine (9) to zero (0) to approve the proposed final decision in the Matter of Raymond Dussault, Docket No. 2019-02UP.

9. The Board reviewed and considered Hearing Officer Jason Farrell's Report and the proposed final decision in the Matter of Blue Ribbon Strategies, LLC, Docket No. 2019-01UL.

Following discussion and on the motion of Mr. Johnston, seconded by Mr. Chiusano, the Board voted nine (9) to zero (0) to approve the proposed final decision in the Matter of Blue Ribbon Strategies, LLC, Docket No. 2019-01UL.

10. Hearing Officers Jason Farrell and N. Beth Cook presented their reports to the Board in regards to the November 13, 2019 hearing in connection with the Petition submitted by Ernestine Weaver, Esq., on behalf of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities. Board member Cook noted the benefits of the hearing of allowing "real time" information and better understanding of the issue at hand and that she recommends conducting Board hearings for any controversial Petitions for Advisory Opinion in the future. Chair Castricone expressed to the Board and the Legal Division that among other things: such as testimonies obtained at the November 13, 2019 Hearing, the inclusion of all hypothetical scenarios and all Statutes that could be applicable to the issue at hand should be considered when rendering an Opinion on the Petition submitted by Attorney Weaver. Chair Castricone also noted that the next step in the process is the drafting of an Opinion by the Legal Division for the Board's review and consideration. Chair Castricone thanked Board members Farrell and Cook for their services as Hearing Officers at the November 13, 2019 hearing.

11. General Counsel O'Dowd presented the Legal Division Report. He welcomed the new Deputy General Counsel, Marianne Sadowski, to the team and noted her extremely helpful contributions thus far. Specifically, he noted Attorney Sadowski's assistance with the November 13, 2019 hearing regarding the Petition submitted by Ernestine Weaver, Esq., and that she will be taking the lead in drafting the Opinion on that matter. Board member Cook concurred with General Counsel O'Dowd's assessment of Deputy General Counsel Sadowski and expressed her own gratitude of Ms. Sadowski's assistance before, during and after the November 13, 2019 hearing.

12. Director of Education and Communications Nancy Nicolescu presented the Training and Media Report. She reported the migration of the OSE's new web portal in mid-October and her continued efforts to coordinate and develop additional training programs.
13. Ethics Enforcement Officer Wasielewski presented the Enforcement Division Report, noting that one matter was continued and is currently scheduled for a UAPA hearing on Thursday, January 16, 2019. He reported the Division's receipt and completion of a number of background checks for Executive Judicial nominees and its efforts in assisting the agency to obtain funding for an Investigator.
14. Deputy Ethics Enforcement Officer Crayton presented the audit report for the Connecticut Food Association, for which there were five adverse findings

On the motion of Mr. Johnston, seconded by Mr. Chiusano, the Board voted nine (9) to zero (0) to approve the audit report for the Connecticut Food Association.

15. The reconsideration of the lobbyist audit report for Public Consulting Group c/o Multistate Associates was presented to the Board for approval.

On the motion of Mr. Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Lipson, the Board voted nine (9) to zero (0) to approve the reconsideration of the audit report for Public Consulting Group c/o Multistate Associates.

16. Deputy Ethics Enforcement Officer Crayton presented the amended audit report for Public Consulting Group c/o Multistate Associates, for which there were the same three adverse findings as in the original report; however, the computation that gave rise to the adverse findings now varies from the original computation in that it reflects expenditures reported when 'paid' as opposed to 'accrued.'

On the motion of Mr. Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Cook, the Board voted nine (9) to zero (0) to accept the amended audit report for Public Consulting Group c/o Multistate Associates.

17. Executive Director Lewandowski presented his report to the Board. He welcomed new Board member Karen Christiana and new Deputy General Counsel Marianne Sadowski. He updated the Board on personnel changes with Human Resources and informed the Board of the agency's continued efforts to obtain funding for two additional positions: Legal Investigator and Clerical staff member. Mr. Lewandowski thanked Board members Farrell and Cook for their assistance with the November 13, 2019 hearing on the Petition for Advisory Opinion submitted by Ernestine Weaver and thanked Director of Education & Communications Nicolescu and OSE staff members Ann Morgan and Alaaedin Ali for their work on the migration of the OSE's new webpage. Executive Director Lewandowski also discussed his continued outreach to legislative leadership to discuss the work of the OSE and its legislative initiatives, and that the Municipal Ethics Sub-committee met prior to today's Board meeting to discuss a legislative proposal the agency plans to submit and the agency's plans to submit proposed legislative proposals to the Board at the December 2019 meeting. Executive Director Lewandowski ended his report with an update on the 2019 COGEL conference

attendance and informed the Board that the OSE's former Executive Director Carol Carson will be the recipient of the COGEL Award.

On the motion of Mr. Chiusano, seconded by Mr. Johnston, the Board voted nine (9) to zero (0) to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,


Melissa Hamilton

Clerk of the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board
Office of State Ethics

Date approved
(By the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board)