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Former CT Port Authority Board Member pays \$18,500 for Violations of the Code of Ethics for Public Officials and the Code of Ethics for Lobbyists

Hartford – At the June monthly meeting, the [Citizen’s Ethics Advisory Board](#) voted to approve a Settlement Agreement, in [Docket Number 2022-01](#), In the Matter of a Complaint Against Henry W. Juan, III. The Settlement Agreement requires former CT Port Authority (CPA) Board Member, Henry Juan, to pay \$18,500 to the state to resolve allegations that he violated both the Code of Ethics for Public Officials and the Code of Ethics for Lobbyists.

In 2016, Juan was appointed to the Board of Directors of the CPA. Later that year, Juan became a founding member of Seabury PFRA, LLC AKA Seabury Maritime. It was known shortly thereafter in 2017 and 2018 that Seabury Maritime sought to gain contracts and other business from the CPA.

The State alleged that Juan used his board position to attempt to influence the staff and other members of the CPA to influence their decisions which would ultimately benefit Seabury Maritime, his own company.

During this period of time, Juan did acknowledge that he had a conflict of interest between his service on the board and his substantial involvement with Seabury Maritime while the company sought to do business with the CPA. When he signed the agreement, Juan did not admit liability. \$18,500 is one of the highest dollar settlements issued by the Office of State Ethics.

“We are grateful for the significant assistance provided by the Office of the Attorney General,” stated **Executive Director Peter Lewandowski**. “Misuse of public office is the precise offense that spurred the creation of the State Ethics Commission back in 1977. Now, nearly 50 years later, we are continuing this important work by ensuring that officials are not leveraging their position or knowledge for personal financial gain. As famously stated, a public office is a public trust. In enforcing state ethics laws, the Office of State Ethics sends a clear message that there is no tolerance for gamesmanship in state government.”

To read the entire Settlement Agreement click [HERE](#).

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(Background Summary on Page 2.)

The Connecticut Office of State Ethics’ mission is to ensure honesty, integrity, and accountability in state government through education, interpretation, and enforcement of the State of Connecticut Code of Ethics. To contact us please visit ct.gov/ethics or call us at (860) 263-2400.

BACKGROUND:

The CPA is a state quasi-public agency duty, power, and authority includes, in part, the coordination of, development of, and marketing of Connecticut's ports and harbors; as well as the maintenance and operation of state ports under the CPA's control, including the state pier in New London, Connecticut ("New London State Pier").

In 2017 and through on or about February 7, 2018, in his capacity as a CPA Board member, the Respondent performed tasks related to the New London State Pier development efforts. During the same time period, the state alleged that Mr. Juan, despite receiving advice and despite his own acknowledgement of a conflict and/or potential conflict on multiple occasions, used his official position to advance Seabury Maritime's interests in doing business with the CPA relative to the New London State Pier.

The state alleged that the Respondent was compensated by Seabury Maritime in doing so. The State alleged that the Respondent's conduct triggered several violations of the Code of Ethics for Public Officials, including Section 1-84 (c) (use of office and disclosure of confidential information for personal gain), (b) (acceptance of other employment that would impair a public official's independence of judgment as to official duties), and (a) (having a financial interest in business or transactions that are in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of state duties). The conduct described included, but was not limited to, using his access to CPA staff members under his authority and CPA Board members, provided by virtue of his Board position, to influence and/or attempt to influence the CPA selection process with respect to a Request for Proposal; negotiating with the CPA to secure future payments for Seabury Maritime for actions that the Respondent had taken as a CPA Board member; and, advising CPA staff members under his authority and CPA Board members as to the New London Pier efforts in order to benefit Seabury Maritime.

In addition, the State was prepared to prove at hearing that the Respondent should have registered and filed appropriate reports as a communicator lobbyist in 2017 and 2018, for his paid efforts to influence the administrative decisions of the CPA on behalf of his employer, Seabury Maritime.