



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

**CITIZEN'S ETHICS ADVISORY BOARD
OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS
165 Capitol Avenue, Suite 1200, Hartford, CT 06106**

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 19, 2024 REGULAR MEETING

The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board ("Board") of the Office of State Ethics ("OSE") held a Meeting on Thursday, December 19, 2024.

Chair of the Board, N. Beth Cook, called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

The following Board members were present:

N. Beth Cook, <i>Chair</i>	Dena Castricone (virtual)
Charles Chiusano, <i>Vice-Chair</i>	Cheryl Lipson
Mary Bigelow	Laura Schuyler (virtual)

The following staff members of the OSE were present:

Peter Lewandowski, <i>Executive Director</i>	Diane Buxo, <i>Assistant General Counsel</i>
Brian O'Dowd, <i>General Counsel</i>	Sam Rosengren, <i>Assistant Ethics Enforcement Officer</i>
Mark Wasielewski, <i>Ethics Enforcement Officer</i>	Carol Langevin, <i>Associate Accounts Examiner</i>
Sarah Clark, <i>Director of Education & Communications</i>	Malissa Hurry, <i>Paralegal Specialist</i> (Enforcement Division)
Marianne Sadowski, <i>Deputy General Counsel</i> (virtual)	Melissa Hamilton, <i>Paralegal Specialist</i> (Legal Division) & <i>Clerk of the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board</i>
Marc Crayton, <i>Deputy Ethics Enforcement Officer</i>	
Jennifer Montgomery, <i>Associate General Counsel</i>	

The following topics were addressed during the meeting:

1. The minutes of the November 21, 2024 regular meeting were presented to the Board for approval.

On the motion of Ms. Bigelow seconded by Ms. Lipson, the Board voted six (6) to zero (0) to approve the Minutes of the November 21, 2024 regular meeting.

2. Chair Cook presented the chairperson's report and discussed the need to form a committee to manage the performance evaluation of the OSE Executive Director. Ms. Lipson, Vice-Chair Chiusano, and Ms. Bigelow volunteered to be members of the committee.

3. A discussion on the Board's vacancies was held. An update from the appointing authorities on the subject was provided by Executive Director Peter Lewandowski.

4. Associate Accounts Examiner Carol Langevin presented three (3) client lobbyist audit reports for approval, none of which contained findings. Ms. Langevin noted that the client lobbyist audit for Google

LLC and its Affiliates was presented on the prior audit report template because the entity was selected in the prior year and before the new format/template was implemented.

On the motion of Ms. Lipson, seconded by Vice-Chair Chiusano, the Board voted six (6) to zero (0) to approve the audit report for VITAS Innovative Hospice Care.

On the motion of Vice-Chair Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Bigelow, the Board voted six (6) to zero (0) to approve the audit report for NRG Energy, Inc.

On the motion of Vice-Chair Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Lipson, the Board voted six (6) to zero (0) to approve the audit report for Google LLC and its Affiliates.

5. Ms. Langevin discussed the Client Lobbyist Audit Presentation that is provided to audit selectees as part of the audit process.
6. Deputy Ethics Enforcement Officer Marc Crayton presented the Gallo & Robinson, LLC communicator lobbyist audit report, which contained no findings, for approval.

On the motion of Vice-Chair Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Lipson, the Board voted six (6) to zero (0) to approve the audit report for Gallo & Robinson, LLC.

Chair Cook inquired as to, and Mr. Crayton provided a status update on, the client lobbyist NTE Energy matter.

7. Executive Director Lewandowski presented a description of the legislative proposals (which were discussed at last month's meeting) and the statutory language for consideration and approval.

On the motion of Vice-Chair Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Bigelow, the Board voted six (6) to zero (0) to approve the Legislative Proposals, as amended.

8. The Legal Division report was presented by General Counsel Brian O'Dowd, and an update regarding a Petition for Advisory Opinion was provided.
9. Ethics Enforcement Officer Mark Wasielewski presented the Enforcement Division report. A hearing officer for the enforcement hearings set for February 13, 2025, pursuant to the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act, was sought, and Chair Cook volunteered. Furthermore, Mr. Wasielewski highlighted the following items:
 - To date, the Division has opened 64 matters, which roughly doubles last year's investigated matters. He shared that there is no known contributing factor for the uptick.
 - The focus of the Division in the new year is lobbyists' compliance with financial reporting and registration.

Mr. Wasielewski introduced Sam Rosengren, new Assistant Ethics Enforcement Officer. Attorney Rosengren interned with the OSE years ago and worked in private practice immediately prior to rejoining the OSE. Mr. Rosengren's hiring results in a fully staffed Enforcement Division.

10. Director of Education & Communications, Sarah Clark, presented the Education & Communications report. Ms. Clark shared the following updates beyond her written report:

- The frequency of trainings has increased. Trainings are being conducted almost daily.
- Recent news reports have posed ethical questions for several state offices' practices.
- Lobbyist training scheduled at the Capitol on January 15th.

11. Executive Director Lewandowski presented the Executive Director report, highlighting the following items:

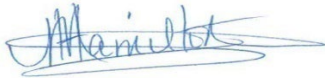
- The welcoming of new staff attorney, Sam Rosengren, for the OSE's Enforcement Division.
- Congratulations to Mr. Wasielewski for being nominated to serve as COGEL's 2026 president-elect. His term will begin in December 2025 and lasts for one year.
- COGEL conference attendance and remarks. Vice-Chair Chiusano and Mr. Wasielewski also shared remarks on their experiences at this year's COGEL conference.
- Advanced thanks to OSE staff in anticipation of the upcoming biennium registration filing season, the deadline for financial disclosure filings for client and communicator lobbyists, and the workload that accompanies such events.

12. Adjournment

On the motion of Mr. Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Lipson, the Board voted six (6) to zero (0) to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:48p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,



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

January 16, 2025

Date approved.

(By the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board)