



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 MARCH 19, 2026 REGULAR MEETING

The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board (Board) of the Office of State Ethics (OSE) held a Meeting on Thursday, March 19, 2026.

Chair of the Board, N. Beth Cook, called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

The following Board members were present:

N. Beth Cook, <i>Chair</i>	Cheryl Lipson
Charles Chiusano, <i>Vice-chair</i>	Kevin Profit (virtual)
Karess Cannon	Laura Schuyler (virtual)
Kenneth Greenberg, (virtual)	

The following staff members of the OSE were present:

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

The following topics were addressed during the meeting:

1. The Minutes of the February 19, 2026 Regular meeting were presented to the Board for approval.

On the motion of Vice-chair Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Lipson, with Ms. Cannon abstaining, the Board voted six (6) to zero (0) to approve the Minutes of the February 19, 2026 Regular meeting.

2. The Minutes of the February 19, 2026 Regular meeting of the Strategic Plan Subcommittee were presented to the subcommittee members for approval.

On the motion of Mr. Greenberg, seconded by Chair Cook, with Ms. Cannon abstaining, the Strategic Plan Subcommittee voted two (2) to zero (0) to approve the Minutes of its February 19, 2026 Regular meeting.

3. The Minutes of the February 19, 2026 Special meeting of the Subcommittee on Municipal Ethics were presented to the subcommittee members for approval.

On the motion of Vice-chair Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Lipson, the Subcommittee on Municipal Ethics voted four (4) to zero (0) to approve the Minutes of its February 19, 2026 Special meeting.

4. Chair Cook presented the chairperson's report. In collaboration with Executive Director Lewandowski and the Director of Education and Communications, Sarah Clark, and following questions from last month's Board meeting, Chair Cook prepared and circulated materials explaining to board members: (1) the functions of a state agency; and (2) the legislative process on how a proposal becomes law. She encouraged members to share feedback after reviewing the materials.
5. The Chief Compliance Officer and Ethics Liaison of the University of Connecticut (UConn) and UConn Health, Kimberly Fearney, presented the Revisions to UConn Policy on the Use of Students in Outside Employment, pursuant to General Statutes § 1-90a.

On the motion of Vice-chair Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Cannon, the Board voted seven (7) to zero (0) to approve the Revisions to UConn Policy on the Use of Students in Outside Employment, pursuant to General Statutes § 1-90a.

6. Vice-Chair Chiusano presented the report on the UConn Faculty Consulting Oversight Committee in compliance with General Statutes § 1-84 (r). He noted that UConn works very diligently to maintain exceptional oversight for "disclosure, review and management of conflicts of interest", and shared how UConn, in recent years, has managed research conducted in foreign countries.

Ms. Fearney, manager of the committee, was invited to provide additional comments. Ms. Fearney thanked the Board for the Code of Ethics "carve-out" provision and shared its benefits to student teaching/learning. She also assured the Board of the steps UConn continues to take to maintain compliance with the provision.

7. General Counsel O'Dowd presented the Petition for Advisory Opinion submitted by Andrew Frank, the new Deputy Commissioner of Energy of the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP). Mr. O'Dowd recommended that the Board approve the Petition.

On the motion of Vice-chair Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Cannon, the Board voted seven (7) to zero (0) to approve the Petition for Advisory Opinion by Andrew Frank.

8. Mr. O'Dowd presented Draft Advisory Opinion No. 2026-1 in response to the Petition submitted by Andrew Frank, Deputy Commissioner of Energy of DEEP.

On the motion of Vice-chair Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Cannon, the Board voted seven (7) to zero (0) to approve Draft Advisory Opinion No. 2026-1.

9. Mr. O'Dowd presented the Legal Division report. He noted that the Division anticipates another Petition for Advisory Opinion concerning an employee of the Department of Transportation (DOT) and his proposed outside employment that may involve the State of Connecticut.
10. Ethics Enforcement Officer Wasielewski requested a volunteer to serve as the hearing officer for hearings scheduled May 14, 2026, under the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act (UAPA), and Chair Cook volunteered. Mr. Wasielewski reminded the Board that Ms. Schuyler is scheduled to serve as hearing officer for UAPA hearings scheduled for April 9, 2026.

In addition, Mr. Wasielewski presented the following highlights from the Enforcement Division:

- Of the 65 matters that were opened because of the late filings of client lobbyists' combined third and fourth quarter financial disclosures (ETH-2D), and communicator lobbyists' annual financial disclosures (ETH-2A and ETH-2C), which were due on January 10, all but one matter has been resolved.
- To date, the Division has collected penalties in the amount of \$5,210.00.
- Up next is the enforcement of late filings related to (1) client lobbyists' first quarter ETH-2D disclosures; and (2) the 2025 Statements of Financial Interests (SFI), which are scheduled to begin following their respective filing deadlines of April 10 and May 1.

11. Education & Communications Director Clark presented the written Education & Communications report. Additionally, she noted that the 2025 SFIs filing initiatives are underway. She also shared that the first system-generated email reminder for the 2025 SFI filing occurred on March 17, 2026. She thanked Information Technology Analyst III Ann Morgan for her support with outreach efforts to all designated filers and assistance maintaining an up-to-date record of filers' information in the system.

Ms. Clark introduced college intern Clarissa Armata and briefly described the tasks which Clarissa is supporting. Ms. Armata addressed the Board with a brief overview of herself and her studies.

12. Mr. Lewandowski presented his report, welcoming Ms. Armata and then addressing the following items:

- **Board Vacancy.** He shared that the appointment from the Office of the Governor is still pending.
- **Budget.** He met with Senator Osten, co-chair of the Appropriations Committee, to discuss OSE's request to include another staff attorney in its budget.
- **Lobbyist Audits.** In the interim of seeking a candidate for the Associate Accounts Examiner vacancy, Mr. Lewandowski and Ms. Clark have been collecting documentation from audit selectees to shorten the downtime of resuming audits once the vacancy is filled.
- **Personnel Matters.** The Associate Accounts Examiner vacancy was advertised and is now closed, awaiting the end of the 2-week mandatory waiting period following a job posting before interviews can commence. Over 100 applications for the vacancy were received.

13. Mr. Lewandowski presented a legislative update, noting that both committees having cognizance over OSE—the Government Administration and Elections (GAE) Committee and the Government Oversight (GOS) Committee—have raised OSE's legislative proposals. He has met with co-chairs of both committees, ranking members, and legislative leaders of the House. Mr. Lewandowski shared that SB 323 (of the GOS Committee) and HB 5532 (of the GAE Committee) contain OSE's proposals, and that he has testified on both bills at recent public hearings.

He further notes that (1) on March 17, 2026, the GOS Committee voted SB 323 out of the committee, as a joint substitute bill, and with a unanimous vote; (2) SB 324 and SB 462, which involve establishing an office of government oversight housed in the legislative branch, are being monitored by OSE; and (3) written testimony in opposition to SB 425, which contains language requiring annual State Performance Plans (i.e., strategic plans) to be evaluated by the Office of Policy and Management, and not legislative committees of cognizance, was submitted.

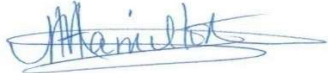
14. Chair Cook invited public comments, but no one from the public was present to provide any comments. She further noted that neither a Closed Session, nor an Executive Session is required.

15. Adjournment

On the motion of Ms. Cannon, seconded by Vice-chair Chiusano, the Board voted seven (7) to zero (0) to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,



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

April 16, 2026

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