



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 APRIL 16, 2026 REGULAR MEETING

The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board (Board) of the Office of State Ethics (OSE) held a Meeting on Thursday, April 16, 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, *Chair*

Charles Chiusano, *Vice-chair*

Karess Cannon (virtual)

Meaghan Cooper

Kenneth Greenberg

Kevin Profit

Laura Schuyler (virtual)

The following staff members of the OSE were present:

Peter Lewandowski, *Executive Director*

Brian O'Dowd, *General Counsel*

Sarah Clark, *Director of Education & Communications*

Marianne Sadowski, *Deputy General Counsel (virtual)*

Marc Crayton, *Deputy Ethics Enforcement Officer (virtual)*

Diane Buxo, *Assistant General Counsel (virtual)*

Alaaeldin "Al" Ali, *Information Technology Analyst II*

Melissa Hamilton, *Paralegal Specialist, Legal Division &
Clerk of the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board (virtual)*

The following topics were addressed during the meeting:

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

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

2. Chair Cook presented the chairperson's report.
3. General Counsel O'Dowd presented the Legal Division report. He added that the Petition for Advisory Opinion that the Division had been anticipating, concerning an employee of the Department of Transportation (DOT) and his proposed outside employment potentially involving the State of Connecticut, was received after the written report was submitted. He informed the Board of his plans to present the Petition for consideration, and possibly the Advisory Opinion for approval, at the next (May) meeting.

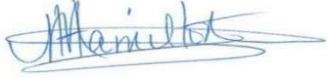
Mr. O'Dowd replied to Board member Cooper's inquiry concerning an informal staff opinion, RAO 21751, providing an explanation of the "cooling-off" provision, G.S. § 1-84b (b).

4. Executive Director Lewandowski presented the Enforcement Division report in the absence of Ethics Enforcement Officer Mark Wasielewski. (Mr. Wasielewski, in his capacity as Council on Government Ethics Laws (COGEL) President, is engaged in COGEL affairs.) Mr. Lewandowski requested a volunteer to serve as the June 11, 2026 hearing officer, under the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act (UAPA), and Mr. Greenberg volunteered. The Board was reminded that Chair Cook is scheduled to serve as the May 15, 2026 UAPA hearing officer.
5. Education & Communications Director Clark presented the written Education & Communications report. Additionally, she alerted Statement of Financial Interests (SFI) designated filers about the fast-approaching SFI deadline on May 1. She further noted her collaborative work with (1) Ethics Liaisons to distribute reminders to their respective designated filers and perform real-time system updates; and (2) the media to create and produce an article on lobbying in Connecticut.
6. Mr. Lewandowski presented his report addressing the following items:
 - **Board Vacancy.** OSE has provided a recommendation for the vacant Board seat to the Office of the Governor. Mr. Lewandowski noted the office's long-established practice of sharing names of those interested in Board membership with appointing authorities.
 - **SFI.** Ms. Clark and the Legal Division staff were recognized for their diligent work providing timely responses to inquiries from the SFI community. Currently, there are almost 3,000 SFI filers, and about two thirds (2,000) of the filers have submitted their disclosure.
 - **Budget.** The Appropriations Committee has adopted OSE's request to include another staff attorney in its budget.
 - **Personnel Matters.** Interviews for the Associate Accounts Examiner vacancy have concluded. (Ten candidates were invited for an interview, and nine candidates were interviewed.) An offer is anticipated to be extended next week to one of the two finalists.
 - **COGEL.** The Board of Directors meeting, as well as the Program Committee meeting, are being held this weekend in Denver. Mr. Lewandowski and Mr. Wasielewski have worked on various panel recommendations for the Program Committee to adopt. They have also connected with the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development, based in Paris, concerning its interest in promoting governmental integrity on an international level. The organization encompasses over thirty countries.
7. Mr. Lewandowski presented a legislative update, noting that the bills containing OSE's proposals—SB 323, raised by the Government Oversight (GOS) Committee; and HB 5532, raised by the Government Administration and Elections (GAE) Committee—are ready for action. HB 5532 contains all OSE's proposals and the proposal to increase the Code of Ethics' monetary thresholds. Mr. Lewandowski further notes that GOS Committee bill SB 323, a joint substitute bill, no longer includes OSE's nepotism proposal.
8. Chair Cook noted that neither a Closed Session nor an Executive Session is required.
9. Adjournment

On the motion of Mr. Greenberg, seconded by Mr. Profit, the Board voted seven (7) to zero (0) to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,



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

May 21, 2026

Date approved.

(By the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board)