



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 MAY 21, 2026 REGULAR MEETING

The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board (Board) of the Office of State Ethics (OSE) held a Meeting on Thursday, May 21, 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 (virtual)*

Karess Cannon *(virtual)*

Cheryl Lipson

Kevin Profit *(virtual)*

Laura Schuyler

The following staff members of the OSE were present:

Peter Lewandowski, *Executive Director*

Brian O'Dowd, *General Counsel*

Mark Wasielewski, *Ethics Enforcement Officer*

Marianne Sadowski, *Assistant General Counsel (virtual)*

Jennifer Montgomery, *Associate General Counsel (virtual)*

Diane Buxo, *Assistant General Counsel (virtual)*

Sam Rosengren, *Assistant Ethics Enforcement Officer*

Jillian Wyrebek, *Associate Accounts Examiner*

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

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

Malissa Hurry, *Paralegal Specialist, Enforcement Division (virtual)*

Alyssa Boggis, *Intern*

Elliot Shani, *Intern*

The following topics were addressed during the meeting:

1. The Minutes of the April 16, 2026 regular meeting were presented to the Board for approval.

On the motion of Vice-chair Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Schuyler, with Ms. Lipson abstaining, the Board voted five to zero to approve the Minutes of the April 16, 2026 Regular meeting.

2. The Minutes of the April 16, 2026 regular Strategic Plan Subcommittee meeting were presented to the subcommittee members for approval.

On the motion of Ms. Cannon, seconded by Chair Cook, the Strategic Plan Subcommittee voted two to zero to approve the Minutes of the April 16, 2026 meeting.

3. Chair Cook presented the chairperson's report announcing the passage of H.B. 5532 which implemented changes to the State's Codes of Ethics (Codes). She explained that while most parts of the bill will take effect on October 1, 2026, the section that adjusts the Board's quorum down from six to five members went into effect on May 19, 2026, the day the Governor signed the bill.

4. General Counsel O'Dowd presented the Petition for Advisory Opinion submitted by Christopher L.D. McCluster, a Transportation Engineer III with the Connecticut Department of Transportation. Mr. O'Dowd recommended that the Board approve the Petition.

On the motion of Vice-chair Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Lipson, the Board voted six to zero to approve the Petition for Advisory Opinion submitted by Christopher L.D. McCluster.

5. Mr. O'Dowd presented Draft Advisory Opinion No. 2026-2, in response to the Petition submitted by Christopher L.D. McCluster.

On the motion of Ms. Lipson, seconded by Ms. Schuyler, the Board voted six to zero to approve Draft Advisory Opinion No. 2026-2.

6. General Counsel O'Dowd presented the Legal Division report. He added that the division has received a follow-up inquiry from the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CEAS) as to the state of law on nepotism. He explained that the Board may need to address the issue by way of advisory opinion, and that he will recommend to CEAS that it petition the Board for such an opinion.
7. Ethics Enforcement Officer Wasielewski presented the Enforcement Division report. Mr. Wasielewski requested a volunteer to serve as the July 9, 2026 hearing officer, under the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act (UAPA), and Chair Cook volunteered. Additionally, the Board was reminded that Mr. Greenberg is scheduled to serve as the June 11, 2026 UAPA hearing officer.

Mr. Wasielewski provided the following updates to the previously submitted written Enforcement Division report:

- The division is enforcing late-filed client lobbyists' first-quarter financial disclosures (ETH-2Ds), which were due on April 10, 2026, and late-filed Statements of Financial Interests (SFIs), which were due on May 1, 2026.
 - Concerning the enforcement of ETH-2Ds, 22 matters were noticed for hearings, and currently 6 of those matters remain open and are on the June 11, 2026 UAPA hearing calendar. The other matters were resolved or dismissed for good cause. The division has collected \$430 in penalties.
 - Concerning the enforcement of SFIs, 16 matters were noticed for hearings, and of those matters, 3 have settled, 3 were dismissed, and 10 remain open. The open matters are scheduled for a UAPA hearing on July 9, 2026. The division has collected \$160 in penalties.
8. Mr. Lewandowski presented the Education & Communications report, in the absence of Education & Communications Director Sarah Clark.
 9. Mr. Lewandowski presented his report addressing the following items:

- **Personnel Matters.** The recently hired Associate Accounts Examiner, Jillian Wyrebek, was introduced to the Board. Also introduced were summers interns Alyssa Boggis and Elliot Shani.

Mr. Lewandowski noted that Deputy Ethics Enforcement Officer Marc Crayton resigned on April 30, 2026. He has since commenced the hiring process for Mr. Crayton's successor.

- **SFI.** Mr. Lewandowski noted that it was a successful SFI filing season. In addition to approximately 99% compliance with filings, he explained that all required filers of 66 state agencies timely filed their SFIs, and roughly 15 state agencies missed 100% timely compliance

by one filing. He attributed this success to the work of OSE staff and especially thanked the Legal Division and Information Technology employees.

- **Budget.** The legislature passed OSE's budget adjustments of \$180,000, providing a budget of \$2,238,000 for fiscal year 2027, beginning on July 1, 2026. This budget includes the possibility of hiring an additional staff attorney for the Enforcement Division, addresses OSE's deficit of \$40,000 related to class progression increases not previously captured, as well as provides additional funds for operating expenses.

10. Mr. Lewandowski presented the final legislative update of the 2026 legislative session, noting that HB 5532 is now Public Act 26-66. He explained that, although the bill originated as an omnibus bill containing all OSE's proposals plus the proposal to adjust the Code's monetary threshold, the nepotism language and the conflicts provisions were removed during the amended version, and a new gift exception, not introduced or supported by OSE, was added, providing for the attendance of legislators, as well as a guest, to higher education sporting events.

In addition, Mr. Lewandowski noted that SB 323 was amended to keep the conflicts provisions only, which passed in the Senate, on consent, for the fifth time.

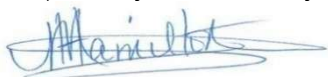
11. Chair Cook noted that there was no one from the public in attendance at the meeting to provide public comments. She further noted that neither a Closed Session, nor an Executive Session is required.

12. Adjournment

On the motion of Ms. Lipson, seconded by Vice-chair Chiusano, the Board voted six to zero to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,



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

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