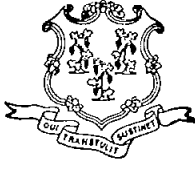


90-14



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

February 6, 1992

P R E S S R E L E A S E

On December 3, 1990, State Ethics Commission Staff Attorney Marianne D. Smith filed a complaint (Docket No. 90-14) against Nicholas Torneo, a Senior Mortgage Underwriter employed by the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority. Following a confidential probable cause hearing on the matter, the Commission terminated the preliminary investigation and found probable cause to believe that the Respondent Mr. Torneo violated the Code of Ethics for Public Officials in connection with a hunting trip he took with a developer.

On February 5, 1992 the Ethics Commission and the Respondent settled this matter by entering into a Stipulation and Order. Under the terms of the settlement, the Respondent agreed to pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$1,000. Copies of the Commission's specific findings and the Stipulation and Order are attached.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL:

Alan S. Plofsky, Esq.
Executive Director and General Counsel
State Ethics Commission
566-4472

See also Apr 3, 1991
press release
re probable cause

000300



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

DOCKET NUMBER 90-14) STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
IN THE MATTER OF A) 97 ELM STREET (REAR)
COMPLAINT AGAINST) HARTFORD, CONN. 06106
NICHOLAS TORNEO) FEBRUARY 5, 1992

STIPULATION AND ORDER

The Commission finds that the Respondent violated the Code of Ethics for Public Officials as stated in the attached Findings, dated April 2, 1991. This conclusion is not admissible in, nor shall it be deemed to prejudice, any subsequent civil or criminal proceeding against the Respondent or any other person.

While the Respondent does not concur with the Commission's findings, he does not choose to request a public hearing that could result in an additional commitment of time and resources.

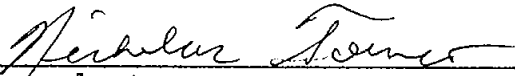
NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-177(c), the State Ethics Commission and the Respondent, Nicholas Torneo, agree to settle this matter in the manner described below:

1. The Respondent waives any rights he may have under Conn. Gen. Stat. §§1-80, 1-82, 1-82a, 1-87, 1-88 and 1-89, including the right to a public hearing or appeal in this case, and agrees with the Commission to an informal disposition of this matter as authorized by Conn. Gen. Stat. §4-177(c).


2. The Commission agrees not to refer the Respondent to the Chief State's Attorney for any possible action pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-88 arising from this matter.

3. The Ethics Commission orders, and the Respondent agrees to pay to the Ethics Commission, within thirty (30) days of the

signing of this Stipulation and Order, a civil penalty of one thousand dollars (\$1,000).


Respondent
Nicholas Torneo

2/3/92
Dated


Vice Chairperson
State Ethics Commission
Christopher Donohue

2-5-92
Dated

90-14



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

April 3, 1991

P R E S S R E L E A S E

On December 3, 1990, Ethics Commission Staff Attorney Marianne D. Smith filed a complaint (Docket No. 90-14) against Nicholas Torneo, a Senior Mortgage Underwriter employed by the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority. On March 4, 1991 and March 11, 1991 the Ethics Commission held a confidential probable cause hearing on the matter. On April 1, 1991 the Commission terminated the preliminary investigation and found probable cause to believe that Mr. Torneo violated the Code of Ethics for Public Officials in connection with a hunting trip he took with a developer. The Commission's specific findings are attached.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL:

Alan S. Plofsky, Esq.
Executive Director and General Counsel
State Ethics Commission
566-4472

See also Feb 6, 1992
press release
settling matter



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

DOCKET NUMBER 90-14) STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
IN THE MATTER OF A) 97 ELM STREET (REAR)
COMPLAINT AGAINST) HARTFORD, CONN. 06106
MR. NICHOLAS TORNEO) APRIL 2, 1991

NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION
AND RESULTS THEREOF

Pursuant to Section 1-82a, Connecticut General Statutes, the
State Ethics Commission declares that on April 1, 1991 it
terminated the preliminary investigation conducted with regard
to Docket Number 90-14.

As a result of this investigation:

1. The Commission, by a vote of 5-2 (Commissioners Caplan
and Donohue opposing), found that there exists probable cause to
believe that the Respondent has committed a violation of the
Code of Ethics for Public Officials, Chapter 10, Part I,
Connecticut General Statutes, §1-84(c), by accepting an airline
ticket, motel accommodations and a rental car as more fully
described in paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the attached Findings.

2. The Commission did not find probable cause to believe
the Respondent accepted payment of certain hunting fees, as more
fully described in paragraph 5 of the attached Findings.

By the order of the Commission,

Cindy Carnata
Cindy Carnata
Clerk of the Commission

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing Notice and
attached Findings were sent on April 3, 1991, by first-class
mail, postage prepaid, to the Attorney for the Respondent, M.
Donald Cardwell, Esq., at Cardwell, Cardwell & Smoragiewicz, 108
Oak Street, Hartford, CT 06106-1576.

Marianne D. Smith
Marianne D. Smith
Attorney at Law



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

ETHICS COMMISSION PROBABLE CAUSE FINDINGS

DOCKET NO. 90-14

The Commission finds that there exists probable cause to believe that:

1. At all times relevant to this complaint, Nicholas Torneo (hereinafter "Respondent") was a senior mortgage underwriter for the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (hereinafter "CHFA"), a quasi-public agency, and was a state employee within the meaning of Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-79(m). At all times relevant to this complaint, Anthony Galazan was a developer who did business with, had done business with, and/or sought to do business with CHFA.

2. On April 18, 1989, the Respondent and Mr. Galazan traveled from Connecticut to Florida for the purpose of engaging in boar hunting at the Lightsey Cattle Co. and Boar Ranch. Both Mr. Galazan's and the Respondent's airline tickets, costing \$540 each, were charged to Mr. Galazan's credit card, as were motel accommodations costing \$80.26 and a rental car costing \$91.05.

3. The Commission finds that the Respondent's claim that he reimbursed Mr. Galazan, in cash, for the cost of his airline ticket, motel accommodations and a rental car was not persuasive, based on the totality of the evidence. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there exists probable cause to believe that the Respondent accepted such items at no cost to himself.

4. The Respondent's acceptance of an airline ticket, motel accommodations and a rental car from Mr. Galazan constituted a use of the Respondent's public office or position to obtain financial gain for himself, in violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-84(c).

5. The Commission finds insufficient evidence to conclude that the Respondent accepted, from Mr. Galazan, payment of hunting fees charged by the Lightsey Cattle Co. and Boar Ranch.

By order of the Commission


Cindy Cannata
Clerk of the Commission

CONNECTICUT STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
97 ELM STREET (REAR)
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
TELEPHONE NUMBER 566-4472

Docket No. 90-14

COMPLAINT

THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION ISSUES A COMPLAINT ALLEGING A VIOLATION OF:

____xxx_____ THE CODE OF ETHICS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND STATE EMPLOYEES, CHAPTER 10, PART I, GENERAL STATUTES

_____ THE CODE OF ETHICS FOR LOBBYISTS, CHAPTER 10, PART II, GENERAL STATUTES

TIME AND DATE MATTERS COMPLAINED OF OCCURRED: April, 1989

PLACE VIOLATION OCCURRED:

Hartford, Connecticut and Orlando, Florida

PERSONS INVOLVED: Nicholas Torneo

WITNESSES:

List to be provided prior to any hearing on this matter

CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH INDICATE THAT THE CODE OF ETHICS DESIGNATED ABOVE WAS VIOLATED ARE AS FOLLOWS (A SHORT, PLAIN STATEMENT ALLEGING A VIOLATION OF CHAPTER 10, GENERAL STATUTES):

(see attached)

(OVER)

000306

DOCKET NO. 90-14

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF A
COMPLAINT AGAINST
NICHOLAS TORNEO

97 ELM STREET (REAR)
HARTFORD, CT 06106
DECEMBER 3, 1990

COMPLAINT

1. At all times relevant to the complaint herein, Nicholas Torneo (hereinafter "Respondent") was a senior mortgage underwriter for the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (hereinafter "CHFA"), a quasi-public agency, and was a state employee within the meaning of Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-79(m).

2. At all times relevant to the complaint herein, Antony Galazan was a developer who did business with, had done business with and/or sought to do business with CHFA.

3. The respondent first made the acquaintance of Antony Galazan when Mr. Galazan inquired about obtaining a mortgage from CHFA to finance a housing project.

4. Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-84(c) provides that no state employee shall use his public office or position to obtain financial gain for himself, his spouse, child, child's spouse, parent, brother or sister or a business with which he is associated.

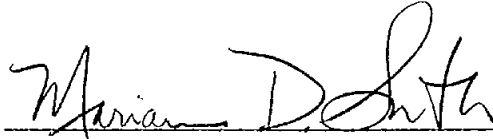
5. On or about April 11, 1989, Antony Galazan purchased, for the respondent and for himself, round-trip airline tickets costing \$540 each for travel from Hartford, Connecticut to Orlando, Florida for the purpose of going boar hunting at the Lightsey Cattle Company and Boar Ranch.

6. Upon their arrival in Orlando on April 18, 1989, the respondent and Antony Galazan picked up a rental car that had been reserved by Mr. Galazan and drove to a hotel, paid for by Mr. Galazan, where they spent the night.

7. The respondent and Mr. Galazan spent April 19, 1989 hunting at the boar ranch, stayed at the ranch that night and hunted again the next morning at a cost of approximately \$390 per person, such cost being paid by Mr. Galazan.

000307

8. The respondent's acceptance of an airline ticket, accommodations and hunting fees paid for by Antony Galazan constituted an improper use of office for his own financial gain, in violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-84(c).



Marianne D. Smith
Staff Attorney

12/3/90
Dated