



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

97-4

July 11, 1997

PRESS RELEASE

On March 14, 1997, Ethics Commission Attorney Catherine Wassel-Nasto filed a complaint (Docket No. 97-4) against Ms. Norma A. Younadim, former Court Services Clerk for the New Britain Superior Court. The complaint alleged that Ms. Younadim, on numerous occasions spanning a three-year period, had used her public office or position for personal financial gain. The complaint also alleges that Ms. Younadim solicited gifts from several attorneys doing business at the New Britain Superior Court. These gifts took the form of personal loans at interest rates far below those commercially available and otherwise on terms more favorable than loans made in the ordinary course of business. The complaint alleges that Ms. Younadim converted these loans for her personal benefit and has not repaid them.

On July 11, 1997, the Ethics Commission settled this matter with Ms. Younadim. Although Ms. Younadim denies any intentional violation of the Code of Ethics, she admits that she exercised poor judgment regarding the conduct of her financial affairs in the context of her public employment. The Ethics Commission found that Ms. Younadim violated the Code of Ethics as alleged in the attached complaint and ordered that Ms. Younadim pay a civil penalty of \$5,000. A copy of the stipulation and order is also attached.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL:

Catherine Wassel-Nasto  
Ethics Commission Attorney  
566-4472

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STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

CONFIDENTIAL

DOCKET NUMBER 97-4 ) STATE ETHICS COMMISSION  
IN THE MATTER OF A ) 20 TRINITY STREET  
COMPLAINT AGAINST ) HARTFORD, CT 06106  
NORMA A. YOUNADIM ) JULY 11, 1997

STIPULATION AND ORDER

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-177(c), the State Ethics Commission and the Respondent, Norma A. Younadim, agree to settle this matter in the manner described below:

1. The Commission finds that the Respondent violated the Code of Ethics for Public Officials as alleged in the attached Complaint, dated March 12, 1997.

This finding is made solely on the basis of the Commission's staff investigation into this matter, and is not admissible in, nor shall it be deemed to prejudice, any subsequent civil or criminal proceeding against the Respondent or any other person.

2. While the Respondent does not admit all of the allegations contained in the Complaint, the Respondent does not choose to contest the Commission's conclusion by requesting a hearing that could result in costly litigation in this matter. Although the Respondent denies any intentional violation of the Code of Ethics, she admits that she exercised poor judgment regarding the conduct of her financial affairs in the context of her public employment.

3. The Respondent waives any rights she may have under Conn. Gen. Stat. §§1-93, 1-93a, 1-98 and 1-80, including the right to a 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).

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

1. The Ethics Commission orders, and the Respondent agrees to pay to the Ethics Commission, a civil penalty of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) payable in equal monthly installments of two-hundred dollars, the first of which monthly payments is due within thirty (30) days of this signing of this Stipulation and Agreement.

*Norma A. Younadim* *7/1/97*  
Respondent Dated  
Norma A. Younadim

*Maureen J. Maenan* *7/11/97*  
Chairperson Dated  
State Ethics Commission

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STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

CONFIDENTIAL

DOCKET NUMBER 97-4 ) STATE ETHICS COMMISSION  
IN THE MATTER OF A ) 20 TRINITY STREET  
COMPLAINT AGAINST ) HARTFORD, CT 06106  
NORMA A. YOUNADIM ) MARCH 14, 1997

COMPLAINT

COUNT ONE

1. At all times relevant to this complaint herein, and until her retirement on October 1, 1996, the Respondent, Norma A. Younadim, was a state employee subject to the requirements of the Code of Ethics for Public Officials, Chapter 10, Part I, General Statutes.
2. The Respondent was the Court Services Clerk for the New Britain Superior Court.
3. As the Court Services Clerk, the Respondent answered telephones and serviced the public by providing information concerning court procedures and records, issuing certified copies of court records, locating files and processing jury data and handling juror contacts.
4. Throughout 1994, 1995 and 1996, the Respondent telephoned various attorneys and identified herself as an employee of the court to those who were not already familiar with her as such.
5. On various occasions, the Respondent proceeded to ask for personal loans and/or to set up appointments with said attorneys to further her purposes of securing personal loans from them.
6. As a result of her actions as described in paragraphs 4 and 5, above, the Respondent received approximately \$73,000.00 from approximately fifteen attorneys. The Respondent has converted these loans for her personal benefit and has not repaid them.
7. Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-84(c) prohibits a state employee from using her public office or position to obtain financial gain.

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8. Given her position and responsibilities as set forth in paragraph 3, above, each and every contact outlined in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6, above, constitutes a separate violation of §1-84(c).

COUNT TWO

1-3. Paragraphs 1 through 3 of Count One are hereby incorporated as Paragraphs 1 through 3 of count Two.

4. Throughout 1994, 1995 and 1996, the Respondent solicited and accepted from various attorneys doing business with the Respondent's employer, personal interest-free loans.

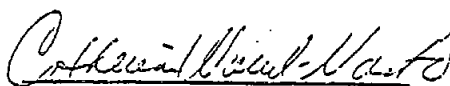
5. Throughout 1994, 1995 and 1996 the Respondent solicited and accepted from various attorneys doing business with the Respondent's employer personal loans at interest rates far below those commercially available and otherwise on terms more favorable than loans made in the ordinary course of business.

6. Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-79(e) defines a "gift" as anything of value, which is directly and personally received, unless consideration of equal or greater value is given in return. Only loans that are commercially reasonable and made on terms not more favorable than loans made in the ordinary course of business are excluded from the definition of "gift" pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-79(e)(3).

7. Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-84(m) prohibits the receipt of gifts exceeding \$50.00 by state employees from any person she knows or has reason to know is doing business with her agency.

8. The terms of each and every loan were not commercially reasonable pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-79(e)(3). Accordingly, each loan described in paragraph 6 of Count One and paragraphs 4 and 5 of Count Two, above, resulted in an illegal gift to the Respondent since the value of the saved interest, compared to commercially available loans at that time, exceeded \$50.00.

9. Each and every instance in which the Respondent entered into a loan agreement as described in paragraph 6 of Count One and paragraphs 4 and 5 of Count Two, above, constitutes a separate violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-84(m).



Catherine Wassel-Nasto  
Staff Attorney

DATE: 3/14/97