

97-6



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

June 6, 1997

PRESS RELEASE

On June 6, 1997, Ethics Commission Principal Attorney Brenda M. Bergeron filed a Complaint against Lewis B. Rome, former Chairperson of the University of Connecticut Board of Trustees and Vice Chairperson of the Connecticut Convention Center Authority. The Complaint alleges that on two occasions in 1995 and on three occasions in 1996, Mr. Rome obtained complimentary tickets from the Meadows Music Theater or its representative James Sandler. The Complaint alleges that Mr. Rome obtained 19 complimentary tickets in the two-year period for use by family members. The fair market value of these tickets was \$625, well in excess of the \$50 annual gift limit of Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-84(j).

On June 6, 1997, the Ethics Commission and Mr. Rome settled this matter by entering into a Stipulation and Order. Under the settlement, the Commission found that the allegations contained in the Complaint are true. Mr. Rome agreed to pay \$625 to charity to reimburse for the tickets and to pay a \$750.00 civil penalty.

Copies of the Complaint and the Stipulation and Order are attached.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:

Alan S. Plofsky  
Executive Director and General Counsel

or

Brenda M. Bergeron  
Ethics Commission Principal Attorney

566-4472

ROMPR



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

DOCKET NUMBER 97-6

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF A

20 TRINITY STREET

COMPLAINT AGAINST

HARTFORD, CT 06106

LEWIS B. ROME

JUNE 6, 1997

STIPULATION AND ORDER

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

1. The Commission finds that the Respondent violated the Code of Ethics as alleged in the Complaint dated June 6, 1997, and attached hereto. The Commission further finds that the Respondent did not knowingly commit the violations of the Code of Ethics alleged in the Complaint.

2. The Respondent acknowledges that he inadvertently violated the Code of Ethics and states that he thought he could accept tickets from the Meadows because he had performed legal work for one of the owners of the Meadows.

3. The Respondent waives any rights he may have under Conn. Gen. Stat. §§1-82, 1-82a, 1-87 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).

4. The Respondent agrees to pay, within thirty days, the sum of \$625 to charity in reimbursement of the value of the complimentary concert tickets obtained by him.

WHEREFORE, the State Ethics Commission enters and the Respondent agrees to the following order in lieu of any other action regarding this matter:

The Respondent agrees to pay \$750.00 to the State Ethics Commission within thirty days of this Stipulation and Order, and henceforth to comply with the Code of Ethics.

Phone: (860) 566-4472 Fax: (860) 566-3806  
20 Trinity Street • Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1660  
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000520

-2-

Lewis B Rome

Lewis B. Rome  
Respondent

6/6/97

Date

Maurice FitzMaurice

State Ethics Commission  
By: Maurice FitzMaurice  
Its Chairperson

6/6/97

Date

000521



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

CONFIDENTIAL

DOCKET NUMBER 97-6

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF A

20 TRINITY STREET

COMPLAINT AGAINST

HARTFORD, CT 06106

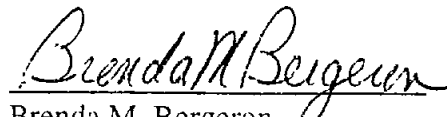
LEWIS B. ROME

JUNE 6, 1997

### COMPLAINT

1. At all times relevant herein, the Respondent, as the Chairperson of the University of Connecticut Board of Trustees and the Vice Chairperson of the Connecticut Convention Center Authority, was a public official as that term is used in the Code of Ethics for Public Officials, Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-79 et seq.
2. At all times relevant herein, the Meadows Music Theater and James Sandler were registrants as that term is used in the Code of Ethics for Public Officials, Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-79 et seq.
3. Connecticut General Statutes §1-84(j) prohibits a public official or a member of a public official's staff or immediate family from knowingly accepting any gift or gifts known to amount to fifty dollars or more from a person known to be a registrant or anyone known to be acting on behalf of a registrant.
4. On two occasions in 1995 and on three occasions in 1996, the Respondent obtained complimentary tickets from the Meadows Music Theater or its representative James Sandler. On two occasions, the Respondent attended the event. On one of those two occasions, the Respondent both purchased tickets and received complimentary tickets. On the remaining occasions, the Respondent obtained the tickets for family members.
7. In total, 19 complimentary tickets were obtained by the Respondent in the two-year period.
8. The value of the tickets obtained in 1995 is \$125. The value of the tickets obtained in 1996 is \$500.
9. The acceptance of tickets worth over \$50 in 1995 and 1996 violated Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-84(j).

DATE June 6, 1997

  
Brenda M. Bergeron  
Ethics Commission Attorney