



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

99-1  
99-2

April 12, 1999

### PRESS RELEASE

On January 29, 1999, Ethics Commission Principal Attorney Brenda M. Bergeron filed Complaints against Leo Provost, an employee of H.H. Ellis Technical School, and his son Jason Provost. The Complaint against Leo Provost alleges that he used his state position for his son's financial gain, in violation of the Code of Ethics for Public Officials, Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-79 et seq., by approaching the business manager at the school and asking to have the school build a house for Jason at a rate well below fair market value. The Complaint against Jason Provost alleges that he, the son of a state employee, entered into the construction contract with the school without going through the open and public process required by the Code of Ethics.

On April 9, 1999, the Ethics Commission and the Respondents settled this matter by entering into a Stipulation and Order which requires the Respondents to pay a civil penalty of \$1500 each, for a total civil penalty of \$3000, and also requires the Respondent Jason Provost to pay \$6000 to the Department of Education as reimbursement for the construction work performed by the students and staff of H.H. Ellis Technical School.

Copies of the Complaint and Order are attached.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:

Alan S. Plofsky  
Executive Director and General Counsel

or

Brenda M. Bergeron  
Principal Attorney

(860)566-4472

provpr

Phone: (860) 566-4472 Fax: (860) 566-3806  
20 Trinity Street - Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1660  
Website: <http://www.state.ct.us/eth>  
An Equal Opportunity Employer

000593



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

DOCKET NUMBERS 99-1, 99-2

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF

20 TRINITY STREET

COMPLAINTS AGAINST

HARTFORD, CT 06106

LEO PROVOST AND JASON PROVOST

APRIL 9, 1999

STIPULATION AND ORDER

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

1. The Commission finds that the Respondents violated the Code of Ethics for Public Officials as alleged in the Complaints dated January 29, 1999.
2. The Respondents state that they relied on advice given to them by the Central Office of the state Vocational-Technical School System in proceeding on the construction of the house in question.
3. The Respondents waive any right they may have under Conn. Gen. Stat. §§1-82, 1-82a, 1-87 and 1-80, including any right to a hearing or appeal in this case, and agree with the Commission to an informal disposition of this matter as authorized by Conn. Gen. Stat. §4-177(c).

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

1. The Respondent Jason Provost agrees to pay \$6000.00 to the State of Connecticut Department of Education Vocational-Technical School System to compensate for the construction of the house. These payments will be made to the Department of Education in accordance with a schedule set up by that Department and approved by the Ethics Commission.
2. The Respondents also agree to a civil penalty of \$1500.00 each to the State Ethics Commission, for a total civil penalty in this matter of \$3000.00. These payments will be made in monthly installments of \$500.00 from each Respondent. The first payments are to be made within 30 days of the signing of this Stipulation and Order.

Leo J. Provost  
Respondent Leo Provost

3/23/99  
Dated

Jason Provost  
Respondent Jason Provost

3/23/99  
Dated

Stanley Burdick  
State Ethics Commission  
By Stanley Burdick, Its Chairperson

4/8/99  
Dated

provstip



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

CONFIDENTIAL

DOCKET NUMBER 99-2

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF A

20 TRINITY STREET

COMPLAINT AGAINST

HARTFORD, CT 06106

JASON PROVOST

JANUARY 29, 1999

### COMPLAINT

1. At all times relevant herein, the Respondent was the son of a state employee, as that term is used in the Code of Ethics for Public Officials, Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-79 et seq.
2. Connecticut General Statutes §1-84(i) states in part that no member of a state employee's immediate family shall enter into a contract with the state valued at one hundred dollars or more unless the contract has been awarded through an open and public process, including prior public offer and subsequent public disclosure of all proposals considered and the contract awarded.
3. As used in Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-84(i), the term "immediate family" includes the relationship of father and son.
4. On or about June 6, 1997, the Respondent and representatives of the H.H. Ellis Technical School signed a contract obligating the school to provide the carpentry labor to build a two story Cape home with a two-car garage for the cost of \$7200.
5. The application submitted by the Respondent included a representation by him that he was not an immediate family member of a state employee.
6. This contract was not awarded through an open and public process.
7. The Respondent's entering into this contract without going through an open and public process violated Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-84(i).

1-29-99  
DATED

Brenda M. Bergeron  
Brenda M. Bergeron  
Ethics Commission Attorney

jprovcomp