



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

99-4

July 12, 1999

### PRESS RELEASE

On May 27, 1999, Ethics Commission Principal Attorney Catherine Wassel-Nasto filed a Complaint against John Savino, a Housing Specialist for the Judicial Branch, alleging that Mr. Savino engaged in private consulting work as a mediator in two cases then pending in the Connecticut Housing Court for a consulting fee, in violation of the Code of Ethics for Public Officials and State Employees, Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-79 et seq.

On July 9, 1999, the Ethics Commission and the Respondent settled this matter by entering into a Stipulation and Order which requires the Respondent to pay a civil penalty of \$2,000.

Copies of the Complaint and Stipulation and Order are attached.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:

Alan S. Plofsky  
Executive Director and General Counsel

or

Catherine Wassel-Nasto  
Principal Attorney

(860) 566-4472

SvnoPR

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# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

DOCKET NUMBER 99-4 ) STATE ETHICS COMMISSION  
IN THE MATTER OF A ) 20 TRINITY STREET  
COMPLAINT AGAINST ) HARTFORD, CT 06106  
JOHN SAVINO ) JUNE 15, 1999

### STIPULATION AND ORDER

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-177(c), the State Ethics Commission and the Respondent John Savino 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 May 27, 1999.
2. The Respondent does not admit the allegations of the Complaint, but does not choose to contest the Commission's findings by pursuing costly litigation, and therefore agrees to settle the matter as set forth below. The respondent further states that he mistakenly believed that it was permissible for him to conduct private arbitration as long as the parties to and the judge in the matters at issue were aware of and agreed to these arrangements.
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).

WHEREFORE, the State Ethics Commission enters, and John Savino agrees to, the following orders in lieu of any other action it is authorized to take with regard to this Complaint:

1. The Respondent is ordered to remit a civil penalty of \$2,000.00 payable in four monthly installments, the first installment to be made within thirty days;

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2. The Respondent shall not seek or accept payment for his work in the case of Monahan v. Fortin or for any other case for which outside personal services were rendered in violation of the provisions of the Code of Ethics for Public Officials and for which payment has not been received to date; and

3. The Respondent shall henceforth comply with the provisions of the Code of Ethics for Public Officials.

John A. Sacre  
Respondent

06/19/99  
Dated

[Signature]  
Chairperson, State Ethics Commission

7/9/99  
Dated

Svnostip



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

CONFIDENTIAL

DOCKET NUMBER 99-4                    )                    STATE ETHICS COMMISSION  
IN THE MATTER OF A                    )                    20 TRINITY STREET  
COMPLAINT AGAINST                    )                    HARTFORD, CT 06106  
JOHN SAVINO                            )                    MAY 27, 1999

COMPLAINT

It is hereby alleged that:

1. At all times relevant to the complaint, the Respondent was a full-time Housing Specialist for the Judicial Branch and a state employee within the meaning of Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-79(m).
2. Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-84(b) states in part that "no state employee ... shall accept other employment which will ... impair his independence of judgment as to his official duties or employment ..."
3. Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-84(c) states in part that "no state employee ... shall use his public office or position ... to obtain financial gain for himself."
4. Beginning on or about August 27, 1997 until approximately February 17, 1998, the Respondent provided private consulting work as a mediator in the case of Ferrara v. Woodward Auto, then pending in the Connecticut Housing Court, for which services he was paid a consulting fee.
5. Beginning on or about June 1, 1998 until approximately July 23, 1998, the Respondent provided private consulting work as a mediator in the case of Monahan v. Fortin, then pending in the Connecticut Housing Court, for which services he was paid a consulting fee.
6. The Respondent's acceptance of paid private mediation work in the case of Ferrara v. Woodward Auto constitutes a violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-84(b).
7. The Respondent's acceptance of paid private mediation work in the case of Monahan v. Fortin constitutes a violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-84(b).

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8. The Respondent's conduct of paid private mediation services in the case of Ferrara v. Woodward Auto constitutes a violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-84(c).

9. The Respondent's conduct of paid private mediation services in the case of Monahan v. Fortin constitutes a violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-84(c).



\_\_\_\_\_  
Catherine Wassel-Nasto  
Ethics Commission Attorney

5/27/99  
Date

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