



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **State Ethics to Select 10 Client Lobbyists for 2014 Audit**

**Hartford** – On Thursday, September 18, 2014, Charles Chiusano, Chairman of the Citizen’s Ethics Advisory Board, will randomly select 10 lobbyists to be audited by the Office of State Ethics. The selections will be made during the Citizen’s Ethics Advisory Board meeting, beginning at 1:00 p.m., at 18-20 Trinity Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Hartford, Connecticut.

The lobbyists will be selected from a pool of all registered client lobbyists. A client lobbyist is the party paying for lobbying services on its behalf. In other words, the client lobbyist is expending or agreeing to expend the registration threshold amount of \$2,000 in a calendar year for lobbying.

Currently, there are 966 registered client lobbyists, 586 in-house communicators and 213 communicator lobbyists.

In 2013, a total of \$71,146,268.10 was spent, 80% on legislative lobbying with the remainder on administrative lobbying. Of the \$71.1M spent on lobbying, \$63.4 went to compensation for lobbyists.

The top five issues lobbied were: (1) health and hospitals, health care systems medical organizations; (2) government – financing, revenue, taxation, budget, appropriations, bids fees, funds, contracts; (3) business; (4) human services – adult, families, children; and (5) environment – recycling, packaging, pollution, waste. In the course of auditing the selected clients, the Office of State Ethics will also audit all associated communicator lobbyists – those receiving payment from the clients for conducting lobbying activities.

“Connecticut’s lobbying laws are in place to prevent corruption and provide transparency by showing the citizens of the state who is spending money on lobbying, what issues are being targeted, and how the money is being spent,” said Carol Carson, Executive Director of the Office of State Ethics. “The audits, which have been reduced from 40 per year to 10 because of budget cuts, ensure that reporting is accurate.”

A list of lobbyists selected to be audited will be available on the Office of State Ethics web site, [www.ct.gov/ethics](http://www.ct.gov/ethics), after the drawing. It is anticipated that all of the audits will be completed this fiscal year.

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*The Connecticut Office of State Ethics mission is to ensure honesty, integrity and accountability in state government through education, interpretation and enforcement of the State of Connecticut Code of Ethics. To contact us please visit our website at [www.ct.gov/ethics](http://www.ct.gov/ethics) or call us at (860) 263-2400.*