

## STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 28, 2015 CONTACT: Nancy S. Nicolescu (860) 263-2397 nancy.nicolescu@ct.gov

## Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board Issues \$10,000 Penalty to Lobbyist Robert Silverberg of Glastonbury

Penalty Suspended; Silverberg Enters into Long-Term Stipulation and Consent Order

*Hartford* – Between 2012 and 2014, Robert Silverberg, lobbyist, managing partner and sole member of Morris|London, LLC, a domestic limited liability company located in Glastonbury, Connecticut, lobbied on behalf of a client from whom he would receive additional compensation if the outcome of his lobbying was successful. Pursuant to General Statutes §1-97(b) of the Code of Ethics no lobbyist can be employed for compensation which is contingent upon the outcome of any administrative or legislative action.

The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board imposed a penalty of \$10,000, which was suspended conditioned upon Silverberg's compliance with eight separate injunctive terms lasting between five and ten years. Failure to meet the injunctive terms will require payment of the penalty.

For five (5) years Silverberg must seek and receive written guidance from the Office of State Ethics prior to entering into any lobbying contract(s), or any other contract that would place him in contact with any state public official or state employee. Silverberg must also maintain written records of all written communications sent to any public official or state employee irrespective of whether the contact is for purposes of lobbying or sales to a state agency or commission.

For ten (10) years Silverberg must present copies and seek written guidance concerning certain contracts prior to entering into such contracts with the Office of State Ethics. Silverberg must annually provide a list of all clients for ten (10) years; and he must provide a copy to the Ethics Enforcement Officer of each contract that contemplates any payments that are contingent upon the outcome of any state governmental action.

The Board has ordered him to maintain records for a period of five (5) years and to make available for inspection upon request records pertaining to any business he is associated with. In addition, the Board has ordered him to comply with filing all registration forms and financial disclosures for the 2013-14 biennium. Finally, he will be required to attend at least one training session annually for a period of five (5) years conducted by the Office of State Ethics regarding the Code of Ethics for Lobbyists.

"Contingency fees are prohibited to prevent lobbyists from exerting "improper influence" on public officials by inducing such officials to act on any basis other than the merits of the matter," said Executive Director Carol Carson.

View: Stipulation and Consent Order 2014-19

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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 <u>www.ct.gov/ethics</u> or call us at (860) 263-2400.