



STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Ethics Selects 10 Client Lobbyists for Audit

Hartford – On Thursday, January 25, 2018, Dena Castricone, Chair of the Citizen’s Ethics Advisory Board, will randomly select 10 client lobbyists to be audited by the Office of State Ethics. The selections will be made during the Citizen’s Ethics Advisory Board public meeting, beginning at 1:00 p.m., at 18-20 Trinity Street, 5th Floor, Hartford, Connecticut. Members of the public - including the lobbying community - are welcome to attend.

The lobbyists to be audited will be selected from a pool of all client lobbyists who were registered at any time during the audit period, which is January 1, 2015 thru December 31, 2017. A client lobbyist is the party paying for lobbying services on its behalf. In other words, the client lobbyist expends, or agrees to expend, \$3,000 or more for lobbying in a calendar year. (A communicator lobbyist is the person being paid to lobby on behalf of the client lobbyist).

In 2017, there were 956 registered client lobbyists, 525 in-house communicators and 194 individual communicators. A total of \$56,780,748 was spent. Of the \$56.1M spent on lobbying, \$49.1M went to compensation for lobbyists.

The top five issues lobbied in 2017 were: (1) Health and hospitals, health care systems medical organizations; (2) Government – financing, revenue, taxation, budget, appropriations, bids fees, funds, contracts; (3) Education – institutions, services, programs (4) Environment – recycling, packaging, pollution, waste; and, (5) Business.

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. In the course of auditing the selected client lobbyists, the Office of State Ethics will also audit all associated communicator lobbyists.

A list of lobbyists selected to be audited will be available on the Office of State Ethics web site, www.ct.gov/ethics, after the drawing. It is anticipated that all of the audits will be completed this calendar 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 or call us at (860) 263-2400.