

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Former Chief State’s Attorney Pays \$7,000 to Resolve Alleged Ethics Violations

Hartford, CT – On July 31, 2025, the Office of State Ethics (OSE) entered into a Settlement Agreement with Richard Colangelo (Colangelo) in the *Matter of a Complaint Against Richard Colangelo* ([Docket No. 2025-07](#)). The agreement resolves allegations that Colangelo, former Chief State’s Attorney and head of the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ), violated the Code of Ethics for Public Officials. Under the terms of the agreement, Colangelo paid a civil penalty of \$7,000 to the State of Connecticut but did not admit to violating the Code of Ethics.

The Complaint issued by OSE alleged that in 2020, after his request for salary increases for himself and several senior DCJ attorneys was denied by the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), Colangelo sought assistance from the then-Deputy Secretary of OPM. The Complaint also alleged that, at or around the same time, the Deputy Secretary was seeking employment for his daughter from Colangelo at the DCJ. The State alleged that Colangelo agreed to hire, and in fact did hire, the Deputy Secretary’s daughter to a position at DCJ based on the understanding that the Deputy Secretary would support the requested salary increases.

The Complaint alleged that the Deputy Secretary subsequently made significant efforts in support of Colangelo’s salary increase requests and Colangelo did hire the Deputy Secretary’s daughter as his executive assistant in or around June 2020.

The State’s position in the agreement asserted that Colangelo’s alleged actions violated Section 1-84(f) and/or (g) of the Code of Ethics for Public Officials, which prohibit providing or receiving anything of value—including a job offer—based on an understanding that official action would be influenced. (*Background information included below*)

While Colangelo resigned from public service in 2022 following media coverage and an independent investigation commissioned by the Governor’s Office, OSE determined that the conduct at issue merited a substantial penalty. The \$7,000 settlement represents 70% of the maximum allowable fine under the statute and is among the highest civil penalties imposed

by the OSE for such a violation. Under the terms of the Agreement, Colangelo did not admit to violating the Code of Ethics.

“This case reinforces the fundamental principle that state service must be free of quid pro quo arrangements,” said **Executive Director Peter Lewandowski**. “Although the Respondent contested the Office of State Ethics’ position, the resolution reflects the seriousness of the allegations and our continued commitment to safeguarding the integrity of state government. Public trust must remain paramount.”

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BACKGROUND:

General Statutes § 1-84 (f) states in pertinent part: No person shall offer or give to a public official or state employee ... or [his] child ... anything of value, including, but not limited to, a gift, loan, political contribution, reward or promise of future employment based on any understanding that the ... official action or judgment of the public official[] [or] state employee ... would be or had been influenced thereby.

General Statutes § 1-84 (g) states in pertinent part: No public official or state employee ... shall solicit or accept anything of value, including but not limited to, a gift, loan, political contribution, reward or promise of future employment based on any understanding that the ... official action or judgment of the public official or state employee ... would be or had been influenced thereby.