

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Connecticut Office of State Ethics (OSE) Reaches \$27,825 Settlement for Alleged Ethics Violations by Former POST Training Officer**

**April 9, 2008**

Reginald Allard, a former training officer at the State of Connecticut Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST), yesterday entered a stipulation and consent order with the Enforcement Division of the Office of State Ethics (OSE). Allard, a Milldale resident, agreed to pay civil penalties of \$27,825 for allegedly using his state position for personal, financial gain against the written advice of the former State Ethics Commission.

Specifically, the complaint alleged that Allard used his state position to solicit private employment as an expert witness on his businesses' Web sites and to bolster his testimony in litigations. In 2002, the former State Ethics Commission provided a staff opinion related to Allard which stated, in part, "...in order to avoid a violation of the Code's use of office provision, one should not reference his or her state affiliation/position in any solicitation of private, outside employment." Following receipt of this opinion, Allard allegedly continued such references and also appeared as a paid expert witness in two cases before the State of Connecticut in violation of Connecticut General Statutes § 1-84(c).

The penalty amount of \$27,825 represents the maximum allowable penalty of \$10,000 for each of the two § 1-84(c) violations as well as full restitution for the amounts Allard was paid for the expert witness appearances.

Connecticut General Statutes § 1-84(c) prohibits a state employee from using his position to obtain financial gain for himself, immediate family members or a business with which he is associated. Further, Connecticut General Statutes § 1-88(d) states that any person who knowingly acts in his or her financial interest in violation of section 1-84 is liable for damages in the amount of the financial gain.

"This case illustrates that 'no' means 'no.' Public employees who receive advice about the Code of Ethics have a duty to follow that advice," said OSE Executive Director, Carol Carson. "Using one's state position for personal, financial gain is at the core of the Code of Ethics and the Enforcement Division, in doing its work, is diligent in investigating and prosecuting such violations."

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