

PRESS RELEASE

Connecticut Office of State Ethics Reports \$10,950 in Lobbyist Enforcement Actions

June 19, 2008

The Enforcement Division of the Office of State Ethics (OSE) settled two failure-to-register matters and seven failure-to-file matters with client lobbyists, resulting in a combined total of \$10,450 in civil penalties. Additionally, the OSE imposed a \$500 failure-to-register fine as a result of a violation discovered in the course of an audit.

The following client lobbyists settled for the noted fines:

Failure to register and file required reports:

- New England Laborers' Labor-Management Corporation Trust \$6,495.00
- Commonwealth Restaurant Group \$1,495.00

Failure to file required quarterly reports (maximum penalty of \$10 per day, per delinquent form):

- Connecticut Association for Justice \$ 260.00
- Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association \$ 260.00
- CWA Local 1298 \$ 290.00
- Sound Pilots, Inc. \$ 410.00
- TW Corporation \$ 550.00
- Easter Seals of Connecticut, Inc. \$ 260.00
- USA Security Services Corporation \$ 430.00

Connecticut General Statutes § 1-91(u) defines a client lobbyist as the party paying for lobbying services on its behalf. Client lobbyists are required to register with the OSE and periodically report financial information. Quarterly reports must be filed between the 1st and 10th day of the months of January, April and July.

In addition, communicator lobbyist Judith Blei Governmental Relations (Blei) was fined \$500 for failing to timely register to lobby on behalf of Connecticut Association of School Psychologists in 2005 and 2006. Blei did not register until November 2007. Connecticut General Statutes § 1-91(v) defines a communicator lobbyist as the party receiving payment for conducting lobbying activities and requires a communicator lobbyist to register once it receives or agrees to receive \$2,000 in a calendar year for lobbying activities. This marks the first instance of a fine resulting from a violation discovered in the course of an OSE audit. The OSE must be able to show that a violation found in the course of an audit was intentional in order to impose penalties.

“Our enforcement and audit programs are running strong,” said OSE Executive Director Carol Carson. “Businesses engaged in lobbying must register and timely disclose their financial activities on reports with the OSE. Non-registrants and late filers will be subject to civil penalties.”

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