

PRESS RELEASE

New Haven Business Settles with OSE by Paying \$1,000 Penalty

Failed to Register as a Lobbyist or File Required Reports

March 3, 2009

Maritime Professional Advisors, LLC (Maritime), of New Haven, CT, paid a civil penalty of \$1,000 to the Office of State Ethics (OSE) for its failure to have its employees or agents register as lobbyists. The agreement was signed by Maritime representative Salvatore Brancati. This settlement marks the conclusion of the cases that were inherited by the OSE from the former State Ethics Commission.

According to a stipulation and consent order approved on February 26 by the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board, on more than one occasion in 2000, employees of Maritime, acting on behalf of SRS Transportation, contacted officials and staff members of various state and quasi-public agencies including the Office of the Governor and the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority. The purpose of the contact, for which these employees and agents were compensated, was to influence the administrative actions of those agencies.

Connecticut General Statutes, in section 1-91(v), defines a communicator lobbyist as one who communicates directly, or solicits others to communicate with, state officials or their staff for the purpose of influencing legislative or administrative action. Under Connecticut law, a person must register as a lobbyist if he receives, or agrees to receive, compensation of \$2,000 or more in a calendar year for lobbying activities.

Maritime's representatives neither registered as lobbyists, nor filed the required financial reports associated with their lobbying in 2000.

"Most lobbyists get up every day, go to work, and try to do the best job they can, which includes complying with the ethics codes by registering as a lobbyist and submitting accurate and timely financial reports," said OSE Executive Director, Carol Carson. "The OSE will continue to fairly and vigorously enforce the law for those who do not comply."

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