



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

ADVISORY OPINION NO. 89-26

Member of Board Regulating Profession Simultaneously  
Serving on Board of Association Which Includes Members  
of Profession

Dr. William Shevin has asked the Ethics Commission for an advisory opinion on whether he can maintain his position on the Connecticut Homeopathic Medical Examining Board ("Board") while continuing to serve on the boards of directors of the National Center for Homeopathy ("Center") and the Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia Convention of the United States ("Convention").

The Board consists of five members appointed by the Governor. Conn. Gen. Stat. §20-8. Therefore, the members of the Board are public officials and subject to the provisions of the Code of Ethics. Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-79(k). The Board decides matters concerning suspension or revocation of licenses, adjudicates complaints against practitioners and imposes sanctions where appropriate. Conn. Gen. Stat. §20-8.

The Center is comprised of individuals interested in homeopathy. It attempts to promote homeopathy through education, research and dissemination of information. The Convention is comprised of individuals possessing the appropriate training and experience in the field. It approves the granting of "official homeopathic drug" status to particular drugs.

Dr. Shevin does not receive compensation from either the Center or the Convention. Therefore, his service on the boards of directors of the two organizations is not employment for purposes of the Code of Ethics. Advisory Opinion No. 84-17, 46 Conn. L.J. 26, p. 3D (December 25, 1984). Consequently, Dr. Shevin has not accepted other employment which would impair his independence of judgment as to his official duties in violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-84(b). To the degree that this opinion is in conflict with Advisory Opinion No. 79-13, 40 Conn. L. J. 48, p. 13, Advisory Opinion 79-13 is overruled.

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The other provisions of the Code of Ethics primarily prohibit use of public office for personal financial gain. Since Dr. Shevin derives no financial gain from his position on the boards of directors of the Center and the Convention, it is not a violation of the Code for him continue in those positions while he is on the Board. Cf. Advisory Opinion No. 89-8, 50 Conn. L.J. 40, p. 1C (April 4, 1989).

By order of the Commission,



William A. Elrick  
Chairperson

Dated 10-2-89