DOCKET NUMBER 2010-62 : OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

IN THE MATTER OF A : 18-20 TRINITY STREET

COMPLAINT AGAINST : HARTFORD, CT 06106

DONALD STITT : APRIL 14, 2011

STIPULATION AND CONSENT ORDER

Pursuant to the Code of Ethics, General Statutes § 1-79, et seq., Thomas K. Jones, Ethics Enforcement Officer for the Office of State Ethics ("OSE"), issued a Complaint against the Respondent Donald Stitt ("Mr. Stitt" or "Respondent") for violations of the Code of Ethics, Connecticut General Statutes § 1-84 (i). Based on the investigation by the Enforcement Division of the OSE, the Office of State Ethics finds there is probable cause to believe that the Respondent violated the Code of Ethics as set forth in the Complaint.

The Parties have entered into this Stipulation and Consent Order following the issuance of the Complaint, but without any adjudication of any issue of fact or law herein.

I. STIPULATION

The Ethics Enforcement Officer and the Respondent stipulate to the following facts:

- 1. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was married to a full-time faculty member of the Theatre Arts Department at Western Connecticut State University (hereinafter "WCSU"), a state university.
- 2. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent's wife was a "State Employee" as that term is defined in General Statutes § 1-79 (m).

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- 3. On or about July 13, 2009 and July 14, 2010, the Respondent entered into contracts with WCSU whereby WCSU agreed to pay the Respondent \$300 and \$500, respectively, in exchange for the Respondent running workshops for the Master's in Fine Arts program.
- 4. Neither of the two contracts entered into by the Respondent and WCSU were awarded through an open and public process.
- 5. As a result of the two contracts, the Respondent, who was an immediate family member of a WCSU employee entered into two contracts with the state, valued at one hundred dollars or more, without such contracts having been awarded through an open and public process in violation of General Statutes §1-84 (i).
- 6. The Respondent admits all facts set forth above and admits that, by engaging in such conduct, he violated the Code of Ethics for Public Officials.
- 7. The Respondent understands that he has the right to counsel and has expressly waived such right.

II. JURISDICTION

- 1. The Ethics Enforcement Officer is authorized to investigate the Respondent's acts as set forth herein, to issue a Complaint against the Respondent, and to enter into this Stipulation and Consent Order.
- The provisions of this Stipulation and Consent Order apply to and are binding upon the Respondent.
- 3. The Respondent hereby waives all objections and defenses to the jurisdiction of the Ethics Enforcement Officer over matters addressed in this Stipulation and Consent Order.
- 4. The Respondent waives any rights he may have under General Statutes §§ 1-80, 1-82, 1-82a, 1-87 and 1-88, including the right to a hearing or appeal in this case, and agrees with the Ethics

Enforcement Officer to an informal disposition of this matter as authorized by General Statutes § 4-177 (c).

- 5. The Respondent consents to jurisdiction and venue in the Connecticut Superior Court, Judicial District of Hartford, in the event that the State of Connecticut seeks to enforce this Stipulation and Consent Order. The Respondent recognizes that the Connecticut Superior Court has the authority to specifically enforce the provisions of this Stipulation and Consent Order, including the authority to award equitable relief.
- 6. The terms set forth herein are in addition to, and not in lieu of, any other existing or future statutory, regulatory, or other legal obligation that may be applicable to the Respondent.

III. ORDER

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to General Statutes § 4-177 (c), the Office of State Ethics hereby **ORDERS**, and the Respondent agrees, that:

- 1. Pursuant to General Statutes § 1-88 (a) (1), the Respondent will heretofore cease and desist from any future violation of General Statutes § 1-84 (i).
- 2. Pursuant to General Statutes § 1-88 (a) (3), the Respondent will pay civil penalties to the State in the amount of \$400.00 for his violations of General Statutes § 1-84 (c) as set forth in the Complaint.

This part intentionally left blank.

WHEREFORE, the Ethics Enforcement Officer and the Respondent hereby execute this Stipulation

and Consent Order dated April 14, 2011.

Donald Stitt

4 Westwood Drive Danbury, CT 06811

Dated: 4/26/11

Thomas K. Jones

Ethics Enforcement Officer Connecticut Office of State Ethics

18-20 Trinity Street Hartford, CT 06106 (860) 263-2390