

PRESS RELEASE

Connecticut Office of State Ethics Settles Lobbyist Filing Violations for Maximum Penalties

April 2, 2008

The Enforcement Division of the Office of State Ethics (OSE) settled nine (9) failure-to-file matters with client lobbyists who agreed to pay the maximum fine of \$10 per day for each day their required forms were delinquent, resulting in a combined total of \$3,230.

Specifically, the following lobbyists settled for the noted maximum allowable fines:

• Auto Body Association of Connecticut	\$260.00
• Connecticut Coalition for Justice in Education Funding	\$320.00
• Explore Information Services	\$270.00
• Lang/Durham	\$290.00
• Remodeling Contractors Association	\$480.00
• Service Employees International Union	\$460.00
• The Business Council of Fairfield County	\$270.00
• TW Corporation	\$620.00
• UCONN Advocates	\$260.00

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 report information such as compensation, sales tax and money expended in connection with lobbying; expenditures benefiting a public official or his/her staff or immediate family; all other lobbying expenditures; and the fundamental terms of any lobbying contract or agreement (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-96 (e)). This information must be filed between the 1st and 10th day of the months of January, April and July.

“Communicating or, in this case, soliciting others to communicate on one’s behalf, for the purpose of influencing any legislative or administrative action is lobbying,” said OSE Executive Director Carol Carson. “Businesses engaged in lobbying must register and properly disclose their financial activities on reports with the OSE. Not only is it the law, it is necessary for openness and transparency in good government.”

###

Contact: Meredith Trimble, OSE Director of Education,
860-566-4472 x425; Meredith.trimble@ct.gov.