

Complaints and Investigations under Wisconsin's Ethics Code and Lobbying Law

The Ethics Board may investigate possible violations of the Ethics Code and lobbying law whenever circumstances warrant and may file complaints alleging violations whenever it concludes there is probable cause to do so.

During the period January through December 1993, the Board investigated the following matters pertaining to possible violations of the statutorily prescribed standards of conduct for state officials, lobbyists, and principals.

IMPROPER USE OF OFFICE. In response to information received, the Ethics Board investigated whether an official improperly used his position to obtain free legal representation in a personal matter from a law firm providing services to the official's agency. The Ethics Board found that the facts did not support the allegations and that further actions by the Board were not warranted. [93-SC-01]

ADVANTAGE TO SPOUSE'S TRAVEL AGENCY. A public official contacted the Ethics Board to report that on three occasions the official had caused his department to purchase airline tickets for his business travel through his wife's travel agency. In a settlement agreement, the official admitted a violation of the Ethics Code and forfeited \$150, which was the combined commission from the travel bookings to his wife's firm. [In the matter of Alan Tracy, 93-SC-02]

IMPROPER USE OF PUBLIC OFFICE. In response to information received, the Ethics Board investigated whether a public official improperly used his office to hire an individual in violation of state personnel rules. The Ethics Board found that the facts did not support the allegations and that further actions by the Board were not warranted. [93-SC-03]

PRINCIPAL'S FURNISHING SOMETHING OF PECUNIARY VALUE TO A PERSONAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE. In response to information received, the Ethics Board investigated whether a registered lobbyist provided bookkeeping services to the personal campaign committee of a State Representative. In a settlement agreement the lobbyist acknowledged providing the bookkeeping services and forfeited \$100 as settlement of the lobbying law violation. [In the matter of Mary Lou McClain, 93-SC-04]

PRINCIPAL'S FURNISHING A CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION. In light of published accounts, the Ethics Board investigated whether the Milwaukee Police Association, a registered principal under the lobbying law, had made an improper campaign contribution to Governor Thompson's campaign committee. The Board found that the Police Association had made a contribution of \$4,500 at a time not permitted by the lobbying law. Governor Thompson returned the contribution to the Milwaukee Police

Association which forfeited the full amount of the contribution to the State of Wisconsin. [In the matter of Milwaukee Police Association, Local #21 IUPA, AFL-CIO, 93-SC-05]

PRINCIPAL'S FURNISHING A CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION. In light of published accounts, the Ethics Board investigated whether the Milwaukee Police Supervisor's Organization, a registered principal under the lobbying law, had made an improper campaign contribution to Governor Thompson's campaign committee. The Board found that the Police Supervisor's Organization made a contribution of \$1,000 at a time not permitted by the lobbying law. Governor Thompson returned the contribution to the Milwaukee Police Supervisor's Organization which forfeited the full amount of the contribution to the State of Wisconsin. [In the matter of Milwaukee Police Supervisor's Organization, 93-SC-09A]

PRINCIPAL'S FURNISHING A CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION. In light of published accounts, the Ethics Board investigated whether the Wisconsin Restaurant Association, a registered principal under the lobbying law, had made an improper campaign contribution to Governor Thompson's campaign committee. The Board found that the Restaurant Association had made a contribution of \$500 at a time not permitted by the lobbying law. Governor Thompson returned the contribution to the Wisconsin Restaurant Association which forfeited the full amount of the contribution to the State of Wisconsin. [In the matter of Wisconsin Restaurant Association, 93-SC-09D]

PRINCIPAL'S FURNISHING A CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION. In light of published accounts, the Ethics Board investigated whether the Aid Association for Lutherans, a registered principal under the lobbying law, had made an improper campaign contribution to Governor Thompson's campaign committee. The Board found that the Association had made a contribution of \$1,000 at a time not permitted by the lobbying law. Governor Thompson returned the contribution to the Aid Association for Lutherans which forfeited the full amount of the contribution to the State of Wisconsin. [In the matter of Aid Association for Lutherans, 93-SC-09F]

PRINCIPAL'S FURNISHING A CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION. In light of published accounts, the Ethics Board investigated whether the Wisconsin Bell, Inc., a registered principal under the lobbying law, had made an improper campaign contribution to Governor Thompson's campaign committee. The Board found that Wisconsin Bell Employees State Political Action Committee had made a contribution of \$500 at a time not permitted by the lobbying law. Governor Thompson returned the contribution to the Wisconsin Bell Employees State Political Action Committee which forfeited the full amount of the contribution to the State of Wisconsin. [In the matter of Wisconsin Bell, Inc., 93-SC-09H]

PRINCIPAL'S FURNISHING A CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION. In light of published accounts, the Ethics Board investigated whether the Wisconsin Financial Services Association, a registered principal under the lobbying law, had made improper campaign

contributions to Governor Thompson's campaign committee. The Board found that the Association had made contributions of \$2,500 and \$1,000 during a time not permitted by the lobbying law. Governor Thompson returned the contribution to the Wisconsin Financial Services Association which forfeited the full amount of the contributions to the State of Wisconsin. [In the matter of Wisconsin Financial Services Association, 93-SC-09I]

PRINCIPAL'S FURNISHING A CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION. As a result of being contacted by a legislator, the Ethics Board investigated whether Miller Brewing Company, a registered principal under the lobbying law, had made improper campaign contributions to the legislator. The Board found that the company had made a contribution of \$250 during a time not permitted by the lobbying law. The legislator returned the contribution to Miller Brewing Company which forfeited the full amount of the contribution to the State of Wisconsin. [In the matter of Miller Brewing Company, 93-SC-10]

LOBBYING WITHOUT A LICENSE. In response to information received, the Ethics Board investigated whether a person was improperly lobbying without a license. The Ethics Board found that the person was lobbying without a license, but that he required no license because he made lobbying communications on fewer than five days in a six month reporting period. [93-LL-01]

FAILURE TO AUTHORIZE A LOBBYIST. In reviewing its records the Ethics Board discovered that a principal had failed to authorize an individual to lobby on its behalf. The principal paid \$400. [In the matter of Delaware North Cos., Inc. and James W. Wimmer, Jr., 93-LL-02]

FAILURE TO AUTHORIZE A LOBBYIST. The principal brought to the attention of the Ethics Board that they had failed to authorize an individual who was lobbying on its behalf. The principal and lobbyists paid \$100 and \$50, respectively. [In the matter of the Printing Industries of Wisconsin and Henry J. Handzel, Jr., 93-LL-03]

LOBBYING WITHOUT A LICENSE. In reviewing its records, the Ethics Board discovered that an individual was lobbying for a principal without a license. The principal and lobbyist agreed to pay \$400 and \$200, respectively. [In the matter of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs and Richard Killian, 93-LL-04]

FAILURE TO REGISTER AS A PRINCIPAL AND TO AUTHORIZE AND LICENSE A LOBBYIST. In reviewing its records, the Ethics Board discovered that a principal failed to register as a lobbying principal and did not file an authorization for its lobbyist. The lobbyist also failed to obtain a lobbyist's license. The principal and lobbyist agreed to pay \$1,500 and \$400, respectively. [In the matter of Wisconsin Citizen Action and Ruth Simpson, 93-LL-05]

FAILURE TO REGISTER AND AUTHORIZE A LOBBYIST. In reviewing its records, the Ethics Board discovered that a principal was not properly registered and did not file an authorization for its lobbyist. The principal and lobbyist paid \$1,500 and \$200, respectively. [In the matter of the City of Appleton and Robert I. Fassbender, 93-LL-06]

FAILURE TO REGISTER AND AUTHORIZE A LOBBYIST. In reviewing its records, the Ethics Board discovered that a principal was not properly registered and did not file an authorization for its lobbyist. The principal paid \$1,500 and the lobbyist paid \$200. [In the matter of the Wisconsin Academy of Physicians and Edward Blume, 93-LL-07]

FAILURE TO REPORT LOBBYING EXPENDITURES. Following press accounts, the Ethics Board investigated whether a principal and lobbyist were fully reporting lobbying expenditures. The Ethics Board found that there was not probable cause to believe that the principal and lobbyist were failing to report in full their lobbying expenditures. [93-LL-08]

The Board in this period initiated no investigations pertaining to the filing of late or incomplete Statements of Economic Interests or Statements of Lobbying Activities and Expenditures.