

January through December 1995

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 1995, the Board completed investigations of the following matters pertaining to possible violations of the statutorily prescribed standards of conduct for state officials, lobbyists, and principals.

FAILURE TO IDENTIFY SOURCES OF INCOME. The Board found that there was probable cause to believe that a state official had repeatedly and intentionally failed to identify in Statements of Economic Interests he filed with the Ethics Board the sources of tens of thousands of dollars of income he received while a state official. The Board referred its findings to the Dane County District Attorney with the Board's unanimous recommendation that the district attorney file criminal charges alleging the official's intentional violation of Wisconsin's Ethics Code for state government officials. [93-SC-07]

IMPROPER USE OF OFFICE. In response to a Verified Complaint, the Ethics Board investigated whether a public official used his office for private gain. The Ethics Board found that the facts did not support the allegations and that further actions by the Board were not warranted. [95-SC-01]

IMPROPER USE OF OFFICE. In response to a Verified Complaint, the Ethics Board investigated whether a public official used his office for private gain. The Ethics Board found that the facts did not support the allegations and that further actions by the Board were not warranted. [95-SC-02]

LOBBYIST PROVIDING LODGING FOR PUBLIC OFFICIAL. In response to a newspaper article, the Ethics Board investigated whether a lobbyist had improperly provided lodging for a public official. The Ethics Board found that the facts did not support the allegations and that further actions by the Board were not warranted. [95-SC-03]

FAILURE TO AUTHORIZE A LOBBYIST. In reviewing its records the Ethics Board discovered that a principal had failed to authorize an individual who was lobbying on its behalf. The principal and lobbyist paid \$400 and \$200, respectively. [In the matter of the Wisconsin Chiropractic Association and Patrick Essie, 95-LL-01]

FAILURE TO AUTHORIZE A LOBBYIST. In reviewing its records the Ethics Board discovered that a principal had failed to authorize an individual who was lobbying on its behalf. The principal and lobbyist paid \$400 and \$200, respectively. [In the matter of Dairyland Greyhound Park, Inc., and Marcel Dandeneau, 95-LL-02]

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 facts did not support the allegations and that further actions by the Board were not warranted. [95-LL-03]

FAILURE TO AUTHORIZE A LOBBYIST. In reviewing its records the Ethics Board discovered that a principal had failed to authorize an individual who was lobbying on its behalf. The principal paid a forfeiture of \$400 . [In the matter of Wisconsin Hospital Association and Thomas Jones. 95-LL-04]

FAILURE TO AUTHORIZE A LOBBYIST. In reviewing its records the Ethics Board discovered that a principal had failed to authorize an individual who was lobbying on its behalf. The principal and lobbyist paid \$400 and \$200, respectively. [In the matter of Wisconsin Financial Services Association and Donald Stitt, 95-LL-05]

FAILURE TO REGISTER AS A PRINCIPAL, FAILURE TO AUTHORIZE A LOBBYIST
In reviewing its records the Ethics Board discovered that an organization had failed to register as a principal, and had failed to authorize an individual who was lobbying on its behalf. The principal and lobbyist paid \$1,500 and \$200, respectively. [In the matter of the Wisconsin Rental Dealers Association and Michael Vaughan, 95-LL-06]

FAILURE TO AUTHORIZE A LOBBYIST. In reviewing its records the Ethics Board discovered that a principal had failed to authorize an individual who was lobbying on its behalf. The principal and lobbyist paid \$400 and \$200, respectively. [In the matter of Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce and Zakiya Courtney, 95-LL-07]

FAILURE TO REGISTER AS A PRINCIPAL, FAILURE TO AUTHORIZE A LOBBYIST
In reviewing its records the Ethics Board discovered that an organization had failed to register as a principal, and had failed to authorize an individual who was lobbying on its behalf. The principal and lobbyist each paid \$200. [In the matter of the Wisconsin Federation of Pupil Services Association and James Buckley, 95-LL-08]

The Board in this period collected \$270 in forfeitures for late filing of Statements of Economic Interests. This money was deposited in the State Common School Fund.