

# 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 2000, 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.

**IMPROPER FURNISHING OF CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS.** The Board investigated whether a business employing a lobbyist may have furnished campaign contributions to partisan elected state officials at times not permitted by the lobbying law through reimbursing individuals who made contributions. The Board concluded there was no credible evidence warranting further action. [2000-SC-01]

**IMPROPER FURNISHING OF CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS.** At a legislator's request, the Board investigated whether the legislator violated the lobbying law by accepting campaign contributions from individuals who may have been reimbursed by a business employing a lobbyist. The Board concluded there was no credible evidence that the legislator violated any law administered by the Ethics Board. [2000-SC-02]

**FAILURE TO REGISTER AS A PRINCIPAL, AUTHORIZE A LOBBYIST, OR OBTAIN A LOBBYING LICENSE.** The following lobbying organizations paid penalties for failing to properly register as a principal: Abbott Laboratories (\$375); Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence (\$1500). The following lobbying organizations paid penalties for failing to properly authorize lobbyists to lobby on their behalf: Daily Race Game/Joint Venture (\$487.50); Oconomowoc Residential Programs, Inc. (\$300); Aurora Health Care, Inc. (\$300); Children's Health System, Inc. (\$300); Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin (\$600); and Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce (\$300.00). The following individual paid a penalty for failing to properly authorize a lobbyist to lobby on behalf of a lobbying organization: William Broydrick (\$150). The following individual paid a penalty for failing to obtain a lobbying license to represent more than one principal: John Clancy (\$150).

**LATE STATEMENTS OF LOBBYING ACTIVITIES AND EXPENDITURES.** The following five lobbying organizations paid penalties for filing their Statements of Lobbying Activities and Expenditures for the second half of 1999 late: National Rifle Association, Wisconsin

Federation of Nurses, People's Lottery Foundation Inc., Advantage Capital Partners; and Youth Leadership Academy all paid penalties of \$25.00. The following eighteen lobbying organizations paid penalties for filing their Statement of Lobbying Activities and Expenditures for the first half of 2000 late: Pro-Life Wisconsin, Friends of WHA-TV Inc., Learning Multi-Systems Inc., Airadigm Communication, Apartment Association. of Southeastern Wisconsin, Metropolitan Association of Realtors, Fair Recreational Tax Coalition LLC, CMC Heartland Partners, Flambeau Mining, Environmental Compliance Consultants Inc., Clark Refining & Marketing Inc., HAH Enterprises Inc., Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Study Committee for Elk, Mecca Tech Inc., and American Crop Protection Association all paid penalties of \$25; St. Croix Tribal Council paid a \$100 penalty.

The Board in this period collected \$285 in forfeitures for late filing of Statements of Economic Interests.

The Ethics Board deposits the penalties it collects in the state school fund.