

## Wisconsin Ethics Board

January through December 2004

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

The Ethics Board investigates possible violations of the Ethics Code and lobbying law whenever circumstances warrant; no complaint is necessary. On its own authority the Board may issue subpoenas to require testimony and the production of documents. The Ethics Board may file complaints alleging violations whenever it discovers probable cause to believe that a person has violated a law that the Board administers.

### STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

#### MATTERS MERITING PENALTIES

**ETHICS BOARD ASSESSES ATTORNEY GENERAL AND DEPUTY \$1,600 IN PENALTIES AND REIMBURSEMENT FOR PERSONAL USE OF STATE CARS.** After an investigation, the Ethics Board found that Attorney General Peg Lautenschlager had used her state-assigned automobile for commuting without reimbursing the state in violation of state rules. As a result, Ms. Lautenschlager reimbursed the state \$672 for her personal use of her state car and paid a \$250 forfeiture. In addition, Deputy Attorney General Dan Bach reimbursed the state \$512 for his personal use of a state car and paid a \$250 forfeiture.

[QA-2004-006]

**ETHICS BOARD PENALIZES LOBBYISTS \$2,050 FOR IMPROPER CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS.** The Ethics Board found that nine lobbyists had made campaign contributions to candidates during a time not permitted by the lobbying law. Each lobbyist secured the return of the improper contribution and forfeited the amount of the contribution to the State of Wisconsin. The lobbyists, penalties they paid, and the candidates to whom the contributions were furnished are:

• Samuel Carmen	\$100	James Doyle
• Jeff Crawford	\$100	Peg Lautenschlager
• James Murphy	\$100	Kitty Rhoades
• Michael Serpe	\$50	James Doyle
• Fred W. Shaffer	\$100	Steve Wieckert
• Fred W. Shaffer	\$300	John Gard
• Jerry Stepaniak	\$100	Jeff Stone
• Sherry Walker	\$850	James Doyle
• Richard Wanta	\$100	Jeff Stone
• William Welch	\$250	James Doyle

## STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

### INVESTIGATIONS CONCLUDING SANCTIONS NOT MERITED

**LOBBYIST'S PROVISION OF FOOD AND DRINK TO LEGISLATOR.** The Ethics Board investigated whether a lobbyist provided food and drink to a legislator at a presidential debate party at the lobbyist's house. Evidence was insufficient to proceed further.

[QA-2004-34]

**OFFICIAL'S MISUSE OF OFFICE TO PROTECT A SPOUSE'S CLIENT.** The Board investigated whether a regulatory official used her position to protect a client of her spouse. The Board determined that the official neither used her office improperly nor was the business in question a client of her spouse.

[QA-2004-33]

**OFFICIAL'S MISUSE OF OFFICE TO INTIMIDATE ELECTION OPPONENT.** The Board investigated whether a legislator running for reelection had used legislative staff to research a legal issue for use in persuading an election opponent to withdraw from the race. The Board determined that the evidence was not sufficient to warrant seeking a penalty.

[QA-2004-40]

**OFFICIAL'S MISUSE OF OFFICE TO OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT FOR SPOUSE.** The Board investigated whether a district attorney used his position to obtain employment for his spouse. The Board determined that there was no credible evidence to support the allegation.

[QA-2004-44]

**INVESTIGATION CLEARS CHAIR OF PAROLE COMMISSION OF MISUSE OF STATE-OWNED AUTOMOBILE.** The Board investigated whether the Parole Commission's chair, Lenard Wells, improperly used a state vehicle to commute between his home and office. The Board found that Mr. Wells' use of a state car was appropriate. There was no basis to overturn the Parole Commission's designation of Mr. Wells' home city as his headquarters.

[QA-2004-32]

### LOBBYING REGISTRATIONS, LICENSES, AND REPORTS

**ETHICS BOARD COLLECTS \$1,225 IN PENALTIES FOR LATE REPORTS OF LOBBYING TOPICS.** The following organizations paid penalties totaling \$1,225.00 for failure to report a lobbying communication within 15 days on lobbying reports submitted during 2004.

Action Wisconsin	\$50
Alliance of American Insurers	\$100
Citigroup Management Group	\$100
Development Association Inc.	\$25
Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce	\$25
Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee Inc.	\$25
Marshall & Isley Corp.	\$50

Non Profit Affordable Housing Coalition	\$25
Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corp.	\$25
Orphan Medical	\$100
SEIU District 119 w/United Professionals for Quality Health Care	\$350
Sierra Club	\$50
Virchow Krause Capital LLC	\$50
WI Academy of Trial Lawyers	\$50
WI Assembly for the Local Arts	\$25
WI Automotive Aftermarket Assn.	\$50
WI Engine Manufacturer & Distributor Alliance	\$25
WI Fabricare Institute	\$25
WI Partnership for Housing Development Inc.	\$50
WI Rural Water Assn.	\$25

**ETHICS BOARD COLLECTS \$225 IN PENALTIES FOR LATE REPORTS OF LOBBYING ACTIVITIES.** As penalties for late filing of its Statement of Lobbying Activities and Expenditures, the organizations paid the penalties set opposite their names:

Wisconsin State Council of Carpenters	\$25
Circus World Museum	\$25
Wisconsin Commercial Fisheries Association	\$25
Sokaogon Chippewa Community	\$50
Grassroots Empowerment Project	\$100

### **STATEMENTS OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS**

**Late Statements of Economic Interests result in penalties of \$20.** Every official required to file a Statement of Economic Interests with the Ethics Board did so and nearly every Statement was filed by the date due. Of roughly 2,400 people filing Statements, only the following merited a penalty for filing late. In each case, the penalty was ten dollars.

- Roberta Harris, member, State Public Defenders Board
- Bhupindar Saini, member, Medical Examining Board

*The Ethics Board deposits all forfeitures that the Board collects into the state school fund.*