

CONNECTICUT STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
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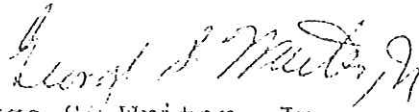
ADVISORY OPINION NUMBER 78-11

"State Employee" under Public Act Number 77-605

A law firm which is providing legal services under contract to a State agency has asked the State Ethics Commission whether rendering the services requires the attorneys involved to register as lobbyists. The law firm was retained by the Connecticut Teachers' Retirement Board to revise Chapter 67, Connecticut General Statutes, under which the Board is established and operates. The services contemplate that one or more lawyers of the firm will meet with various legislative and staff persons with respect to any proposed legislation arising out of their work.

It is stated that the attorneys working for the Board are independent contractors. As independent contractors, they are not State employees. State Ethics Commission Advisory Opinion Number 78-9. In communicating with officials and staff of the legislature to influence legislative action they are lobbying. Section 1(k), Public Act Number 77-605. Provided an individual attorney receives \$300 or more in a calendar year for his services to the Board, he is a lobbyist. Section 1(1), id. (It would be otherwise if the attorneys met with legislators and their staff other than for the purpose of influencing legislation--merely to obtain information, for example. See section 1(1)(3), id.) As a lobbyist the attorney must register with the Commission. Section 5, id.

By order of the Commission,


George S. Writer, Jr.
Vice-Chairman

Dated June 16th 1978