



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

ADVISORY OPINION NO. 90-3

Reporting of Honoraria

The Honorable Julia Tashjian, the Secretary of State and President of the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS), has asked whether she must report fees and travel expenses paid to her by NASS.

Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-83(b)(2) states:

[E]very individual subject to this section shall file a disclosure with the commission of any fee or honorarium in the amount of one hundred dollars or more, which he receives in his capacity as a public official or state employee. Such disclosure shall be made within thirty days after receipt of such fee or honorarium. As used in this subsection, the terms "fee" and "honorarium" mean (a) a payment for an item or service of material value, (b) payment for the travel, accommodations or meal expenses of the individual or the individual's spouse, children or guests or (c) payment for the entertainment of the individual or the individual's spouse, children or guests, which is received for (i) attendance at a meeting or at a function of an organization, (ii) the delivery of an address to a meeting or an organization or (iii) the publication of an article.

The Secretary was appointed president of NASS due to her position as Secretary of State of Connecticut. Consequently, invitations to speak which she receives as a result of her position as President of NASS are received in her capacity as a public official. Therefore, the reporting requirements of Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-83(b)(2) apply to honoraria she receives from NASS.

The Secretary also asked whether reimbursements for travel and other expenses are reportable as honoraria. Under Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-83(b)(2)(B), payment of a public official's or state employee's travel expenses is an honorarium and must be reported.

By order of the Commission,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "William A. Elrick".

William A. Elrick
Chairperson

Dated 1 - 8 - 90