



## STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

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### **CT Office of State Ethics Reaches Settlements Relating to Violation of Revolving Door Provisions**

**Hartford** – The Office of State Ethics Enforcement Division resolved two separate but related matters for violations of the Code of Ethics. Tucker McWeeny of West Hartford, CT agreed to pay \$2500 to resolve allegations that he represented a party before his former state agency within one year of his departure from state service. Cira Romann of East Hampton, CT was penalized \$6000 (\$4000 of which was suspended by the Citizen’s Ethics Advisory Board) to resolve a complaint that she had “authorized, counseled, or otherwise sanctioned” McWeeny’s alleged violation.

As set forth in the complaints, as well as in each Stipulation and Consent Order signed by them, McWeeny departed his state position as a Human Rights and Opportunities Representative at the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) in 2010. Within one year of his departure, McWeeny became employed as an attorney for a private firm, and began representing a party who had a case pending against his former agency. In the course of that representation, although CHRO was represented by counsel, McWeeny had multiple contacts with Romann, who was still employed at CHRO. In the course of these contacts, Romann provided McWeeny with information regarding CHRO’s strategy in the pending matter and provided him with confidential documents regarding the matter, intended to assist McWeeny in representing his client against CHRO.

The Code of Ethics prohibits former state employees, within one year of their departure from state service, from representing “anyone, other than the state, for compensation before the . . . agency . . . in which he served at the time of his termination of service, concerning any matter in which the state has a substantial interest.”

In addition, the Code prohibits anyone from “counseling, authorizing, or otherwise sanctioning” any violation of the Code. McWeeny was alleged to have represented someone before CHRO for compensation within one year, and Romann was alleged to have counseled McWeeny’s violation of the Code.

Romann agreed to a \$6000 penalty, \$4000 of which was suspended by the Board based on a showing by Romann of financial hardship (Romann lost her state position as a result of her conduct). McWeeny agreed to a \$2500 penalty. In his defense, McWeeny stated that he did not believe that his conduct constituted “representing” someone before his former agency, and he stated that he did not intentionally violate the Code.

View: [McWeeny Docket 2011-57](#) and [Romann Docket 2011-60](#).

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*The Connecticut Office of State Ethics mission is to ensure honesty, integrity and accountability in state government through education, interpretation and enforcement of the State of Connecticut Code of Ethics. To contact us please visit our website at [www.ct.gov/ethics](http://www.ct.gov/ethics) or call us at (860) 263-2400.*