



STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

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State Ethics Selects 10 Client Lobbyists for 2016 Audit

Hartford – On Thursday, November 17, 2016, Dena Castricone, Vice Chair of the Citizen’s Ethics Advisory Board, will randomly select 10 lobbyists to be audited by the Office of State Ethics. The selections will be made during the Citizen’s Ethics Advisory Board meeting, beginning at 1:00 p.m., at 18-20 Trinity Street, 5th Floor, Hartford, Connecticut.

The lobbyists will be selected from a pool of all registered client lobbyists. A client lobbyist is the party paying for lobbying services on its behalf. In other words, the client lobbyist is expending or agreeing to expend the registration threshold amount of \$3,000 in a calendar year for lobbying.

In 2015, there were 949 registered client lobbyists, 574 in-house communicators and 182 individual communicators. A total of \$50,140,230 was spent. Of the \$50.1M spent on lobbying, \$46.1M went to compensation for lobbyists.

The top five issues lobbied were: (1) health and hospitals, health care systems medical organizations; (2) Government – financing, revenue, taxation, budget, appropriations, bids fees, funds, contracts; (4) Human services – adult, families, children; (3) Business and (5) Environment – recycling, packaging, pollution, waste.

“Connecticut’s lobbying laws are in place to prevent corruption and provide transparency by showing the citizens of the state who is spending money on lobbying, what issues are being targeted, and how the money is being spent,” said Carol Carson, Executive Director of the Office of State Ethics. “While lobbying laws provide for disclosure of sources and paths of money, they in no way limit lobbying activities.”

In the course of auditing the selected clients, the Office of State Ethics will also audit all associated communicator lobbyists – those receiving payment from the clients for conducting lobbying activities.

A list of lobbyists selected to be audited will be available on the Office of State Ethics web site, www.ct.gov/ethics, after the drawing. It is anticipated that all of the audits will be completed this fiscal year.

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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 or call us at (860) 263-2400.