

## PRESS RELEASE

### Former Department of Correction Employee, James Barone, Pays \$500 Civil Penalty for Ethics Violation

**June 4, 2009**

James Barone of East Haven, CT, paid a \$500 civil penalty for violating the Code of Ethics by using confidential information acquired through his state job for financial gain.

According to a consent order signed on June 2 with the Office of State Ethics (OSE), Barone was employed by the Department of Correction from 1982 to January 2008. As a result of his state employment, Barone had access to confidential state databases regarding the status of inmates and former inmates in Connecticut, federal criminal databases, and photos of individuals who failed to appear in Superior Court.

Specifically, Barone exceeded authorized use of a state computer by conducting two background checks for a bail bondsman and informing the bondsman of the results.

In December of 2006, the bail bondsman gave \$200 in cash to a family member of Barone. Subsequently, the bail bondsman indicated that the gift was a thank-you for assistance that Barone had provided.

Connecticut law prohibits a state employee from disclosing confidential information acquired in the course of and by reason of his official duties or employment for financial gain. Additionally, a state employee may not use his position or any confidential information received through it to obtain financial gain for himself or a family member.

In addition to the \$500 civil penalty, Barone may not seek employment or enter into a contract with the state for a period of two years from the date of the consent order, nor may he enter into or seek a contract for state services for the same period.

“The Code of Ethics seeks, first and foremost, to prevent public officials from using their positions for personal, financial gain,” said OSE Executive Director, Carol Carson. “State employees must have an acute awareness of these ‘use of office’ provisions.”

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