

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Connecticut Office of State Ethics Reaches \$2,500 Settlement with Former Senate Minority Leader, Louis DeLuca**

**November 17, 2008**

Former Connecticut General Assembly Senate Minority Leader, Luis C. DeLuca, today entered a stipulation and consent order with the Enforcement Division of the Office of State Ethics (OSE). DeLuca, now retired and living in Woodbury, paid a civil penalty of \$2,500 for allegedly soliciting and accepting a gift from a representative of a registered lobbyist.

A complaint filed by Nancy DiNardo alleged that DeLuca, while serving as an elected official, solicited and accepted a gift in the form of proposed services from a person acting on behalf of a registered lobbyist. Specifically, in April 2005, DeLuca met with James Galante, the owner of a number of trash hauling and related companies, all registered as lobbyists in the state of Connecticut. During that meeting, Galante offered, and DeLuca accepted, to have a Galante associate “visit” the now husband of DeLuca’s granddaughter – an offer understood to potentially entail a threat to the granddaughter’s now husband.

Connecticut General Statutes §1-84(j) provides, in part, that a public official or state employee may not knowingly accept any gift from a person known to be a registered lobbyist or anyone known to be acting on behalf of a registered lobbyist. Although the “visit” never occurred, DeLuca’s acceptance of services from Galante represents an acceptance of a gift from a known lobbyist or representative of a registrant.

DeLuca denies any violation of the Ethics Code, and denies that Galante’s offer constituted a gift, as the visit never occurred. He paid a civil penalty of \$2,500.

"The Code of Ethics clearly prohibits the acceptance of any gift from a lobbyist," said OSE Executive Director, Carol Carson. "Public officials should be aware that their acceptance of offers from lobbyists to provide services or help them personally may violate the gift ban."

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