

PRESS RELEASE

Capital Community College Professor, Nancy LaGuardia, Enters into \$2,500 Settlement for Ethics Violation

June 24, 2009

Nancy LaGuardia of West Hartford, CT, agreed to pay a \$2,500 civil penalty for violating the Code of Ethics by accepting other employment that impaired her independence of judgment as to her official state duties.

According to a consent order finalized yesterday with the Office of State Ethics (OSE), LaGuardia is employed by Capital Community College (CCC) as a professor in the Business and Technology Department. In addition to her state employment, LaGuardia served as a private contractor with Pre-Paid Legal Services. Contractors with Pre-Paid Legal earn commissions based on sales and bringing in new contractors or members.

On multiple occasions, LaGuardia solicited students under her supervision to work for Pre-Paid Legal, provided time during classes for Pre-Paid Legal representatives to recruit students, and facilitated recruiting meetings between Pre-Paid Legal and her students.

Connecticut law prohibits a state employee from accepting other employment which would impair her independence of judgment as to her official duties. By using her supervisory authority over students and providing Pre-Paid Legal with access to state resources, LaGuardia violated the Code of Ethics.

“The Code of Ethics is clear that while state employees may have other jobs, their state job must come first,” said OSE Executive Director, Carol Carson. “Preserving the independence of a state employee’s judgment is not just part of the law, it is paramount to maintaining the integrity of the public workforce.”

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