

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

98-5

June 5, 1998

PRESS RELEASE

On June 4, 1998, Ethics Commission Attorney Catherine Wassel-Nasto filed a complaint (Docket No. 98-5) against Mr. John Eichler, a former state employee in the Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP"). The Complaint alleged that Mr. Eichler violated the Code of Ethics for Public Officials ("the Code") by representing a party other than the state for compensation before the DEP within one year after leaving state service. See Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-84b(b).

In particular, the complaint alleged that within a year after leaving state service, Mr. Eichler improperly appeared before his former agency on behalf of the American Wire Company by signing and submitting a general permit, by telephoning DEP officials on several occasions concerning a Notice of Violation issued to the American Wire Company, and by submitting a spill report to the DEP's Bureau of Waste Management.

On June 5, 1998, the Ethics Commission and the Respondent settled this matter by entering into a Stipulation and Order (copies of the Complaint and Stipulation are attached). Under the Stipulation, the Commission found violations as alleged in the Complaint, and the Respondent agreed to pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$2,000. The Respondent stated that the violations were unintentional, and that the DEP had not advised him of the post-state employment provisions of the Code prior to or at the time of his exit interview with the agency.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL:

Catherine Wassel-Nasto, Esq.
State Ethics Commission
566-4472

Eichprss



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

DOCKET NUMBER 98-5) STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
IN A MATTER OF A) 20 TRINITY STREET
COMPLAINT AGAINST) HARTFORD, CT 06106
JOHN EICHLER) JUNE 2, 1998

STIPULATION AND ORDER

1. The Ethics Commission finds, based on the preliminary investigation in this matter, that the Respondent violated the Code of Ethics for Public Officials, Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-84b(b), as alleged in the attached Complaint dated June 2, 1998.
2. The Respondent denies any intentional violation of the Code of Ethics for Public Officials, and he further states that he had never been advised of the requirements of §1-84b(b) by the DEP prior to or at the time of his exit interview.
3. The Respondent waives any rights he may have under Connecticut General Statutes §§1-80, 1-82, 1-82a and 1-87 including the right to a hearing or appeal on this case and agrees with the Commission to an informal disposition of this matter as authorized by Connecticut General Statutes §4-177(c).

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-177(c), the State Ethics Commission and the Respondent John Eichler agree to settle this matter in the manner described below:

1. The Ethics Commission orders, and the Respondent agrees to pay to the Commission, a civil penalty of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00). Payment will be made in eight monthly increments of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) due on the first of every month starting July 1, 1998, and continuing until the amount is paid in full.

X John Eickler
Respondent

6-4-98
Date

[Signature]
Chairperson, State Ethics Commission

6/5/98
Date

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COMPLAINT

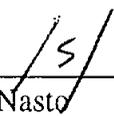
It is hereby alleged that:

1. Mr. John Eichler (hereinafter the "Respondent") was employed by the State Department of Environmental Protection from on or about May 30, 1996 until August 1, 1997.
2. As a state employee, the Respondent was subject to the requirements of the Code of Ethics for Public Officials, Chapter 10, Part I, Connecticut General Statutes, including the post-state employment rules contained in Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-84b.
3. Subsequent to his leaving state service, the Respondent became employed by "Time, Action & Quality, Inc." ("TAQ"), and in that capacity did consulting work for TAQ's client, The American Wire Company.
4. Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-84b(b) states that no former executive branch public official or state employee shall, for one year after leaving state service, represent anyone, other than the state, for compensation before the agency or office in which he served at the time of his termination of service, concerning any matter in which the state has a substantial interest.
5. In his capacity as a TAQ employee, the Respondent has conducted a course of compensated representation for the American Wire Company before the Department of Environmental Protection prior to the expiration of the one-year period after he left state service.
6. The Respondent's representation as identified in paragraph 5, above, includes the following: signing and submitting to the DEP a "General Permit to Limit Potential to Emit from Stationary Sources of Air Pollution;" telephoning DEP officials on several

occasions concerning a Notice of Violation issued to the American Wire Company; and submitting a spill report to the DEP's Bureau of Waste Management.

7. The state has a substantial interest in not only the submission of permits and reports to the DEP on behalf of parties to whom the DEP has issued Notices of Violation, but also other communications between such parties relating to Notices of Violation.

8. The Respondent's representation of TAQ's client, The American Wire Company, before the DEP as described in paragraphs 5 and 6, above, less than one year after the termination of his state service constitutes representation barred by Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-84b(b).



Catherine Nasto
Ethics Commission Attorney

6/4/98
Date

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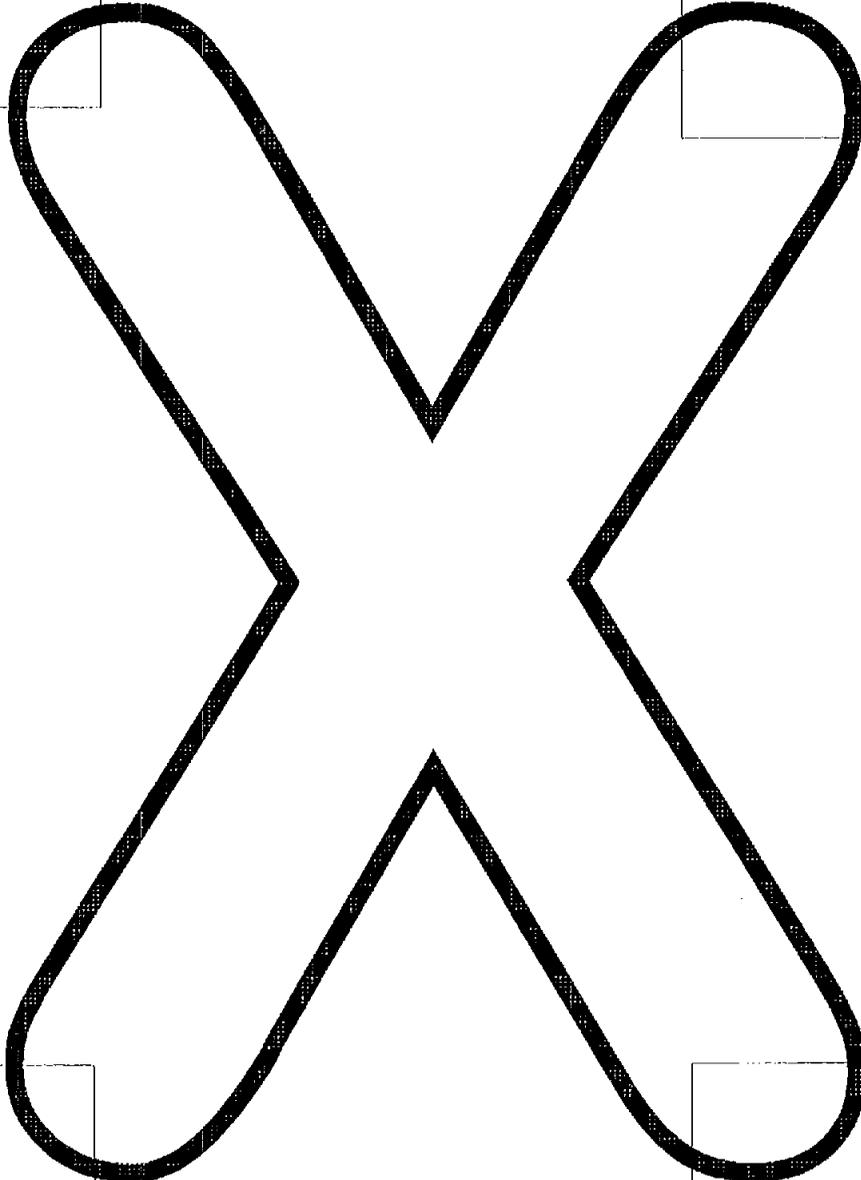
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98-6



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

June 8, 1998

PRESS RELEASE

On June 5, 1998, Ethics Commission Principal Attorney Brenda M. Bergeron filed a Complaint against David Holmes, an employee at the Department of Environmental Protection, alleging that Mr. Holmes used his state computer for a personal business purpose, by modifying, printing and storing documents relating to a rental property on the state computer, in violation of the Code of Ethics for Public Officials, Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-79 et seq.

On June 5, 1998, the Ethics Commission and the Respondent settled this matter by entering into a Stipulation and Order which requires the Respondent to pay a civil penalty of \$1000.

Copies of the Complaint and the Stipulation and Order are attached.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:

Alan S. Plofsky
Executive Director and General Counsel

or

Brenda M. Bergeron
Principal Attorney

566-4472

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