



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

March 8, 2002

### PRESS RELEASE

On March 4, 2002, Ethics Commission Principal Attorney Brenda M. Bergeron filed an Amended Complaint against Attorney Raymond G. Baldwin, Jr., Hearing Officer for the Department of Motor Vehicles. The Amended Complaint alleged that Mr. Baldwin violated Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-84(b) when he sat as the Hearing Officer in a DMV administrative hearing involving one of his private practice clients. Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-84(b) prohibits state employees and public officials from accepting other employment that impairs their independence of judgment with regard to their official duties.

On March 8, 2002, the Ethics Commission and Mr. Baldwin settled this matter by entering into a Stipulation and Order that requires Mr. Baldwin to pay a \$500 civil penalty.

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

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:

Brenda M. Bergeron  
Principal Attorney

(860) 566-4472, extension 306

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# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

DOCKET NUMBER 01-11

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF A

20 TRINITY STREET

COMPLAINT AGAINST

HARTFORD, CT 06106

RAYMOND G. BALDWIN, JR.

MARCH 8, 2002

### STIPULATION AND ORDER

Pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. §4-177(c), the State Ethics Commission and the Respondent agree to settle this matter in the manner described below:

1. The Commission finds that the Respondent violated the Code of Ethics for Public Officials as alleged in the Complaint dated March 4, 2002. The Commission further finds that the violation was not intentional.

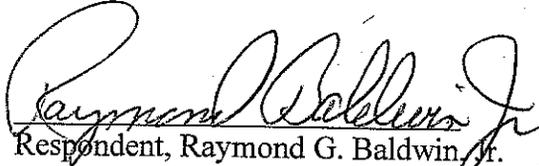
2. The Respondent denies that his actions violated the Code of Ethics, but in order to avoid lengthy legal proceedings, agrees to settle the matter.

The Respondent states that his representation of the client was limited to the criminal charges pending against the client, and was not to include any proceedings before the Department of Motor Vehicles. After agreeing to cover the docket of a fellow hearing officer who called in sick, the Respondent discovered that one of the cases before him that morning involved the individual he had represented in the criminal case. The Respondent further states, and the Commission agrees, that although he did sit as the Department of Motor Vehicles hearing officer in the case in question, he disclosed his relationship with the subject of the hearing on the record. Furthermore, the Respondent states that the decision to dismiss the case was not discretionary because the police report (Form A-44) lacked a mandatory acknowledgement, and therefore the subject did not receive any benefit from the Respondent's decision greater than that to which he would have been entitled had the matter been decided by any other hearing officer. For reasons of judicial economy, therefore, the Respondent agreed to hear the matter after disclosing his relationship with the subject on the record.

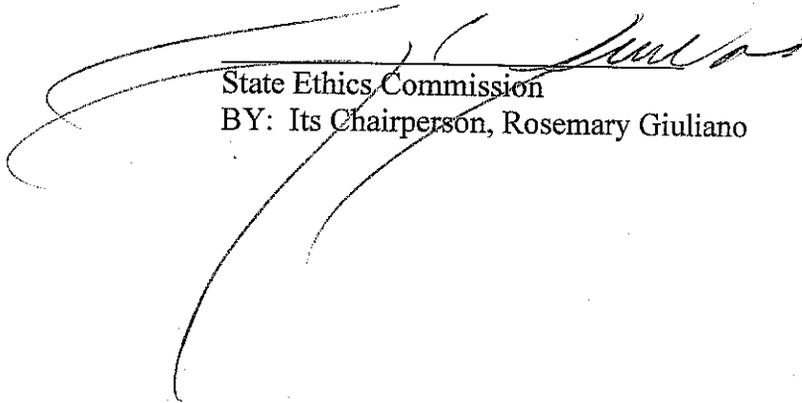
3. The Respondent waives any rights he may have under Conn. Gen. Stat. §§1-82, 1-82a, 1-87 and 1-80, including any right to a hearing or appeal in this case, and agrees with the Commission to an informal disposition of this matter as authorized by Conn. Gen. Stat. §4-177(c).

WHEREFORE, the State Ethics Commission enters and the Respondent agrees to the following order in lieu of any other action with regard to this matter.

The Respondent agrees to pay \$500 to the Commission within thirty days of the signing of the Stipulation and Order, and henceforth to comply with the Code of Ethics.

  
Respondent, Raymond G. Baldwin Jr.

3/5/02  
Date

  
State Ethics Commission  
BY: Its Chairperson, Rosemary Giuliano

8 MAR 02  
Date



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MARCH 4, 2002

### AMENDED COMPLAINT

1. At all times relevant herein, the Respondent was a public official as that term is used in the Code of Ethics for Public Officials, Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-79 et seq., serving as a Hearing Officer for the Department of Motor Vehicles ("DMV").
2. Connecticut General Statutes §1-84(b) prohibits, among other things, a public official from accepting other employment that impairs his independence of judgment with regard to his official duties.
3. In January of 2000, the Respondent accepted as a client an individual who had been arrested by Trumbull police for driving under the influence.
4. The Respondent informed the client that he would be receiving a notice to attend a hearing at the DMV. Thereafter, the client did receive such a notice to appear at the Norwalk DMV office on January 26, 2000.
5. On January 26, 2000, because a fellow Hearing Officer called in sick, the Respondent sat as the Hearing Officer at the Norwalk DMV office.
6. In his role as Hearing Officer, the Respondent heard his client's case. The client's license was reinstated.
7. The Respondent's official participation in an administrative hearing, when he had accepted a fee for representing the subject of the hearing in a related criminal case, constitutes a violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-84(b).

3-4-02

Date

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Handwritten signature of Brenda M. Bergeron in cursive script.

Brenda M. Bergeron  
Ethics Commission Attorney