



Washington State Executive Ethics Board

2425 Bristol Court SW • PO Box 40149 • OLYMPIA WA 98504-0149

(360) 664-0871 • Fax (360) 586-3955 • <http://www.ethics.wa.gov>

Executive Ethics Board News

Lisa Marsh, Chair
Anna Dudek Ross, Vice Chair
Matthew Williams III, Member
Samantha Simmons, Member
Sumeer Singla, Member

March 17, 2014

The Executive Ethics Board (Board) met on Friday, March 14, 2014 for their regular business meeting. Member Simmons did not attend; all other Board members were present, including our newest Board member, Sumeer Singla. Others attending included: Melanie de Leon, Executive Director, David Killeen, Investigator, Chad Standifer, Board Prosecutor and Ruthann Bryant Board Secretary. Members of the public also attended.

Enforcement

In lieu of an enforcement hearing, the Board accepted stipulations from:

- **Jason Wise**, an employee of the Department of Natural Resources, for activities incompatible with public duties, special privilege and use of state resources for personal gain. Evidence indicated that Mr. Wise had a more than professional friendship with the owners of Affordable Autoglass and allowed the purchase of windshield repairs from Affordable Autoglass even though this vendor was not the vendor on the state's convenience contract and at prices higher than the state convenience contracted vendor. Evidence also indicated that Mr. Wise was providing a special privilege to Affordable Autoglass, by allowing them to come to the compound and replace/repair the windshields of DNR employees contrary to agency directives. There was also evidence to show that Mr. Wise used state resources for personal benefit. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$5,000, suspending \$1,000.
- **Alan Paja**, a former employee of Labor and Industries, for using state resources for personal gain. Evidence indicated that knowing that he was going to retire on November 30, 2011, Mr. Paja used state funds to purchase materials and DVDs for some seminars he wanted to take. Mr. Paja took the seminar materials with him when he left state service and completed them after he had left. Mr. Paja returned the course materials to L&I in March 2012. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$1,000 and ordered Mr. Paja to pay \$2,480 in restitution to L&I, which was the original cost of the seminar materials.
- **John Goss**, a former employee of South Puget Sound Community College, for activities incompatible with public duties, special privilege and use of state resources for personal gain. Records indicated that Mr. Goss gave a special privilege to a few students when he would allow them access and the use of SPSCC's welding shop during times the welding classes were not in session. Evidence also indicated that Mr. Goss allowed this group of students to use state resources, materials and equipment, for their personal benefit, that he was not in the classroom providing instruction to the students when he was being paid to do so and also allowed a lab tech to make copper roses, for her personal benefit, during class at a time when they were being paid as a lab tech. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$3,000.

Meeting agendas can be found at www.ethics.wa.gov under "Meetings."

The next meeting of the Executive Ethics Board is scheduled for May 9, 2014.

- **Marla Elliott**, an employee of The Evergreen State College, for using state resources for her personal benefit. Evidence indicated that Ms. Elliott used her state computer and email system to support her outside business. The Board fined her \$2,500, suspending \$1,500.
- **Bruce Thomas**, former employee of the Department of Licensing for accepting employment with a vendor on a contract the he helped administer while employed by the state. The Board levied a fine of \$750.
- The Board found Reasonable Cause in two cases: 2013-045 (Koska) and 2013-051 (George).
- The Board did not find Reasonable Cause in two cases: 2013-039 (Zentner) and 2013-040 (Bolinger).
- The Board upheld six Executive Director's Dismissals: 2013-027 (Hect), 2013-028 (Fredricks), 2013-046 (Richards), 2014-047 (Esparza), 2014-002 (Hogarty) and 2013-036 (D'Ambrosio)
- The Board heard oral argument regarding case 2013-006 (Millbauer). The Board will issue a written order regarding this matter. The Board was presented a Thurston County Superior Court Order regarding case 2010-018 (Diaz) and will discuss the issue again at their May meeting.

Board Action:

- A. The Board reviewed and approved two policies for the Washington State Department of Transportation the Use of Electronic Communications Systems and Social Media. The Board reviewed and approved Renton Technical College's Ethics policy and the Ethical Conduct and Outside Employment policy for the Washington State Liquor Control Board.
- B. Board staff discussed the passing of HB 1785 that added a section to RCW 42.52.160 that allows agencies to allow de minimis use of state facilities to provide employees with information about (a) medical, surgical, and hospital care; (b) life insurance or accident and health disability insurance; or (c) individual retirement accounts, by any 18 person, firm, or corporation administering such program as part of authorized payroll deductions pursuant to RCW 41.04.020. This bill impacts the proposed revision to WAC 292-110-010, so the Board postponed scheduling an open public meeting under a CR 102 until July 2104 to allow the WAC Revision Subcommittee the time to see if changes to the revision are required.

Meeting agendas can be found at www.ethics.wa.gov under "Meetings."

The next meeting of the Executive Ethics Board is scheduled for May 9, 2014.