



# Washington State Executive Ethics Board

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## Executive Ethics Board News

Matthew Williams III, Chair  
Lisa Marsh, Vice Chair  
Nancy Biery, Member

March 16, 2012

The Executive Ethics Board (Board) met on Friday, March 16, 2012. Three Board members attended; Linnaea Jablonski was absent. Others attending included: Melanie de Leon, Executive Director, Ruthann Bryant, Board Secretary, David Killeen, Investigator and Bruce Turcott, Board Counsel. Members of the public also attended the meeting.

### Enforcement

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

- **Queniya Lassiter**, an employee of the Department of Transportation, for using state resources for personal gain. Evidence indicated that she sent and received 206 non-work-related emails on 51 dates between February 20, 2009 and August 18, 2009. The emails were exchanged with family members, colleges, financial institutions, military personnel, potential employers and auto repair shops. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$2,500, suspending \$1,000.
- **Dacia Stricklett**, an employee of the Department of Transportation, for using state resources for personal gain. The investigation found 1,618 personal emails sent by Ms. Stricklett from June 14, 2010 through January 18, 2011, to co-workers, friends and relatives. Ms. Stricklett also used her state computer during breaks and lunchtime to read and edit a novel she was writing. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$4,000, suspending \$2,800.
- **Jack Staples**, an employee of the Department of Labor and Industries, for using state resources for personal gain. Evidence indicated that between March and November 2009 Mr. Staples had over 1,580 hits on non-work related websites. His computer also contained nearly 400 non-work related e-mails dated between June and December 2009. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$1,500.
- **Kevin McStay**, an employee of the Department of Social and Health Services, used his state issued computer to visit sites on the internet and that he sent/received e-mails that were directly related to his outside business as a musician in a local band. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$3,000, suspending \$1,500.
- **Stan Marsh**, an employee of the Department of Transportation, used the tire service station located at the Everett DOT Maintenance Facility to service the tires on his personal vehicle. The Board issued a Letter of Instruction in lieu of a civil penalty.

### Board Action:

- A. The Board discussed and provided formal advice on whether it would provide a special privilege to Department of Corrections (DOC) staff who work at correctional facilities to allow them to

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Meeting agendas can be found at [www.ethics.wa.gov](http://www.ethics.wa.gov) under "Meetings."

*The next meeting of the Executive Ethics Board is scheduled for May 11, 2012.*

borrow books and materials housed in the state library branch located within the correctional facility. The Board reviewed and discussed RCW 42.52.070 and how it pertained to this situation. According to the Washington State Librarian, the Washington State Library has 16 branches throughout the state:

1. The main library is located in Tumwater and houses all state and federal publications, with an emphasis on Washington state history and governance. It acts as a research library that anyone with a state library card can use and some publications are available for check out.
2. Four branches are located inside state agencies – Department of Labor and Industries, Department of Transportation, Natural Resources and the Utilities and Trade Commission. These libraries contain agency-specific publications and reference material available for use and check-out by agency personnel.
3. Each of the state owned mental hospitals have a branch library that houses publications similar to a small public library, e.g., fiction and non-fiction, but also contain mental illness reference materials used mainly by the hospital staff.
4. The remaining nine branches are located in correctional facilities. These branches also contain books similar to those in a public library that can be checked out by the inmates and staff, but also contain books regarding reentry programs and life skills that the staff use in their daily work with inmates. One facility also has a law library for use by inmates.

While the public cannot go into a correctional facility to check out books, all of the books and materials housed in any of the state libraries are available through an interlibrary loan system to which all libraries in the state belong. Since anyone can go to their county public library and request a book that may be physically located in a correctional facility library and receive it through the interlibrary loan system, everyone has "virtual" access to all of the books housed at correctional facilities and there is no special privilege given to DOC staff.

- B. The Board reviewed and approved the Ethics policy for the State Board of Accountancy.