



Washington State Executive Ethics Board

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Executive Ethics Board News

Linnaea Jablonski, Chair
Mike Connelly, Vice Chair
Neil Gorrell, Member
Martin Biegelman, Member
Matthew Williams III, Member

July 13, 2010

The Executive Ethics Board (Board) met on Friday, July 9, 2010. All members were present. Others attending included: Melanie de Leon, Executive Director, Ruthann Bryant, Board Secretary, Nancy Lewin and Sue Jones, Board Investigators and Jerry Anderson, Senior AAG, Board Counsel. Members of the public also attended.

Enforcement

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

Grace Straight, an employee of the Department of Social and Health Services, who violated RCW 42.52.160 when she used state resources for personal gain. The Board assessed a civil penalty of \$500.

The Board issued final Default Orders and Judgments against:

1. Kyle Gubbe, an employee of the Public Disclosure Commission who violated RCW 42.52.160 when he used state resources for private gain. The Board assessed a civil penalty of \$17,000.
2. Gerald Hebert, a Commissioner for the Human Rights Commission, who violated RCW 42.52.160 when he used state resources for private gain and to avoid a personal expense. The Board assessed a civil penalty of \$7,500.

Board Action:

A. The Board analyzed 99-03 and the entire issue regarding honorarium, especially in light of amendments made to the Ethics Act in 2005 adding section 42.52.220. In September, the Board will review a draft Advisory Opinion regarding whether state resources may be used to prepare the material that would be presented by a state employee for which the employee will receive an honorarium.

B. Representative Miloscia attended the Board meeting to discuss possible performance metrics to provide to the legislature that would fulfill the requirement placed on the Board under the new budget legislation.

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

The next meeting of the Executive Ethics Board is scheduled for September 17, 2010.