



# 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**

September 21, 2010

The Executive Ethics Board (Board) met on Friday, September 17, 2010. All members were present. Others attending included: Melanie de Leon, Executive Director, Ruthann Bryant, Board Secretary, Sue Jones, Board Investigator, Jerry Anderson, Senior AAG, Board Counsel and Senior AAG Mary Tennyson. Members of the public also attended.

### Enforcement

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

1. **Brandon Chapman**, an employee of the Department of Early Learning, for using a state computer for personal gain. Between August 12, 2008, and April 2, 2009, Chapman accessed sports-related sites, over a dozen social networking sites, including a family Web site, personal e-mail accounts, retail sites, banking sites and a site where he stored personal audio files. He also used his state computer to contact people to seek employment opportunities. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$500.
2. **AL Hunton**, a faculty member in the Bates Technical College's Television Broadcast Program, for using state resources for personal gain. As an instructor, Mr. Hunton used his position to obtain his student's personal cell phones to access and download their personal photographs onto his state computer. In May 2007, Bates had taken disciplinary action against Hunton based upon an investigation stemming from student complaints that Hunton was showing excessive and inappropriate interest in their personal photographs. Hunton admitted that he had been using his state laptop to download pornographic images from adult websites. A forensic analysis of his computer found over 4,000 personal photographs and approximately 25,000 pornographic images. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$6,500.
3. **Connie Sakamoto**, an Administrative Manager at the Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine, for using three separate state computers for personal gain. Since July 2007, Sakamoto used state provided laptops and desktops to run her private transcription business. Between October 2007 and 2008, she accessed the e-mail site for this business almost daily, and multiple times each day. A forensic analysis of her computers found 127 transcription reports and 27 invoices for transcription reports, 5,660 graphics identified as non-work related, including images of wedding dresses and photos of family gatherings. Ms.

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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 November 12, 2010.*

Sakamoto also participated in an online auction for a 2-hour period. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$10,000 with \$2,000 suspended.

4. **Arden Gray**, a Finance/Budget Coordinator for the Washington State University, for using an agency provided computers for personal gain. Ms. Gray had access to three University-owned computers: a desktop and two laptops. The State Auditor's Office completed a forensic analysis of her Internet use from March 2002 to February 2009 and found personal Internet use on all three computers and over 2,400 non-work related records. The two laptop computers showed no evidence of University-related activity at all – only personal use. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$6,000 with \$2,000 suspended.

**Board Action:**

A. The Board reviewed a proposed update to the Advisory Opinion 99-03. The proposed update would prohibit the use of state resources to prepare the presentation material that would be used by the state employee during the presentation for which they would receive an honorarium. The Board requested that the Ethics Advisory Group review the proposed update before they approve it. This update will be handed out to the ethics advisors at their September 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.

B. The Board reviewed a plan to collect performance metrics to fulfill the requirement placed on the Board under the new budget legislation. Several surveys will be distributed to state agency personnel, the Board's website is undergoing a change to include a public survey and outcome based metrics will be collected to determine the effectiveness of the Board. This is an on-going process and the Board will review the metrics collected to date at their November meeting.

C. The Board approved the Utilities and Transportation Commission's Fundraising for Charitable Purposes policy.

D. The Board reviewed, but did not approve the Attorney General's Office Social Networking policy. The Board requested some word changes to clarify that use can only be for agency purposes.

**Other:**

A. Senior Counsel Jerry Anderson, Board Counsel is retiring at the end of October. Mary Tennyson, Senior Assistant Attorney General will replace him.

B. Assistant Attorney General Kate Reynolds will replace Mickey Newberry as the Board's litigator.