

Executive Ethics Board News

Kelli Hooke, Chair
Megan Abel, Vice Chair
Jan Jutte, Member
Cam Comfort, Member
David Hankins, Member

January 14, 2025

The Executive Ethics Board (Board) met on Friday, January 10, 2025, for their regular meeting. Board members present were Chair Kelli Hooke, Vice Chair Megan Abel and Members Jan Jutte, Cam Comfort and David Hankins. Others attending included: Kate Reynolds, Executive Director, Matt Kernutt, Senior Counsel, Julia Eisentrout, Assistant Attorney General, Ruthann Bryant, Administrative Officer and Justin Cotte, Senior Digital Forensic Investigator. Members of the public also attended.

Enforcement

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

- **Kurt Lupinski**, Head Baseball Coach with Lower Columbia College, agreed that they may have violated several sections of the Ethics in Public Service Act. Evidence indicated that Kurt Lupinski had an outside business running baseball camps on one of the college's sports fields and rented the field to their outside business at a lower rate than others were charged and used state resources for both their outside business and personal use. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$1,500 with \$750 suspended.
- **Richard Lember**, a Worksource Virtual Specialist 4 with the Employment Security Department, agreed that they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by using state resources for personal benefit. Evidence indicated that Richard Lember downloaded and saved several personal documents on their state computer and browsed the internet visiting numerous news, entertainment, shopping and real estate sites and two personal email websites. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$5,000 with \$1,000 suspended.

The Board found Reasonable Cause in EEB Case 2023-081 (Bowman), EEB Case 2023-085 (Glover), EEB Case 2023-086 (Brummett), EEB Case 2023-087 (English), EEB Case 2023-091 (Islas-Sanchez) and EEB Case 2024-073 (Humes).

The Board issued Motions for Default in EEB Case 2023-064 (Estep) and EEB Case 2023-072 (Miller).

Board Action:

- A. The Board discussed a draft Advisory Opinion 25-01 related to the use of state resources by state employees working to receive a college or educational certificate.

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

The next meeting of the Executive Ethics Board is scheduled for March 14, 2025.