

Executive Ethics Board News

Jan Jutte, Chair
Kelli Hooke, Vice Chair
Earl Key, Member
Shirley Battan, Member
Megan Abel, Member

May 23, 2023

The Executive Ethics Board (Board) met on Friday, May 12, 2023 for their regular meeting. Board members present were Chair Jan Jutte, Vice Chair Kelli Hooke and Members Shirley Battan, Earl Key and Megan Abel. Others attending included: Kate Reynolds, Executive Director, Leo Roinila, Assistant Attorney General, Julia Eisentrout, Assistant Attorney General, Ruthann Bryant, Administrative Officer, and Bobby Frye and Justin Cotte, Investigators. Members of the public also attended.

Enforcement

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

- **Brian Wolk**, former IT Application Developer with the Employment Security Department, agreed that they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by using state resources for non-work related purposes. Evidence indicated that Brian Wolk used their state computer for court appearances during work hours, to access the internet for personal use, including shopping and stored of hundreds of photographs and court documents on their state computer. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$5,000.
- **David Window**, a Captain at the Washington State Penitentiary with the Department of Corrections, agreed that they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by using state resources for private benefit or gain. Evidence indicated David Window used their state computer to search the internet and to access personal social media accounts. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$500 with \$150 suspended.
- **David Brewer**, a Correctional Unit Supervisor with the Department of Corrections, agreed that they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by using state resources for private benefit or gain. Evidence indicated that David Brewer used their state issue cell phone to store personal photographs, to send and receive personal text messages and used their state issued computer to browse the internet. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$5,000 with \$1,000 suspended.
- **Celestia Higano**, a retired Professor with the University of Washington School of Medicine (UW), may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by performing activities incompatible with public duties and by using state resources to conduct outside employment and had a staff member perform outside work for their personal consulting business. Evidence indicated that over a three-year period a staff member spent around 950 hours assisting with outside work activities and an additional 35 hours doing personal tasks for Celestia Higano and that Celestia Higano used UW computers and

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email to perform non-University related activities. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$7,500.

- **Kayla Slaybaugh**, a Brand Inspector 2 with the Department of Agriculture, agreed that they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by using state resources for personal benefit or gain. Evidence indicated that Kayla Slaybaugh connected multiple personal devices to their agency hotspot, used their agency issued iPad to stream movies and used a state issued cell phone for personal use, including allowing a family member to take the phone out-of-state. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$5,000 with \$1,250 suspended.
- **Jessica Wilks**, former Fiscal Technician in Financial Aid with Lower Columbia College, agreed that they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by using state resources for private benefit or gain. Evidence indicated they applied for and received CARES Act funds and then dropped the classes. They also provided a special privilege to several others by filling out and submitting CARES Act paperwork for them to receive the funding also. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$8,000.
- **Mike Stanford**, an Avalanche Forecast and Control Specialist 4 – Supervisor with the Washington State Department of Transportation, agreed that they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by using state resources for private benefit or gain. Evidence indicated that Mike Stanford used their state email account for their outside homeowner’s association (HOA) work, saved several HOA related documents on their state computer and browsed the internet for personal reasons. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$4,000 with \$1,000 suspended.

The Board found Reasonable Cause in EEB Case 2022-032 (Prows), EEB Case 2022-043 (Womack), EEB Case 2022-051 (Rhodes), EEB Case 2022-052 (Jordan), EEB Case 2022-053 (Rohan), EEB Case 2022-054 (Carlile), EEB Case 2022-055 (Bayer), EEB Case 2022-056 (Flores), EEB Case 2022-057 (Martin), EEB Case 2022-058 (Logan), EEB Case 2022-059 (Lugo), EEB Case 2022-060 (Sumerlin), EEB Case 2022-062 (Melton), EEB Case 2022-063 (Croft), EEB Case 2022-064 (Lowder), EEB Case 2022-065 (Harmon), EEB Case 2022-066 (Long), EEB Case 2022-067 (Fletcher), EEB Case 2023-005 (Horenstein), EEB Case 2023-006 (Havens), EEB Case 2023-007 (Hultberg), EEB Case 2023-019 (Grindrod), and EEB Case 2023-026 (Gomez-Castillo).

The Board dismissed EEB Case 2022-042 (Barehand), EEB Case 2022-045 (Timmermans-Judy), EEB Case 2022-048 (Glenn), and EEB Case 2023-004 (Jones).

The Board entered a Final Order of Default in EEB Case 2022-015 (Hansen).

The Board also reviewed one Executive Director Dismissal in EEB Case 2022-061 (Torrescano).

Board Action:

- A. The Board heard a Motion for Summary Judgment in EEB Case 2022-010 Franklin Graham.

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B. The Board denied a Request for Reconsideration of a Final Order in EEB Case 2021-050 Linda Bang.

C. The Board reviewed and approved the following policies:

- Meeting Ethical Standards – Department of Agriculture
- Employee Line of Duty Death or Life-Threatening Injury – Department of Corrections

Approved versions of policies are posted on the Board's website at www.ethics.wa.gov.

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