

## Executive Ethics Board News

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

September 11, 2023

The Executive Ethics Board (Board) met on Friday, September 8, 2023 for their regular meeting. Board members present were Chair Jan Jutte, Vice Chair Kelli Hooke and Members Shirley Battan and Megan Abel. Others attending included: Kate Reynolds, Executive Director, Lisa Petersen, Assistant Attorney General, Eric Allen, Assistant Attorney General, Julia Eisentrout, Assistant Attorney General, Ruthann Bryant, Administrative Officer, and Justin Cotte, Investigator. Members of the public also attended.

### **Enforcement**

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

- **Curt Wilson**, an employee with the Employment Security Department, agreed that they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by using state resources for private benefit and gain and for an outside business. Evidence indicated that Curt Wilson used their state computer to access their outside business website, to browse the internet including hundreds of personal Google searches and shopping. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$3,000.
- **Elia Martinez**, a Dental Assistant 2 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 Elia Martinez used their state computer for online streaming and personal web browsing to include accessing YouTube over 200 times on 20 different workdays. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$1,500 with \$750 suspended.
- **Antoinette Perez**, a Dental Assistant 2 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 that Antoinette Perez used their state computer for personal Google searches and to stream YouTube. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$1,500 with \$750 suspended.
- **Valerie Acosta**, a Medical Assistant 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 that Valerie Acosta failed to submit leave on four days, accessed YouTube on approximately 37 different workdays and browsed the internet for travel and shopping searches. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$5,000 with \$2,000 suspended.

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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 17, 2023.*

- **Xuetao Huang**, an Economic Analyst 3 with the Employment Security Department, agreed that they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by using state resources for private benefit or gain. Evidence indicated that Xuetao Huang used their state computer for personal web browsing, including accessing a foreign bank account. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$2,500 with \$1,250 suspended.
- **Lola Hultberg**, a Corrections Officer 2 at the Washington State Penitentiary with the Department of Corrections, may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by conducting activities incompatible with public duties and by using state resources for private benefit or gain. Evidence indicated that Lola Hultberg used their state computer for personal searches including YouTube visits, travel searches, Amazon shopping as well as personal Google searches and real estate websites. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$4,000 with \$1,000 suspended.

The Board found Reasonable Cause in EEB Case 2022-066 (Long), EEB Case 2023-014 (McHale), EEB Case 2023-021 (Burden), EEB Case 2023-022 (Metzger), EEB Case 2023-028 (Burson), EEB Case 2023-034 (George), EEB Case 2023-035 (Ahmann), EEB Case 2023-039 (Payne), and EEB Case 2023-043 (Black).

The Board dismissed EEB Case 2023-024 (Langer), EEB Case 2023-033 (Armstrong-Ash), and EEB Case 2023-040 (Pettit).

**Board Action:**

- A. The Board reviewed and approved draft Advisory Opinion 23-01 Paid Time to Exercise.