

Connecticut State Board of Accountancy  
April 07, 2010  
Minutes

Chairman Thomas F. Reynolds called the meeting to order at 08:36 A.M. via Conference Call at the State Board of Accountancy, 30 Trinity Street 250, Hartford, CT 06106.

Present:

Thomas F. Reynolds, CPA, Chairman  
Philip J. DeCaprio, Jr., CPA/ABV/CFF, Cr.FA, CVA  
Richard H. Gesseck, CPA- *Entered Conference Call at 08:44 A.M.*  
Leonard M. Romaniello, Jr., CPA, CITP, CFE, MST  
Richard L. Sturdevant  
Martha S. Triplett, Esq.  
Michael Weinshel, CPA

Staff Members Present:

David L. Guay, Executive Director  
Rebecca E. Adams, Esq., Board Counsel  
Angel D. Acevedo, Office Assistant

Absent:

James S. Garcia

Motion was made by Michael Weinshel and seconded by Martha Triplett to approve the minutes of the March 02, 2010 Board Meeting. All voted in favor; no votes against and no abstentions.

**Executive Director's Operations Update and Review:**

**Budget**

- Appropriations Committee proposes restoring appropriation for FY11.
- Legislative initiative to further reduce the Executive Director's compensation beyond the SEBAC reductions, including elimination of longevity and at least two further furlough days.

**Information Technology**

- Completed another computer inventory for DoIT, last accomplished in June 2009.
- Relationship with DoIT is still in question, new initiative.
- Participated in a Disaster Recovery Exercise with DoIT on March 25, 2010.

**Licensing**

- Draft of new "Steps for Certificate" in progress.
- Late Renewals still coming in.
- Have begun to draft changes to Peer Review Regulations.
- Met with CSCPA staff concerning Peer Review and the AICPA Facilitated Access Program on March 16, 2010, also met with AICPA staff in Nashville on March 21, 2010.

**Facilities**

- Contacted Department of Public Works Security on February 11, 2010 about replacing Security Badges – new photos may be taken on May 4, 2010.
- Power outage and swipe card access problem on March 24 & 25, 2010.

### **General Administrative**

- Continuing with weekly updates of the Emergency Command Center for the H1N1 Pandemic – trained Denise Diaz as an alternate reporter.
- Accepted a Summer Intern.

### **NASBA**

- Northeast Regional Communications Forum set for after the May 4, 2010 meeting:
  - Invitations sent out by NASBA;
  - Kathy Phillips from the NASBA Center for the Public Trust will visit and attend (per discussion with her in Nashville).
- Executive Directors meeting in Nashville – highlights:
  - Met with AICPA Peer Review Staff on facilitated access;
  - Facilitated two breakfast meetings and provided a summary report;
  - Met Connecticut's CPAES coordinator;
  - Met with Craig Mills of the AICPA and accepted his request to come visit the Board again to speak about the CPA Exam;
  - Met with NASBA staff concerning Investigative assistance and expertise;
  - Fruitful discussion with Bob Brooks, Executive Director of North Carolina concerning a particular enforcement matter;
  - Received nose to the grindstone award at recognition lunch.

The Board reviewed and noted, for the record, CPA Certificate Registration, CPA License & Firm Permit Applications approved by the Executive Director March 02, 2010 through April 06, 2010.

The Board noted, for the record, no new PCAOB Inspection Reports were received.

- PCAOB Rule 4009 Determination-Mahoney Sabol & Company, LLP; Dated October 17, 2008.

Motion made by Michael Weinshel and seconded by Philip DeCaprio to approve Mr. Daniel L. Marra's- CPA License # 2904- request for an extension of his 2009 CPE Requirements. All voted in favor; no votes against and no abstentions.

Motion made by Michael Weinshel to deny Mr. Nishant Patel's CPA Certificate Experience Verification application in Industry Accounting. Leonard Romaniello seconded the motion. All voted in favor; no votes against and no abstentions.

Motion made by Michael Weinshel and seconded by Martha Triplett to table Ms. Laura Geraty Recchia's CPA Certificate Experience Verification application in Industry Accounting; they need a more detailed explanation of the nature of the experience being claimed. All voted in favor; no votes against and no abstentions.

Motion made by Michael Weinshel and seconded by Martha Triplett to approve Mr. Kevin J. Turley's CPA Certificate Experience Verification application in Industry Accounting. All voted in favor; no votes against and no abstentions.

Motion made by Michael Weinshel and seconded Leonard Romaniello to approve Ms. Chaya E. Segal's CPA Certificate Experience Verification application. All voted in favor; no votes against and no abstentions.

Under Regulatory Activity, motion made by Philip DeCaprio and seconded by Martha Triplett to nominate Mr. Michael Weinshel for the NASBA Director-at-Large position. All voted in favor; no votes against and no abstentions.

Motion made by Michael Weinshel and seconded by Leonard Romaniello to approve the Regional Director's Focus Questions Draft. All voted in favor; no votes against and no abstentions.

Under Public Comment, Mr. Arthur Renner, Executive Director of CSCPA & Mr. Larry Grambling, University of Connecticut Professor addressed the Board briefly.

### **Public Session- Enforcement Agenda**

#### **I. Requesting Settlement Approval**

**A. Licensing Related Cases (failure to renew on time/fail to undergo/file quality review on time):**  
**2009163-3340 & 2009164-3341 Thomas DeBrizzi**– practicing without a Firm Permit and CPA License; Mr. DeBrizzi was utilizing the CPA title in connection with the preparation of tax returns without a CPA License or Firm Permit since December 31, 2005. ***Counsel is requesting settlement approval with a payment of \$1,915 in back licensing fees; \$2,500 penalty fee, the reinstatement of his CPA License & Firm Permit.***

**2010008-3357 Kaskie Plude & Company, LLC**– late filing of quality review report/acceptance letter. The Firm failed to undergo and file its 2008 review on time; ***requesting settlement approval with payment of \$250 penalty fee.***

**2010022-3370 Howard Burtis**–late filing of quality review for 2006 and failure to undergo quality review in 2009. Mr. Burtis has re-enrolled in the CSCPA program and is currently scheduled to undergo a quality review in 2010 for the period covering 2007-2010. ***Requesting settlement approval with penalty of \$1,000 and a quality review to be performed in 2010.***

**2010045-3394 Ralph Deleo**– failure to renew CPA License on time; ***counsel is requesting settlement approval with a \$250 penalty fee, and the reinstatement of his CPA License with a lapse in dates.***

**2010046-3395 Robert Houlihan**– failure to renew CPA License on time; ***counsel is requesting settlement approval with a \$250 penalty fee, and the reinstatement of his CPA License with a lapse in dates.***

**2010051-3400 Larry Parkinson**– failure to renew CPA License on time; ***counsel is requesting settlement approval with a \$250 penalty fee, and the reinstatement of his CPA License with a lapse in dates.***

**2010054-3404 Walter Fulton**- failure to register CPA Certificate in 2009; *counsel is requesting settlement approval with payment of \$40 for the 2010 CPA Certificate Registration and a \$100 penalty fee.*

**2010055-3405 & 2010056-3406 Teja Shariff**- failure to renew CPA License & Firm Permit; *counsel is requesting settlement approval with a \$250 penalty fee, the reinstatement of his Firm Permit with an effective date of January 02, 2010, and the reinstatement of his CPA License with a \$150 penalty fee.*

**2010060-3410 John Lutz**- failure to renew CPA license on time; *counsel is requesting settlement approval with a \$250 penalty fee and reinstatement of his CPA License with a lapse in dates.*

**2010064-3414 Katherine Reeves**- failure to renew CPA License on time; *counsel is requesting settlement approval with a \$250 penalty fee and the reinstatement of her CPA License with a lapse in dates.*

**2010067-3417 Graf Repetti & Co., LLP**- failure to renew Firm Permit; *counsel is requesting settlement approval with a \$250 penalty fee, and the reinstatement of the Firm Permit with a lapse in dates.*

**2010071-3421 Terry Grossman**- failure to renew CPA License; *counsel is requesting settlement approval with a \$250 penalty fee, and reinstatement of his CPA License with a lapse in dates.*

**2010072-3422 Schneider Downs & Co., Inc**-failure to renew firm permit; *requesting settlement approval with a penalty of \$250 and the reinstatement of the Firm Permit with a lapse in dates.*

**2010075-3425 Brian LaMorte**- failure to renew CPA Certificate Registration in 2009; *requesting settlement approval with payment of \$40 for 2010 Registration Period and a penalty of \$100.*

**2010077-3427 John Ellingsen**- failure to renew CPA License on time; *requesting settlement approval with a penalty of \$250 and the reinstatement of his CPA License with a lapse dates.*

**2010079-3429 Mahoney Sabol & Company, LLC**- failure to renew Firm Permit in a timely fashion; The Firm continued to conduct approximately 15 attest engagements without an active Firm Permit after it expired December 31, 2009. *Counsel is requesting settlement approval with penalty of \$1,500 and the reinstatement of the Firm Permit with a retroactive date of January 02, 2010.*

**2010081-3431 James George**- failure to renew Firm Permit & CPA license on time; the Firm continued to conduct approximately 3 attest engagements without an active Firm Permit after it expired December 31, 2009. *Counsel is requesting settlement approval with a penalty of \$300, the reinstatement of the Firm Permit with a retroactive date of January 02, 2010, a penalty of \$250 and the reinstatement of the CPA License as of the acceptance of this settlement.*

Motion made by Michael Weinshel and seconded by Martha Triplett to approve the settlement agreements in the following enforcement cases: # 2009163-3340 & 2009164-3341, against Mr. Thomas DeBrizzi; # 2010008-3357, against the firm of Kaskie Plude & Company, LLC; # 2010022-3370, against Mr. Howard Burtis; # 2010045-3394, against Mr. Ralph Deleo; # 2010046-3395, against Mr. Robert Houlihan; # 2010051-3400, against Mr. Larry Parkinson; # 2010054-3404, against Mr. Walter Fulton; # 2010055-3405 & # 2010056-3406, against Mrs. Teja N. Shariff; # 2010060-3410, against Mr. John Lutz; # 2010064-3414, against Ms. Katherine Reeves; # 2010067-3417, against the Firm of Graf Repetti & Co., LLP; # 2010071-3421, against Mr. Terry Grossman; # 2010072-3422, against the firm of Schneider Downs & Co., Inc.; # 2010075-3425, against Mr. Brian LaMorte; # 2010077-3427, against Mr. John Ellingsen; # 2010079-3429, against the firm of Mahoney Sabol & Company, LLC; # 2010081-3431, against Mr. James George. All voted in favor; no votes against and no abstentions.

**B. Non-Licensure Based Cases:**

**2003011-2449 Paul Greenberg**- knowingly misrepresented the status of clients as “non-related parties” to the Department of Social Services on the Annual Reports of Long-term Care Facility from 1991 through 1994 and the employment status of two employees of the Gaylordsville Rest Home on the Annual Report of Long-term Care Facility for the years 1998 and 1999.

***Counsel requests settlement approval as follows:***

**ORDER**

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes, sections 20-280b and 20-281a, the Connecticut State Board of Accountancy ORDERS that:

1. Respondents practice of public accountancy shall be limited for a period of five (5) years, in the following manner:

Respondent shall not represent clients in any matters involving the Connecticut Department of Social Services, especially those in which he would be prepare cost reports or annual reports of long term care facilities or otherwise make representation to the Connecticut Department of Social Services which would determine the reimbursement rate or amount paid to clients by the State of Connecticut

2. Respondent shall submit a notarized affidavit with his application for renewal of his Connecticut CPA license each year, accurately stating, under penalty of perjury, that he is observing the practice limitation imposed under the terms of this settlement and does not engage in such practice.
3. A letter of admonishment from the Board shall be placed in the Respondents file.
4. The respondent shall earn 8 hours of CPE in ethics and/or professional responsibility by December 31, 2010, and send proof of his in-person attendance of the course(s) necessary to satisfy this term of the agreement.
5. The respondent shall pay \$7,500, by check made payable to the Treasurer of the State of Connecticut by 4 PM on March 30, 2010.

Motion made by Michael Weinshel and seconded by Leonard Romaniello to approve the settlement agreement in enforcement case # 2003011-2449, against Mr. Paul Greenberg. No votes against and no abstentions; Mr. Philip DeCaprio recused himself.

**II. Recommending Dismissal:**

**2009149-3325 Alan Clavette**– negligence in estate accounting; respondent submitted a detailed reply to the allegations of failing to provide accounting services to the Estate of Mrs. Malley in accordance with an “engagement agreement” and responding to the claims that he was withholding client records. Counsel has determined that the initial communication between the respondent and the executor of the estate was not an engagement agreement and the records involved are not source documents. This was a complicated estate matter which stretched over 10 years and involved beneficiaries suing one another, ***therefore, Counsel is requesting dismissal; no probable cause; no violation found.***

Motion made by Leonard Romaniello and seconded by Philip DeCaprio to dismiss all charges in enforcement case # 200914-3325, against Mr. Alan Clavatte. All voted in favor; no votes against and no abstentions.

**2009152-3328 Michael Plude**– failure to return client records; Mr. Plude demonstrated he provided all records in his possession to Ms. Carone, the complainant, upon her request. He provided copies of all records to counsel who reviewed them with the complainant, ***therefore, Counsel is requesting dismissal; no probable cause; no violation found.***

Motion was made by Leonard Romaniello and seconded by Martha Triplett to dismiss enforcement case # 2009152-3328, against Mr. Michael Plude due to lack of probable cause. All voted in favor; no votes against and no abstentions.

**2009157-3333 O'Connell Pace and Company**– failure to provide client records; ***Counsel is requesting dismissal; no probable cause; no violation found.***

Motion was made Michael Weinshel and seconded by Leonard Romaniello to dismiss enforcement case # 2009157-3333, against the firm of O'Connell Pace and Company as no violation was found. All voted in favor; no votes against and no abstentions.

**2010002-3348 Andrew Kravitz**– using the CPA title in violation of the settlement agreement entered with the Board; Mr. Kravits surrendered his CPA license in 2002. The complainants alleged he was practicing as a CPA when preparing taxes and claimed to be a licensed CPA when he applied for a position with the Manchester Housing Authority. The Housing Authority dismissed him based on performance related deficiencies in February 2010. While the complainants say they believed he was a CPA, there is no evidence to support the claim, ***as a result, Counsel is requesting dismissal; no probable cause; no violation found.***

**2010028-3376 Thomas Murphy, III**- failure to undergo and submit quality review; Mr. Murphy's reviewer was delayed in issuing the report. Mr. Murphy submitted the report to the Board as soon as he received the report, ***as a result, Counsel is requesting dismissal; no probable cause; no violation found.***

**2010044-3393 Donna Cashman**– failure to renew CPA license; respondent was not required to hold a Connecticut CPA license during the lapse period. She submitted a notarized affidavit

stating she has not used the CPA title, or practiced public accountancy in the State of Connecticut since December 31, 2009. ***Counsel is requesting dismissal; no probable cause; no violation found.***

**2010048-3397 Irene Kuring**– failure to renew CPA license; respondent was not required to hold a Connecticut CPA license during the lapse period. She submitted a notarized affidavit stating she has not used the CPA title, or practiced public accountancy in the State of Connecticut since December 31, 2009. ***Counsel is requesting dismissal; no probable cause; no violation found.***

**2010084-3434 Eliot Bassin**– failure to renew CPA license; respondent was not required to hold a Connecticut CPA license during the lapse period. He submitted a notarized affidavit stating he has not used the CPA title, or practiced public accountancy in the State of Connecticut since December 31, 2009. ***Requesting dismissal; no probable cause; no violation found.***

**2010086-3436 Kenneth Brewer**– failure to renew CPA license; respondent was not required to hold a Connecticut CPA license during the lapse period. He submitted a notarized affidavit stating he has not used the CPA title, or practiced public accountancy in the State of Connecticut since December 31, 2009. ***Requesting dismissal; no probable cause; no violation found.***

**2010089-3439 Parmelee Poirer & Associates, LLP**– failure to renew Firm Permit; respondent was not required to hold a Connecticut Firm Permit during the lapse period. The Firm submitted a notarized affidavit stating it has not used the CPA title, or practiced public accountancy in the State of Connecticut since December 31, 2009. ***Requesting dismissal; no probable cause; no violation found.***

**2010090-3440 Jonathan Cort**– failure to renew CPA license; respondent was not required to hold a Connecticut CPA license during the lapse period. He submitted a notarized affidavit stating he has not used the CPA title, or practiced public accountancy in the State of Connecticut since December 31, 2009. ***Requesting dismissal; no probable cause; no violation found.***

**2010091-3441 Jeron Alston**– failure to renew CPA license; respondent was not required to hold a Connecticut CPA license during the lapse period. He submitted a notarized affidavit stating he has not used the CPA title, or practiced public accountancy in the State of Connecticut since December 31, 2009. ***Requesting dismissal; no probable cause; no violation found.***

**2010092-3442 Michelle Andree**– failure to renew CPA license; respondent was not required to hold a Connecticut CPA license during the lapse period. She submitted a notarized affidavit stating she has not used the CPA title, or practiced public accountancy in the State of Connecticut since December 31, 2009. ***Requesting dismissal; no probable cause; no violation found.***

**2010094-3444 Lisa Safian**– failure to renew CPA license; respondent was not required to hold a Connecticut CPA license during the lapse period. She submitted a notarized affidavit stating she has not used the CPA title, or practiced public accountancy in the State of Connecticut since December 31, 2009. ***Requesting dismissal; no probable cause; no violation found.***

Motion made by Michael Weinshel and seconded by Philip DeCaprio to dismiss all charges in the following enforcement cases: # 2010002-3348, against Mr. Andrew Kravitz; # 2010028-3376, against Mr. Thomas Murphy, III; # 2010044-3393, against Ms. Donna Cashman; # 2010048-3397, against Ms. Irene Kuring; # 2010084-3434, against Mr. Eliot Bassin; # 2010086-3436, against Mr. Kenneth Brewer; # 2010089-3439, against the Firm of Parmelee Poirer & Associates, LLP; # 2010090-3440, against Mr. Jonathan Cort; # 2010091-3441, against Mr. Jeron Alston; # 2010092-3442, against Ms. Michelle Andree; # 2010094-3444, against Ms. Lisa Safian. All voted in favor; no votes against and no abstentions.

### **III. Requesting Issuance of Subpoena:**

**2010009-3358 BDO Seidman, LLP**-BDO Seidman, LLP performed the 2006, 2007 and 2008 audits of financial statements of Ascot Partners. Ascot Partners invested the majority of its assets with Bernard Madoff. The city of Danbury, CT lost approximately \$2 million in pension assets investing through Ascot Partners. Other municipalities and individuals suffered similar losses, *as a result, Counsel is requesting a subpoena for the audits performed in 2006, 2007, and 2008, as well as, all supporting documentation.*

Motion made by Martha Triplett and seconded by Philip DeCaprio to approve Ms. Adams' request for the issuance of a subpoena in enforcement case # 201009-3358, against the Firm of BDO Seidman, LLP. The subpoena will entail the audits performed in 2006, 2007, & 2008 including all supporting documentation. All voted in favor; no votes against and no abstentions.

### **IV. Status report:**

**2008038-3144 Michael Plude**– compliance meeting held; respondent demonstrated compliance with applicable laws with regard to many of the potential charges. Counsel and the respondent are reviewing the remaining potential charges and discussing the possibility of a settlement agreement in regards to those charges.

**2009027-3198 Teplitzky & Company**– compliance with subpoena; respondent has complied with Board issued subpoena. Counsel is continuing to review documents relating to this enforcement case.

Noted, for the official record, by the Board.

A Motion was made by Leonard Romaniello and seconded by Philip DeCaprio to adjourn the April 07, 2010 Board Meeting of the Connecticut State Board of Accountancy at 09:36 A.M. All voted in favor; no votes against and no abstentions.