



Department of Investigation

Press Release

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CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BOARD
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BOARD OF EDUCATION EMPLOYEE FINED \$700 FOR APPEARING AS AN ATTORNEY ON BEHALF OF HER PRIVATE CLIENT IN A LITIGATION AGAINST THE INTERESTS OF THE CITY

The New York City Conflicts of Interest Board (the "Board") and the New York City Board of Education (the "Board of Education") have concluded a three-way settlement of a case involving a Board of Education teacher who represented a client in a litigation in which the City was a party.

Board of Education employee Wilma Hill-Grier admitted that she appeared, for compensation, as an attorney on behalf of her private client, in a matter involving the City. In appearing on behalf of her client in a litigation in which the New York City Administration For Children's Services ("ACS") was a party, she appeared against the interests of the City. Hill-Grier made five appearances before Family Court and Criminal Court on her client's behalf. The City's Charter and the Board's Rules prohibit public servants from appearing on behalf of private interests in matters involving the City and appearing against the interests of the City in any litigation to which the City is a party. Hill-Grier was fined \$700.

Mark Davies, the Board's Executive Director, said of the settlement: "Public servants may not appear as attorneys against the interests of the City in any litigation in which the City is a party or a complainant, unless they get a waiver from this office. This provision protects against divided loyalties and this settlement sends a strong message that such conduct is not permitted."

The Conflicts of Interest Board is the City's ethics board and is responsible for enforcing Chapter 68 of the New York City Charter, the City's ethics law. The Board is presently composed of three members appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council.

Astrid B. Gloade, the Board's Deputy Counsel for Enforcement, and Isabeth A. Gluck, Associate Counsel for Enforcement, handled this case for the Board. The Board gratefully acknowledges the fine work of the New York City Department of Investigation, Edward J. Kuriansky, Commissioner. Pursuant to the City Charter, DOI serves as the investigative arm of the Board. The Board extends special thanks to DOI Inspector General Gerard Hoey and DOI Examining Attorney Seth Gordon.