

City of Stamford
Board of Ethics
888 Washington Boulevard
Stamford, CT 06901

February 28, 2003

Attorney John F. Leydon, Jr.
Ryan, Ryan, Johnson & Deluca
80 Fourth Street
Stamford, CT 06905

RE: Request for Advisory Opinion

Dear Attorney Leydon:

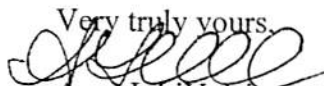
You have requested the Board of Ethics (the "Board") issue an advisory opinion addressing whether, in light of your membership on the Charter Revision Commission, you or other members of your law-firm may represent the City of Stamford in municipal tax foreclosure matters and appear before the land use boards of the City of Stamford.

The Board has considered your original written request dated February 11, 2003. In issuing this opinion, the Board relies upon the information contained therein.

In issuing this opinion the Board notes its understanding that the sole function of the Charter Revision Commission to review and amend (when appropriate) the City Charter every ten (10) years. It is the Board's opinion that it is not a conflict for you or other members of your firm to represent clients before the various land use boards of the City of Stamford. It is the Board's opinion that it is not a conflict for your firm to represent the City of Stamford in municipal tax foreclosure matters. This opinion is conditioned upon the fact that there are no revisions to the Charter that would give either you or your firm any special consideration, treatment or advantage (eg: "only lawfirms that employ John Leydon, Jr. shall represent the City in municipal tax foreclosure actions..."). We also caution you to avoid the appearance of impropriety and remind you that if you recuse yourself from any matter, that you leave the room during any discussion and voting.

This opinion is binding upon the Board unless amended or revoked, and reliance upon this opinion in good faith is an absolute defense to any action or proceeding brought under the provisions of the Code of Ethics.

Thank you for taking the time to request an advisory opinion, and for your service to the City of Stamford.

Very truly yours,

Amy J. LiVolsi
Chairman, Board of Ethics

cc: Donna Loglisci, Town Clerk
Members of the Board of Ethics (Kaplan, Summons, Anderson, Levine, Klein)