

## **CouleeConservatives.com Files Formal Complaint with Wisconsin Ethics Commission for Violations by Steve Doyle**

*Holmen— October 7, 2024* — CouleeConservatives.com announced their formal complaint to the Wisconsin Ethics Commission after research revealed potentially thousands of violations of ethics laws by state Representative Steve Doyle tied to his work as a private attorney providing legal services directly to state lobbying organizations, something that state ethics law prohibits.

“For several months our team has been looking through public records and scrutinizing legal documents uncovering case after case of unethical behavior that appears to violate Wisconsin state law by Representative Steve Doyle,” said Chris Muller, who operates CouleeConservatives.com. “In every year of his legislative tenure, Doyle has served as attorney of record in numerous court cases representing clients who employ lobbyists. Every legislator receives training, so they understand the laws that prohibit them from taking so much as a cup of coffee from a lobby group, much less a paycheck, but over and over our team found cases where Doyle went to court serving as lawyer for the same folks who want to influence his vote in Madison.”

Employment arrangements between a lobbying group would seem to violate Wisconsin’s ethics and lobby laws meant to prevent corruption among elected officials. These laws clearly state that ‘no state public official may solicit or accept from any person, directly or indirectly, anything of value if it could reasonably be expected to influence the state public official’s vote, official actions or judgment, or could reasonably be considered as a reward for any official action or inaction on the part of the state public official.’ These statutes are backed by decades of opinions from enforcement agencies which have advised legislators that the law does not allow employment arrangements where a legislator receives payment, directly or indirectly, for work they do specifically for lobby groups.

“Public records provide ample evidence that Doyle has been doing work for a lobbying principal. I am filing this formal complaint so the Ethics Commission launches an investigation into what appears to be Doyle’s repeated violations of these laws. Our research shows thousands of cases across multiple counties where Doyle served as attorney for a lobby group; fines for these violations could easily top \$1 million,” said Muller.

CouleeConservatives.com operates as a First Amendment sanctuary where volunteers peaceably assemble to discuss current events, write opinion articles to spread traditional American values, hold politicians accountable, and encourage conservative political candidates.

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