



*Long Time Executive  
Director to **Retire**  
after **30** years as the  
Commission's  
Executive Director and  
General Counsel.*

**Jeffrey B. Garfield**

Executive Director and General Counsel

## **STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION LONG TIME EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO RETIRE**

The State Elections Enforcement Commission announced that Jeffrey Garfield will retire after 30 years as the Commission's Executive Director and General Counsel. Garfield began his public service career with the nonpartisan Legislative Commissioner's Office serving as counsel to the Elections Committee. In July 1979, Garfield was selected by the Commission as its Executive Director and General Counsel and has been serving ever since. Garfield stated that his tenure has been "a labor of love," and that he had mixed emotions about leaving the position he has held for so long. "I tried to give the Connecticut taxpayers my best each day, and hope that my service has made a positive impact on the integrity of the electoral process." Mr. Garfield was recognized by his peers throughout his tenure. In 1985, he was elected as Chairman of the Council on Governmental Ethics Laws, an international organization comprised of governmental officials from across the U.S., Canada, and the globe, which administer and enforce ethics, elections, campaign finance, lobbying and freedom of information laws. He was awarded the highest honor by the organization in 1992 at a ceremony in Toronto, Canada. Mr. Garfield stated that he witnessed two significant transformations of the electoral process. When he first began, campaigns were smaller and simpler. In the 1980s, the General Assembly grew in power and truly became a co-equal branch of government. The influence of lobbyists in the legislative process and in campaigns also grew considerably. Garfield was a persistent advocate for election reform and worked closely with the General Assembly to pass legislation barring lobbyists from soliciting and donating campaign contributions during legislative sessions. Garfield's efforts were instrumental in securing passage of the landmark comprehensive campaign finance reform legislation passed in special session in December 2005. The first run of the Citizens' Election Program in 2008 was declared "an unqualified success." "We have taken special interest money out of political campaigns; and the people of Connecticut have already been the beneficiaries of the legislation," Garfield stated. Garfield's tenure spanned the administration of five Governors. "I want to express my gratitude to all the Commissioners I served with during my tenure. They were very supportive, and had the utmost confidence in me. We have built an agency of very talented and committed staff. I will miss all of them. They understood the gravity of the mission at hand, and we defied our skeptics and critics by implementing comprehensive campaign finance reform efficiently and successfully." Garfield says he has no immediate plans beyond assisting the Commission through the transition. Commission Chairman Stephen F. Cashman wrote to the Governor requesting that Garfield assist the Commission for 90 days, so that he may advise them on the recruitment, selection and transition of his successor, and the Governor approved the request. The Commission will conduct a national search for his successor. "I want to spend more time with my wife Sandi, who has been a pillar of support throughout my tenure." Garfield added, that he will not fade into the sunset.