

**BEFORE THE WEST VIRGINIA ETHICS COMMISSION**

**In Re:**

**GREGORY L. STEWART,**

**VCRB 2021-24**

**Former Ohio County Administrator,  
Respondent.**

**PROBABLE CAUSE ORDER**

The Probable Cause Review Board, having investigated and considered the allegations set forth in VCRB 2021-24, unanimously finds that there is probable cause to believe that Respondent Gregory L. Stewart violated the provisions of the West Virginia Governmental Ethics Act, in his public position as Ohio County Administrator, as follows:

**Count One:** The Respondent was employed by the Ohio County Commission as the County Administrator from 1995 until his retirement on December 31, 2020. Starting around 2000 or 2001, as part of his County Administrator duties, he also served as the Ohio County Development Authority's Director of Development at The Highlands.

The Respondent's son Eli Stewart was hired to work for the Ohio County Development Authority at The Highlands prior to 2013. During the relevant time period, Eli Stewart worked in an office position at The Highlands.

The Respondent used his office for private gain in violation of the nepotism restrictions in the Ethics Act and related Legislative Rule, by making or participating in decisions affecting his son's working conditions, including his compensation. The decisions the Respondent made or participated in were individual to his son Eli Stewart

and did not apply to a class of five or more similarly situated employees. The actions of the Respondent violated W. Va. Code § 6B-2-5(b)(1), W. Va. Code § 6B-2-5(b)(4), W. Va. Code R. § 158-6-3.4 (2017), and W. Va. Code R. § 158-6-3.5.a. (2017).

**Count Two:** The Respondent directly supervised his son Eli Stewart at The Highlands during his son's employment. Eli Stewart reported directly to the Respondent, and the Respondent directed his day-to-day activities. The actions of the Respondent violated W. Va. Code § 6B-2-5(b)(1), W. Va. Code § 6B-2-5(b)(4), W. Va. Code R. § 158-6-3.4 (2017), and W. Va. Code R. § 158-6-3.5.b. (2017).

**Count Three:** The Respondent's son Logan Stewart was hired to work for the Ohio County Development Authority at The Highlands prior to 2013. During the relevant time period, Logan Stewart worked on the construction crew at The Highlands.

The Respondent used his office for private gain in violation of the nepotism restrictions in the Ethics Act by making or participating in decisions affecting his son's working conditions, including his compensation. The decisions the Respondent made or participated in were individual to his son Logan Stewart and did not apply to a class of five or more similarly situated employees. The actions of the Respondent violated W. Va. Code § 6B-2-5(b)(1), W. Va. Code § 6B-2-5(b)(4), W. Va. Code R. § 158-6-3.4 (2017), and W. Va. Code R. § 158-6-3.5.a. (2017).

**Count Four:** The Respondent directly supervised his son Logan Stewart at The Highlands during his son's employment. Logan Stewart reported directly to the Respondent, and the Respondent directed his day-to-day activities. The actions of the Respondent violated W. Va. Code § 6B-2-5(b)(1), W. Va. Code § 6B-2-5(b)(4), W. Va. Code R. § 158-6-3.4 (2017), and W. Va. Code R. § 158-6-3.5.b. (2017).

The Probable Cause Review Board hereby finds that there is not probable cause to believe that the Respondent violated the Ethics Act regarding the vacation day payout and health insurance benefit allegations in the Complaint, and hereby, in accordance with W. Va. Code § 6B-2-4(g), dismisses those claims.

ENTERED: October 20, 2022



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Michael A. Kawash, Chairperson  
Probable Cause Review Board



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Daniel J. Guida, Member  
Probable Cause Review Board