



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: John L. Cardillo
Phone: 518.447.4743
Fax: 518.447.2875
jcardill@nystrs.state.ny.us

News Release

NYSTRS Incorporates Principles of AG's Code of Conduct by Banning Introductions by Placement Agents and Requiring Enhanced Disclosure from Investment Funds and Managers

(ALBANY, N.Y., May 21, 2009) – The \$68 billion New York State Teachers' Retirement System (NYSTRS) today announced it is implementing applicable principles of the Attorney General's Public Pension Fund Reform Code of Conduct. Effective immediately, NYSTRS will ban investment in any new fund or the engagement of any investment manager in any new assignment, where the fund or manager uses a placement agent or other intermediary for the purpose of interacting or communicating with the System to obtain an introduction of the fund or manager to the System or obtain the System's investment in the fund or engagement of the manager. NYSTRS is also requiring enhanced disclosure from new funds and managers.

NYSTRS staff will communicate directly with General Partners (GPs) and principals of the fund or manager interested in doing business with the System. Placement agents attempting to solicit business from the System on behalf of funds or managers will be advised that the System will only deal with fund and manager principals.

NYSTRS supports efforts of the Attorney General to bring about greater accountability and transparency for funds and investment managers seeking investments from pension funds. NYSTRS believes its change in procedures and the widespread adoption of principles embodied in the New York Attorney General's Code of Conduct in areas such as increased disclosure requirements, ethical standards and gift policy will increase transparency and accountability.

In this respect, NYSTRS has also adopted enhanced disclosure requirements by new firms and managers. NYSTRS' enhanced disclosure requirements require firms to:

- Certify compliance with current law that no fee, bonus or other compensation of any kind has been or will be paid to any NYSTRS consultant, trustee or employee for the purpose of obtaining an introduction to NYSTRS or a favorable investment recommendation or providing any other assistance to the firm in connection with a NYSTRS investment.
- Abide by existing NYSTRS policy not to employ or compensate in any way a NYSTRS trustee or employee for two years after termination of the person's relationship unless the person will have no contact with or provide services to NYSTRS.
- Adhere to existing NYSTRS gift policy barring the receipt by any NYSTRS trustee or employee of any gift having more than a nominal value under circumstances where it can be reasonably inferred that the gift was intended to influence the person in the performance of the person's official duties or to reward the person for any official action on the person's part.

NYSTRS also advocates that the SEC adopt national standards for those acting as placement agents or other intermediaries on behalf of investment firms seeking investments from pension plans and other fiduciaries.

Principles relating to campaign contributions are not applicable to NYSTRS as no current NYSTRS trustee/designee is an elected official.

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