



*State of New Jersey*  
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

PO BOX 082  
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0082  
[WWW.NJ.GOV/ETHICS](http://WWW.NJ.GOV/ETHICS)

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ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 5, 2018

Valerie Hayes, Esq.  
Ethics Liaison Officer  
Stockton University  
101 Vera King Farris Drive  
Galloway, NJ 08625-0082

Re: Waiver to the Provisions of *N.J.S.A. 52:13D-17.2(b)*

Dear Ms. Hayes:

At its December 4, 2018 meeting, the State Ethics Commission considered your request on behalf of Sandra Torcato, Assistant Professor, Stockton University, whose husband, Andres Santos, is currently employed by the Ocean Resort Casino as a Payroll Manager. Based on the facts and circumstances set forth below, the Commission granted a waiver of the general prohibition of section 17.2(b).

Generally, Section 17.2(b) of the Conflicts Law prohibits all State officers and employees and members of their immediate families from holding an interest in, holding employment with, representing, appearing for, or negotiating on behalf of the holder of, or applicant for, a casino license or any holding or intermediary company with respect thereto. However, the statute also contains the following exception language:

except that ... a member of the immediate family of a State officer or employee, or person, may hold employment with the holder of, or applicant for, a casino license if, in the judgment of the State Ethics Commission ... such employment will not interfere with the responsibilities of the State officer or employee, or person, and will not create a conflict of interest, or reasonable risk of the public perception of a conflict of interest, on the part of the State officer or employee, or person

....

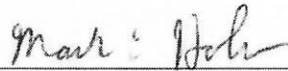
The Commission agrees that there is no conflict between Ms. Torcato's position at Stockton University and her husband's employment with the Ocean Resort Casino. Ms. Torcato's position and her husband's employment do not overlap, and there is no conflict of interest or reasonable risk of the public perceiving any kind of conflict between her position and her husband's casino employment.

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Based on the facts and circumstances set forth above, the Commission granted the waiver of the general prohibition of section 17.2(b) in the case of Sandra Torcato and her husband, Andres Santos.

Very truly yours,

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



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For the Commission  
Mark T. Holmes  
Acting Executive Director

MTH/sc

*Exit Torcato CW Stockton 12-2018*