

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE November 18, 2015

## CONNECTICUT TREASURY'S PENSION FUNDS MANAGEMENT RANKED 1<sup>ST</sup> IN THE NATION BY CENTER FOR PUBLIC INTEGRITY

HARTFORD, CT – The Washington, D.C.-based Center for Public Integrity, winner of a 2014 Pulitzer Prize, has ranked Connecticut 1st in the nation in pension funds management with a grade of "A" as part of its 2015 State Integrity Investigation.

Connecticut received high marks for the transparency of the management of its pension funds, effectiveness of the laws and regulations governing conflicts of interest, and citizen access to disclosures and pension fund documents. The "A" grade for State Pension Funds Management was the highest of thirteen categories, ranging from budget processes to procurement, which evaluated the State's framework for deterring corruption in state government. Connecticut ranked third in the nation overall with a grade of "C-".

State Treasurer Denise L. Nappier stated, "The Connecticut Treasury is proud to be recognized by the Center for Public Integrity for its first-rate management of the State's pension plans. Credit is owed to the expertise of the members of the State's independent Investment Advisory Council for their sound advice and stewardship of our pension assets, as well as the hard work of the women and men of the Treasury. Connecticut's system of pension fund governance is the result of hard-fought reforms hailing back to 2000 following the malfeasance of my predecessor, and it is gratifying to see Connecticut being recognized for our ongoing commitment to integrity, transparency and the highest ethical standards."

"The Investment Advisory Council is pleased that the transparency with which we work -- and which also is provided by Treasurer Nappier -- has been acknowledged in this way. We work together, ensuring that investments are done both wisely and openly," said Carol M. Thomas, Chair of the Council.

The Center for Public Integrity is a non-profit news organization whose mission is to "serve democracy by revealing abuses of power, corruption and betrayal of public trust by powerful public and private institutions, using the tools of investigative journalism." According to its website, "The State Integrity Investigation is a comprehensive assessment of state government accountability and transparency done in partnership with Global Integrity. The project uses extensive research by reporters in each state to grade and rank the states based on existing laws and analysis of how well they are implemented."

###