



STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Carol Carson
Office: (860) 263-2384
Cell: (860) 922-6774
Carol.Carson@ct.gov

Former UCONN Graduate Diversity Officer Charmane Thurmand Fined Maximum Penalty of \$20,000 for Ethics Code Violations

Thurmand used position to award husband fellowship valued over \$50,000

The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board today issued a "Finding, Memorandum and Order," following a four-day hearing, in which the Board concluded that former UCONN Graduate School Diversity Officer Charmane Thurmand, now a resident of California, violated both the use-of-office and conflict-of-interests provisions of the Code of Ethics. The Board imposed a civil penalty of \$20,000, which represents the maximum penalty for each of the two violations.

The Board found that Thurmand, who served as a Graduate Diversity Officer at the University of Connecticut until February 2017, used her position to award her husband, Martinus Evans, a fellowship valued at over \$50,000; Evans was not eligible for the fellowship and Thurmand did not follow proper procedures in awarding it to him.

Connecticut General Statutes § 1-84 (c) prohibits a state employee from using her public position to obtain financial gain for her spouse. General Statutes § 1-84 (a) prohibits a state employee from having a financial interest in conflict with her official duties and responsibilities.

The Board also concluded, pursuant to General Statutes 1-88 (d), that Evans may be liable for knowingly receiving a financial advantage as a result of Thurmand's violations and referred the matter to the Attorney General to determine whether to seek damages.

"In light of the repeated, intentional nature of Ms. Thurmand's conduct, for which she showed no regret, the Board determined that the maximum penalty was warranted," said Board Chair Dena Castricone.

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View: [Docket No. 2017-15 - FINDING, MEMORANDUM AND ORDER](#)

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