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Office of State Ethics Recovers \$20,000 Penalty Following Superior Court Action

In 2019, Former UCONN Graduate Diversity Officer Charmane Thurmand was Fined the Maximum Penalty of \$20,000 for Ethics Code Violations

On March 7, 2019, following a four-day hearing, the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board ("Board") concluded that former UCONN Graduate School Diversity Officer Charmane Thurmand violated both the use-of-office and conflict-of-interests provisions of the Code of Ethics. Under the terms of its Finding, Memorandum and Order, the Board imposed a civil penalty of \$20,000, which represents \$10,000 penalties – the statutory maximum – for each of the two violations. Ms. Thurmand, who resigned from her UConn position in 2017 and now resides out of state, did not appeal the Board findings.

Following delays in receiving the \$20,000 penalty, the Board filed a money judgment action in Superior Court to enforce the imposed penalty. Two years after the Board's decision, Ms. Thurmand paid the \$20,000 penalty.

"The Board and the Office of State Ethics are committed to ensuring the collection of penalties assessed following the Board's conclusion that the Codes of Ethics have been violated. Our commitment to recovering penalties hopefully deters future violations of the law," said Board Chair Dena M. Castricone.

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View: Docket No. 2017-15 - FINDING, MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

The mission of the Connecticut Office of State Ethics is to ensure honesty, integrity and accountability in state government through education, interpretation and enforcement of the State of Connecticut Code of Ethics. To contact us please visit our website at www.ct.gov/ethics or call us at (860) 263-2400.