



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Probable Cause Found in Alleged Ethics Violations by Former UCONN Graduate Diversity Officer Charmane D. Thurmand**

### *Public Hearing of the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board to Follow*

Former UCONN Graduate School Diversity Officer Charmane D. Thurmand, is facing a public hearing before the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board following a confidential hearing at which Judge Trial Referee Arthur A. Hiller found probable cause to believe that Thurmand violated the use-of-office and conflict of interests provisions of the Code of Ethics.

Thurmand, who served as a Graduate Diversity Officer at the University of Connecticut until January 2017, is accused of using her position to award her husband, Martinus Evans, a fellowship valued at over \$50,000; allegedly, 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 herself or an immediate family member. General Statutes § 1-84(a) prohibits a state employee from having a financial interest in conflict with her official duties and responsibilities. By using her position to award her husband a valuable fellowship, Thurmand allegedly had a prohibited conflict of interest and used her public position to obtain financial gain for him in violation of these sections.

The public hearing, which will be scheduled within 30 days, marks the third such hearing since the formation of the Office of State Ethics in 2005. A judge trial referee will preside over the public hearing and the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board (CEAB) will sit as fact-finders to decide whether the Code of Ethics was violated. The maximum penalty for each violation of the Code of Ethics is \$10,000.

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View: Probable Cause Determination – [Docket No. 2017-15](#)

*The Connecticut Office of State Ethics mission 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](http://www.ct.gov/ethics) or call us at (860) 263-2400.*