



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

June 14, 2016

Charles F. Chiusano, Chairman
and Members of the
Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board
Office of State Ethics
18-20 Trinity Street, Suite 205
Hartford, CT 06106-1660

Re. Petition for Declaratory Ruling

Dear Chairman Chiusano and Board Members:

In accordance with the Code of Ethics for Public Officials and applicable Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, and in my capacity as General Counsel of the Office of State Ethics, I hereby recommend that the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board issue a declaratory ruling addressing the following questions raised by Cheri Quickmire, of Common Cause of Connecticut, in her June 13, 2016 Petition for Declaratory Ruling, attached:

- Whether the Connecticut Insurance Commissioner – a former vice-president of (and registered lobbyist for) Cigna whose husband currently works as counsel for the insurance company and whose mother and brother previously worked for it – has a conflict of interest, real or apparent, concerning the proposed merger between Cigna and Anthem and must, therefore, recuse herself from the matter.

Sincerely,

Barbara Housen
General Counsel
Office of State Ethics
18-20 Trinity Street, Suite 205
Hartford, CT 06106-1660

Enclosure



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

JUN 13 2016

BEFORE THE CITIZEN'S ETHICS ADVISORY BOARD

OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

In the matter of the petition for a declaratory ruling of: §

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No.

Cheri Quickmire, Common Cause in Connecticut

Petitioner

(Assigned by OSE)

PETITION FOR DECLARATORY RULING

Cheri Quickmire, Common Cause in Connecticut

Petitions the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board to issue a

(Name of Petitioner)

declaratory ruling in this matter.

The factual background of the issue is as follows:

Note: If you require additional space you may attach separate pages and any supporting documentation to the petition form.

Long-time Cigna lobbyist Katherine Wade was appointed Connecticut insurance commissioner in April, 2015 when Anthem's plan to acquire Cigna was being negotiated. Prior to this time Ms. Wade worked at Cigna from 1992-2013; she was a vice president, overseeing government affairs for the company in all 50 states. In addition she was an officer in the CT Association of Health Plans from 2005-2013 and currently serves as health insurance and managed care chair of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. Ms. Wade's husband works as counsel for Cigna and her mother and brother previously worked there. Ms. Wade oversees Connecticut's review of Cigna's merger. Information regarding a conflict is unavailable because of a bill passed at midnight and signed by the Governor on June 10 shields insurance information from public release. Open records requests for information about the merger through freedom of information have been rejected.

The question upon which Petitioner seeks a ruling is as follows:

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Is it permissible under the Code of Ethics for a registered lobbyist to become a state employee who regulates the industry for which s/he lobbied? We write requesting a thorough review of insurance commissioner Katherine Wade's apparent conflict of interest regarding the proposed merger of Cigna and Anthem.

Petitioner's position with respect to the question is as follows:

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Common Cause in Connecticut questions the ability of Ms. Wade to conduct a review of the merger of Anthem and Cigna in an unbiased way. CCCT believes that Ms. Wade's close relationship with Cigna and her position as lead regulator of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners will adversely affect her ability to conduct a review of the merger and take action that is fair or objective. We do not believe that she can be an impartial regulator and should recuse herself from the Cigna Anthem merger review.

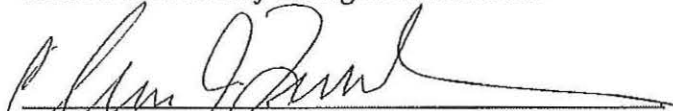
Petitioner's argument (if any) in support of his or her position (with such legal citations as are considered appropriate) is as follows:

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Under Part 2 Section 1-85 of the Connecticut General Statute there is substantial conflict of interest detailed.

In addition in the Code of Ethics Advisory Opinion Number 79-4 Permissibility of Lobbying by an Attorney-Member of the Board of Higher Education refers to an unpaid member of the Board of Higher Education having the authority to expend public funds and to exercise the power of the state. Ms. Wade is a (highly) paid state employee with the authority to exercise the power of the state in her review of a multi-billion dollar merger.

Wherefore, petitioner requests that the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board grant this petition and issue a declaratory ruling in this matter.



Petitioner's Signature

6/13/2016

Date

65 Hungerford Street

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Hartford, CT 06106

City, State, Zip Code

860-549-1220

Daytime Phone No.

Deliver or Mail to:

**Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board
Office of State Ethics
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