

From: [Jim Lampman](#)
To: [OSE](#)
Subject: Proposed Declaratory Ruling 2016-A
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As a 70 year-old retiree and CT citizen I appreciate the opportunity to rigorously and critically comment on the Declaratory Ruling under discussion.

Katherine Wade should have immediately recused herself in the Anthem-Cigna matter, if only to avoid public scorn for the appearance of serious impropriety.

The Office of State Ethics, in not having quickly and decisively demanded Wade's recusal in this matter, has made itself ridiculous in public view. Why should it take an outside group such as Common Cause to bring this into focus?

Never mind parsing and twisting words -- I find that in Commissioner Wade we have a professional lobbyist smoothing the way for the regulated industry. Add to that ongoing injury the insult that Wade and her spouse were/are employed by one of the behemoth corporations asking for merger. That's just a rude provocation. No matter the outcome of the merger decision: there is contempt for and damage to citizen trust.

Here in Connecticut evidently the industry needs no effort to "capture" its government regulatory body -- it's already pre-owned. Let's watch those 20+ percent premium increases this coming year, facilitated by the drastic compression of competition in the profit-driven insurance industry. The blame and shame for the underlying impropriety of Wade's appointment (a "reverse revolving door") no doubt lies with the appointing politician. That's something OSE has no role in.

However, the OSE and its advisory board is in a position to observe, investigate, advocate, and act as tribune and defender for Connecticut citizens. Why not stand up for us? Why not at least a chirp of indignation? You shouldn't have to sacrifice your credibility the way Commissioner Wade has done. The OSE no doubt is very limited in its scope and authorizing legislation -- but it can and should take a stand against the appearance of gross impropriety. Please work a little harder at it. Doing anything less than that is an embarrassment.

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