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Subject: Proposed Declaratory Ruling 2016-A
Date: Friday, July 01, 2016 11:12:32 AM

Proposed Declaratory Ruling 2016-A

Katharine L. Wade, a former Cigna Insurance Corp. vice president and lobbyist and daughter-in-law of a major Democrat Party fundraiser, was appointed as the state insurance commissioner in 2015 by Democrat Governor Malloy and confirmed by the Democrat majority in our state Senate. Is that ethical?

At the time of Wade's confirmation, her husband was an attorney for the health insurance trade group Connecticut Association of Health Plans, and he is now employed by Cigna as associate chief counsel for litigation in its law department. As Insurance Commissioner, Wade is now in the top position to pass judgment on the attempted merger of insurance giants Anthem and her former employer Cigna. Is that ethical?

The CT State Insurance Commission is fully funded by the insurance companies in our state. The very industry that the Commission is supposed to regulate pays for the Commission that regulates them. Is that ethical?

Any sensible person, or state office, that truly wants to protect the citizens of Connecticut from ethical improprieties and conflicts would answer all of these questions with a resounding "No!"

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