

PRESS RELEASE

Former Connecticut Judicial Department Employee Tara Bateman Pays \$500 Penalty for Ethics Violation

May 4, 2011

Tara Bateman of Marion, CT paid a \$500 civil penalty for using her state position as a court monitor to obtain financial gain.

According to the consent order finalized today with the Office of State Ethics, Bateman was a court monitor for the Connecticut Judicial Department at the Hartford Court Reporters Office. Court monitors record and transcribe court proceedings in the Connecticut superior courts and the Appellate Court. Despite the existence of a mandatory price schedule, Bateman overcharged members of the public for the reproduction of court transcripts on four occasions between September 2009 and May 2010.

Connecticut law prohibits a state employee from using her public office or position to obtain financial gain for herself. By charging transcript fees in excess of the amount allowed by the mandatory price schedule, Bateman used her state position to obtain financial gain.

In addition to the civil penalty, Bateman also reimbursed one member of the public \$1,337.50, representing the amount of the overcharge. As further part of the settlement, should Bateman become employed as a court monitor for the state in the future, she must provide a detailed invoice to all future requestors for any transcript produced, specifying the per-page rate charged, the total number of pages, and the total amount due.

The OSE settled five other cases in [November](#) and [December](#) of 2009 involving the same conduct by court monitors at the Stamford Court Reporters Office.

“The most basic tenet of the Code of Ethics is that public officials may not use their public positions for personal financial gain,” said OSE Executive Director, Carol Carson. “Charging more than the law allows is not permitted.”

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