



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

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## **OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS WITHDRAWS APPEAL OF COURT DECISION INVOLVING UCONN AND RANDY EDSALL**

*Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board Seeks Legislative Remedy to Address Nepotism in State Government*

The Office of State Ethics announced today that the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board is withdrawing its appeal of the Superior Court decision that allows University of Connecticut Football Coach Randy Edsall's Son, Corey Edsall, to work as an assistant football coach.

The Board voted 8-0 at its meeting on March 21, 2019 to withdraw the suit, citing changes to the Code of Ethics in Public Act 18-175 that exempted the entire state higher education system from Code of Ethics provisions regarding nepotism.

The Board is seeking a legislative change to the Code of Ethics to make clear that nepotism in state government is prohibited.

Since 1994, state ethics rulings have made clear that supervision of one family member by another is prohibited by the Code of Ethics. A 2018 amendment to the Code, Public Act 18-175, turned that on its head, in order to allow the coaching arrangement, which the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board ruled was impermissible in July 2017.

"It is clear – and unfortunate – that Public Act 18-175, while designed to address a singular situation, opens the door to nepotism not just in the football program but throughout Connecticut state universities and community colleges," said Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board Chair Dena Castricone. "In light of the Public Act, the ruling by Superior Court Judge Joseph M. Shortall is unlikely to be overturned, and raises questions about the application of these provisions across all branches of government. The Board encourages the General Assembly to amend Public Act 18-175 to ensure that nepotism will not be tolerated in Connecticut state government."

The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board is an independent, non-partisan watchdog agency made up of nine citizens from throughout Connecticut.