

PRESS RELEASE

Former UCONN Health Center Employee, James Martin, Pays \$6,000 Civil Penalty for Ethics Violation

March 26, 2009

Former UCONN Health Center employee James Martin, of Centerbrook, CT, paid a \$6,000 civil penalty for violating the Code of Ethics by accepting employment with a state contractor with which he interacted as a state employee. A public hearing on the matter before Judge Trial Referee Robert C. Leuba had been scheduled for today.

While employed as Assistant Director of Campus Planning, Design and Construction, Martin was a member of the Dental Implant Selection Committee, which awarded a \$147,240 contract to daSilva Architects of New York City. Subsequent to that award, Martin also participated substantially in the negotiation or award of a second consulting contract to daSilva valued at \$88,000 for the creation of a "Master Plan" for the School of Dentistry's Teaching & Practices Suites at the UCONN Health Center.

According to a consent order accepted by the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board this week, Martin left employment with the state on February 15, 2007 and almost immediately accepted employment with daSilva. Connecticut law prohibits officials who participate substantially in the negotiation or award of a state contract valued at \$50,000 or more from accepting employment with a party to the contract for a period of one year after leaving state service if the contract was signed during the employee's last year.

In addition to the civil penalty, the consent order imposes restrictions on Martin's activity. For two years from the date of the settlement, Martin may neither engage in lobbying in Connecticut nor act as architect of record on any state contract.

"Whether you voluntarily leave state service or are terminated or laid off, the post-employment restrictions in the Code of Ethics apply," said OSE Executive Director, Carol Carson. "Anyone who deals with state contracts and then contemplates private employment with those contractors after leaving the state should get advice from our agency's legal division."

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