



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

FEB 19 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Johnson
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Grassley and Senator Johnson:

This responds to your letter to the Acting Attorney General dated February 3, 2021, inquiring about potential issues related to the prior employment of Acting Assistant Attorney General of the Criminal Division Nicholas McQuaid. We appreciate having the benefit of your views on this matter.

To ensure compliance with applicable statutes and standards, career ethics officials make all recusal and screening determinations based on the specific facts and circumstances surrounding each matter. Whether a matter raises a conflict or appearance of concern is specific to that particular matter and the Acting Assistant Attorney General's prior or current connection to the matter.

We have confirmed that the Acting Assistant Attorney General recently received ethics and professional responsibility training as appropriate for incoming attorneys. In addition, we have confirmed that the Acting Assistant Attorney General has signed the Ethics Pledge as required under the Executive Order on Ethics Commitments by Executive Branch Personnel (Executive Order 13989). Pursuant to this pledge and applicable standards set forth in statutes, regulations, as well as longstanding Department policies and procedures, the Acting Assistant Attorney General is screened and recused from matters in which he has a financial interest or a personal business relationship, including matters involving his former law firm.

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We hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may provide additional assistance regarding this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Helaine Greenfeld". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Helaine Greenfeld
Acting Assistant Attorney General