



U.S. Department of Justice

Washington, D.C. 20530

AUG 15 2017

David J. Apol, Acting Director
and General Counsel
Office of Government Ethics
Suite 500
1201 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005-3919

Dear Mr. Apol:

In accordance with the provisions of Title I of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 as amended, I am forwarding the financial disclosure report of Charles E. Peeler. President Trump has nominated Mr. Peeler to serve as United States Attorney for the Middle District of Georgia.

We have conducted a thorough review of the enclosed report and have counseled Mr. Peeler on the ethics rules. Although it is not possible to provide for all of the specific circumstances which might give rise to a financial conflict of interest because the work of United States Attorneys involves a wide variety of matters involving specific parties, and it is not possible to predict where conflicts will arise until specific parties are identified, we have counseled Mr. Peeler on the applicable conflict-of-interest laws and regulations and, in particular, on the application of 18 U.S.C. § 208.

As required by 18 U.S.C. § 208 and the provisions of 5 C.F.R. § 2635.401 et seq., Mr. Peeler will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter in which he knows that he has a financial interest directly and predictably affected by the matter, or in which he knows that a person whose interests are imputed to him has a financial interest directly and predictably affected by the matter, unless he first obtains a written waiver, pursuant to Section 208(b)(1), or qualifies for a regulatory exemption, pursuant to Section 208(b)(2). Mr. Peeler understands that the interests of the following persons are imputed to him: his spouse; minor children; any general partner of a partnership in which he is a limited or general partner; any organization in which he serves as an officer, director, trustee, general partner or employee; and any person or organization with which he is negotiating or has an arrangement concerning prospective employment. In determining whether a particular matter has a direct and predictable effect on his financial interests or on those of any other person whose interests are imputed to him, Mr. Peeler will consult with the Executive Office for United States Attorneys (EOUSA), General Counsel's Office, and will follow the procedures outlined in the United States Attorneys' Manual, Section 3-2.170 et seq. As stated in the attachment to this Ethics Agreement, Mr. Peeler understands and agrees to comply with the conflict of interest statute and regulations, and to follow the procedures set forth in this agreement.

Mr. Peeler is the sole proprietor of his law practice, which does business as Charles E. Peeler, LLC. Upon confirmation, his law firm will cease engaging in any business, including the representation of clients. During his appointment to the position as United States Attorney, the law firm will remain dormant and will not advertise. He will not perform any services for the firm, except that he will comply with any requirements involving legal filing, taxes and fees that are necessary to maintain the law firm while it is in an inactive status. Mr. Peeler will receive remaining salary based on the services he performs up to his office's closing. As United States Attorney, Mr. Peeler will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that to his knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on the financial interests of Charles E. Peeler, LLC.

Mr. Peeler is an Attorney for Flynn Peeler & Phillips, LLC, and has an ownership interest in the firm through Charles E. Peeler, LLC. Upon confirmation, he will withdraw from the firm, and the firm will buy out his ownership interest and change its name to Flynn & Phillips, LLC. Mr. Peeler's capital account with Flynn Peeler & Phillips, LLC (which is held through Charles E. Peeler, LLC) will be refunded before he assumes duties as United States Attorney. Pursuant to Mr. Peeler's partnership agreement, following his withdrawal from Flynn Peeler & Phillips, LLC, he will receive his final partnership share distribution in monthly payments which will begin 30 days after his separation date. The partnership share will be fixed as of the date of his withdrawal and will consist of a fixed percentage of collections received from hourly work performed prior to his separation. As United States Attorney, Mr. Peeler will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that to his knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on the ability or willingness of Flynn & Phillips, LLC to pay these amounts to him, unless he obtains a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1). For a period of one year after his resignation, he also will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which he knows that this firm is a party or represents a party, unless he is first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. §2635.502(d). In addition, he will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which he knows a former client of his is a party or represents a party for a period of one year after he last provided service to that client, unless he is first authorized to participate pursuant to 5 C.F.R. §2635.502(d).

Upon his resignation from Flynn Peeler & Phillips, LLC, Mr. Peeler will transfer his interest in 41 contingency fee cases to the firm. He will retain an interest in these cases, and will receive a percentage of any recovery in each case, which will be fixed prior to his confirmation. Upon his resignation from Flynn Peeler & Phillips, LLC, Mr. Peeler also will transfer his interest in 4 other contingency fee cases to the firm. For those four cases, he will receive a fixed amount from the firm, which will be fixed prior to his confirmation, and will not be affected by the outcome of the matters. Mr. Peeler will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that to his knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on the ability or willingness of the firm, any of the clients involved in these cases, or any opposing party to make any payments relating to these cases, unless he first obtains a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1).

Upon confirmation, Mr. Peeler will resign his positions as the Board Member of Doublegate Country Club, Ltd, Commissioner of the State of Georgia's Judicial Nominating Commission, and a Member of the Investigative Panel on Attorney Discipline for the State Bar of Georgia. For a period of one year after his resignations from each of these organizations, he will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in

which he knows the organization is a party or represents a party, unless he is first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).

Mr. Peeler's spouse is a consultant for Dougherty County. He will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which he knows Dougherty County is a party or represents a party, unless he is first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).

Mr. Peeler has been advised that the duties of the position of United States Attorney may involve particular confidential matters identified by the United States Attorney's Office (USAO) that may affect his financial interests. EOUSA has determined that it is not necessary at this time for Mr. Peeler to divest his financial interests because his recusal from particular matters in which these interests pose a conflict of interest will not substantially limit his ability to perform the essential duties of the position of United States Attorney. Immediately upon confirmation, EOUSA will prepare recusals for all particular matters in which Mr. Peeler will not be granted a waiver or will not qualify for a regulatory exemption.

If Mr. Peeler has a managed account or otherwise uses the services of an investment professional during his appointment, he will ensure that the account manager or investment professional obtains his prior approval on a case-by-case basis for the purchase of any assets other than cash, cash equivalents, investment funds that qualify for the exemption at 5 C.F.R. § 2640.201(a), or obligations of the United States.

The USAO has conducted a conflict review, and has found no additional conflicts of interest. Should additional conflicts arise, the USAO will seek the necessary waiver(s) or recusal(s) of the nominee immediately upon his confirmation. An appropriate screening mechanism will be identified and immediately upon appointment of the new United States Attorney, all USAO personnel will be advised in writing of all matters in which the new United States Attorney may not participate. The notification will specifically list the matters and identify the Acting United States Attorney for those matters.

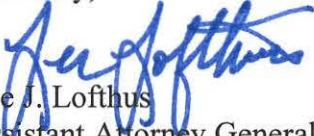
Mr. Peeler will meet in person with the United States Attorney's Office ethics advisor during the first week of his service in the position of United States Attorney for the Middle District of Georgia in order to complete the initial ethics briefing required under 5 C.F.R. § 2638.305. Within 90 days of his confirmation, he will document his compliance with this ethics agreement by notifying the Executive Office for United States Attorneys, General Counsel's Office, in writing when he has completed the steps described in this ethics agreement.

Mr. Peeler has been advised that this ethics agreement will be posted publicly, consistent with 5 U.S.C. § 552, on the website of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics with ethics agreements of other Presidential nominees who file public financial disclosure reports.

Finally, Mr. Peeler understands that as an appointee he is required to sign the Ethics Pledge (Exec. Order No. 13770) and that he will be bound by the requirements and restrictions therein in addition to the commitments he has made in this ethics agreement.

Based on the above agreements and counseling, I am satisfied that the report presents no conflicts of interest under applicable laws and regulations and that you can so certify to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

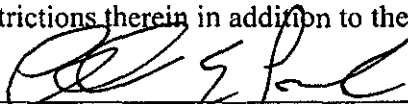
Sincerely,


Lee J. Lofthus
Assistant Attorney General
For Administration and
Designated Agency Ethics Official

Enclosure

NOMINEE STATEMENT

I have read the attached Ethics Agreement signed by Lee J. Lofthus, Assistant Attorney General for Administration and Designated Agency Ethics Official on Aug. 15, 2017, and I agree to comply with the conflict of interest statute and regulations, and to follow the procedures set forth in the agreement. In addition, I understand that as an appointee I am required to sign the Ethics Pledge (Exec. Order No. 13770) and that I will be bound by the requirements and restrictions therein in addition to the commitments I have made in this ethics agreement.



Charles E. Peeler

Aug. 15, 2017

Date