

Date: January 11, 2019

Mr. Richard C. Visek
Principal Deputy Legal Adviser and Designated Agency Ethics
Official Office of Ethics and Financial Disclosure
Office of the Legal Adviser
U.S. Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

Re: Ethics Undertakings

Dear Mr. Visek:

I am committed to the highest standards of ethical conduct for government officials. If confirmed as Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, as required by 18 U.S.C. § 208(a), I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter in which I know that I have a financial interest directly and predictably affected by the matter, or in which I know that a person whose interests are imputed to me has a financial interest directly and predictably affected by the matter, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1), or qualify for a regulatory exemption, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(2). I understand that the interests of the following persons are imputed to me: any spouse or minor child of mine; any general partner of a partnership in which I am a limited or general partner; any organization in which I serve as officer, director, trustee, general partner or employee; and any person or organization with which I am negotiating or have an arrangement concerning prospective employment.

Upon confirmation, I will resign from my position as the Director of the Program on Arab Politics at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. For a period of one year after my resignation, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I know the Washington Institute for Near East Policy is a party or represents a party, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).

If I have a managed account during my appointment, I will direct the account manager to obtain my 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), obligations of the United States, or municipal bonds. I will monitor whether the account manager is following this direction regarding prior approval.

If I rely on a *de minimis* exemption under 5 C.F.R. § 2640.202 with regard to any of my financial interests in securities, I will monitor the value of those interests. If the aggregate value of interests affected by a particular matter increases and exceeds the *de minimis* threshold, I will not participate personally and substantially in the particular matter that to my knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on the interests, unless I first obtain a written waiver pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1).

In addition, I will recuse myself from participation on a case-by-case basis in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I determine that a reasonable person with knowledge of the relevant facts would question my impartiality in that matter, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. Part 2635, Subpart E.

I will receive a live ethics briefing from a member of the ethics office after my confirmation but no later than 15 days after my appointment as required under 5 C.F.R. § 2638.305, unless granted an extension under that regulation. Within 90 days of my confirmation, I will document my compliance with this ethics agreement by notifying you in writing when I have completed the steps described in this ethics agreement.

I understand that as an appointee I will be 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.

I have 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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Schenker', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David K. Schenker