

May 16, 2025

John Havranek  
Designated Agency Ethics Official  
Department of Homeland Security  
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., SE  
Washington, DC, 20528

Dear Mr. Havranek:

The purpose of this letter is to describe the steps that I will take to avoid any actual or apparent conflict of interest in the event that I am confirmed for the position of Director of US Citizenship and Immigration Services. It is my responsibility to understand and comply with commitments outlined in this agreement.

## SECTION 1 – GENERAL COMMITMENTS

As required by the criminal conflicts of interest law at 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 particular 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 an officer, director, trustee, general partner, or employee, even if uncompensated; and
- Any person or organization with which I am negotiating or have an arrangement concerning prospective employment.

In the event that an actual or potential conflict of interest arises during my appointment, I will consult with an agency ethics official and take the measures necessary to resolve the conflict, such as recusal from the particular matter or divestiture of an asset.

If I have a managed account or otherwise use the services of an investment professional during my appointment, I will ensure that the account manager or investment professional obtains 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 regulatory exemption for diversified mutual funds and unit investment trusts at 5 C.F.R. § 2640.201(a), obligations of the United States, or municipal bonds.

I will receive a live ethics briefing from a member of the ethics office after my confirmation but not later than 15 days after my appointment pursuant to the ethics program regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2638.305. Within 90 days of my confirmation, I will submit my

Certification of Ethics Agreement Compliance which documents my compliance with this ethics agreement.

I will not modify this ethics agreement without your approval and the approval of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE) pursuant to the ethics agreement requirements contained in the financial disclosure regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2634.803(a)(4).

## SECTION 2 – THE LAW OFFICES OF JOSEPH EDLOW, LLC

I am the sole proprietor of my law firm, which does business as The Law Offices of Joseph Edlow, LLC which has been inactive since January 2025. During my appointment to the position of Director, the law firm will remain dormant and will not advertise. I will not perform any services for the firm, except that I will comply with any court orders or subpoenas and any requirements involving legal filings, taxes, and fees that are necessary to maintain the law firm while it is in an inactive status. As Director, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that to my knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on the financial interests of The Law Offices of Joseph Edlow. The law firm is still owed outstanding fees, but the fees are fixed, and I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that to my knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on the ability or willingness of any of these clients to pay these amounts. In addition, pursuant to the impartiality regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I know a former client of mine is a party or represents a party for a period of one year after I last provided service to that client or until the client satisfies any outstanding bill, whichever is later, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).

## SECTION 3 – THE EDLOW GROUP, LLC

I am the sole proprietor of my consulting firm, which does business as The Edlow Group, LLC which has been inactive since January 2025 and is not owed any outstanding fees. During my appointment to the position of Director, the firm will remain dormant and will not advertise. I will not perform any services for the firm, except that I will comply with any court orders or subpoenas and any requirements involving legal filings, taxes, and fees that are necessary to maintain the firm while it is in an inactive status. As Director, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that to my knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on the financial interests of The Edlow Group, LLC. In addition, pursuant to the impartiality regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I know a former client of mine is a party or represents a party for a period of one year after I last provided service to that client, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).

## SECTION 4 – RESIGNATIONS

I previously resigned from my positions with the following entities:

- Center for Renewing America
- The Heritage Foundation
- National Immigration Center for Enforcement

Pursuant to the impartiality regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, 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 that entity is a party or represents a party, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).

## SECTION 5 – SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT

My spouse is employed by Montgomery County Public Schools, in a position for which my spouse receives an hourly wage. Pursuant to the impartiality regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, for as long as my spouse continues to work for Montgomery County Public Schools, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I know Montgomery County Public Schools, is a party or represents a party, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).

## SECTION 6 – PUBLIC POSTING

I have been advised that this ethics agreement and the Certification of Ethics Agreement Compliance will be posted publicly, consistent with the public information law at 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.

Sincerely,

Joseph Edlow