

Jolene A. Lauria
Designated Agency Ethics Official
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Ms. Lauria:

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, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, U.S. Department of Justice. It is my responsibility to understand and comply with commitments outlined in this Ethics Agreement (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), or obligations of the United States.

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 Agreement.

I will not modify this 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 – SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT

My spouse is employed as a Real Estate Advisor, which is a self-employed independent contractor position for Compass Florida, LLC. For as long as my spouse continues to provide these services, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that to my knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on my spouse's compensation or contracts, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant 18 U.S.C § 208(b)(1). Pursuant to the impartiality regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, I also will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I know Compass Florida, LLC, or a client of my spouse is a party or represents a party, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).

My spouse owns RL4RG Corp., which is an S-Corporation engaged in real estate sales. 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 RL4RG Corp., unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1). Pursuant to the impartiality regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, I also will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I know a client of my spouse is a party or represents a party, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).

My spouse is also employed as a teacher at American Learning Systems, Inc., d/b/a American Heritage Schools, from which my spouse receives a fixed salary. Pursuant to the impartiality regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, for as long as my spouse continues to work for American Learning Systems, Inc., I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I know American Learning Systems, Inc., is a party or represents a party, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).

SECTION 3 – PUBLIC POSTING

I have been advised that this 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,

ROBERT
CEKADA

Digitally signed by
ROBERT CEKADA
Date: 2026.01.14
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Robert Cekada