



U.S. Department of Justice

Washington, D.C. 20530

NOV 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 Joseph D. Brown. President Trump has nominated Mr. Brown to serve as United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas.

We have conducted a thorough review of the enclosed report and have counseled Mr. Brown 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. Brown 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. Brown 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. Brown 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. Brown 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. Brown understands and agrees to comply with the conflict of interest statute and regulations, and to follow the procedures set forth in this agreement.

Mr. Brown currently serves as the Criminal District Attorney of Grayson County, Texas, a position in which he concurrently serves as an employee of the State of Texas and of Grayson County. Upon confirmation, Mr. Brown will resign from his positions with the State of Texas and with Grayson County. For a period of one year after his resignation, he will have a "covered relationship" under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502 with the State of Texas and with Grayson County. Pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d), he will seek written authorization to participate in particular matters involving specific parties in which the State of Texas or Grayson County is a party or represents a party. However, during his appointment to the position of United States Attorney, he will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which he previously participated as the Criminal District Attorney for Grayson County.

Upon confirmation, Mr. Brown will resign from his positions as Managing Member of One Home Place Management Co. LLC, President/Board Member of Sapphire Group LLC, Property Manager for 75 Partnership LLC, and Property Manager for Home Place Partners LP. During his appointment, he will continue to have a financial interest in these entities, but he will not provide services material to the production of income. He will receive only passive investment income from these entities. As United States Attorney, Mr. Brown 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 these entities unless he first obtains a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C § 208(b)(1).

Upon confirmation, Mr. Brown will resign from the Sherman Education Foundation, the Grayson County Children's Advocacy Center, and the Circle Ten Council of the Boy Scouts of America. For a period of one year after his resignation from each of these organizations, he will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which he knows that 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. Brown's spouse is an employee of Bazaarvoice and Western Heights Preschool, a preschool affiliated with the Western Heights Church of Christ. He will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which Bazaarvoice or the Western Heights Church of Christ is a party or represents a party, unless he is first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).

Mr. Brown 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. Brown 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. Brown will not be granted a waiver or will not qualify for a regulatory exemption.

If Mr. Brown 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.

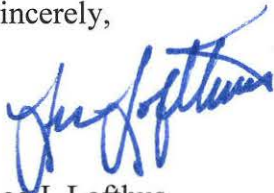
Mr. Brown will meet in person with the United States Attorney's Office ethics advisor during the first week of his service in the position of United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas in order to complete the initial ethics briefing required under 5 C.F.R. § 2638.305. Within 90 days of 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. Brown 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. Brown 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,

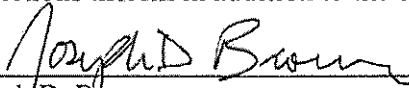


Lee J. Lofthus
Assistant Attorney General
For Administration and
Designated Agency Ethics Official

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 Nov. 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.



Joseph D. Brown

November 15, 2017
Date