

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

Date: May 26, 2020

Re: Ethics Undertakings

Dear Mr. Visek:

I am committed to the highest standards of ethical conduct for government officials. If confirmed as Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, 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.

I understand that a heightened prospect of a conflict of interest could exist as to companies that maintain a presence in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, because they may be more likely than other companies to seek official assistance from or make contact with the Embassy or otherwise be affected by policies and engagement implemented by the Embassy. I will remain alert to the possible need for recusal where appropriate.

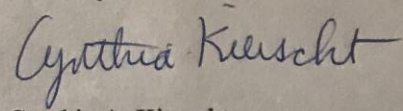
I will retain my position as trustee of my Family Trust. I will not receive any fees for the services that I provide as a trustee during my appointment to the position of Ambassador. I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that to my knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on the financial interests of my Family Trust, 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 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.

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.

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Cynthia Kierscht". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Cynthia A. Kierscht