

October 25, 2018

Mr. Richard C. Visek
Principal Deputy Legal Adviser and
Designated Agency Ethics Official
Office of the Legal Adviser
Department of State

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 Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, 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 Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, 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.

Within 90 days of my confirmation, I will divest my interests in the following: ABB, Ltd.; Cisco Systems, Inc.; Citigroup Inc.; DowDuPont, Inc.; Orange S.A.; Walt Disney Co.; Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.; and Visa, Inc. With regard to each of these entities, 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 entity until I have divested it, 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).

In addition, within 90 days of my confirmation, I will divest my interests in the following corporate bonds: Citigroup Inc.; General Electric Co.; J.P. Morgan Chase & Co.; and Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. Until I divest these interests, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that to my knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on the marketability or market resale value of any of these bonds or on the ability or willingness of the issuers to pay their debt obligations to me, 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).

Mr. Richard C. Visek
October 25, 2018
Page 2 of 2

I understand that I may be eligible to request a Certificate of Divestiture for qualifying assets and that a Certificate of Divestiture is effective only if obtained prior to divestiture. Regardless of whether I receive a Certificate of Divestiture, I will ensure that all divestitures discussed in this agreement occur within the agreed upon timeframes and that all proceeds are invested in non-conflicting assets.

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 have managed accounts, and I will direct the account managers 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 managers are 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 black ink, appearing to read 'R. K. Bell', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard K. Bell