

From: [Cohen, Brian \(Warren\)](#)
To: [Walter M. Schaub](#); [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
Cc: [Slaughter, Rebecca Kelly \(Schumer\)](#)
Subject: FW: Letter from Sens. Schumer and Warren
Date: Thursday, January 05, 2017 7:00:19 PM
Attachments: [Schumer Warren Letter to Schaub 010516.pdf](#)

This time with the correct email for Mr. Schaub

From: Cohen, Brian (Warren)
Sent: Thursday, January 05, 2017 6:57 PM
To: 'walter.schaub@oge.gov' ; 'skfinlay@oge.gov'
Cc: Slaughter, Rebecca Kelly (Schumer)
Subject: Letter from Sens. Schumer and Warren

Good evening – attached you will find a letter from Sens. Schumer and Warren with questions about the OGE review process for President-Elect Trump’s Cabinet nominees. Please let Rebecca or me know if you have any questions. We look forward to your timely response.

Brian

Brian A. Cohen
Oversight and Investigations Director
Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)

(b) (6)



From: [Walter M. Shaub](#)
To: [Heather A. Jones](#); [David J. Apol](#)
Subject: FW: NYTimes: Jared Kushner, a Trump In-Law and Adviser, Chases a Chinese Deal
Date: Saturday, January 07, 2017 10:17:08 AM

Walter M. Shaub, Jr.
Director
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005-3917

Telephone: 202.482.9292
Email: walter.shaub@oge.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Walter M. Shaub
Sent: Saturday, January 07, 2017 10:15 AM
To: 'Gorelick, Jamie'
Cc: Siskel, Edward N; Roberts, Blake
Subject: RE: NYTimes: Jared Kushner, a Trump In-Law and Adviser, Chases a Chinese Deal

Thanks for sharing this, Jamie. Blake gave me a heads up that an article was in the works. The letter I sent Ed yesterday highlights some suggestions for protecting your client against potential conflicts of interest and other ethics issues.

I have one additional suggestion. There is a strong temptation for lawyers to think that it's enough to put together ethics arrangements that are legally compliant. As you know from your own time in government, senior officials invariably find themselves operating in a fast-paced work environment in which they necessarily move from one vaguely defined subject to another quickly throughout the day. Ethics issues arise unexpectedly, and they don't come with the label "Caution! I'm an ethics issue." For this reason, we encourage folks to set up ethics arrangements that put senior officials two steps back from the line between what is permissible and what is not. OGE can enforce that approach in the nominee program, but White House appointees are at the mercy of the attention span of a White House Counsel's office with a thousand other things to do. As things are currently shaping up, it's not clear that this new White House will have a fully functioning ethics office of its own on the first day. For that reason, caution is advisable. The further you can put him back from the line, the better you will protect him.

Walt

Walter M. Shaub, Jr.
Director
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005-3917

Telephone: 202.482.9292
Email: walter.shaub@oge.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Gorelick, Jamie [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)](#)]
Sent: Saturday, January 07, 2017 9:42 AM
To: Walter M. Shaub
Cc: Siskel, Edward N; Roberts, Blake; Gorelick, Jamie

Subject: Fw: NYTimes: Jared Kushner, a Trump In-Law and Adviser, Chases a Chinese Deal

Walt -

Just a heads up so you know this is out there. Our proposed plan contemplates steps to remove and mitigate sources of conflict.

Best -

Jamie

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

Original Message

<http://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/07/us/politics/jared-kushner-trump-business.html?smprod=nytcore-iphone&smid=nytcore-iphone-share>

As Donald J. Trump's son-in-law prepares for a White House role, his undisclosed talks with a secretive Chinese company highlight potential conflicts of interest.

From: [Walter M. Shaub](#)
To: [Gorelick, Jamie](#)
Cc: [Siskel, Edward N](#); [Roberts, Blake](#); [Brown, Reginald](#)
Subject: Re: NYTimes: Jared Kushner, a Trump In-Law and Adviser, Chases a Chinese Deal
Date: Saturday, January 07, 2017 11:28:32 AM

Thanks. That's good to hear!

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

Original Message
From: Gorelick, Jamie
Sent: Saturday, January 7, 2017 10:36 AM
To: Walter M. Shaub
Cc: Siskel, Edward N; Roberts, Blake; Brown, Reginald
Subject: Re: NYTimes: Jared Kushner, a Trump In-Law and Adviser, Chases a Chinese Deal

Walt -

I know you have been trading notes with Reg. (b) (6) is done. As he mentioned, (b) (6). We obviously represent Kushner. (b) (6) You will see the same conservative approach with each.

Jamie

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.
Original Message
From: Gorelick, Jamie
Sent: Saturday, January 7, 2017 10:28 AM
To: Walter M. Shaub
Cc: Siskel, Edward N; Roberts, Blake; Gorelick, Jamie
Subject: Re: NYTimes: Jared Kushner, a Trump In-Law and Adviser, Chases a Chinese Deal

We agree. We are trying to make a workable and conservative plan. We have met with the person who will be doing ethics for McGahn so he can become familiar with the issues and be of help in keeping Jared clear of the line. Your advice is welcome!

Jamie

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.
Original Message
From: Walter M. Shaub
Sent: Saturday, January 7, 2017 10:17 AM
To: Gorelick, Jamie
Cc: Siskel, Edward N; Roberts, Blake
Subject: RE: NYTimes: Jared Kushner, a Trump In-Law and Adviser, Chases a Chinese Deal

Thanks for sharing this, Jamie. Blake gave me a heads up that an article was in the works. The letter I sent Ed yesterday highlights some suggestions for protecting your client against potential conflicts of interest and other ethics issues.

I have one additional suggestion. There is a strong temptation for lawyers to think that it's enough to put together

ethics arrangements that are legally compliant. As you know from your own time in government, senior officials invariably find themselves operating in a fast-paced work environment in which they necessarily move from one vaguely defined subject to another quickly throughout the day. Ethics issues arise unexpectedly, and they don't come with the label "Caution! I'm an ethics issue." For this reason, we encourage folks to set up ethics arrangements that put senior officials two steps back from the line between what is permissible and what is not. OGE can enforce that approach in the nominee program, but White House appointees are at the mercy of the attention span of a White House Counsel's office with a thousand other things to do. As things are currently shaping up, it's not clear that this new White House will have a fully functioning ethics office of its own on the first day. For that reason, caution is advisable. The further you can put him back from the line, the better you will protect him.

Walt

Walter M. Shaub, Jr.
Director
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005-3917

Telephone: 202.482.9292
Email: walter.shaub@oge.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Gorelick, Jamie [mailto:(b) (6)]
Sent: Saturday, January 07, 2017 9:42 AM
To: Walter M. Shaub
Cc: Siskel, Edward N; Roberts, Blake; Gorelick, Jamie
Subject: Fw: NYTimes: Jared Kushner, a Trump In-Law and Adviser, Chases a Chinese Deal

Walt -

Just a heads up so you know this is out there. Our proposed plan contemplates steps to remove and mitigate sources of conflict.

Best -

Jamie

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.
Original Message

<http://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/07/us/politics/jared-kushner-trump-business.html?smprod=nytcore-iphone&smid=nytcore-iphone-share>

As Donald J. Trump's son-in-law prepares for a White House role, his undisclosed talks with a secretive Chinese company highlight potential conflicts of interest.

OGE Confidential Notice: This email, including all attachments, may constitute a Federal record or other Government property that is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed. This email

also may contain information that is privileged, confidential, or otherwise protected from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient or the employee or agent responsible for delivering the transmission to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, copying or use of this email or its contents is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender by responding to the email and then immediately delete the email.

From: [Gorelick, Jamie](#)
To: [Walter M. Shaub](#)
Subject: Re: NYTimes: Jared Kushner, a Trump In-Law and Adviser, Chases a Chinese Deal
Date: Saturday, January 07, 2017 3:01:02 PM

That would be fine, Walt. It is certainly a true statement. And we have appreciated and followed that advice, for example, with regard to the (b) (6)

Best -

Jamie

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

Original Message

From: Walter M. Shaub

Sent: Saturday, January 7, 2017 2:51 PM

To: Gorelick, Jamie

Subject: Re: NYTimes: Jared Kushner, a Trump In-Law and Adviser, Chases a Chinese Deal

Jamie,

Do you have any concerns if at some point I state publicly that, "We have consulted with attorneys for Jared Kushner to provide assistance in connection with some steps he may take to avoid conflicts of interest if he comes into government." This seems to be consistent with what you told the NY Times.

Walt

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

Original Message

From: Gorelick, Jamie

Sent: Saturday, January 7, 2017 11:37 AM

To: Walter M. Shaub

Subject: Re: NYTimes: Jared Kushner, a Trump In-Law and Adviser, Chases a Chinese Deal

Will do.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

Original Message

From: Walter M. Shaub

Sent: Saturday, January 7, 2017 11:32 AM

To: Gorelick, Jamie

Subject: Re: NYTimes: Jared Kushner, a Trump In-Law and Adviser, Chases a Chinese Deal

They have not shared with us that they've hired someone. If you get the chance, please let him know that I'd love to meet with him. Emory Rounds of my office and I can give him some ideas for setting up shop.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

Original Message

From: Gorelick, Jamie

Sent: Saturday, January 7, 2017 10:27 AM

To: Walter M. Shaub

Cc: Siskel, Edward N; Roberts, Blake; Gorelick, Jamie
Subject: Re: NYTimes: Jared Kushner, a Trump In-Law and Adviser, Chases a Chinese Deal

We agree. We are trying to make a workable and conservative plan. We have met with the person who will be doing ethics for McGahn so he can become familiar with the issues and be of help in keeping Jared clear of the line. Your advice is welcome!

Jamie

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

Original Message
From: Walter M. Shaub
Sent: Saturday, January 7, 2017 10:17 AM
To: Gorelick, Jamie
Cc: Siskel, Edward N; Roberts, Blake
Subject: RE: NYTimes: Jared Kushner, a Trump In-Law and Adviser, Chases a Chinese Deal

Thanks for sharing this, Jamie. Blake gave me a heads up that an article was in the works. The letter I sent Ed yesterday highlights some suggestions for protecting your client against potential conflicts of interest and other ethics issues.

I have one additional suggestion. There is a strong temptation for lawyers to think that it's enough to put together ethics arrangements that are legally compliant. As you know from your own time in government, senior officials invariably find themselves operating in a fast-paced work environment in which they necessarily move from one vaguely defined subject to another quickly throughout the day. Ethics issues arise unexpectedly, and they don't come with the label "Caution! I'm an ethics issue." For this reason, we encourage folks to set up ethics arrangements that put senior officials two steps back from the line between what is permissible and what is not. OGE can enforce that approach in the nominee program, but White House appointees are at the mercy of the attention span of a White House Counsel's office with a thousand other things to do. As things are currently shaping up, it's not clear that this new White House will have a fully functioning ethics office of its own on the first day. For that reason, caution is advisable. The further you can put him back from the line, the better you will protect him.

Walt

Walter M. Shaub, Jr.
Director
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005-3917

Telephone: 202.482.9292
Email: walter.shaub@oge.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Gorelick, Jamie [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\) \[REDACTED\]](mailto:(b) (6) [REDACTED])]
Sent: Saturday, January 07, 2017 9:42 AM
To: Walter M. Shaub
Cc: Siskel, Edward N; Roberts, Blake; Gorelick, Jamie
Subject: Fw: NYTimes: Jared Kushner, a Trump In-Law and Adviser, Chases a Chinese Deal

Walt -

Just a heads up so you know this is out there. Our proposed plan contemplates steps to remove and mitigate sources of conflict.

Best -

Jamie

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

Original Message

<http://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/07/us/politics/jared-kushner-trump-business.html?smprod=nytcore-iphone&smid=nytcore-iphone-share>

As Donald J. Trump's son-in-law prepares for a White House role, his undisclosed talks with a secretive Chinese company highlight potential conflicts of interest.

OGE Confidential Notice: This email, including all attachments, may constitute a Federal record or other Government property that is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed. This email also may contain information that is privileged, confidential, or otherwise protected from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient or the employee or agent responsible for delivering the transmission to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, copying or use of this email or its contents is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender by responding to the email and then immediately delete the email.

OGE Confidential Notice: This email, including all attachments, may constitute a Federal record or other Government property that is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed. This email also may contain information that is privileged, confidential, or otherwise protected from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient or the employee or agent responsible for delivering the transmission to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, copying or use of this email or its contents is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender by responding to the email and then immediately delete the email.

OGE Confidential Notice: This email, including all attachments, may constitute a Federal record or other Government property that is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed. This email also may contain information that is privileged, confidential, or otherwise protected from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient or the employee or agent responsible for delivering the transmission to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, copying or use of this email or its contents is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender by responding to the email and then immediately delete the email.

From: [Walter M. Shaub](#)
To: [Vincent Salamone](#)
Subject: FW: Wall Street Journal reporter hoping to talk regarding Trump business plan
Date: Saturday, January 14, 2017 1:51:29 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Walter M. Shaub, Jr.
Director
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005-3917
Telephone: 202.482.9292
Email: walter.shaub@oge.gov

From: Berzon, Alexandra [mailto:(b) (6)]
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2017 2:55 PM
To: Walter M. Shaub

Subject: Wall Street Journal reporter hoping to talk regarding Trump business plan
Hi Walter, I'm a reporter at the Wall Street Journal. I've been covering Donald Trump's business conflicts for quite some time (actually over a year) and was very struck by your comments Wednesday. I'm working on a follow up story to Trump's business plan announcement and was really hoping to talk to you and/or someone who could help clarify a few things. I am especially interested in all the remaining questions and lack of transparency from Trump folks since their announcement.

One thing that you mentioned in your speech was that Mr. Trump wanted OGE to approve assets - would it be possible to explain what you mean by that and what purpose that would have for Trump - some have suggested it might be for tax benefits - is there any other reason they would have for this?

Have you sought or been able to get answers to any questions from Trump folks or had any further contact with them?

Also do you have any comment on the Chaffetz comments on you?

I'd also just love to talk more generally if that would be possible. I am at (b) (6).

Thanks so much.

Best,
Alexandra

Alexandra Berzon
REPORTER



M: (b) (6) O: 323-591-6502 [NOTE NEW NUMBER]

E: (b) (6)

T: @alexandraberzon

A: 5900 Wilshire Blvd. Ste 2900 Los Angeles, CA 90036 (NOTE NEW ADDRESS)



From: [Libby Nelson](#)
To: [Walter M. Shaub](#)
Subject: Interview?
Date: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 5:44:43 PM

Mr. Shaub:

I'm a reporter with Vox who's covering the intersection of President Trump's businesses and his presidency — and the many potential conflicts of interest that might entail. I've been very interested in your public speeches on this issue and on the role the Office of Government Ethics played in the run-up to the inauguration, and I'd be really interested in writing a profile on the work that you and the office do.

Would you be available for an interview sometime in the next couple of weeks? (Sooner is always better, but I suspect this subject will be of public interest for some time!)

I can be reached by email at (b) (6) or by phone at (b) (6).

Thanks!

--

Libby Nelson

1201 Connecticut Ave. NW, Floor 11 | Washington, DC 20036



Vox.com is part of [Vox Media](#), home of [SB Nation](#), [The Verge](#), [Polygon](#), [Recode](#), [Eater](#), [Curbed](#), and [Racked](#)

Watch: [Vox's Ezra Klein and Sarah Kliff interview President Obama](#)

From: (b) (6)
To: [Walter M. Shaub](#)
Subject: Thank you for insisting that Donald Trump address his conflicts of interest
Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 2:40:41 PM

Dear Mr. Shaub:

I am writing to commend you for standing up to Donald Trump in insisting that he resolve the many potential conflicts of interest he will have the minute he is sworn in as President. It is terribly unfortunate that so many Republicans have criticized you for insisting that Mr. Trump meet the standards that recent presidents and well as their cabinet nominees have met to resolve their potential conflicts of interest.

Keep up your great work and please do not be intimidated by Rep. Chaffetz's threats of investigating your actions.

(b) (6)

[Redacted]

From: (b) (6)
To: [Walter M. Shaub](mailto:Walter.M.Shaub)
Subject: Urge POTUS to delay transition of power for six months to complete ethics investigation of Trump
Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 9:39:23 AM

walter.shaub@oge.gov Telephone: 202.482.9292

To: Walter M. Shaub, Jr., Director of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics

Dear Director Shaub,

Please courier a letter to President Obama urging him to delay the transition of power until investigations related to Donald Trump can be finalized. Your letter could explain:

Our Office of Government Ethics was created to achieve a high level of public confidence in the integrity of executive branch programs and operations.

It is our mission to provide overall leadership and oversight of the executive branch ethics program designed to prevent and resolve conflicts of interest.

Your letter can go further:

1. It is our task to investigate Mr. Trump's finances and external activities to determine potential conflicts of interest.
2. As a public servant, Mr. Trump would be subject to regulations including:
 - a. An employee may be required to seek approval before engaging in an outside activity.
 2. An employee may be disqualified from working on a particular Government matter while engaged in an outside activity.
 3. An employee may be prohibited from accepting compensation for an activity.
 4. An employee may be prohibited from engaging in an outside activity.
3. Mr. Trump has indicated that he has no intention to provide us his tax returns.
4. Mr. Trump has avoided providing our office with statements of his outside activities both within and outside the U. S.
5. Mr. Trump has indicated that he has no intention to divest of his business assets to qualify for public service.

Mr. Trump is currently under investigation by the Federal Trade Commission, the Federal Election Commission, and intelligence agencies for anti-American, and/or internal illegal business. Mr. *Trump's* companies face open *cases* of fraud, unpaid bills, contract disputes and sexual discrimination suits. He will have to address charges of libel, fees, and sexual harassment.

6. Please delay transfer of government to Mr. Trump until our ethics investigation is complete.