

**From:** [Integrity.gov](https://integrity.gov)  
**To:** [Sandra S. Mabry](#)  
**Subject:** Integrity.gov: Report Pending Action  
**Date:** Thursday, January 05, 2017 6:03:32 PM

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A 2017 Nominee report for Mattis, James N is pending your action as OGE Nominee Program Manager. You may access the report by logging into integrity at <https://integrity.gov>.

**From:** [Walter M. Shaub](#)  
**To:** "Rich Gross"; [Rishel, Eric C CIV OSD OGC \(US\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Thompson, Scott F CIV OSD OGC \(US\)](#); [Vetter, Ruth M SES OSD OGC \(US\)](#); [Monica M. G. Ashar](#); [Deborah J. Bortot](#); [Heather A. Jones](#); [Seth Jaffe](#)  
**Subject:** RE: revised ethics agreement -- change requested  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 03, 2017 3:35:03 PM

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Great! Thanks!

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**From:** Rich Gross [mailto:[\(b\)\(6\)](#)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 03, 2017 3:35 PM  
**To:** Walter M. Shaub; Rishel, Eric C CIV OSD OGC (US)  
**Cc:** Thompson, Scott F CIV OSD OGC (US); Vetter, Ruth M SES OSD OGC (US); Monica M. G. Ashar; Deborah J. Bortot; Heather A. Jones; Seth Jaffe  
**Subject:** [GRAYMAIL] RE: revised ethics agreement -- change requested

Thanks, Walt – please disregard all. Eric Rishel explained it to me. I’ll explain it to Gen. Mattis. Ethics Agreement remains the same, and he can’t work on the book during his government service.

“Please return to your regularly scheduled activities.” J

Best, rich

**Rich Gross** | Partner  
*FH+H*

[\(b\)\(6\)](#)

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**From:** Walter M. Shaub [<mailto:wmschaub@oge.gov>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 03, 2017 2:44 PM  
**To:** Rich Gross [\(b\)\(6\)](#) >; Rishel, Eric C CIV OSD OGC (US) [\(b\)\(6\)](#) >  
**Cc:** Thompson, Scott F CIV OSD OGC (US) [\(b\)\(6\)](#) >; Vetter, Ruth M SES OSD OGC (US) [\(b\)\(6\)](#) >; [Monica M. G. Ashar](mailto:mmgashar@oge.gov) <[mmgashar@oge.gov](mailto:mmgashar@oge.gov)>; [Deborah J. Bortot](mailto:djbortot@oge.gov) <[djbortot@oge.gov](mailto:djbortot@oge.gov)>; [Heather A. Jones](mailto:hajones@oge.gov) <[hajones@oge.gov](mailto:hajones@oge.gov)>; [Seth Jaffe](mailto:sjaffe@oge.gov) <[sjaffe@oge.gov](mailto:sjaffe@oge.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: revised ethics agreement -- change requested

[\(b\)\(6\)](#)

(b)  
(6)

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](mailto:walter.shaub@oge.gov)

**From:** Rich Gross [[mailto:\(b\)\(6\)](mailto:(b)(6)@oge.gov)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 03, 2017 2:34 PM  
**To:** Rishel, Eric C CIV OSD OGC (US); Walter M. Shaub  
**Cc:** Thompson, Scott F CIV OSD OGC (US; Vetter, Ruth M SES OSD OGC (US  
**Subject:** [GRAYMAIL] FW: revised ethics agreement -- change requested

Eric/Walter:

General Mattis asked to change one sentence in the Ethics Agreement.

The original sentence reads:

(b)(6)

The new sentence reads:

(b)(6)

Reason: (b)(6)

Best, rich

**Rich Gross** | Partner  
**FH+H**

(b)(6)

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>>>  
>>> From: Rishel, Eric C CIV OSD OGC (US) [mailto:(b)(6)]  
>>> Sent: Sunday, January 1, 2017 1:22 PM  
>>> To: Eric Alan Reid (b)(6) >  
>>> Cc: Thompson, Scott F CIV OSD OGC (US) <(b)(6)>; Vetter,  
Ruth M SES OSD OGC (US) <(b)(6)>  
>>> Subject: Fw: [Non-DoD Source] revised ethics agreement

>>> Eric Reid:

>>> As we were on the phone I got this from OGE Director Schaub. This my help.

>>> Eric Rishel

>>> Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.  
>>> From: Walter M. Shaub <[wmschaub@oge.gov](mailto:wmschaub@oge.gov)>  
>>> Sent: Sunday, January 1, 2017 16:12  
>>> To: Rishel, Eric C CIV OSD OGC (US)  
>>> Cc: Monica M. G. Ashar; Deborah J. Bortot; Heather A. Jones  
>>> Subject: [Non-DoD Source] revised ethics agreement

>>> Eric,

>>> Attached are two versions of a revised ethics agreement. One version is a tracked changes version, so you can see our changes and comments. The other version is a clean copy, which you will find much easier to read. If you make any revisions to this draft, please use the clean copy version (with tracked changes turned on) so that we can see what you did.

>>> I took a quick look at the 278 just now. I'm glad to see he was able to find the dates of the speeches. Monica may have some additional tweaks to the report, but overall it looks like it's in good shape. Thanks for your excellent work on this report and for your work over this holiday weekend. Feel free to call me if you have any questions over the weekend. My blackberry number is (b)(6)

>>> One small request: Please confirm receipt of this email, so that I know I typed your address correctly. Thanks!

>>> Walt

>>>  
>>> Walter M. Shaub, Jr.  
>>> Director  
>>> U.S. Office of Government Ethics  
>>> 1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 500  
>>> Washington, DC 20005-3917  
>>>  
>>> Telephone: 202.482.9[REDACTED]  
>>> Email: [walter.shaub@oge.gov](mailto:walter.shaub@oge.gov)

>>>  
>>>  
>>>  
>>>  
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>>> <TRACKED CHANGES - ETHICS AGREEMENT 1-1-17.docx><CLEAN COPY - ETHICS AGREEMENT 1-1-17.docx>

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>

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**From:** [Monica M. G. Ashar](#)  
**To:** [Heather A. Jones](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Notes on Mattis  
**Date:** Sunday, January 01, 2017 11:05:29 AM

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(b)(6)

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**From:** Heather A. Jones  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 01, 2017 11:05 AM  
**To:** Monica M. G. Ashar  
**Subject:** RE: Notes on Mattis

What number should I call?

---

**From:** Monica M. G. Ashar  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 01, 2017 11:05 AM  
**To:** Heather A. Jones  
**Subject:** RE: Notes on Mattis

I just tried reaching you on your cell phone. I'm free now, and then I should be free in the afternoon.

---

**From:** Heather A. Jones  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 01, 2017 10:50 AM  
**To:** Monica M. G. Ashar  
**Subject:** Re: Notes on Mattis

Sure I have a conference call at 11:30 but I'm otherwise free

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

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**From:** Monica M. G. Ashar  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 1, 2017 10:37 AM  
**To:** Heather A. Jones  
**Subject:** RE: Notes on Mattis

Actually, could I have a quick call with you this morning to discuss the current EA? You probably just saw my email to Eric. The draft is at Nonresponsive network info

---

**From:** Heather A. Jones  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 31, 2016 11:16 PM  
**To:** Monica M. G. Ashar  
**Subject:** Re: Notes on Mattis

Happy New Year to you. Just let me know if you need me.

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

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**From:** Monica M. G. Ashar  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 31, 2016 11:09 PM  
**To:** Heather A. Jones  
**Subject:** Re: Notes on Mattis

I'll reach out to him tomorrow morning ask about his availability. Since most (all?) of what I wanted to discuss with him pertains to questions that I already sent, I don't anticipate that I would need to have you on the call -- although if you want to be on the call, that's fine with me. The only time that I anticipate not being free is from 6-8 ish.

(And Happy New Year!)

Monica

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**From:** Heather A. Jones  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 31, 2016 10:51 PM  
**To:** Monica M. G. Ashar  
**Subject:** Re: Notes on Mattis

If he is free that is fine. I can do anytime but would prefer after 10

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

---

**From:** Monica M. G. Ashar  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 31, 2016 10:48 PM  
**To:** Heather A. Jones  
**Subject:** RE: Notes on Mattis

I just sent Eric an email asking about the next draft of the EA since I didn't receive it today, and I had sent him a number of questions on 12/30 that weren't answered by his edits (i.e., can you confirm that [x]). Should I try to have a call with him tomorrow?

Thanks,  
Monica

---

**From:** Heather A. Jones  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 31, 2016 4:51 PM  
**To:** Monica M. G. Ashar  
**Subject:** RE: Notes on Mattis

I think it is really close.

---

**From:** Monica M. G. Ashar  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 31, 2016 4:50 PM  
**To:** Heather A. Jones  
**Subject:** RE: Notes on Mattis

Thanks, Heather. And I still haven't received the next draft of the EA, but I'll send it to you and Walt when it arrives.

Monica

---

**From:** Heather A. Jones  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 31, 2016 4:41 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) - Eric Rishel  
**Cc:** Monica M. G. Ashar  
**Subject:** Notes on Mattis

Eric-

I took a look at Mattis so that we could keep it moving. It looks like it is in good shape. I have a couple of questions below:

Part 1:

- (b)(3), (b)(5), (b)(6)

Part 2:

- (b)(3), (b)(5), (b)(6)

Part 3:

- (b)(3), (b)(5), (b)(6)

Happy New Year,  
Heather

Heather Jones  
(202) 482-9316  
Office of Government Ethics

Visit OGE's website: [www.oge.gov](http://www.oge.gov)  
Follow OGE on Twitter: @OfficeGovEthics

**From:** [Heather A. Jones](#)  
**To:** [Monica M. G. Ashar](#)  
**Subject:** RE: checking in  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 03, 2017 9:48:33 AM

---

If your free, please come down to Deb's office

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**From:** Monica M. G. Ashar  
**Sent:** Monday, January 02, 2017 9:54 PM  
**To:** Heather A. Jones  
**Subject:** RE: checking in

Hi Heather,

I finished looking through the email attachment that Eric sent (answering the set of questions that I sent him on Friday). I still have a few things that I want to discuss with you in the morning.

Monica

---

**From:** Monica M. G. Ashar  
**Sent:** Monday, January 02, 2017 4:08 PM  
**To:** Heather A. Jones  
**Subject:** RE: checking in

Ok.

---

**From:** Heather A. Jones  
**Sent:** Monday, January 02, 2017 3:58 PM  
**To:** Monica M. G. Ashar  
**Subject:** RE: checking in

I we don't hear from him today, lets touch base first thing to see what is outstanding on the report.

---

**From:** Monica M. G. Ashar  
**Sent:** Monday, January 02, 2017 3:47 PM  
**To:** Heather A. Jones  
**Subject:** RE: checking in

I haven't received any emails from Eric today – all of his updates have been through *Integrity*.

---

**From:** Walter M. Shaub  
**Sent:** Monday, January 02, 2017 3:39 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) - Eric Rishel  
**Cc:** Heather A. Jones; Monica M. G. Ashar  
**Subject:** checking in

Hi Eric,

Just checking in to see if you've got anything else for us to look at on Mattis?

## Jennifer Matis

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**From:** Heather A. Jones  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 05, 2017 4:24 PM  
**To:** Teresa L. Williamson; Monica M. G. Ashar  
**Subject:** Fw: General James Mattis

Can you let the agency know

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

---

**From:** Ann M Donaldson  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 5, 2017 4:02 PM  
**To:** Deborah J. Bortot; Heather A. Jones  
**Subject:** General James Mattis

On behalf of the President-Elect, this email serves as confirmation that the President-Elect intends to nominate General James Mattis to be Secretary of Defense. Please transmit her pre-cleared 278 report to the appropriate Senate committee.

Thank you,  
Annie

Ann M. Donaldson  
Associate  
[JONES DAY® - One Firm Worldwide<sup>SM</sup>](#)  
51 Louisiana Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
Office (b)(6) contact info

=====  
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=====

**From:** [Deborah J. Bortot](#)  
**To:** ["Ann M. Donaldson"](#)  
**Cc:** [Monica M. G. Ashar](#); [David J. Apol](#); [Heather A. Jones](#); [Sandra S. Mabry](#); [Keith Labedz](#); [Teresa L. Williamson](#); [Rodrick T. Johnson](#); [Emory A. Rounds III](#); **(b)(6) Eric Rishel's**  
**Subject:** PRECLEARED: James Mattis  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 04, 2017 5:13:54 PM

---

Annie, James Mattis is precleared.

Monica, please forward the ethics agreement to Annie.

Thanks!

Deb

Deborah J. Bortot

Chief, Presidential Nominations Branch

U.S. Office of Government Ethics

1201 New York Ave., NW, Suite 500

Washington, DC 20005-3917

Telephone: (202) 482-9227

Facsimile: (202) 482-9237

**From:** [Brewer, Leah \(Armed Services\)](#)  
**To:** [Deborah J. Bortot](#)  
**Cc:** [Sandra S. Mabry](#); [Heather A. Jones](#); [Teresa L. Williamson](#); [Rodrick T. Johnson](#); "[Ann M Donaldson](#)"  
**Subject:** RE: Public Financial Disclosure Report General James N. Mattis  
**Date:** Friday, January 06, 2017 8:48:57 AM

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Deborah,

Thank you very much! I am in receipt. I will send the page over this morning to pick up the hard copy. Have a great day and weekend!

~Leah

---

**From:** Deborah J. Bortot [mailto:djbortot@oge.gov]

**Sent:** Thursday, January 05, 2017 6:56 PM

**To:** Brewer, Leah (Armed Services)

**Cc:** Sandra S. Mabry ; Heather A. Jones ; Teresa L. Williamson ; Rodrick T. Johnson ; 'Ann M Donaldson'

**Subject:** Public Financial Disclosure Report General James N. Mattis

Good Evening,

I've attached the financial disclosure package for General James N. Mattis. President-Elect Trump has announced his intention to nominate General Mattis for the position of Secretary, Department of Defense.

The hard copy of the attached documents will be placed at OGE reception for pick up by a Senate rider page per our agreement. If you have any questions, please contact Teresa Williamson @ 202-482-9283.

**Please respond to this message to confirm receipt of the attached package, and please let me know in your response whether you will send a Senate rider page.**

Thanks!

Deborah J. Bortot

Chief, Presidential Nominations Branch

U.S. Office of Government Ethics

1201 New York Ave., NW, Suite 500

Washington, DC 20005-3917

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Facsimile: (202) 482-9237

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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:** [Deborah J. Bortot](#)  
**To:** (b)(6) contact info L Brewer  
**Cc:** [Sandra S. Mabry](#); [Heather A. Jones](#); [Teresa L. Williamson](#); [Rodrick T. Johnson](#); "Ann M Donaldson"  
**Subject:** Public Financial Disclosure Report General James N. Mattis  
**Date:** Thursday, January 05, 2017 6:56:08 PM  
**Attachments:** Mattis, James N. Senate Letter.pdf  
Mattis, James N. final 278.pdf  
MATTIS James Ethics Agreement.pdf

---

Good Evening,

I've attached the financial disclosure package for General James N. Mattis. President-Elect Trump has announced his intention to nominate General Mattis for the position of Secretary, Department of Defense.

The hard copy of the attached documents will be placed at OGE reception for pick up by a Senate rider page per our agreement. If you have any questions, please contact Teresa Williamson @ 202-482-9283.

**Please respond to this message to confirm receipt of the attached package, and please let me know in your response whether you will send a Senate rider page.**

Thanks!

Deborah J. Bortot  
Chief, Presidential Nominations Branch  
U.S. Office of Government Ethics  
1201 New York Ave., NW, Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20005-3917  
Telephone: (202) 482-9227  
Facsimile: (202) 482-9237

**From:** [Teresa L. Williamson](#)  
**To:** [\(b\)\(6\) E Rishel](#); [Monica M. G. Ashar](#)  
**Subject:** Public Financial Disclosure Report General James N. Mattis  
**Date:** Friday, January 06, 2017 2:18:50 PM  
**Attachments:** Mattis, James N. Senate Letter.pdf  
Mattis, James N. final 278.pdf  
MATTIS James Ethics Agreement.pdf

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Good Afternoon,

I've attached the financial disclosure package for General James N. Mattis. President-Elect Trump has announced his intention to nominate General Mattis for the position of Secretary, Department of Defense.

Thanks!

Deborah J. Bortot  
Chief, Presidential Nominations Branch  
U.S. Office of Government Ethics  
1201 New York Ave., NW, Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20005-3917  
Telephone: (202) 482-9227  
Facsimile: (202) 482-9237

UNITED STATES OFFICE OF  
GOVERNMENT ETHICS



JAN 05 2017

The Honorable John McCain  
Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, I enclose a copy of the financial disclosure report filed by James N. Mattis. President-Elect Trump has announced his intention to nominate Mr. Mattis for the position of Secretary, Department of Defense.

We have reviewed the report and have obtained advice from the agency concerning any possible conflict in light of its functions and the nominee's proposed duties. Also enclosed is an ethics agreement outlining the actions that the nominee will undertake to avoid conflicts of interest. Unless a date for compliance is indicated in the ethics agreement, the nominee must fully comply within three months of confirmation with any action specified in the ethics agreement.

Based thereon, we believe that this nominee is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations governing conflicts of interest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Walter M. Shaub, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Walter M. Shaub, Jr.  
Director

Enclosures

**From:** [Kelsey D. Phipps](#)  
**To:** [Agency Wide: News Clippings](#)  
**Subject:** Legislative Update for Thursday, Decemeber 15, 2016  
**Date:** Thursday, December 15, 2016 11:12:36 AM

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**The Senate is not in session.**

**The House is not in session.**

**Legislative and Related News**

*Politico* reports that five Democratic senators on Thursday unveiled a bill they plan to release next month that would require Donald Trump to divest assets that risk a conflict of interest and place the proceeds in a blind trust as well as require his appointees to step aside from official decisions that could benefit him. [Senate Dems seek divestment blind trust for Trump's assets](#)

Fox5 reports on a potential conflict of interest with a Georgia Congressman and a pharmacies bill. [Questions of conflict of interest with a Georgia congressman Rep. Buddy Carter](#)

**Executive Branch Ethics and Related News**

Multiple sources report on OGE's letter in response to Senator Carper. [Trump giving businesses to his kids won't eliminate conflicts, government ethics office says](#) [Office of Government Ethics responds to senator's letter](#) [Ethics office says a blind trust run by Trump kids wouldn't comply with law](#) [U.S. Ethics Office Says Donald Trump Should Divest His Businesses](#)

*The Hill* reports that the President-elect announced that Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mont.) would be his nominee for Interior secretary. [Trump picks GOP Rep. Zinke for Interior secretary](#)

*Politico* reports on speculation as to how the President-elect's business dealings would be impacted by the STOCK Act. [Trump's businesses could trip insider-trading law](#)

The *New York Times* reports that President-elect Trump's business is pulling out of a real estate deal with criminal issues in Brazil. [Trump Firm Quits Brazil Hotel Project That Was Named in Criminal Inquiry](#)

*Newsmax* reports that a former lobbyist is being considered for a role in the President-elect's administration. [Trump Considers Ex-Lobbyist, Bush Official for Trade Role](#)

*Roll Call* reports that Senator Sessions plans to divest from Brazilian oil bonds. [Sessions Plans to Divest Some Investments as AG](#)

Bloomberg reports that General Mattis may have to recuse himself from dealings with General Dynamics. [Pentagon Chief May Have to Steer Clear of \\$10 Billion Contractor](#)

*Multiple sources* address the issue of the President-elect's D.C. hotel. [Update: Feds say it's 'premature' to judge lease for Trump's D.C. hotel](#) [The Trump DC hotel's possibly illegal lease and massive ethical problems, explained](#) [Trump's Washington Hotel A Massive Conflict Of Interest](#) [Trump could break ethics rules on day one if he doesn't sell D.C. hotel](#)

*Multiple sources* report on the President-elect's potential conflicts of interest. [Federal Agencies Pressure Trump To Address Conflicts Of Interest](#) [Facing conflict-of-interest allegations, Trump tries brazenness](#) [In Trump we trust: Family brand conflicts continue to multiply](#) [Donald Trump says at tech meeting with children in attendance: "We have no formal chain of command"](#) [Federal Agencies Pressure Trump To Address Conflicts Of Interest](#) [This GOP-Backed Law Forbids Donald Trump From Using Presidency For Personal Profit](#) [Trump faces ethics onslaught](#) [On the day Trump said he'd clarify his business dealings, his conflicts of interest look thornier than ever](#)

**Federal Agency and Related News**

*Federal News Radio* reports that that the 2016 Best Places to Work rankings are out. [Feds generally happier at work, but leadership satisfaction lags in Best Places to Work](#)

Next Scheduled Recess:

**House:** December 19-30

**Senate:** December 19-30

Kelsey D. Phipps

Assistant Counsel, Legal, External Affairs and Performance Branch

Program Counsel Division

U.S. Office of Government Ethics

(202) 482-9318

[kelsey.phipps@oge.gov](mailto:kelsey.phipps@oge.gov)

Visit OGE's website: [www.oge.gov](http://www.oge.gov)

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**From:** [Brandon A. Steele](#)  
**To:** [Agency Wide](#)  
**Cc:** [News Clippings](#)  
**Subject:** Legislative Update for Tuesday, January 3, 2017  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 03, 2017 11:48:09 AM

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**The Senate meets in a pro forma session. At noon, the Senate will convene for the 115th Congress pursuant to the Constitution.**

**The House meets in a pro forma session at 11 a.m. for the final session of the 114th Congress. The 115th Congress convenes at noon and is expected to elect the speaker of the House, swear in members and delegates and consider measures under suspension of the rules.**

#### **Legislative Branch and Related News**

Multiple outlets report on the majority party's vote to "rein in an independent ethics office that investigates potential wrongdoing by lawmakers." [House Republicans vote to eviscerate the Office of Congressional Ethics](#) [House Republicans gut their own oversight](#) [House Republicans move to slash powers of ethics watchdog](#) [GOP Congress jolted by ethics PR debacle](#) [Conway: GOP has 'mandate' to gut congressional ethics office](#) [Ryan defends move to gut ethics watchdog](#) [Back to The Auction House](#) PEOTUS called the "Ethics Watchdog" unfair, but questioned why weakening it was the first priority. [here](#) and [here](#). *The Atlantic* has a history of the OCE. [The GOP's Ethics Disaster](#)

#### **Executive Branch Ethics and Related News**

Multiple outlets report on alleged conflicts of interest of President-elect Trump. [Trump expected to hold conflict of interest presser next week](#) [DONALD TRUMP GIFTS HIMSELF A POSSIBLE CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE](#) [Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago Made over \\$420,000 Selling Access to the President-elect on New Year's Eve](#) [Tape Shows Trump Lavishing Praise on Dubai Business Partner During New Year's Eve Party](#) [Why Trump's Conflicts of Interest Matter](#) [The Hotelier-in-Chief: Trump's Hospitality-Based Conflicts of Interest Are Mounting](#) [Open letter to Trump: Selling the business is only way to avoid conflicts](#) [Bipartisan Group Warns Trump to Divest or Face Serious Conflicts of Interest](#) [Conflict-of-interest laws may not apply to Trump, but ethics still do](#) [Ethics group warns Trump about business conflicts](#) [Trump's Efforts To Address Conflicts Are 'Baby Steps'](#) [Emirati real estate giant says Trump presidency is 'good news' for business — even with Trump's vow to step down from his company](#)

Multiple outlets discuss various aspects of the transition. [A President Without an Administration](#) [Schumer set to clash with McConnell over Trump's cabinet](#) [Puzder confirmation hearing set for Jan. 12](#) [Mattis confirmation hearing will come quickly and will address Trump's interest in Russia](#) [Jeff Sessions Omits Decades Of Records For His AG Confirmation Hearing](#) [Trump Struggling To Pay Salaries](#)

*Washington Examiner* reports that the DOJ declined to prosecute two VA officials accused of gaming a VA program designed to assist moving employees between cities. [Justice Dept. declines to prosecute VA fraudsters](#)

Multiple outlets discuss OGE's tweets. [U.S. Ethics Chief Was Behind Those Tweets About Trump, Records Show](#) [Office of Government Ethics should have studied up on Twitter before taking on Trump](#)

#### **Federal Agency and Related News**

*The Washington Post* reports that federal agency hiring is up since the election. [Federal agencies rush to fill job openings before Trump takes office Jan. 20](#)

*Federal News Radio* reports that OPM issued new teleworking guidance. [OPM offers guidance for feds who telework from home with children, dependents](#)

Next Scheduled Recess:

**House:** January 14-22

**Senate:**

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UNITED STATES OFFICE OF  
**GOVERNMENT ETHICS**

  
Preventing Conflicts of Interest  
in the Executive Branch

**From:** [Brandon A. Steele](#)  
**To:** [Agency Wide](#)  
**Cc:** [News Clippings](#)  
**Subject:** Legislative Update for Tuesday, January 17, 2017  
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### **The Senate convenes at 3:00 p.m.**

The Senate re-convenes at 3 p.m. and begins a period of morning business.

### **The House meets in a pro forma session.**

#### **Legislative Branch and Related News**

*Roll Call* reports that while public outcry saved OCE, some watchdogs “fear that the OCE’s death sentence has simply been postponed until public attention shifts.” [Crisis Averted but Future Is Still Unclear for House Watchdog](#)

#### **Executive Branch Ethics and Related News**

Multiple outlets report on Fridays’ director’s note. [In a Memo, the U.S. Ethics Chief Reminds 'Everyone' in the Executive Branch What Ethics Are After Trump's Tweet](#), [Ethics Office Reminds U.S. Employees: No Endorsing Products](#) [US ethics watchdog takes to Twitter to remind federal employees not to endorse any products a day after Trump tweeted 'buy L.L. Bean'](#) [The Office of Government Ethics is waging a one-sided Twitter feud with Trump](#) [Website Goes Down At Office Of Government Ethics Amid Political Storm](#) The [tweet](#) OGE sent Friday is our most popular tweet (likes, retweets, etc.) to date, achieving this milestone in two days. OGE’s [prior](#) top tweet took over 30 days to achieve its numbers.

Multiple outlets discuss various aspects of the critique against OGE and its director. [Chaffetz calls for scrutiny of ethics watchdog for Trump tweets](#) [Ethics chief thrust into spotlight by Trump battle](#) [Second Ethics Office Challenged](#) [This tiny, wonky US government agency you've never heard of is battling Donald Trump's conflicts of interest](#) [The Ethics Official Dogging Trump Is Just Doing His Job](#) [Government Ethics Chief Caught in Lawmaker Crossfire](#) [20 Groups + Ethics Experts Tell Hse. Oversight Comm. Chairman Chaffetz: Hands off the Office of Government Ethics](#) [WALTER SHAUB'S DESPERATE ATTEMPTS TO MAKE TRUMP ADHERE TO GOVERNMENT ETHICS](#) [Trump team on attack headed into week of president-elect's inauguration](#) [Reince Priebus resorts to intimidation: 'The head of the government ethics ought to be careful'](#) [Reince Priebus warns Office of Government Ethics director to 'be careful' in criticizing Trump](#) [Priebus Tells Ethics Chief To Watch Himself After Criticism Of Trump](#) [Ethics chief thrust into spotlight by Trump battle](#) [Trump Ethics: Is McCarthyism Back? President-Elect Learned At The Knee Of Roy Cohn, Architect Of The Anti-Communist Witch Hunt](#) [Just when you thought the Trump ethics disaster couldn't get worse, it did](#)

[Team Trump Steps Up Intimidation of Government Ethics Officer](#) [The Thuggery Begins As Trump Admin Threatens Government Ethics Official](#)

*Washington Examiner* opines that OGE is hypocritical to question payments received by the Trump DC Hotel, because the agency did not question payments received by the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill. The piece alleges that the agency sent a letter to the minority party in the Senate “while merely cc-ing the actual leadership of the Senate.” [The unethical Office of Government Ethics](#)

Outlets discuss the confirmation hearings. [Zinke, DeVos Kick Off Week of Senate Hearings](#) [Confirmation fights dominate ahead of inauguration](#)

[Lawmakers set Mattis up for quick confirmation](#)

Multiple outlets discuss the transition. [Trump adviser sells investment company](#) [Many Cabinet picks still missing paperwork](#) [Trump's Education Secretary Nom Failed To Report \\$125k Anti-Union Donation](#) [See how Betsy DeVos responded to Senate questionnaire on conflicts of interest, lobbying](#) [Trump slow to vet ultra-rich ambassador candidates](#) [How Trump's Cabinet nominees are being vetted on ethics](#) [Trump labor pick Andrew Puzder has voiced second thoughts about nomination](#) [Trump Labor Pick Andy Puzder May Be 'Bailing' on Nomination](#) [Draining The Swamp? Not With Tom Price As Head Of Health](#) [Ethics paperwork still missing for Trump's billionaire Cabinet picks](#) [Trump's Cabinet pick invested in company, then introduced a bill to help it](#)

Multiple outlets discuss President-elect Trump's alleged conflicts of interest. [Trump Says He Won't Build A \\$2 Billion Golf Course In Dubai. He Has 2 Already Despite 'No New Foreign Deals' Promise. Trump Golf Course Set To Expand Donald Trump Expanding Scottish Golf Resort After Vowing Not To Make New Foreign Deals Trump's administration will regulate Trump's businesses, raising prospect of conflicts Government Ethics Experts Outline Trump's Unconstitutional Conflicts Of Interest Public Splits on Trump's Ethics Compliance: Three-Quarters Want Tax Returns Released More than 4 in 10 say Trump should sell his businesses — but even more say he shouldn't, poll finds Donald Trump is likely on the payroll of a Filipino government official thanks to his new Manila skyscraper](#)

*Government Executive* reports that a recent survey shows a tie between the media and the government for what American surveyed view as the least trusted key institution. [The Results Are In: Nobody Trusts Anyone Anymore](#)

*Washington Examiner* alleges that the Clinton Foundation was merely a pay-for-play front, because the separate Clinton Global Initiative conference was shuttered. [Clinton Inc exposed for what it was Forbes](#) opines having a new administration may alter how ethics are taught in the classroom.

[Teaching Ethics In The Trump Era](#)

### **Federal Agency and Related News**

*Washington Examiner* reports that President-elect Trump is eyeing executive branch spending cuts of 10% and slashing the federal workforce by 20% through attrition, a hiring freeze and reorganization. [Trump eyes 10% spending cuts, 20% slash of federal workers Federal News Radio](#) opines on other possible changes. [Federal pay freeze likely under new Congress](#)

Next Scheduled Recess:

**House:** January 14-19, 26-27

**Senate:** January 16, February 20-24

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