From:	Aaron Mathes
To:	USOGE
Subject:	Proposed Rule: Legal Expense Fund Regulation (RIN 3209-AA50)
Date:	Tuesday, June 21, 2022 12:40:04 PM

Hello. I'm writing to express my opposition to the way The Office of Government Ethics has drafted its proposed legal expense fund regulation.

I think The Office of Government Ethics should make the following changes:

It should remove the exception that makes compliance with the regulation optional. Regulations that are optional might as well not exist.

It should replace the proposed recusal requirement with a broader 5-year recusal requirement that prevents donors of cash gifts from influencing decisions, policies, or regulations affecting them or the industries in which they have substantial interests.

OGE should remove the offensive example involving an accused sexual harasser.

It should allow nonprofit charities (501(c)(3) organizations) to hire legal counsel for whistleblowers. We should make it easier to support whistleblowers, and allow charities to support them.

Thank you for reading my comments and taking them into consideration. I look forward to hearing that the above changes have been incorporated into the OGE's legal defense fund regulation.