From: Joseph Rossmeissl
To: USOGE
Subject: Proposed Rule: Legal Expense Fund Regulation (RIN 3209-AA50)
Date: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 12:18:57 PM

I oppose the Office of Government Ethics's proposed regulation on legal expense funds as drafted. Instead of opening the door to corruption, OGE should:

- remove the exception that makes compliance with the regulation optional;
- 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;
- remove the offensive example involving an accused sexual harasser; and
- place nonprofit charities (501(c)(3) organizations) on an equal footing with large law firms by allowing them to hire legal counsel for whistleblowers.

Common sense dictates that strict ethics rules for government officials should NOT be optional. Do the right thing and reject this relic of the corrupt Trump years.

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