



U.S. Department of Justice

Professional Responsibility Advisory Office

Washington, D.C. 20530

October 6, 2021

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
elena@judgewatch.org

RE: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request PRAO-FOIA-21-016

Ms. Sassower:

I write on behalf of the Professional Responsibility Advisory Office (PRAO) to respond to your Freedom of Information Act request dated and received in this office on October 4, 2021. You request “(1) all publicly-available records reflecting the names of the ‘Department of Justice’s ethics office and Designated Ethics Officer’ with whom the then prospective four nominees each ‘consulted’ about ‘potential conflicts-of-interest’ – and the dates those ‘consult[at]ions’ were held; (2) all publicly-available records reflecting whether such ‘consult[at]ions’ included discussion of conflicts of interest that would arise from the FULLY-DOCUMENTED October 16, 2020 public corruption complaint against New York’s highest state constitutional officers that I had filed with the FBI – and that New York’s acting U.S. attorneys were ALL ‘sitting on’ – NOTICE of which I gave the Biden White House, in writing, on March 23, 2021, and April 27, 2021 – acknowledged by March 23rd and April 27th e-mails; (3) a copy of the referred-to ‘ethics agreement...entered with the Department’s designated agency ethics official’; (4) all publicly-available records reflecting the name of the ‘Department of Justice’s ethics office’ to which the then prospective four U.S. Attorney nominees for New York pledged “to consult’, ‘[i]f confirmed’.”

Please be advised that PRAO has no records responsive to your request and does not maintain the type of records you request. For your information, PRAO provides prospective advice to Department of Justice attorneys about how to comply with the applicable rules of professional conduct in the performance of their duties. Additional information about PRAO and its work can be found on the Department of Justice web site at <http://www.usdoj.gov/prao/>.

The Justice Management Division (JMD), whom you have already sent this request, is the Department of Justice component responsible for maintaining and providing the records you request. Please allow JMD to respond to your request directly.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV (2010)). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be

taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

If you are not satisfied with PRAO's determination in response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, 441 G Street, NW, 6th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20530, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIA STAR portal by creating an account on the following the instructions on OIP's website: <https://www.justice.gov/oip/submit-and-track-request-or-appeal>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within 90 days of the date of my response to your request. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

Cordially,

Quadira Zeleke
FOIA Liaison
Professional Responsibility Advisory Office