

March 20, 2009

Susan Winchell
Designated Agency Ethics Official
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Room 6E225
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Ms. Winchell:

The purpose of this letter is to describe the steps that I will take to avoid any actual or apparent conflict of interest in the event that I am confirmed for the position of Assistant Secretary for the Office for Civil Rights.

As required by 18 U.S.C. § 208(a), I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that has a direct and predictable effect on my financial interests or those of any person whose interests are imputed to me, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1), or qualify for a regulatory exemption, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(2). I understand that the interests of the following persons are imputed to me: any spouse or minor child of mine; any general partner of a partnership in which I am a limited or general partner; any organization in which I serve as officer, director, trustee, general partner or employee; and any person or organization with which I am negotiating, or have an arrangement concerning prospective employment.

Upon confirmation, I will resign from my position as Vice President of the Education Trust and as Executive Director of the Education Trust-West. For one year after my resignation, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which the Education Trust or the Education Trust-West, is a party or represents a party, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d). In addition, for the duration of my appointment as Assistant Secretary for the Office for Civil Rights, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I previously participated in my capacity as Vice President of the Education Trust or Executive Director of the Education Trust-West, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).

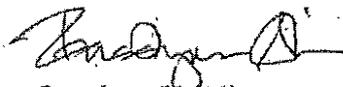
Upon confirmation, I will resign from my positions with the following entities:

The Institute for College Access & Success
GreatSchools
College Track
University of California at Davis
The Broad Prize for Urban Education

Susan Winchell, Designated Agency Ethics Official
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For a period of one year after my resignation from these positions, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which any of these entities is a party or represents a party, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russlynn H. Ali", written in a cursive style.

Russlynn H. Ali