

From: Williams, Kayla M.
Sent: Tue, 6 Apr 2021 21:52:05 +0000
To: Bradsher, Tanya J.
Subject: RE: 2021-04-02 CEG to VA - Grassley

jinx

From: Bradsher, Tanya J. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 5:52 PM
To: Williams, Kayla M. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Jackson, Tahmika R. (OGC) (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: 2021-04-02 CEG to VA - Grassley

Please loop me in with Melissa, I have a tasker

Tanya Bradsher
Chief of Staff
Department of Veterans Affairs
(b)(6)@va.gov
Cell (b)(6)

From: Williams, Kayla M. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 5:50 PM
To: Bradsher, Tanya J. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Jackson, Tahmika R. (OGC) (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: 2021-04-02 CEG to VA - Grassley

No problem at all. I will forward the two earlier emails to Melissa and I request that whenever the planning meeting takes place that she be included instead of me.

From: Bradsher, Tanya J. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 5:39 PM
To: Williams, Kayla M. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Jackson, Tahmika R. (OGC) (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: Re: 2021-04-02 CEG to VA - Grassley

Talking to Dick, Kayla he agrees that you should recuse yourself.

Tanya Bradsher
Chief of Staff
Department of Veterans Affairs
(b)(6)@va.gov
Cell (b)(6)

From: Williams, Kayla M. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 5:02:30 PM
To: Bradsher, Tanya J. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Jackson, Tahmika R. (OGC) (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: 2021-04-02 CEG to VA - Grassley

Chief,

I feel obliged to disclose that while I was at CNAS, I approved a small contract (I believe \$10k) to Barrett Bogue and Dr. Andrew Morse to write this white paper: [Called to Lead | Center for a New American Security \(en-US\) \(cnas.org\)](#)

Given the specific nature of the concerns raised, it seemed appropriate for me to flag that I had a financial interaction with him in his capacity as a consultant.

If it is more appropriate for me to recuse myself from any and all conversations related to this, I have confirmed with Melissa Bryant that she has no known conflicts.

Please let me know if you'd like me to forward the background to Melissa and be removed from the email chain.

Kayla

From: Bradsher, Tanya J. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 3:51 PM
To: Jackson, Tahmika R. (OGC) (b)(6)@va.gov>; McClain, Kimberly A. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Hipolit, Richard (OGC) (b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Diaz, Chris E. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Farrisee, Gina S. (b)(6)@va.gov>; McVicker, Carrie A. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Johnson, Glenn (SES) (b)(6)@va.gov>; Williams, Kayla M. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: 2021-04-02 CEG to VA - Grassley

Kayla,

Please read the letter attached for full context.

Tanya Bradsher

Chief of Staff

Department of Veterans Affairs

(b)(6)@va.gov

Cell: (b)(6)

From: Jackson, Tahmika R. (OGC) (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 3:40 PM
To: Bradsher, Tanya J. (b)(6)@va.gov>; McClain, Kimberly A. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Hipolit, Richard (OGC) (b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Diaz, Chris E. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Farrisee, Gina S. (b)(6)@va.gov>; McVicker, Carrie A. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Johnson, Glenn (SES) (b)(6)@va.gov>; Williams, Kayla M. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: 2021-04-02 CEG to VA - Grassley

COS,

Absolutely. I have copied Kayla here. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

V/r,
Tahmika

Tahmika Ruth Jackson
Special Counsel
Office of General Counsel
Department of Veterans Affairs
Cell (b)(6)

From: Bradsher, Tanya J. (b)(6) @va.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 3:33 PM
To: McClain, Kimberly A. (b)(6) @va.gov>; Hipolit, Richard (OGC) (b)(6) @va.gov>; Jackson, Tahmika R. (OGC) (b)(6) @va.gov>
Cc: Díaz, Chris E. (b)(6) @va.gov>; Farrisee, Gina S. (b)(6) @va.gov>; McVicker, Carrie A. (b)(6) @va.gov>; Johnson, Glenn (SES) (b)(6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: 2021-04-02 CEG to VA - Grassley

OGC – can I loop in Kayla?

Tanya Bradsher
Chief of Staff
Department of Veterans Affairs
(b)(6) @va.gov
Cell (b)(6)

From: McClain, Kimberly A. (b)(6) @va.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 3:26 PM
To: Bradsher, Tanya J. (b)(6) @va.gov>; Hipolit, Richard (OGC) (b)(6) @va.gov>; Jackson, Tahmika R. (OGC) (b)(6) @va.gov>
Cc: Díaz, Chris E. (b)(6) @va.gov>; Farrisee, Gina S. (b)(6) @va.gov>; McVicker, Carrie A. (b)(6) @va.gov>; Johnson, Glenn (SES) (b)(6) @va.gov>
Subject: FW: 2021-04-02 CEG to VA - Grassley

Tanya, Dick and Tahmika,

Please see below for the press release that RM Grassley's office sent out.

Dick – What is your call about accepting the call with RM Grassley's staffer? If we take the call, I would recommend OGC/Special Counsel be on the call since the responses will come from your office.

V/R,

Kimberly McClain, PhD (she/her)
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Office of Congressional & Legislative Affairs
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420
Email: (b)(6)@va.gov
Office Phone (b)(6)
Cell: (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 3:04 PM
To: McClain, Kimberly A. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Johnson, Glenn (SES) (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: FW: 2021-04-02 CEG to VA - Grassley

From his website:

Grassley Seeks Sweeping Review into Allegations of Whistleblower Reprisal, Ethics Violations at Veterans Benefits Administration

Following review of whistleblower complaints, documents, Grassley pushes VA, Inspector General, and SEC for Transparency

WASHINGTON – Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, is pushing for information and transparency after whistleblowers allege significant ethics lapses and potential leaks of market-sensitive information at the Veterans Benefits Administration, a division of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Grassley is seeking information regarding Charmain Bogue's failure to disclose her husband's income and employment at a firm that directly did business with the VBA. He is also seeking a commitment from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to comply with pending and future FOIA requests on this matter in a timely manner.

The whistleblower allegations revolve around an alleged VA Office of General Counsel memorandum that determined Charmain Bogue should recuse herself from any and all

VA matters involving her husband's firms. The whistleblowers further allege that, after internal warnings about the need to protect market-sensitive information, that information may have been leaked, which was then publicly traded on, potentially affecting stock prices and retail investors.

In seeking a broad set of information and transparency, Grassley wrote to Secretary of Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough, Department of Veterans Affairs Inspector General Michael Missal, and Acting Chairwoman Allison Lee of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

In his letter to the VA, Grassley requests records relating to ethics determinations related to current and former senior officials at the VA, the steps the VA takes to protect retail investors by safeguarding market-sensitive information, any internal investigations of such information leaking, and the VA's attempts to block information released through FOIA requests relating to these matters.

Grassley is seeking a review of these potential ethics violations and disclosures failures from the inspector general, and asking whether the SEC is aware of these allegations and what steps the commissioner takes to distribute guidance to federal agencies on the importance and necessity of protecting sensitive information that could affect financial markets.

Full text of Grassley's letters follow:

[Grassley to Secretary McDonough \(VA\)](#)
[Grassley to Inspector General Missal \(VA OIG\)](#)
[Grassley to Lee \(SEC\)](#)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 2:52 PM
To: McClain, Kimberly A. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Johnson, Glenn (SES) (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: FW: 2021-04-02 CEG to VA - Grassley

Kim,

As an FYI. He apparently has put something on his website.

(b)(6)
Director, Congressional Liaison Service and Outreach Team
Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) (009) (b)(6) @va.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 2:21 PM

To: (b)(6) (OGC) (b)(6) @va.gov>; (b)(6)

(b)(6) @va.gov>; (b)(6) @va.gov> (b)(6)

(b)(6) @va.gov>

Cc: (b)(6) (OGC) (b)(6) @va.gov>

Subject: RE: 2021-04-02 CEG to VA

Hi (b)(6) With this reply I am forwarding your request to the Directors of OCLA's Outreach (b)(6) (b)(6) Corporate (b)(6) and Benefits (b)(6) Teams as I am not certain which Congressional Relations Officer is working this correspondence from Senator Grassley. (b)(6) (b)(6) would one of you be able to assist OGC. Thanks. (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Program Specialist, VA History Office, Detailee
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

(b)(6) Direct

(b)(6) Mobile

(b)(6) @va.gov

From: (b)(6) (OGC) (b)(6) @va.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 12:55 PM

To: (b)(6) (009) (b)(6) @va.gov>

Cc: (b)(6) (OGC) (b)(6) @va.gov>

Subject: 2021-04-02 CEG to VA

Importance: High

I am an attorney with the OGC Ethics Specialty Team. Our office is preparing responses to the above congressional request for information. It is my understanding that OCLA spoke with Senator Grassley's office regarding this request. After speaking with (b)(6) this morning, we propose to seek clarification concerning the scope of #4: "Please provide all records, communications, and memorandums related to the suspensions, or proposed suspensions, of Tom Murphy, Jamie Manker, and Robert Reynolds" which proposed actions were related to their acceptance of free attendance at NASCAR events at which VBA was conducting outreach.

Could there be follow-up with the Senator's office to confirm that the scope of #4 is limited to the suspension/proposed suspensions and need not include all OGC guidance related to attendance at the NASCAR events. If our office was to include all such guidance, it could include a significant amount information that is irrelevant and extraneous.

Thank you for your consideration and assistance.

(b)(6)

VA Staff Attorney
Ethics Specialty Team

(b)(6) (BB)

Monday – Thursday only

[OGC Ethics Website](#) | [Ethics contact information](#)