
From: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2015 8:31 AM
To: Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)
Subject: Monica Vignes-Pitan, Member, Services Development Committee of the Homeless Trust Board (Certain Appearances and payment prohibited, Section 2-11.1(m)(2) INQ 15-83
Attachments: 2015-impact-grants-application.pdf

INQ 15-83

From: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Sent: Friday, May 08, 2015 3:59 PM
To: 'Monica VignesPitan' (mvignespitan@lsgmi.org)
Cc: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE); Sanchez, Gerald (CAO)
Subject: INQ 15-83 Monica Vignes-Pitan, Member, Services Development Committee of the Homeless Trust Board (Certain Appearances and payment prohibited, Section 2-11.1(m)(2)

Ms. Vignes-Pitan:

You have inquired regarding whether there is any prohibited conflict of interest in an application by Legal Services of Miami, a non-profit entity, for a District 8 Impact Grant from the office of District 8 Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava. This inquiry is made in light of the fact that you are employed at Legal Services and also serve on an advisory board subject to the Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance, the Services Development Committee of the Homeless Trust Board. Additionally, Jocelyn Jauregui, an attorney at Legal Services, serves on a County advisory board, the Miami-Dade County HIV AIDS Partnership, also known as the Ryan White Partnership.

Under Section 2-11.1(m)(2) a County advisory board member may not “receive compensation, directly or indirectly or in any form, for services rendered to a third party, who has applied for or is seeking some benefit from the County board or agency on which such person serves, in connection with the particular benefit by the third party.” In the situation outlined above, neither you nor Ms. Jauregui may receive any compensation for services rendered to Legal Services in connection with an application by Legal Services for funding or other benefit from the board or agency at which either of you serves, respectively. Since the application is to the office of Commissioner Levine Cava, and not to either the Ryan White Partnership or the Homeless Trust Board, then I see no conflict here. Additionally, it is my impression that neither of you would be receiving any portion of the funds applied for. Under these circumstances, I do not see any conflict for Legal Services in applying for the grant from Commissioner Levine Cava’s office.

As a member of a board subject to the Ethics Code, both you and Ms. Jauregui should not use your public board positions to gain any special benefit or advantage for yourselves personally or any other person or entity. Such activity could constitute an Exploitation of public position under Section 2-11.1(g) of the Code.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Centorino

Executive Director and General Counsel
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust
19 W. Flagler Street, Suite 820
Miami, FL 33130
Tel: (305) 579-2594
Fax: (305) 579-0273
ethics.miamidade.gov



From: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Sent: Friday, May 08, 2015 4:01 PM
To: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Subject: INQ 15-83 Back-up documents

From: Monica VigesPitan [<mailto:mviguespitan@lsgmi.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 05, 2015 10:36 AM
To: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Subject: Fwd: Grants and Ethics--No conflict of interest

Mr. Centorino,

I am writing to follow up on the email below. Please advise.

Thanks.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Monica VigesPitan** <mviguespitan@lsgmi.org>
Date: Fri, May 1, 2015 at 4:48 PM
Subject: Re: Grants and Ethics--No conflict of interest
To: "Centorino, Joseph (COE)" <CENTORI@miamidade.gov>

Mr. Centorino,

Legal Services of Greater Miami will applying for the District 8 Impact Grant. On page 2 of the attached application, it states: "Elected officials and Government Board Appointees must get written approval stating no conflict of interest from the Miami Dade County Commission on Ethics."

Jocelyn Jauregui, an attorney in our office, sits on the Ryan White Partnership.

Additionally, I am a designated representative on the Services Development Committee of the Homeless Trust Board.

Please advise on the process for obtaining the written verification requested in the application.

Look forward to hearing from you. Thanks.

Monica

On Wed, Apr 29, 2015 at 4:10 PM, Centorino, Joseph (COE) <CENTORI@miamidade.gov> wrote:

We will provide an informal ethics opinion upon request of any party requesting one regarding contemplated future conduct involving the individual doing the requesting. That may come in the form of an email to me or by telephone, which we will document here in the event that anyone should raise the issue at a later time.

Joe Centorino

From: Weldeyesus, Rahel (DIST8)
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2015 5:44 PM
To: 'Monica ViquesPitan'
Cc: Centorino, Joseph (COE); Bagley, Adele R. (DIST8)
Subject: Grants and Ethics--No conflict of interest

Hello Monica,

The contact person at the County of Commission on Ethics is Joe Centorino, Executive Director, copied in this email. Mr. Centorino, any guidance you can provide to Ms. Viques-Pitan on the process of getting a written approval stating “no conflict of interest,” would be greatly appreciated. Ms. Viques-Pitan is the Advocacy Director for Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc. and they are getting ready to apply for a competitive grant through our office. Some members of the organization sit on boards and therefore we want to ensure there is no conflict of interest. Contact info for both of you is listed below, I’m just making simple introductions.

Monica Viques-Pitan, Esq.

Advocacy Director

Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc.

[305-438-3817](tel:305-438-3817)

MViguesPitan@lsgmi.org

Joseph Centorino

Executive Director

Miami Dade Commission on Ethics

[305-579-2594](tel:305-579-2594)

centori@miamidade.gov

Monica, if you need anything else, please let me know.

Thank you!

Rahel Weldeyesus

Community Services Liaison

Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava, District 8

Monica, let me know if you need anything else.

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Monica Vignes-Pitan
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11285 SW 211 Street, Suite 302
Miami, Florida 33189
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