

Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)

From: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 1:45 PM
To: Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)
Subject: Rafael Millares, Legal Counsel, Miami-Dade County Value Adjustment Board (County/State Codes of Ethics) INQ 17-87

INQ 17-87 Millares

From: Millares, Rafael (COC)
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 9:45 AM
To: Ethics (COE) <ethics@miamidade.gov>
Cc: Turay, Radia (COE) <Radia.Turay@miamidade.gov>; Perez, Martha D. (COE) <perezmd@miamidade.gov>; Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE) <Gilma.Diaz-Greco@miamidade.gov>; rm@miamivab.com
Subject: RE: INQ 17-87 Rafael Millares, Legal Counsel, Miami-Dade County Value Adjustment Board (County/State Codes of Ethics)

Hi Joe,

Thank you for your response.

I will proceed accordingly.

Rafael E. Millares Esq.
Legal Counsel
Miami-Dade County Value Adjustment Board
111 NW 1st Street
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Miami, FL 33128
Office (305) 375-5641
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rafaelm@miamidade.gov

From: Ethics (COE)
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 4:44 PM
To: Millares, Rafael (COC)
Cc: Turay, Radia (COE); Perez, Martha D. (COE); Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Subject: INQ 17-87 Rafael Millares, Legal Counsel, Miami-Dade County Value Adjustment Board (County/State Codes of Ethics)

Mr. Millares:

You have inquired in your capacity as legal counsel for the Miami-Dade County Value Adjustment Board (VAB) regarding a number of ethics-related issues concerning your actions as an attorney regarding issues before the board. In researching this matter, I located the attached RQO 14-02, issued by the Ethics Commission to an individual then serving as Counsel to the VAB. The Commission concluded in that opinion that the County Ethics Code does not extend

to the VAB or to the VAB Counsel since those positions are created by Florida Statutes and are governed by State law. I know this creates some confusion, inasmuch as employees at the County Appraiser's office are considered County employees who are subject to the County Ethics Code. While we may be able to give you informal advice concerning the State Ethics Code in Section 112, Florida Statutes, we are unable to provide you with the binding opinion that you really should have under these circumstances.

I strongly suggest that you seek an opinion from the Florida Commission on Ethics, which has the authority to both interpret and enforce the State of Florida Code of Ethics.

If you have any questions about this or would like to discuss this further, please call me at 305-579-2594.

Sincerely,

Joe Centorino

From: Millares, Rafael (COC)

Sent: Friday, March 10, 2017 12:18 PM

To: Ethics (COE) <ethics@miamidade.gov>

Cc: Alfaro, Robert (COC) <RALf@miamidade.gov>; rm@miamivab.com

Subject: Requesting An Opinion-Miami-Dade Value Adjustment Board Attorney-VAB Attorney Filing a VAB Petition For Their Own Properties

Dear Ethics Commission,

Via this E-mail I would like to request your guidance/opinion on several ethics questions:

- 1) Can a VAB Attorney challenge the assessed property value of their own home and/or business properties in the same county where he/she works for the VAB?... By meeting informally with the local PAO? By Filing a VAB petition and going to a VAB hearing?
- 2) If yes, is there a special procedure that should be followed?
- 3) Can the VAB attorney represent himself? Should they hire outside counsel to represent them?
- 4) If the property in question is owned by a corporation or a trust, does that change anything?

Thank you in advance for your consideration and guidance.

Rafael E. Millares Esq.

Legal Counsel

Miami-Dade County Value Adjustment Board

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