From: Kelly
To: USOGE
Subject: Subject: Proposed Rule: Legal Expense Fund Regulation (RIN 3209-AA50)
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Why should Ethics be optional? Even the appearance of violations are usually enough to keep them in check. Apparently that is not enough.

I oppose OGE's proposed legal expense fund regulation as drafted. OGE should:

- remove the exception that makes compliance with the regulation optional;
- replace the proposed recusal requirement with a broader 5-year recusal requirement that prevents donors of cash gifts from influencing decisions, policies, or regulations affecting them or the industries in which they have substantial interests;
- remove the offensive example involving an accused sexual harasser; and
- place nonprofit charities (501(c)(3) organizations) on an equal footing with large law firms by allowing them to hire legal counsel for whistleblowers.

Kelly P