



U.S. Department of Justice

Criminal Division

Washington, D.C. 20530

AUG 13 2008

Ms. Melanie Sloan
Executive Director
Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington
1400 Eye Street, NW, Suite 450
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Sloan:

This responds to your letter, dated July 14, 2008, addressed to Attorney General Michael Mukasey concerning allegations that lobbyist Stephen Payne may have violated federal criminal law by offering to arrange meetings with White House officials in return for contributions to a fund established for the purpose of establishing President Bush's library. Your letter was referred to the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice for a response.

We assure you that the Department of Justice takes allegations regarding misconduct by federal officials very seriously, and we will handle all such matters fairly and appropriately. If you have information regarding a violation of federal law, you should bring that information to the attention of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the investigative arm of the Department of Justice. The FBI will determine whether a federal investigation may be warranted. If appropriate, the FBI will refer the matter to a United States Attorney or the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice for a final determination regarding legal action.

We appreciate your writing to express your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William M. Welch II".

William M. Welch II
Chief
Public Integrity Section