

Limited Waiver Pursuant to Section 3 of Executive Order 13490

After consulting with the Counsel to the President, I hereby grant a limited waiver of the requirements of paragraph 2 of the Ethics Pledge to Shailagh Murray with respect to her former employer The Washington Post Company and the subsidiaries it controls.

Executive Order 13490, "Ethics Commitments by Executive Branch Personnel," Section 1 (Ethics Pledge), requires all covered political appointees to abide by certain commitments. Paragraph 2 of the Ethics Pledge provides that a covered appointee may not for a period of two years from the date of her appointment participate in any particular matter involving specific parties that is directly and substantially related to her former employer. For purposes of applying this restriction, the term "particular matter" has been interpreted to include "any meeting or other communication relating to the performance of one's official duties with a former employer." DO-09-011, OGE Memorandum to Designated Agency Ethics Officials, March 26, 2009.

A waiver of the restriction contained in paragraph 2 of the Ethics Pledge may be granted upon a certification either that the literal application of the restriction is inconsistent with the purpose of the restriction or that it is in the public interest to grant the waiver. E.O. 13490, Sec. 3(a). By memorandum dated February 23, 2009, the Office of Government Ethics announced that the Designated Agency Ethics Official of each executive agency was the most appropriate designee to grant such waivers, after consultation with the Counsel to the President. *See* DO-09-008, OGE Memorandum to Designated Agency Ethics Officials, February 23, 2009.

Before her service as Assistant to the Vice President for Communications, Ms. Murray was a correspondent with *The Washington Post* newspaper, which is published by WP Company LLC, a subsidiary of The Washington Post Company. The Washington Post Company or its subsidiaries also own other newspapers, local television stations, and The Slate Group LLC, which publishes print and online magazines. Ms. Murray does not have any continuing financial interest in The Washington Post Company or the subsidiaries it controls.

I have determined that this waiver is appropriate as a policy matter because it is in the public interest for Americans to have access to information about the Vice President's work, and numbers of Americans receive news through media outlets owned or controlled by The Washington Post Company. The Assistant to the Vice President for Communications is the primary point of contact between media outlets and the Office of the Vice President. Without this waiver, Ms. Murray would be unable to communicate with the media outlets owned or controlled by The Washington Post Company, and Americans' access to news about the activities of the Vice President would potentially be impaired. This waiver is limited: it does not cover Ms. Murray's participation in any particular matter involving specific parties that is directly and substantially related to the education services or cable television systems operations of The Washington Post Company or its subsidiaries because those operations do not concern the news. I grant this waiver with the understanding that Ms. Murray will comply with the remaining provisions of the Ethics Pledge and with all preexisting government ethics rules.

/s/ Cynthia C. Hogan

Dated: May 5, 2011

Counsel to the Vice President and
Designated Agency Ethics Official