

Trade Group Letter Calling for Lois Starkey's Dismissal

In this Nov. 16, 2017 letter, a lawyer for the Manufacturing Housing Institute called on Housing and Urban Development officials to terminate Lois Starkey's employment at the department based on the grounds that she had a conflict of interest.

ARTHUR L. HEROLD
ALAN F. DYE
JOHN W. HAZARD, JR.
HUGH K. WEBSTER
DAVID B. GOCH
JAMES S. WILSON, JR.
HEIDI K. ABREGO
SARAH E. HOOKNEY
CHARLES H. WATKINS
DAVID M. ABRAHAM
JOHN H. STROUT
ANDREW C. DYE
DAVID S. LUBERMAN

LAW OFFICES
WEBSTER, CHAMBERLAIN & BEAN, LLP
1747 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
(202) 785-9500
FAX: (202) 835-0243

GEORGE D. WEBSTER (1921-1994)
CHARLES E. CHAMBERLAIN (1917-2002)
OF COUNSEL
KENT PASTERSON BROWN
TIMOTHY WILSON
DAVID PLIMSON

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SENT VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

Ms. Beth Zorc
Acting General Counsel
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20410

Re: Employment of Ms. Lois Starkey

Dear Ms. Zorc,

We are the attorneys for the Manufactured Housing Institute ("MHI") and are contacting you regarding HUD's recent employee, Lois Starkey, who is currently employed in the Office of Manufactured Housing Programs. We are writing to notify you that Ms. Starkey violated terms of a severance agreement between Ms. Starkey and MHI by agreeing to work for HUD, a client of MHI. MHI previously notified the Office of Personnel Management on the Investigative Request for Employment Data and Supervisor Information that Ms. Starkey's employment by HUD would be in violation of the terms of her severance agreement with MHI.

In addition, we would like to bring to your attention a potential conflict of interest for Ms. Starkey. It has come MHI's attention that while Ms. Starkey was receiving payments from MHI under the agreement, from May 31, 2017 to September 15, 2017, she was also employed by HUD. We do not believe that Ms. Starkey sought or obtained a waiver from HUD's Office of General Counsel regarding this potential conflict of interest in violation of your internal policy. We believe that receiving payments from MHI while being employed by HUD is in violation of CFR Title 5: Administrative Personnel, Chapter XVI, Subchapters A, D, and E.

For these reasons, we request that you take appropriate actions regarding Ms. Starkey's employment with HUD, which may include immediate termination.

WEBSTER, CHAMBERLAIN & BEAN, LLP

We look forward to receiving your assurances. Thank you.

Yours very truly,
WEBSTER, CHAMBERLAIN & BEAN


David P. Goch, Esq.

CC: Lois Starkey
Helen Albert, Acting Inspector General
Dana Wade, Acting FHA Commissioner and General Deputy Assistant Secretary
for FHA

https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/a-once-obscure-office-at-hud-is-the-subject-of-unusually-intense-lobbying-effort/2018/04/30/3dfc7ba0-3841-11e8-acd5-35eac230e514_story.html

