

EXHIBIT A



U.S. Department of Justice

Criminal Division

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September 4, 2009

BY EMAIL

Andrew T. Wise, Esq.
Timothy P. O'Toole, Esq.
Miller & Chevalier Chartered
655 Fifteenth Street Northwest, Suite 900
Washington, District of Columbia 20005

Re: United States v. Ring, No. 1:08-cr-274-ESH (D.D.C.)

Dear Gentlemen:

On September 1 and 2, 2009, the government met with Robert E. Coughlin II. In the course of those conversations, Mr. Coughlin, though admitting that he committed the elements of the conflict-of-interest charge to which he pleaded guilty, broadly denied having the intent to commit any federal felony. Mr. Coughlin believes that the government unfairly singled him out for prosecution. He opined that the decision to charge him with a felony was an abuse of prosecutorial discretion.

Mr. Coughlin also believes that Faith Burton, a DOJ ethics officer, told him that his receipt of tickets from Kevin A. Ring was not a violation of the DOJ's ethics rules. At the time of his actions, Mr. Coughlin did not believe that he acted other than in the government's best interests. The things of value Mr. Ring gave him did not influence Mr. Coughlin's official actions. At the time of his actions, Mr. Coughlin did not believe he was treating Mr. Ring preferentially. Mr. Coughlin did not conspire with Mr. Ring to commit a crime and does not know or barely knows several of the other alleged coconspirators.

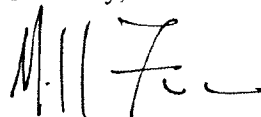
Mr. Coughlin does not believe that his friendship with Mr. Ring changed when Mr. Coughlin began working at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia. If the two spent less time together, it was because Mr. Coughlin no longer worked in downtown Washington and was busier, and because of Mr. Ring's family responsibilities.

Though he admitted discussing with Mr. Ring the prospect of working at Greenberg Traurig LLP (GT), Mr. Coughlin was never interviewed by GT, has never been to GT, and did

not send his resume to or discuss a starting salary with anyone at GT. Mr. Coughlin viewed his work for Mr. Ring on the Eshkol Academy as unimportant and not notable.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Ferrara', with a horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Ferrara
Trial Attorney

Cc: Joshua G. Berman, Esq.