

Anne Landman
671 Moonridge Circle
Grand Junction, CO 81505
Cell 970.216.9842
landman.anne@gmail.com

March 6, 2022

TO:

Scott Gessler
sgessler@gesslerblue.com

Dino Ioannides, Executive Director
Colorado Independent Ethics Commission (IEC)
1300 Broadway, Suite 240, Denver, CO 80203
iecinfo@state.co.us | [\(720\) 625-5697](tel:(720)625-5697) | iec.colorado.gov

RE: IEC Ethics Complaint #22-07

Dear Mr. Ioannides,

Please consider this my reply to Mr. Gessler's March 4, 2022 response to Complaint #22-07, about how Mesa County Clerk Tina Peters is operating her criminal defense fund.

In his response, Mr. Gessler only considered Advisory Opinion (AO) 13-01, and he is correct that the Advisory Opinion only applied to that specific situation, however:

1. Clerk Peters' acceptance of gifts from lobbyists in any amount would be a violation of Article 29;
2. Her acceptance of any gifts in excess of \$65 would be a violation as well, unless it fell under an exception;
3. The purpose of the AO was to provide a safe harbor to protect a public official or employee from violating Article 29 if they found themselves in a situation where they needed a legal defense fund. It appears that Clerk Peters' legal defense fund website, <https://standwithtina.org>, currently provides no information about maximum contribution

limits or limits on accepting money from lobbyists, so she most likely has already violated Article 29 repeatedly. Clerk Peters set this all in motion without asking the IEC for advice, and without following the guidance provided by the AO.

4. There is no reason to stay this complaint, or the prior one (#21-18), since it is clear now from the indictment issued last week against Clerk Peters that the issues presented in the indictment are totally different from the issues presented in either Complaint #21-18 or #22-07, so unless another indictment is issued, the stay on Complaint 21-18 should be lifted.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Landman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anne Landman