



March 2, 2017

Robin C. Ashton
Counsel
Office of Professional Responsibility
U.S. Department of Justice
Suite 3529
950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Ms. Ashton:

Democracy 21 is filing this second complaint with the Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) calling on your Office to make immediate public findings that Attorney General Jeff Sessions must immediately recuse himself from any Department of Justice investigations and actions relating to the Russian role in the 2016 presidential election.

This complaint follows up on [the February 27 complaint](#) we submitted to OPR that documented Sessions' "personal and political affiliation with President Trump and his 2016 presidential campaign" and stated that Attorney General Jeff Sessions is therefore required by Department of Justice regulations to recuse himself from all DOJ investigations and actions regarding Russia and the 2016 presidential election.

The February 27 complaint said Sessions must recuse himself from FBI investigations and actions regarding "(i) any interactions between President Donald Trump, his campaign staff or other individuals supporting his campaign, and Russian actors during Trump's 2016 presidential campaign, (ii) any Russian interference with the 2016 presidential election, (iii) the contacts between former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn and Russian actors, and (iv) leaks concerning these matters."

The February 27 complaint called on OPR to make public findings that Sessions is required to recuse himself from the Russia investigation and from any decision about whether to appoint an outside special counsel to deal with these matters.

A copy of our February 27 complaint is enclosed.

According to published reports today [in *The Washington Post*](#), Attorney General Sessions met twice with the Russian Ambassador during the presidential campaign period. This contradicts testimony Sessions made before the Senate Judiciary Committee during his confirmation hearings. In his testimony, he said that, "I did not have communications with the Russians," during the 2016 presidential campaign.

Sessions' meetings with the Russian Ambassador means that Sessions himself is a potential subject of the FBI investigation currently taking place. These are new and additional grounds that require Sessions to immediately recuse himself from any involvement in any investigations and actions dealing with the involvement of Russians in the 2016 presidential campaign.

As we established in our February 27 complaint, Sessions was already required by DOJ regulations to recuse himself from these matters. As a potential subject of the investigation being conducted by the FBI, which falls under Sessions' jurisdiction as head of the Justice Department, it could not be clearer that Sessions must immediately recuse himself from these matters.

The integrity and credibility of the Justice Department is at stake here.

The Office of Professional Responsibility must immediately make public findings and take all other appropriate steps to ensure that Attorney General Sessions immediately recuses himself from all investigations and actions relating to Russian involvement in the 2016 presidential election, including any appointment of an outside special counsel.

Sincerely,

Fred Wertheimer
President