

**Nomination of Steven A. Engel to be
Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Counsel
United States Department of Justice
Questions for the Record
Submitted May 17, 2017**

QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR COONS

1. The Judiciary Committee recently heard testimony from former Acting Attorney General Sally Yates that, in her view, the executive order barring individuals from seven countries is unconstitutional.
 - a. Did you play any role in conceiving, drafting, reviewing, or approving the executive orders suspending the refugee program and blocking travel from certain Muslim-majority countries?
 - b. Did you ever discuss the orders with Acting Attorney General Yates?

Response: I am currently in private practice. Accordingly, I have not provided any advice to the White House or the Department of Justice with respect to the immigration executive orders, and did not discuss the orders with former Acting Attorney General Yates. While I provided legal advice on a variety of subjects to the presidential transition, my ethical obligations as an attorney preclude me from discussing that work.

2. Have you worked on any of President Trump's other Executive Orders?
 - a. If yes, please identify each order you worked on and your specific involvement with each.

Response: I am currently in private practice. Accordingly, I have not provided any advice to the White House or the Department of Justice with respect to any of President Trump's executive orders. While I provided legal advice on a variety of subjects to the presidential transition, my ethical obligations as an attorney preclude me from discussing that work.

3. Please provide examples from your past that demonstrate your capability to withstand political pressure in order to provide an independent assessment on issues of great importance?

Response: I am deeply committed to the independence of the Office of Legal Counsel. The Office's role in providing candid and principled legal advice is critical to ensuring that ours remains a nation governed by laws. I demonstrated that commitment in my prior service in the Office, as well as in my activities in private practice. As a matter of respect for my clients and my confidentiality obligations, I am not in a position to provide examples. However, I believe that demonstrated commitment is one reason why former heads of the Office, from both Democratic and Republican administrations, have supported my nomination.