

From: [Brian R. Fellner](#)
To: [Sokoni, Khandikile Mvunga](#)
Cc: [Mary Dolbashian](#); [Fabayo, Ifeoluwapo "Ife"](#); [Espin, Ramon](#); [Johnson, Nana](#); [Guisao-Ospina, Jony](#); [Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearings](#)
Subject: Re: FW: Re: Ethics Opinion Inquiry
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026 9:05:06 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Case# 2025-076 Complaint \(v.2\) \(1\).pdf](#)
[Line re OZAH case.pdf](#)

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Per the instructions of the Hearing Officer, the attached was filed in Montgomery County Circuit Court Case Number C-15-CV-25-006397.

On Wed, Feb 4, 2026 at 4:08 PM Brian R. Fellner <bfellner@flslawyer.com> wrote:

To reiterate our position, that ethics opinion holds that:

"representation by panel chairs of clients before other CCOC panels inherently raises an appearance of a conflict of interest"

However, since I am not a panel chair (and have not been since December 5, 2025) and this is not before a CCOC panel, neither of the two prongs of that test are met. My client and I are in compliance with the ethical opinion.

Thank you.

On Wed, Feb 4, 2026 at 3:23 PM Sokoni, Khandikile Mvunga
<Khandikile.Sokoni@montgomerycountymd.gov> wrote:

Good Afternoon Parties,

The Ethics Commission has confirmed that the April 10, 2014, opinion still stands on this issue. I am forwarding below my email exchanged with the Commission's Chief Counsel.

Sincerely,



Khandikile Mvunga Sokoni
Director/Hearing Examiner
Office of Zoning & Administrative Hearings
100 Maryland Ave

Suite 200
Rockville MD 20850
Telephone: 240-777-6664

From: Sokoni, Khandikile Mvunga
Sent: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 3:20 PM
To: O'Connor, Erin <Erin.O'Connor@montgomerycountymd.gov>
Subject: RE: Re: Ethics Opinion Inquiry

Thank you for the clarification.

Khandikile

From: O'Connor, Erin <Erin.O'Connor@montgomerycountymd.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 3:18 PM
To: Sokoni, Khandikile Mvunga <Khandikile.Sokoni@montgomerycountymd.gov>
Subject: Re: Re: Ethics Opinion Inquiry

This is still the Ethics Commission's opinion on the topic. The Chair of the CCOC in August asked the Commission to overturn it, but the Ethics Commission declined to do so.

Sincerely,

Erin E. O'Connor, Esq.

Pronouns: she/her

Chief Counsel and Staff Director

Montgomery County Ethics Commission

100 Maryland Avenue, Suite 204

Rockville, MD 20850

Direct: 240.777.6676

Cell: 240.849.0965

Main: 240.777.6670

From: Sokoni, Khandikile Mvunga <Khandikile.Sokoni@montgomerycountymd.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 3:00 PM
To: O'Connor, Erin <Erin.O'Connor@montgomerycountymd.gov>
Subject: Re: Ethics Opinion Inquiry

Good Afternoon Erin,

OZAH received a case on referral from the Commission on Common Ownership Communities (CCOC) during the course of which I have had reason to review the attached ethics opinion by the Ethics Commission, dated April 10, 2014. Are you able to confirm if this opinion is still current and consistent with the present Code or has it been superseded by a more recent opinion on the issue of whether the County's ethics provisions preclude attorneys who are CCOC panel chairs from representing associations before the CCOC.

Kind regards,

Khandikile

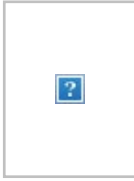


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