

# McDermott Will & Emery

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February 8, 2018

**VIA E-MAIL**

Federal Election Commission  
Office of Complaints Examination  
and Legal Administration  
Attn: Christal Dennis, Paralegal  
999 E Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20463

**HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL**

Re: MUR 7313

Dear Mr. Jordan:

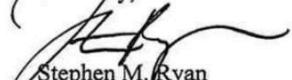
I am writing on behalf of my client, Michael D. Cohen, in response to your letter dated, January 30, 2018. Specifically, this letter responds to the complaint numbered MUR 7313, which was filed with the Federal Election Commission (FEC) by Common Cause and Paul S. Ryan.

In a private transaction in 2016, before the U.S. presidential election, Mr. Cohen used his own personal funds to facilitate a payment of \$130,000 to Ms. Stephanie Clifford. Neither the Trump Organization nor the Trump campaign was a party to the transaction with Ms. Clifford, and neither reimbursed Mr. Cohen for the payment directly or indirectly.

Contrary to the allegations in the complaint, which are entirely speculative, neither Mr. Cohen nor Essential Consultants LLC made any in-kind contributions to Donald J. Trump for President, Inc., or any other presidential campaign committee. Mr. Cohen has not been a government employee during any of the relevant time period. The payment in question does not constitute a campaign contribution or expenditure and, therefore, the FEC lacks jurisdiction over this matter. The complainants have not and cannot present any evidence to the contrary. Accordingly, the complaint should be dismissed.

Please contact me at your earliest convenience at (202) 756-8333 if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,



Stephen M. Ryan  
Counsel for Michael Cohen

U.S. practice conducted through McDermott Will & Emery LLP.

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