



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20463

## **STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER DARA LINDENBAUM ON THE DEPARTURE OF COMMISSIONER ALLEN DICKERSON**

I'll be honest: this speech is not going to be as articulate as I wanted it to be, and for that, I blame Commissioner Dickerson. He's kept me up late the last few nights, locked in deep discussion trying to wrap things up—true to form.

Now, let me say this: I very strongly disagree with Allen on a number of his positions. But I also very deeply respect his position—and more importantly, his willingness to engage, to discuss, and to really wrestle with ideas. Allen never avoided the hard conversations. He showed up, and he made us think.

When he first joined the agency, there were a lot of assumptions about who he would be—maybe a rigid ideologue, maybe a regulatory saboteur. But if you ever saw Allen work, you know that wasn't who he was. He was someone who truly tried to make the agency function, to protect it, and to make it better—even if that meant making decisions that were, yes, controversial, especially because they came from him.

One of the best examples of that is the investigation policy. That policy—largely shaped through his negotiations with Commissioner Broussard—ultimately strengthened our enforcement process and left a lasting mark on how we do our work. It was thoughtful, rigorous, and most of all, useful.

Personally, Allen was one of the first to welcome me. He sent me his case memos, helped me understand the landscape, answered my questions quickly, and never once made me feel like I was asking something I should have already known. He was straightforward. He was helpful. And to this day, he's the guy I'll call when I'm at war with my HOA and need to remember some obscure legal procedure from a decade ago to save a tree swing that I've used fairly often to relax while in deep debate with him.

So while we may not have always agreed, I'm grateful for Allen's service, for his intellect, his commitment, and—yes—even those late-night debates.