

**RECEIVED**

By Office of the Commission Secretary at 2:08 pm, Apr 23, 2025



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
1050 FIRST STREET, N.E.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

AGENDA DOCUMENT NO. 25-07-A  
AGENDA ITEM  
For the meeting of April 30, 2025

TO: The Commission  
The Office of the Commission Secretary

FROM: James E. "Trey" Trainor, III *TT*  
Vice Chairman

Allen Dickerson *AD*  
Commissioner

DATE: April 23, 2025

RE: Office of General Counsel Recommendations at the Initial Stage of the  
Enforcement Process (Pursuant to 52 U.S.C. 30109(a))

---

We propose a directive outlining procedures for the Office of General Counsel (OGC) to follow when processing enforcement complaints under 52 U.S.C. 30109(a). The directive establishes a 120-day timeframe for OGC to recommend dismissal or further action on a complaint, consistent with 52 U.S.C. 30109(a)(8). Under the Directive, OGC would provide written justification and an estimated completion date in cases where that requirement cannot be met. Further, OGC would provide quarterly status updates to the Commission as part of its regular reports.

We ask that this matter be placed on the Commission's agenda for the Open Meeting of April 30, 2025.

| FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  |                      |                                |
|--|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| MANUAL OF DIRECTIVES   | COMMISSION DIRECTIVE |                                |
|  | REVOKES:             | NO. ____                       |
|  |                      | EFFECTIVE DATE:<br>_____. 2025 |
| Office of General Counsel Recommendations at the Initial Stage of the Enforcement Process (Pursuant to 52 U.S.C. 30109(a)) |                      |                                |

Within 120 days of the date of a complaint’s receipt by the Commission, unless such complaint has been referred to the Office of Alternative Dispute Resolution pursuant to the Commission’s policies on such referrals, OGC shall circulate to the Commission a recommendation to either dismiss the complaint or find reason to believe that a person has committed, or is about to commit, a violation of the law.<sup>1</sup>

If OGC is unable to prepare such a recommendation within 120 days of the receipt of the complaint, the General Counsel shall promptly provide the Commission a written report from the appropriate managing attorney setting forth: (1) the particular circumstances preventing the timely circulation of the recommendation, and (2) an estimated date for when the recommendation will be circulated. Any such report will be made part of the administrative record. Additionally, the General Counsel shall include the complaint in a list in its quarterly report on the Status of Enforcement subject to discussion at an executive session. The list should include the names of the individual matters as well as the total number of complaints for which OGC was unable to timely prepare recommendations.

This Directive was adopted on MONTH, DAY, 2025.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Alec Palmer, Staff Director

---

<sup>1</sup> 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(1-2); *see* Statement of Policy Regarding Commission Action in Matters at the Initial Stage in the Enforcement Process, 88 Fed. Reg. 19729 (Mar. 20, 2024).