

From: [Charles Blackwell](#)
To: CEO@GLWATER.org
Subject: Fwd: Conflict of Interest: David Jones
Date: Monday, September 22, 2025 11:17:06 AM

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From: **Charles Blackwell** <cblack618@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Sep 22, 2025 at 11:09 AM
Subject: Re: Conflict of Interest: David Jones
To: <Suzanne.Coffey@glwater.org>, <jordie.kramer@glwater.org>
CC: <william.wolfson@glwater.org>, <michelle.zdrodowski@glwater.org>, <navid.mehram@glwater.org>, <nicolette.bateson@glwater.org>, <todd.king@glwater.org>, <mark.miller@glwater.org>, <john.zech@glwater.org>, <jaye.quadrozzi@glwater.org>, <brian.baker@glwater.org>, <freeman.hendrix@glwater.org>, <gary.brown@glwater.org>

Dear Members of the GLWA Board:

Pursuant to my rights under the First Amendment Petition Clause, I am submitting this communication to bring to your attention a matter of public concern regarding a potential conflict of interest within GLWA's legal operations.

It has come to my attention that Mr. David Jones, GLWA's General Counsel, was formerly employed by Schenk & Bruetsch PLLC. Despite this prior employment, Mr. Jones, in his capacity as GLWA's chief legal officer, appears to be directing or approving GLWA-related litigation to Schenk & Bruetsch PLLC.

This arrangement raises serious questions under:

- Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct, including Rule 1.11 (Special Conflicts of Interest for Former and Current Government Officers and Employees);
- Michigan Public Officers and Employees Ethics Act (MCL 15.341 et seq.); and
- GLWA's own ethics and procurement policies.

In substance, Mr. Jones may be helping his former law firm receive additional public funds through GLWA litigation, which undermines public trust and potentially violates applicable ethics rules.