

Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection
1700 G Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20552



January 29, 2020

The Honorable Maxine Waters
Chairwoman
Committee on Financial Services
U.S. House of Representatives
2129 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Waters:

I am in writing in further response to your letter of December 17, 2019, regarding the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's (Bureau's) effort to hire an Assistant Director for Enforcement. I am pleased to inform you that the Bureau has selected Thomas G. Ward and he has accepted the Bureau's offer for this position. Mr. Ward is eminently qualified to be the Bureau's Enforcement Director, as he brings a wealth of experience as both a litigator of complex cases and a manager of other attorneys. He most recently served as the Deputy Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Torts Branch of the U.S. Department of Justice. Prior to that, he was an attorney at Williams & Connolly, LLC for more than 18 years, including more than 12 years as a litigation partner. I am confident that he will make an excellent leader of the Bureau's enforcement team.

Following our standard executive hiring and recruitment procedures, the Bureau undertook a comprehensive rating, ranking, assessment, and structured interview process for this position, which resulted in the selection of Mr. Ward. Because Mr. Ward recently held a non-career Senior Executive Service appointment at another federal agency, the Bureau sought pre-appointment review and received written approval from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). OPM determined that Mr. Ward's selection for this position was "free from political influence and complies with applicable civil service laws and regulations." The letter memorializing OPM's approval of Mr. Ward's appointment is enclosed here.

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As I stated to you in my letter of December 18, 2019, now that the hiring process is complete, I am happy to share information with the Committee as appropriate to accommodate the Committee's oversight interests, while also maintaining the integrity of our hiring processes and safeguarding the important privacy interests of Bureau personnel and prospective applicants. Bureau staff are currently working to identify and produce documents responsive to your December 17 request.

Should you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff contact Laura Hussain in the Bureau's Legal Division or Kate Fink in the Bureau's Office of Legislative Affairs. Ms. Hussain can be reached at (202) 435-7789 and Ms. Fink can be reached at (202) 435-7532.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathleen L. Kraninger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathleen L. Kraninger
Director

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Patrick McHenry, Ranking Member, Committee on Financial Services



UNITED STATES OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT
Washington, DC 20415

Merit System
Accountability and
Compliance

January 23, 2020

Mr. Jeffrey Sumberg
Chief, Human Capital Officer
Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
1700 G Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20552

Dear Mr. Sumberg:

On December 11, 2019, we received your request for OPM's review and approval to appoint Mr. Thomas Ward to an excepted service position as Assistant Director, Enforcement, CN-905-82. This position is located at the Consumer Financial Protection Board, in the Office of Enforcement, Supervision, Enforcement and Fair Lending Division.

I am pleased to inform you we have reviewed the information your office provided and found Mr. Ward's selection for this position free from political influence and complies with applicable civil service laws and regulations. Please notify us of Mr. Ward's entrance on duty date, as OPM now is required to report such information to Congress.

If you or your staff have any questions or need further information about this decision, please contact Ms. Ana A. Mazzi, Principal Deputy Associate Director, at (202) 606-4309 or Ana.Mazzi@opm.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark W. Lambert".

Mark W. Lambert
Associate Director