



ETHICS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
CONFLICTS OF INTEREST – DECISIONS AND VOTING
 State Form 55860 (R / 10-15)
 OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
 IC 4-2-6-9

FILED

MAY 16 2023

INDIANA STATE
 ETHICS COMMISSION

In accordance with IC 4-2-6-9, you must file your disclosure with the State Ethics Commission no later than seven (7) days after the conduct that gives rise to the conflict. You must also include a copy of the notification provided to your agency appointing authority and ethics officer when filing this disclosure. This disclosure will be posted on the Inspector General's website.

Name (<i>last</i>) Nguyen	Name (<i>first</i>) Thao	Name (<i>middle</i>) Trong
Name of office or agency Indiana State Museum & Historic Sites		Job title Board Member
Address of office (<i>number and street</i>) 1017 E. Jefferson Blvd.		City South Bend
Office telephone number (574) 273-1010		ZIP code 46617
Office e-mail address (<i>required</i>) tnguyen@psrb.com		

Describe the conflict of interest:
 I am a member of the Board of Trustees of the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites. The Museum's Chief Financial Officer and Curator contacted me because the Museum is interested in acquiring a 64 acre tract of land with archaeological significance. The sellers are interested in selling the property but only if they can retain certain hunting rights. To successfully navigate this transaction, the Museum's attorney handling it would need to have familiarity with the laws regarding hunting licenses. The Museum's attorney would also need practical knowledge regarding hunting to structure the transaction so that it meets the needs of the Museum and the sellers. I am a partner in the law firm of Plews Shadley Racher & Braun LLP. I am not qualified to assist the Museum with this transaction, as I do not have knowledge of hunting laws nor do I have any experience hunting. My partner, Andrea Townsend, is qualified as she 1) handles real estate transactions; 2) is familiar with the law regarding hunting licenses (she has published several articles on this topic); and 3) she is an experienced hunter and understands the needs of both the buyer and seller. I do not know of another attorney in the State of Indiana with this unique set of qualifications. We propose to have Ms. Townsend handle this transaction with her usual team to help.

Describe the screen established by your ethics officer: *(Attach additional pages as needed.)*

I will not receive any financial benefit from this proposed contract with the Museum. Any fees paid to my firm for Ms. Townsend and her team's work will be distributed to the other partners in my firm, excluding me. We will segment any fees for this matter so that they are not co-mingled with our other revenue.

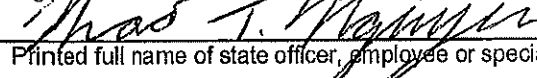
I will not participate in any decision or vote whether to hire Ms. Townsend of Plews Shadley Racher & Braun LLP for the proposed contract.

AFFIRMATION

Your signature below affirms that your disclosures on this form are true, complete, and correct to the best of your knowledge and belief. In addition to this form, you have attached a copy of your written disclosure to your agency appointing authority and ethics officer.

Signature of state officer, employee or special state appointee

Date signed *(month, day, year)*



5/16/23

Printed full name of state officer, employee or special state appointee

Thao T. Nguyen

FOR ETHICS OFFICER USE ONLY

Your signature below affirms that you have reviewed this disclosure form and that it is true, complete, and correct to the best of your knowledge and belief. You also attest that your agency has implemented the screen described above.

Signature of ethics officer

Date signed *(month, day, year)*



May 16, 2023

Printed full name of ethics officer

David P. Daum

From: [Carrasco, Cyndi](#)
To: [Thao Nguyen](#)
Cc: [Andrea Townsend](#); [Daum, David](#)
Subject: FW: Indiana State Museum: Ethics Disclosure
Date: Monday, May 15, 2023 3:57:46 PM

Ms. Nguyen,

I am the Ethics Officer for the Governor's Office and Earl Goode forwarded your email to me for review. We value your service to the State and appreciate your sensitivity to and awareness of the State's ethical requirements.

I reviewed your email and the attached completed ethics disclosure form. Everything looks to be in order, and I agree that the State Museum may proceed in hiring Ms. Townsend pursuant to the conditions set out in the disclosure form. In addition, you should file the completed disclosure statement with the Inspector General's Office. You may retain this email to document your notification to your appointing authority as required by IC 4-2-6-9 (b)(2)(D).

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Cynthia V. Carrasco

Deputy General Counsel & Ethics Officer

Office of Governor Eric J. Holcomb

Office: 317-234-8961

Begin forwarded message:

From: Thao Nguyen <tnguyen@psrb.com>
Date: May 11, 2023 at 3:42:58 PM EDT
To: "Goode, Earl" <EGoode@gov.in.gov>, "Daum, David" <DDaum@indianamuseum.org>
Cc: Andrea Townsend <atownsend@psrb.com>
Subject: Indiana State Museum: Ethics Disclosure

**** This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email. ****

Dear Mr. Goode and Mr. Daum:

I write to make you aware that the Indiana State Museum has approached my firm regarding a real estate transaction. I am a member of the Board of Trustees of the Museum, appointed by Governor Pence. The Museum would like to purchase a 64 acre tract of land in southern Indiana with archaeological significance. The current owners are interested in selling the property but only if they get to retain certain hunting rights. To successfully navigate this transaction, the Museum's attorney would need to

have familiarity with the laws regarding hunting licenses. The attorney would also need practical knowledge regarding hunting to structure the transaction so that it meets the needs of the Museum and the sellers.

I am a partner in the law firm of Plews Shadley Racher & Braun LLP. In the past, I have performed legal work for the Museum pro bono, when the work is in an area of my expertise. However, I am not qualified to assist the Museum in this transaction, as I do not have knowledge of hunting laws nor do I have experience hunting. My partner, Andrea Townsend, is qualified as she 1) handles real estate transactions; 2) is familiar with the laws regarding hunting licenses (she has published [several articles on this topic](#)); and 3) she is an experienced hunter and understands the needs of both the buyer and the sellers. I do not know of any other attorney in the State of Indiana with this unique set of qualifications. We propose to have Ms. Townsend handle this transaction with her usual team to help.

I will not receive any financial benefit from this proposed contract with the Museum. Any fees paid to my firm for Ms. Townsend and her team's work will be distributed to the other partners in my firm, excluding me. We will segment any fees for this matter so that they are not co-mingled with our other revenue. I will also not participate in any decision or vote on whether to hire Ms. Townsend or my firm for the proposed contract.

We have sought an ethics opinion from outside ethics counsel, Mr. James Bell of Hoover Hull Turner LLP. We have also sought an informal ethics opinion from the Indiana Inspector General's Office. Both agree that it would be proper for Ms. Townsend to take this proposed engagement if 1) I do not derive any financial benefit from it; 2) I notify you of the situation; and 3) we file the required disclosure form. A draft of it is attached.

Please let Ms. Townsend or me know if you have any questions. The engagement agreement between my firm and the Museum has not been signed yet. I will send in the ethics disclosure form on Monday, May 15, unless you had any comments.

Best regards,

Thao Nguyen

(she/her)

Partner

Plews Shadley Racher & Braun LLP

1017 E. Jefferson Blvd.

South Bend, Indiana 46617

Phone (574) 273-1010 Ext. 114

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Website www.psr.com