

ATTORNEY GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

STATE OF NEW YORK

SUPREME COURT APPELLATE DIVISION

180 MAIDEN LANE - 17TH FLOOR

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10038

(212) 401-0800

EMAIL: AD1-AGC@NYCOURTS.GOV

ROBERT J. ANELLO
ABIGAIL T. REARDON
CHAIRS

RICARDO E. OQUENDO
MILTON L. WILLIAMS, JR.
VICE CHAIRS

JORGE DOPICO
CHIEF ATTORNEY

DEPUTY CHIEF ATTORNEY
ANGELA CHRISTMAS
NAOMI F. GOLDSTEIN
VITALY LIPKANSKY
RAYMOND VALLEJO

STAFF ATTORNEYS
DANIEL D. BAEK
SEAN A. BRANDVEEN
KEVIN P. CULLEY
KEVIN M. DOYLE
PETER M. HERIZOG
KELLY A. LATHAM
JUN H. LEE
THOMAS M. LEE
NORMA I. LOPEZ
NORMA I. MELENDEZ
ELISABETH A. PALLADINO
KATHY W. PARRINO
ORLANDO REYES
YVETTE A. ROSARIO
REMI E. SHEA
DENICE M. SZEKELY

July 27, 2020

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Peter Flaherty
National Legal & Policy Center
107 Park Washington Court
Falls Church, VA 22046

Matter of Charles Schumer
Docket No: 2020.0656

Dear Mr. Flaherty:

We thank you for bringing to our attention public comments made by Senator Charles "Chuck" Schumer in front of the United States Supreme Court on March 4, 2020. While these comments were certainly concerning, the Attorney Grievance Committee (AGC) is cautious about disciplining attorneys, whether local attorneys or public officials, for comments that may be protected by the First Amendment. In addition, the AGC is mindful not to wade into political controversies that would result in an endless onslaught of retaliatory complaints by opposing parties. The AGC notes that Sen. Schumer was publicly criticized in the Senate by majority leader, Senator Mitch McConnell, as well as Chief Justice John G. Roberts. Notably, however, Sen. Schumer was not censured by the Senate, although it was in their discretion to do so. In addition, Sen. Schumer apologized for his comments.

Based on the above, the AGC has determined that no action is warranted by the Committee at this time.

Yours truly,



Jorge Dopico
Chief Attorney

RES:dk