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VIA HAND DELIVERY

September 12, 2018

Johnny Isakson, Chairman
Christopher A. Coons, Vice Chairman
U.S. Senate Select Committee on Ethics
220 Hart Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Inquiry into whether Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) Violated Senate Rules

Dear Chairman Isakson and Co-Chairman Coons:

Judicial Watch, Inc. is a non-profit, non-partisan educational foundation that promotes transparency, accountability, and integrity in government and fidelity to the rule of law. We regularly monitor congressional ethics issues as part of our anti-corruption mission.

Sen. Cory Booker admitted to violating Senate rules when he issued a tweet on Friday, September 7 saying:

Weds—I broke committee rules by reading from "committee confidential" docs.

(See <https://twitter.com/CoryBooker/status/1038077511924629504>.)

Sen. Booker then posted the following entry on his Facebook account on Saturday, September 9:

And the classification of many documents as “Committee Confidential” is a sham... I willfully violate these sham rules. I fully accept any consequences that might arise from my actions including expulsion.

(See <https://www.facebook.com/corybooker/photos/a.115558592227/10158241220222228/?type=3&theater>.)

Sen. Booker uploaded Committee Confidential records to a publicly accessible Dropbox account with the heading “Booker Confidential - Kavanaugh Hearing Documents”.

(See <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/cc4u94lgyncygn6/AABPGJkIiq5ND7KJuX7KxUX9a?dl=0>.)

By publicly releasing Committee Confidential records, Sen. Booker appears to have violated provisions 5 and/or 6 of Rule 29 of the Standing Rules of the Senate (Rev. Jan. 24, 2013), which stipulate:

5. Any Senator, officer or employee of the Senate who shall disclose the secret or confidential business or proceedings of the Senate, including the business and proceedings of the committees, subcommittees and offices of the Senate shall be liable, if a Senator, to suffer expulsion from the body; and if an officer or employee, to dismissal from the service of the Senate, and to punishment for contempt.

6. Whenever, by the request of the Senate or any committee thereof, any documents or papers shall be communicated to the Senate by the President or the head of any department relating to any matter pending in the Senate, the proceedings in regard to which are secret or confidential under the rules, said documents and papers shall be considered as confidential, and shall not be disclosed without leave of the Senate.

(See pp. 48-49: <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CDOC-113sdoc18/pdf/CDOC-113sdoc18.pdf>.)

We hereby request that the Senate Ethics Committee conduct a preliminary investigation into whether Sen. Booker violated Senate Rules by releasing Committee Confidential records through his social media accounts.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

VERIFICATION

The individuals submitting this information are listed below and acknowledged that section 1001 of title 18 United States Code applies to the information being provided.

Submitted by,



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