Dennis Rendleman, Chairman

The Center for Professional Responsibility

Standing Committee on Ethics

American Bar Association

321 North Clark Street

Chicago, Illinois, 60654 November 11, 2019

Re: Ethics Complaint against Attorney

Mark S. Zaid, Compass Rose Legal

Group,PLLC.

Dear Chairman Rendleman,

I am concerned with allegations made by the news media regarding the conduct of Attorney Mark S. Zaid, Compass Rose Legal Group, PLLC, 1250 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

It has been reported that Mr. Zaid made several public comments on social media, i.e. Twitter, in January 2017 regarding a “Coup” against our nation’s President, Donald J. Trump, Sr.

Mr. Zaid wrote “#coup has started. First of many steps. #rebellion #impeachment will follow ultimately #Lawyers”.

In July of 2017, Mr. Zaid stated “We will get rid of him and this country is strong enough to survive even him ***and his supporters”.***

Mr. Zaid also made reference to CNN Cable News Network saying “ CNN will play a key role in @RealDonaldTrump **not finishing his full term as president”.**

I happen to be one of President Trump’s “supporters”. As one of the President’s supporters I take particular umbrage to the comment made by Mr. Zaid, which is a matter of public record. Mr. Zaid’s comment makes me an aggrieved party.

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As such an aggrieved party and as an associate member of the American Bar Association since 1989, I wish to lodge an ethics complaint against Mr. Zaid under Rule 8.2 (a): “A lawyer shall not make a statement that is false or with reckless disregard as to it’s truth or falsity concerning…the integrity of a…public legal officer or…candidate

for election…to…legal office”.

I also cite Rule 8.3(a): “A lawyer who knows that another lawyer has committed a violation of the rules of professional conduct that ***raises a substantial question as to that lawyer’s honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer in other respects, shall inform the appropriate professional authority”.***

I believe that Mr. Zaid has violated Rule 8.4 Misconduct sections (a) through (e) in that “it is professional misconduct for a lawyer to:

(a) violate or attempt to violate the rules of professional conduct,

knowingly assist or induce another to do so or do so through the acts of another.

(b) commit a criminal act that reflects adversely on the lawyers honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer in other respects.

(c) engage in conduct involving dishonesty,fraud,deceit,or misrepresentation.

(d) engage in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice.

(e) state or imply an ability to influence improperly a government agency or official or to achieve results by means that violate the Rules of Professional Conduct or other law.

In a response that Mr. Zaid gave to Fox News, Mr. Zaid said that “Those tweets were reflective and repeated the sentiments of millions of people. I was referring to a completely lawful process of what President Trump would likely face as a result of stepping over the line and that

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particularly whatever would happen would come about as a result of lawyers. The coup comment referred to those working inside the administration who were already, just a week into office, standing up to him to enforce recognized rules of law

BASIS

Mr. Zaid states that “The tweets he wrote reflected the “sentiments of millions of people”. It is the “Sentiment of millions of people” that a “Coup” or “Rebellion” take place against our nation’s lawfully elected President? Contrary to what Mr. Zaid claims a “Rebellion” or a “Coup” is ***NOT***  “a completely lawful process of what President Trump would likely face”. As to “stepping over the line”, there is absolutely no proof that President Trump has “stepp[ed] over [any] line”.

Neither a “Coup” or a “Rebellion” would be a lawful end result of anything that an ethical lawyer would do. The statement by Mr. Zaid appears to illustrate that Mr. Zaid is aware of persons or person “working inside the administration who were already, just a week into office” working on what he himself called a “coup”. Did Mr. Zaid report these persons or person who were acting to effect a “coup” or “Rebellion”?

Coups and rebellions are criminal acts. Mr. Zaid represents clients who are known to have animus against President Trump and his public statements regarding coups and rebellions against the President of the United States as well as Mr. Zaid’s encouragement of media interference by CNN News Network to effect a shortened term of office for the President of the United States, President Trump are unethical on their face.

The President of the United States is now a target of coup conspirators in a concerted effort to remove him from office as President, without just cause. There is evidence that the entire so called “Impeachment Inquiry” is proceeding in derogation of the U.S. Constitution. The President is not being provided his constitutional due process rights.

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The conduct of Mr. Zaid in this matter is alleged to be “Prejudicial to the administration of justice”. I ask that Mr. Zaid be disciplined by this Committee.

Robert C. Laity, Complainant

ABA Associate Member since 1989

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Tonawanda, New York, 14150

cc: Mark S. Zaid, Esq.

Pat Cippolone, White House Counsel