
From: F050
Sent: Thursday, August 17, 2017 9:27 AM EDT
To: Healy, Paul
Subject: Supplementary Material And Comment On Benjamin Edelman Case
Attachments: WSJ - Buying Influence In Academia.pdf

Paul –

I hope your Summer is going well. I wanted to send along a disconcerting recent update regarding Ben Edelman, and potentially pertinent to his upcoming case (certainly in my mind it is).

In particular, through my work on [REDACTED] I've become more acquainted with legal scholarship, and many scholars at various top law schools. Recently, there was an exposé in the *Wall Street Journal* regarding funding of legal scholars from private organizations, relationships, and conflicts of interest. This has impacted many departments, scholars, and has caused a bit of a shockwave through fields in that profession.

While the piece was on legal scholars, it did make a point to mention one faculty member at HBS – Ben Edelman:

Several of the companies also are active in funding academic research. Microsoft has paid Harvard business professor Ben Edelman, the author of papers saying Google abuses its market dominance.

I had been passed on a number of other instances of potential conflicts of interest (regarding payments from funds, and Ben's writing on their portfolio companies), but gave Ben the benefit the doubt. As more evidence is amassed, I'm not quite sure what to think, but I feel the need to be somewhat Bayesian in my updating.

Importantly, I've been contacted by a number of legal scholars asking about Ben, this issue, what HBS has done about, "thinks" about it, etc. I'm not sure we have a centralized take, but my take is not a positive one. I do believe this is an important feature of any faculty member – especially one that we are considering making a long-term partner at HBS, who will represent the HBS name (for better or worse) in practice and academia.

I would like to submit this as supplementary material to the appropriate sub- and standing-committee. If I were serving on either committee considering a candidate, it is material I would like to have, and so I hope to provide my colleagues charged with the important decision with that same information.

Let me know if you'd like any other information.

Best,
F050

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