

John E. Deaton ^Δ
Danielle Angelo [◇]

DEATONLAWFIRM, LLC

450 North Broadway, East Providence, Rhode Island 02914

^Δ Admitted in RI, MA, CT & IA
[◇] Admitted in MA

Via Email and Federal Express

February 5, 2021

Freedom of Information Act Officer
Securities and Exchange Commission
100 F Street NE
Washington, DC 20549
Email: foia@sec.gov

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request for Records Relating to the SEC decision to file an enforcement Action against Ripple Labs, Inc.

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter constitutes a request (“Request”) pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552 et seq. (“FOIA”) and implementing regulations, 17 C.F.R. § 200.80 et seq., John Deaton submits this Request.

I. Background

From at least 2013 until the present, Ripple Labs, Inc, sold digital assets known as “XRP”. Seven years after the Digital Asset XRP was introduced to the public for sale, establishing itself as the third largest Cryptocurrency in the world, at the direction of former SEC chairman Jay Clayton, the Securities and Exchange Commission filed an enforcement action against Ripple Labs, its CEO Brad Garlinghouse, and Co-founder Chris Larsen.

According to the original complaint filed by the Security and Exchange Commission on December 22, 2020 against Ripple Labs, Inc., Bradley Garlinghouse, and Christian A. Larsen (Case No.-20 Civ. 10832), Ripple and the SEC entered into tolling agreements suspending the running of any applicable statute of limitations from April 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019; from July 7, 2019 through September 7, 2019; from September 8, 2019 through December 8, 2019;

from December 9, 2019 through June 8, 2020; from June 9, 2020 through December 9, 2020, and from December 10, 2020 through December 25, 2020. Additionally, Larsen and the SEC entered into a tolling agreement suspending the running of any applicable statute of limitations from September 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. Though to the best of my knowledge no public warning was issued to Ripple Labs, Inc., et al. about the impending enforcement action, the SEC filed their complaint against Ripple Labs, Inc., et al. on December 22, 2020.

II. Records Requested

1. Any and all documents, letters, correspondence, and emails, in the custody, control, or possession of the Securities and Exchange Commission regarding the decision to litigate against Ripple Labs, Inc., et al. {Securities and Exchange Commission v. Ripple Labs, Inc., Bradley Garlinghouse, and Christian A. Larsen(Case No.20 Civ. 10832)}.
2. Any and all documents, letters, correspondence, and emails, in the custody, control, or possession of the Securities and Exchange Commission related to communications between PayPal and the SEC related to XRP, Ethereum, Litecoin, Bitcoin, and Bitcoin cash.
3. Any and all documents, letters, correspondence, and emails in the custody, control, or possession of the SEC from former Director of National Intelligence John Ratcliffe including but not limited to the Summer 2018 and November 2020 letter(s) from Director Ratcliffe to Chairman Clayton.
4. Any and all documents, letters, correspondence, and emails in the custody, control, or possession of the SEC from Senator Cotton including but not limited to the December 2018 letter from Senator Tom Cotton to Chairman Clayton; the July 2020 letter from Senator Cotton to Director Ratcliffe and National Security Advisor O'Brien; and the Summer 2020 letter from Senator Cotton to Chairman Clayton.
5. Any and all documents, letters, correspondence, and emails in the custody, control, or possession of the SEC from any Congressman to Chairman Clayton or any other agent or employee of the SEC regarding Cryptocurrency including but not limited to XRP, Ethereum, Litecoin, Bitcoin, and Bitcoin Cash.
6. Any documents prepared by the Staff or the Commissioners relating to the above listed documents, letters, correspondence, and emails.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(i), we look forward to your reply to the Request for disclosure within twenty days.

Please forward the above documents to my office either as a hard copy to : The Deaton Law Firm, 450 N. Broadway, East Providence, RI, 02914 or via Electronic mail to All-Deaton@DeatonLawFirm.com.

I am willing to pay fees for this request up to a maximum of \$61. If you estimate that the fees will exceed this limit, please inform us first.

Thank you for your attention to this request,

/s/ John E. Deaton

John Deaton, Esq. (RI Bar # 6537)
Deaton Law Firm
450 North Broadway
East Providence, RI 02914
(401) 351-6400
(401) 351-6401(fax)
All-Deaton@deatonlawfirm.com