Ethics Briefing
for
Special Government Employees
Serving on
NASA Advisory Committees
Service on NASA Advisory Committees

- Appointment as Special Government Employee (SGE)
- Defined at 18 U.S.C. 202(a)
  - Anyone who is retained, designated, appointed, or employed to perform temporary duties, with or without compensation, for a period not to exceed 130 days out of any 365 days
  - Includes advisory committees
SGE Ethics Rules

- **Ethics Principles:**
  - Public service is a public trust
  - May not have conflicting financial interests
  - May not improperly use nonpublic information
  - Avoid even the appearance of impropriety

- **Status as SGE**
  - Equivalent to being an insider
  - Subject to civil service ethics rules
  - Subject to post-employment restrictions
Representational Conflicts
18 U.S.C 203 & 205

- Prohibits representational activities before the Government
- Applies to SGEs only if:
  - Matter involves parties (e.g., contracts)
  - SGE was personally and substantially involved in the particular matter as part of Government service, or
  - SGE served more than 60 days in the previous 365, and matter is pending before the same agency
Financial Conflicts
18 U.S.C. 208

- Prohibits involvement in a particular matter in which the SGE, employer, or spouse or dependent child has a financial interest:
  - An employee is disqualified
  - from participating personally and substantially
  - in any particular matter in which
  - the employee, or anyone whose interests are imputed to the employee, has a financial interest,
  - if the particular matter will have a direct and predictable effect on that interest.
Post-Employment Restrictions
18 U.S.C. 207

- Permanently prohibits a former employee from making, with intent to influence, any communication to the United States,
- on behalf of any other person
- in connection with a particular matter in which the United States is a party or has a substantial interest,
- if the employee was personally and substantially involved in the matter.
Standards of Conduct

- Gift Rules
  - Anything having monetary value
  - Prohibited Sources
  - Official Position

- Exceptions
  - Outside business activities
  - Personal relationships
  - $20/$50 rule
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