

Subpart B—Conduct and Responsibilities of Employees or Commissioners

- 7.7 Prohibited conduct—General.
- 7.8 Gifts, entertainment, and favors.
- 7.9 Outside employment or activities.
- 7.10 Financial interests.
- 7.11 Political and organization activity.
- 7.12 Membership in associations.
- 7.13 Use of Government property.
- 7.14 Prohibition against making complaints and investigations public.
- 7.15 Ex parte communications.
- 7.16 Miscellaneous statutory provisions.

Subpart C—Conduct and Responsibilities of Special Commission Employees

- 7.17 Use of Commission employment.
- 7.18 Use of inside information.
- 7.19 Coercion.
- 7.20 Gifts, entertainment, and favors.
- 7.21 Miscellaneous statutory provisions.

Subpart D—Post Employment Conflict of Interest: Procedures for Administrative Enforcement Proceedings

- 7.22 Scope.
- 7.23 Initiation of investigation.
- 7.24 Conduct of preliminary investigation.
- 7.25 Initiation of administrative disciplinary proceeding.
- 7.26 Notice to former employee.
- 7.27 Hearing examiner designation and qualifications.
- 7.28 Hearing date.
- 7.29 Hearing rights of former employee.
- 7.30 Hearing procedures.
- 7.31 Examiner's decision.
- 7.32 Appeal.
- 7.33 Administrative sanctions.

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 7321 *et seq.*; 18 U.S.C. 207.

SOURCE: 51 FR 34446, Sept. 29, 1986, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—General Provisions**§ 7.1 Purpose and applicability.**

(a) The Federal Election Commission is committed to honest, independent and impartial monitoring and enforcement of federal election law. To ensure public trust in the fairness and integrity of the federal elections process, all employees must observe the highest standards of conduct. This part prescribes standards of ethical conduct for Commissioners, employees and special Government employees of the Federal Election Commission relating to conflicts of interest arising out of outside

employment, private business and professional activities, political activities, and financial interests. The avoidance of misconduct and conflicts of interest on the part of Commission employees through informed judgment is indispensable to the maintenance of these prescribed ethical standards. Attainment of these goals necessitates strict and absolute fairness and impartiality in the administration of the law.

(b) This part applies to all persons included within the terms *employee* and *special Commission employees* of the Commission as defined in 11 CFR 7.2, except to the extent otherwise indicated herein, and is consistent with Executive Order 11222 and part 735 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, relating to employee responsibilities and conduct.

(c) These Standards of Conduct shall be construed in accordance with any applicable laws, regulations and agreements between the Federal Election Commission and a labor organization.

§ 7.2 Definitions.

As used in this part:

(a) *Commission* means the Federal Election Commission, 999 E Street, NW., Washington, DC 20463.

(b) *Commissioner* means a voting member of the Federal Election Commission, in accordance with 2 U.S.C. 437c.

(c) *Conflict of interest* means a situation in which an employee's private interest is inconsistent with the efficient and impartial conduct of his or her official duties and responsibilities.

(d) *Designated Agency Ethics Officer* or *Ethics Officer* means the employee designated by the Commission to administer the provisions of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (Pub. L. 95–521), as amended, and includes a designee of the Ethics Officer.

(e) *Employee* means an employee of the Federal Election Commission, but does not include a special Commission employee.

(f) *Former employee* means one who was, and is no longer, an employee of the Commission.

(g) *Official responsibility* means the direct administrative or operating authority, whether intermediate or final,