

## § 7.7

## 11 CFR Ch. I (1–1–07 Edition)

of any investigation, may direct appropriate remedial action as it deems necessary.

(c) Remedial action pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section may include, but is not limited to:

- (1) Changes in assigned duties;
- (2) Divestment by the employee of his or her conflicting interest;
- (3) Disqualification for a particular action; or
- (4) Disciplinary action.

### **Subpart B—Conduct and Responsibilities of Employees or Commissioners**

#### **§ 7.7 Prohibited conduct—General.**

A Commissioner or employee shall avoid any action whether or not specifically prohibited by this subpart which might result in, or create the appearance of:

- (a) Using public office for unlawful private gain;
- (b) Giving favorable or unfavorable treatment to any person or organization due to any partisan, political, or other consideration;
- (c) Impeding Government efficiency or economy;
- (d) Losing independence or impartiality;
- (e) Making a Government decision outside official channels; or
- (f) Affecting adversely the confidence of the public in the integrity of the Government.

#### **§ 7.8 Gifts, entertainment, and favors.**

(a) A Commissioner or employee of the Federal Election Commission shall not solicit or accept, directly or indirectly, any gift, gratuity, favor, entertainment, loan, or any other thing of monetary value, from a person who:

- (1) Has, or is seeking to obtain, contractual or other business or financial relations with the Commission;
  - (2) Conducts operations or activities that are regulated or examined by the Commission; or
  - (3) Has interests that may be substantially affected by the performance or nonperformance of the Commissioner or employee's official duty.
- (b) Paragraph (a) of this section shall not apply:

(1) Where obvious family or personal relationships govern when the circumstances make it clear that it is those relationships rather than the business of the persons concerned which are the motivating factors;

(2) To the acceptance of food, refreshments, and accompanying entertainment of nominal value in the ordinary course of a social occasion or a luncheon or dinner meeting or other function where a Commissioner or an employee is properly in attendance;

(3) To the acceptance of unsolicited advertising or promotional material or other items of nominal intrinsic value such as pens, pencils, note pads, calendars; and

(4) To the acceptance of loans from banks or other financial institutions on customary terms to finance proper and usual activities, such as home mortgage loans.

(c) A Commissioner or an employee shall not solicit a contribution from another employee for a gift to an official superior, make a donation as a gift to an official superior, or accept a gift from an employee receiving less pay than himself or herself. However, this paragraph does not prohibit a voluntary gift of nominal value or donation in a nominal amount made on a special occasion such as birthday, holiday, marriage, illness, or retirement.

(d) A Commissioner or employee shall not accept a gift, present, decoration, or other thing from a foreign government unless authorized by Congress as provided by the Constitution and in section 7342 of title 5, United States Code.

(e) Neither this section nor 11 CFR 7.7 precludes a Commissioner or employee from receipt of a bona fide reimbursement, unless prohibited by law, for expenses of travel and such other necessary subsistence as is compatible with this part for which no Government payment or reimbursement is made. However, this section does not allow an employee or Commissioner to be reimbursed, or payment to be made on his or her behalf, for excessive personal living expenses, gifts, entertainment, or other personal benefits, nor does it allow an employee to be reimbursed by a person for travel on official

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business under agency orders when reimbursement is proscribed by Decision B-128527 of the Comptroller General dated March 7, 1967 (46 Comp. Gen. 689).

### § 7.9 Outside employment or activities.

(a) A member of the Commission shall not devote a substantial portion of his or her time to any other business, vocation, or employment. Any individual who is engaging substantially in any other business, vocation, or employment at the time such individual begins to serve as a member of the Commission shall appropriately limit such activity no later than 90 days after beginning to serve as such a member.

(b) An employee shall not engage in outside employment that is not compatible with the full discharge of his or her Government employment and not in compliance with any labor-management agreement between the Federal Election Commission and a labor organization. Incompatible outside employment or other activities include but are not limited to:

(1) Outside employment or other activities which would involve the violation of a Federal or State statute, local ordinance, Executive Order, or regulation to which the employee is subject;

(2) Outside employment or other activities which would give rise to a real or apparent conflict of interest situation even though no violation of a specific statutory provision was involved;

(3) Acceptance of a fee, compensation, gift, payment of expense, or any other thing of monetary value in circumstances where acceptance may result in, or create the appearance of, a conflict of interest;

(4) Outside employment or other activities that might bring discredit upon the Government or Commission;

(5) Outside employment or other activities that establish relationships or property interests that may result in a conflict between the employee's private interests and official duties;

(6) Outside employment or other activities which would involve any contractor or subcontractor connected with any work performed for the Commission or would involve any person or organization in a position to gain advantage in its dealings with the Gov-

ernment through the employee's exercise of his or her official duties;

(7) Outside employment of other activities that may be construed by the public to be the official acts of the Federal Election Commission. In any permissible outside employment, care shall be taken to ensure that names and titles of employees are not used to give the impression that the activity is officially endorsed or approved by the Commission or is part of the Commission's activities;

(8) Outside employment or other activities which would involve use by an employee of his or her official duty time; use of official facilities, including office space, machines, or supplies, at any time; or use of the services of other employees during their official duty hours;

(9) Outside employment or other activities which tend to impair the employee's mental or physical capacities to perform Commission duties and responsibilities in an acceptable manner; or

(10) Use of information obtained as a result of Government employment which is not freely available to the general public or would not be made available upon request. However, written authorization for the use of any such information may be given when the Commission determines that such use would be in the public interest.

(c) An employee shall not receive any salary or anything of monetary value from a private source as compensation for his or her services to the Government in violation of 18 U.S.C. 209.

(d) Employees are encouraged to engage in teaching, lecturing, and writing that is not prohibited by law, Executive Order 11222, or this part. However, an employee shall not, either for or without compensation, engage in teaching or writing that is dependent on information obtained as a result of his or her Commission employment, except when that information has been made available to the general public or will be made available on request, or when the Commission gives written authorization for the use of nonpublic information on the basis that the use is in the public interest.