

Federal Election Commission

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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.

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(e) This section does not preclude an individual from participation in the affairs of or acceptance of an award for meritorious public contribution or achievement given by a charitable, religious, professional, social, fraternal, nonprofit educational, recreational, public service or civic organization.

(f) An employee of the Office of General Counsel who intends to engage in outside employment shall obtain the approval of the General Counsel/Ethics Officer. All other employees who intend to engage in outside employment shall obtain the approval of the Staff Director prior to review and approval by the Ethics Officer. The request shall include the name of the person, group, or organization for whom the work is to be performed, the nature of the services to be rendered, the proposed hours of work, or approximate dates of employment, and the employee's certification as to whether the outside employment (including teaching, writing or lecturing) will depend in any way on information obtained as a result of the employee's official Government position. The employee will receive notice of approval or disapproval of any written request in accordance with any labor-management agreement between the Commission and a labor organization. A record of the approval shall be placed in each employee's official personnel folder.

§ 7.10 Financial interests.

(a)(1) A Commissioner or employee shall not engage in, directly or indirectly, a financial transaction as a result of, or primarily relying on, information obtained through his or her Commission employment.

(2) A Commissioner or employee shall not have a direct or indirect financial interest that conflicts substantially, or appears to conflict substantially, with his or her Commission duties and responsibilities, except in cases where the Commissioner or employee makes full disclosure, and the Commissioner or employee disqualifies himself or herself from participating in any decisions, approval, disapproval, recommendation, the rendering of advice, investigation, or otherwise in any proceeding of the Commission in which the financial interest is or appears to

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be affected. The filing of public financial disclosure reports will constitute full disclosure for all individuals who are required to file such reports pursuant to the Ethics in Government Act. Until such time as the extent, shape and form of confidential financial disclosure reports required of employees by the Ethics in Government Act has been determined, full disclosure by an employee will require that that employee submit a written statement to the Ethics Officer disclosing the particular financial interest which conflicts substantially, or appears to conflict substantially, with the employee's duties and responsibilities.

(3) A Commissioner or employee should disqualify himself or herself from a proceeding in which his or her impartiality might reasonably be questioned where the Commissioner or employee knows that he or she, or his or her spouse, has an interest in the subject matter in controversy or is a party to the proceeding, or any other interest that could be substantially affected by the outcome of the proceeding.

(b) This section does not preclude a Commissioner or employee from having a financial interest or engaging in financial transactions to the same extent as a private citizen not employed by the Government provided that the activity is not prohibited by law, Executive Order 11222, or Commission regulations.

§ 7.11 Political and organization activity.

(a) Due to the Federal Election Commission's role in the political process, the following restrictions on political activities are required in addition to those imposed by the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. 7324 *et seq.*):

(1) No Commissioner or employee should publicly support a candidate, political party, or political committee subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission. No Commissioner or employee should work for a candidate, political party or political committee subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission. Commissioners and employees should be aware that contributing to candidates, political parties, or political committees subject to the jurisdiction