

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Headquarters  
Washington, DC 20546-0001



January 14, 2008

Reply to Attn of: General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance at the Applied Physics Laboratory Reception on January 14, 2008

On the evening of January 14, 2008, Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) will hold a reception for the attendees of the MESSENGER's first Mercury flyby at APL's Macaulay Room in Building 1 from 5:00 to 6:30 pm. The MESSENGER Science Team members will be on hand to discuss any questions that the attendees have about the mission. Professor Robert Strom will be speaking at a public lecture following the reception. Professor Strom is the only team member who participated in the original Mariner 10 investigation of Mercury. The reception will provide an opportunity to promote knowledge and understanding of the space program with other attendees.

I find that the APL meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g). I further determine that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend the event because it will further Agency programs or operations. Attendance at the reception will allow NASA representatives to exchange views on technologies that may be needed for future space missions with a wide-range of people from industry, academia, Congress, and other Federal agencies.

NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect APL, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.205(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

  
Adam F. Greenstone