

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
John H. Glenn Research Center
Lewis Field
Cleveland, OH 44135-3191



February 7, 2008

Reply to Attn of: **Office of Chief Counsel**

TO: Distribution

FROM: Deputy Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at an STS-123 Pre-Launch Reception.

On March 10, 2008 Call Henry, Incorporated will host a pre-launch reception in anticipation of the STS-123 launch. The event will be held at the Double Tree Hotel in Cocoa Beach, FL., 2028 N. Atlantic Avenue. The reception will begin at 6:00 p.m. and conclude at 8:00 p.m. with approximately 100 people in attendance including representatives from industry, the Executive and Legislative Branches of the U.S. Government, state officials, NASA, and other Federal employees. Call Henry will provide food and beverages at a cost of approximately \$30 per person and a desktop weather clock to commemorate the launch.

I find this event 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 having the attendance of the event by NASA personnel. The event will allow NASA employees to discuss the NASA Vision for Space Exploration, the Space Shuttle program, and the STS-123 mission with the other attendees. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the industry co-sponsors may accept an invitation for free attendance at the reception.

NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect these co-sponsors, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their ethics counselor.

In addition, Call Henry may give each attendee a small desktop weather clock valued at less than \$5.00 each. Attendees are reminded of the \$20 gift exception at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(a), which provides that employees may accept gifts valued at no more than \$20 per occasion. Accordingly, in addition to accepting free attendance at the event, NASA employees may accept the polar bear. NASA invitees are reminded not to exceed the \$50 cap on gifts from one source in a calendar year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. William Sikora".

J. William Sikora
Chief Counsel
Glenn Research Center