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

October 15, 2008

Reply to Attn of:

General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at the Maryland Space Business Roundtable's Annual Gala Dinner

On October 27, 2008, the Maryland Space Business Roundtable (MSBR) will host an annual gala with dinner and a program on space related topics. The MSBR provides a forum for discussion of leading aerospace technology issues for industry and government. The program will review the past year's accomplishments and look at future plans in the aerospace community.

Approximately 470 people from NASA, other Federal agencies, academia, Congressional staff, and industry are expected to attend. The estimated cost per person is $75, which includes a reception, dinner, and entertainment. I find that the gala 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 in having NASA personnel attend the event because it will further Agency programs or operations. Attendance at the dinner will allow NASA representatives to discuss the Vision for Space Exploration with the other attendees. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect MSBR may accept an invitation for free attendance to the reception for themselves.

NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect MSBR or its members, 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