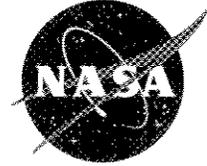


National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Headquarters  
Washington, DC 20546-0001



January 13, 2009

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 Texas State Society "Black Tie and Boots" Inaugural Ball on January 19, 2009

On January 19, 2009, the Texas State Society will host the Texas "Black Tie and Boots" Inaugural Ball at Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland. The ball will honor the current President and Vice-President as well as the President and Vice-President-Elect.

The ball will be attended by approximately 1100 people, including representatives of Congress, industry, trade associations, the media, White House personnel, academia, Federal Agencies such as NASA, and the public. The estimated cost of attendance at the ball, which includes all food and refreshments, is \$94.00 per person. I find that this ball 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 ball will allow NASA attendees to discuss NASA programs and space exploration with other attendees. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the sponsor may accept an invitation for free attendance to the inaugural ball for themselves and their invited spouses or guests.

NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the sponsor, 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*  
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