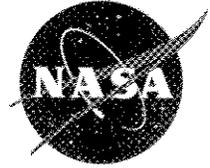


National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Headquarters  
Washington, DC 20546-0001



March 5, 2009

Reply to Attn of: General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance at an "Evening with the Astronaut Crew of STS-131" at a Reception on Capitol Hill on March 18, 2009

On March 18, 2009, Members of the House Committee on Science and Technology, will host a reception on March 18 in Room 2237 of the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, D. C., from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. The sponsors of the reception include the Boeing Company, Lockheed Martin Corporation, Pratt-Whitney Rocketdyne, and United Space Alliance. The Astronaut Crew of STS-131 will present information about the research being done on the space shuttle and the U. S. National Laboratory aboard the International Space Station.

Approximately 500 people have been invited and 400 are expected to attend. The estimated cost of the reception which includes all food and beverages, is \$30.00 per person. The reception will be attended by NASA personnel, representatives of the aerospace industry, trade associations, the media, Congressman and Congressional staffers, academia, and other employees of Federal agencies. I find that this reception 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 event will allow attendees to obtain information on NASA programs and priorities. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the event sponsors may accept an invitation for free attendance to the event for themselves and their invited spouses or guests.

However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the event sponsors, such as by way of procurement duties, or who are in non-career positions for which the President's Executive Order of January 21, 2009, requires signing an ethics pledge, 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