

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



November 17, 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 an COSTAR and WFPC2 Reception and Dinner on November 17, 2009

On November 17, 2009, Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum and Ball Aerospace, will host a reception, dinner and lecture-at the Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum, in Washington, DC, at 6:00 p.m. This event is to celebrate the arrival of COSTAR and WFPC2 instruments used on the Hubble Space Telescope (HST).

This event will be a widely-attended gathering of approximately 60 representatives of NASA, the aerospace industry, Congress and their staffers, academia, the Department of Defense and the Administration. The cost of the reception will be approximately \$60.00 per person. I note that the cost of the reception and dinner is being paid by the Smithsonian Institute. I find that the reception meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(2). I have determined that free attendance at the above mentioned reception is in the interest of the agency because it will further agency programs and operations. The event will provide NASA employees with the opportunity to discuss the COSTAR and WFPC2 programs. COSTAR and WFPC2 were the instruments used on HST that restored it to full capability resulting in extraordinary discoveries about our Universe. In addition, Astronaut John Grunsfeld, PhD, will be giving a lecture detailing with the benefits of the COSTAR and WFPC2 programs.

Accordingly, NASA employees who have been invited to attend may accept free attendance at the event. They may also accept invitations for accompanying spouses or guests. However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the event 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 local ethics counselor. Moreover, NASA employees who are in non-career positions in which Executive Order 13490, requires signing the ethics pledge may attend this event.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam F. Greenstone". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Adam F. Greenstone