

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters

Washington, DC 20546-0001



January 31, 2013

General Law Practice Group

Reply to Attn of:

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

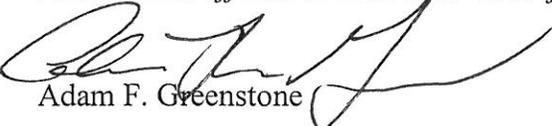
SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at the
National Science and Technology Medals Foundation Dinner

On February 1, 2013, the National Science and Technology Medals Foundation (NSTMF) a non-profit organization exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code, will host a reception and dinner to honor the laureates of the National Medal of Science and National Medal of Technology and Innovation, which are bestowed at a White House ceremony. The event will be held at the Ritz Carlton in Washington, D.C. at 6:30 pm.

The reception and dinner is hosted by the NSTMF, and will include organizations involved in various scientific and technological research, including chemistry, biology engineering, and cosmology, with representatives from academia, industry, the non-profit sector, and government. Approximately 250-325 people are expected to attend; individual tickets are \$500 per person. NSTMF assigns the seating for its invited guests.

I find that this event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(2). 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 this event will provide NASA employees the opportunity to discuss NASA's policies, plans, and activities with individuals from the county's leading science and technology organizations, including distinguished scientists and engineers.

Accordingly, NASA employees—including non-career appointees who are required to sign the ethics pledge under Executive Order 13490 – whose duties do not substantially affect the sponsors may accept an invitation from NSTMF for free attendance to the reception and dinner for themselves and their invited guests. However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the NSTMF, 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. *Employees who receive an invitation from an entity other than NSTMF such as a table sponsor may not accept that gift under this determination and should consult with a NASA ethics official to determine what if any other options are available.*


Adam F. Greenstone