

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



September 17, 2014

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 New America Future Tense Dinner on October 1, 2014

On Wednesday, October 1, 2014, the New America Foundation, a nonprofit organization under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, along with SLATE and Arizona State University, will host a dinner at the Smith & Wollensky restaurant in Washington, D.C., at 6:00 p.m. The event is to generate conversation with *Hieroglyph* author, Ed Finn, on the failing of science fiction to supply scientists and engineers with real inspiration.

Approximately 45 people have been invited to attend, including employees of NASA, print and digital journalists, representatives from publishing and media, and employees of other Federal agencies. The estimated cost of the dinner, including all food and beverages, is \$85 per person. I find that the 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 the event will allow NASA attendees to exchange information regarding various NASA programs.

NASA employees – including NASA employees who are in non-career positions for which they are required to sign an ethics pledge under Executive Order 13490 – whose duties do not substantially affect the sponsors or a majority of its members, may accept an invitation for free attendance to the dinner for themselves.

However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the sponsors or a majority of its members, 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam F. Greenstone".

Adam F. Greenstone