Am I limited in my dealing with the United States Government in my personal capacity?
▪ Yes. You may not represent anyone (other than yourself) before a Federal agency or Federal court, which means that, unless an exception applies, you may not contact a Federal agency or court on behalf of anyone other than yourself to influence Government action (including by serving as an expert witness). This restriction even applies to contacting a Federal agency on behalf of a family member (except as noted below). You also may not receive payments based on the representational activities of others before a Federal agency or Federal court (such as from partnership distributions if you are a partner). You may, however, contact Congress on behalf of someone else.

Are there exceptions to these restrictions?
▪ Yes; you may represent:
  - a spouse, parent, child, estate, or someone with whom you have a power of attorney (but only if you receive prior approval through an ethics official);
  - another employee in a personnel dispute (if you are not paid and it does not conflict with your Federal duties); and
  - a Federal employee organization (except in the situations noted below).

When are there restrictions on representing a Federal employee organization before a Federal agency or court?
▪ You may not represent an organization composed primarily of other Federal employees (or their family members):
  - in a claim against the Government,
  - in a proceeding,
  - if the matter at issue involves financial payments from the Government (such as a contract or grant), or
  - if you receive payment for the representational activities.

If I work for less than 130 days per year am I covered by these restrictions?
▪ Some of them.
  - If you worked 60 days or fewer in a 365-day period, you are barred from contacting the Government on a matter involving specific parties on which you worked as part of your Government duties.
  - If you worked 61-130 days, you are also barred from contacting the Government on a matter involving specific parties pending before the Department of Commerce, even if you did not personally work on the matter as a Government employee.
▪ Note that if you served for less than 130 days, you may contact the Government on behalf of someone else regarding a policy matter or anything that does not involve specific parties.