

ETHICS AT A GLANCE GIFTS

PERSONAL GIFTS TO EMPLOYEES – Commerce employees generally cannot accept a gift from someone who has interests in matters before the Department or if offered because of the employee’s Federal position or, if a supervisor, from a subordinate, but some exceptions apply.

GIFTS FROM SOMEONE WITH INTERESTS BEFORE COMMERCE		GIFTS FROM SUBORDINATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ plaque or other item of little intrinsic value ▪ a discount for all Federal employees ▪ gift from a friend or relative ▪ meal in connection with a speaking engagement ▪ social invitations if offered because of your Government position from someone with no matters before Commerce ▪ gift from a foreign government of \$375 or less (if more than \$375, can be accepted on behalf of the U.S. Government) 	OK TO ACCEPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ gift of \$10 or less ▫ gift for a major life event (wedding, serious illness, new child, etc.) ▫ personal hospitality at a home ▫ host/hostess gift ▫ food shared in the office
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ gift of \$20 or less (or agency- or profession-related book of \$100 or less) ▪ a public service award (with approval from an ethics official) ▪ gift based on an outside business ▪ invitation to a “widely-attended gathering” (with supervisor’s approval) ▪ business meals overseas (if a non-U.S. citizen is present and less than <i>per diem</i>) 	OK TO ACCEPT IF NOT TO A POLITICAL APPOINTEE FROM A LOBBYIST*	<p><i>* but OK to accept from a lobbying organization that is a 501(c)(3) organization or a media company</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a bribe ▪ payment for performing Federal duties (unless to a special Government employee) ▪ a gift that was solicited 	NEVER OK TO ACCEPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ payment for performing Federal duties ▫ a loan or on-going financial dealing

GIFTS TO COMMERCE – Gifts to an agency may be accepted if they support agency activities and acceptance will not create an appearance problem (not from a contractor, grantee, licensee, or regulated entity, or someone with controversial matters pending). Travel gifts cannot be solicited.