

## A WORD ABOUT ETHICS RESTRICTIONS AFTER LEAVING FEDERAL SERVICE

### ARE THERE RESTRICTIONS ON ME AFTER I LEAVE FEDERAL SERVICE?

- **Yes.** After you leave the Government you may not represent (see below) anyone before a Federal agency or Federal court regarding:
  - any specific-party matter (see below) on which you worked or
  - for 2 years after leaving the Government, any specific-party matter on which a subordinate worked.

### ARE THESE THE ONLY RESTRICTIONS?

- **No.** You also may not:
  - use protected nonpublic information,
  - receive payment for representational activities of others (such as a partner of yours) that took place during the period you worked for the Government, or
  - testify on matters related to your Government work.

### WHAT IS A "SPECIFIC-PARTY MATTER"?

- Any matter in which those involved are identified by name, such as a contract, grant, patent, law suit, or license.

### WHAT IS "REPRESENTING"?

- Communicating to a Federal official to influence Government action on behalf of someone other than yourself.

### ARE THERE ANY ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS?

- **Yes.** In addition to the general restrictions on all employees:
  - *senior employees* (employees with base pay of \$161,755 or more per year, paid under the Executive Schedule, or are O-7 or higher) are barred for 1 year (or 2 years for political appointees) from representing anyone before their former agency and for 1 year from representing or advising a foreign government;
  - *political appointees* are also barred from contacting as a lobbyist any political appointee during the President's term;
  - *attorneys* are subject to bar rules;
  - *employees who received a buy-out* are barred for 5 years from re-employment with the Government;
  - *procurements official* and *project managers* for a procurement of \$10,000,000 or more are barred for 1 year from receiving compensation from the contractor;
  - *EDA employees* are barred for 2 years from working for EDA grantees; and
  - *USPTO employees* are barred for 1 year from obtaining patent rights.

### HOW CAN I GET ADVICE AND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE RULES?

- By contacting the Ethics Law and Programs Division at 202-482-5384 or [ethicsdivision@doc.gov](mailto:ethicsdivision@doc.gov).

ETHICS LAW AND PROGRAMS DIVISION – OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL – UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

202-482-5384 – [ETHICSDIVISION@DOC.GOV](mailto:ETHICSDIVISION@DOC.GOV) – [WWW.COMMERCE.GOV/ETHICS](http://WWW.COMMERCE.GOV/ETHICS)

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