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THE ADVISOR

DECEMBER 2010 EDITION



Upcoming ETHICS TRAINING!

Ethics training for the 2011 Legislative Session has been scheduled and can be found on page 2. Here are a few key points for those who are new to the legislative world and reminders equally beneficial for those not so new.

#1: Ethics training is mandatory this year for all legislators, legislative staff, and non-political support staff. (**Senior staff: Please inform new staff of this requirement.**) AS 24.60.150 (a)(4) and AS 24.60.155

#2: Ethics training is required at the beginning of each legislative session regardless if you have completed training in-person or online in 2010.

#3: You are required to attend only one of the sessions. Select the session that corresponds to your duties as each session will be customized to suit those individuals attending. (Some sessions are repeated—note where it says "OR".) Attendance will be taken at all sessions. It is important that you be prompt and attend the entire session.

#4: All *salaried* employees are required to attend and comply with disclosure requirements. However, *hourly* employees, (such as tour guides, teleconference moderators, casual laborers, and supply movers) are exempt.

#5: Training for LIO staff, Ombudsman and Victims' Rights staff *outside* of Juneau will be

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Upcoming *ETHICS* TRAINING!

held via teleconference or in-person at the Anchorage LIO the first week of February. Dates and times to be announced.

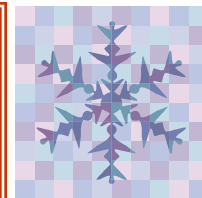
#6 New handbooks are being printed; however, the 2009/2010 edition is still current and can be used for 2011. If you do not already have a Standards of Conduct Handbook, one will be provided to you. A new PowerPoint presentation will be handed out at all training sessions. After completing training, place these materials in your "Ethics" file for future reference. They are great resources!

#7 Lastly, we have applied for accreditation of continuing legal education credits with the Alaska Bar Association. If you are a member of the Alaska Bar Association and would like to receive a certificate of completion, please let us know at training or send an e-mail to Linda_Leigh@legis.state.ak.us. After we receive approval, a certificate will be sent to you.

If you have any questions or need clarification on any of the training information we have provided in this newsletter, please contact our office.



2011 Legislative Ethics Training Schedule



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

WHO: **New and Returning Non-Political Support Staff**, (such as, LAA Admin, Leg Audit Div, Finance Div, Ombudsman & Victims' Rights)

WHEN: MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 1:00PM-3:00PM **OR** TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 9:00AM-11:00AM

WHERE: Terry Miller Bldg Gym

WHO: **New Staff working for the House and Senate** (Open to returning legislative staff, as well.)

WHEN: THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 1:30PM-4:30PM

WHERE: Terry Miller Bldg Gym

WHO: **Returning Legislators**

WHEN: TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 9:00AM-10:30AM **OR** WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 9:00AM-10:30AM

WHERE: State Capitol Butrovich/Fahrenkamp Room

WHO: **Returning Staff working for the House and Senate**

WHEN: THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 1:30PM-3:30PM **OR** FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 9:00AM-11:00AM

WHERE: Terry Miller Bldg Gym

House Panel Votes to Censure Rangel

By Alex Brandon, Associated Press
The New York Times
December 2, 2010

In November 2010, the U. S. House ethics committee found Representative Charles Rangel **guilty of 11 counts of ethical violations**, ruling that his failure to pay taxes, improper solicitation of fund-raising donations and failure to accurately report his personal income had brought dishonor on the House.

On Dec. 2, **the full House voted to censure Mr. Rangel** by a vote of 333-79. He was ordered to pay restitution to the Treasury Department for unpaid taxes.

The vote made Mr. Rangel, a Democrat, the **23rd member of the House to be censured**, and the first in nearly three decades.

Shortly before the committee of five Democrats and five Republicans began deliberations in November, Mr. Rangel, his voice cracking, pleaded for his colleagues to

keep in mind that whatever his misdeeds, he was not corrupt.

The committee ruled that the facts supporting the charges against him were "uncontested." Those charges included accusations that Mr. Rangel had accepted rent-stabilized apartments from a Manhattan developer, failed to pay income taxes on rent from a Dominican villa and solicited charitable donations from individuals with business before Congress.

The panel convicted Mr. Rangel of all but one of the ethics violations he faced. (A total of 13 charges were filed against him but two, concerning his misuse of franking privileges, were merged.)

Mr. Rangel has acknowledged inadvertent bookkeeping errors and oversights, and has long insisted that his missteps were never intended to bring him personal benefit.



APPROVED

REMINDER: Legislative Internship Programs Must Be Approved



Legislative internship programs sponsored by educational institutions, other than those sponsored by the University of Alaska, must be approved by the Ethics office pursuant to AS 24.60.080(h) and the committee's Rules of Procedure, Section 2(f), Internship Program Approval.

Internship programs sponsored by government agencies or nonprofit organizations must also be approved by the Ethics office. To date, the following have been approved: Workforce Investment Act, First Alaskans Institute, Juneau JobX-The Learning Connection.

If you are anticipating hiring an intern and the sponsorship is not associated with the University of Alaska, or thru one of the approved programs listed above, please contact the Ethics office at 269-0150 before proceeding.

Quote of the Month

"I've found that ethics is like a **prism**, that there are many facets to it."

Helen Hayden Backer, Public Relations Consultant
Maricopa Community, Arizona
July 1994



Frequently Asked Questions



Question: May a legislator send out seasonal greeting cards to constituents and others who have contacted the office regarding legislative issues?

Answer: Yes. A legislator is permitted to send out seasonal greeting cards with the use of state resources. Legislative staff may address the cards and sign the cards for the legislators. Legislative funds may be used to purchase the cards and mail the cards. Seasonal greeting cards mailed to constituents in your district have a legislative purpose. It is also permissible to send seasonal greeting cards to individuals who are not your constituents and to organizations that may have contacted you or your legislative office concerning an issue or worked with you regarding a matter of

legislative concern. Seasonal greeting card mailings outside of these parameters, for example, to constituents of one political party only, or to family members and personal friends, would be prohibited.
AS 24.60.030(a)(2)(E)

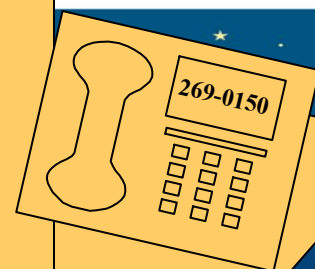


Question: Must a Close Economic Association be filed if a legislative employee receives compensation from a legislator for working on the legislator's campaign?

Answer: Yes. A financial relationship exists between the legislative employee and legislator. Both the legislative employee and legislator must file a "close economic association" disclosure within 30 days of the notice that compensation will be received.
AS 24.60.070

IF YOU QUESTION
AN ACTIVITY
YOU ARE ABOUT TO PERFORM,
CALL THE ETHICS OFFICE
FOR CLARIFICATION.

Remember, when it comes to ethics,
what you don't know can hurt you!



Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season.~