

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE ETHICS
Alaska State Legislature**

THE ADVISOR

June 2005

Committee Members: Acting Chair H. Conner Thomas, Senator Ben Stevens, Senator Hollis French, Representative Max Gruenberg, Representative Bruce Weyhrauch, Dennis “Skip” Cook, Herman J. Walker Jr, Marianne Stillner and Ann Rabinowitz. .

Staff: Joyce Anderson **Office Hours:** Monday through Thursday

QUOTE OF THE MONTH: “Always do the right thing. It will gratify some and astonish the rest.”

Mark Twain

REMINDER:
SOME DISCLOSURES ARE DUE
DURING THE ITERIM

The following disclosures are always due **within 30 days of receipt** of the gift.

- **Gift of Travel/Hospitality for Legislative Matters - AS 24.60.080(c)(4)** – Have you taken a trip for legislative matters which was paid with funds other than legislative funds? Keep in mind if a state department or another government agency/organization provides the gift of travel/hospitality a disclosure is required. (Note: date of receipt is the date of travel/hospitality and not the date the reimbursement is received.)
- **Gift Received by Family Member Because of Legislative Connection – AS 24.60.080(i)** - Did an immediate family receive a gift worth \$250 or more because of your legislative connection? Example: Your spouse traveled to a conference with you and their expenses were paid by an agency/organization.
- **Gift of Legal Services Related to Legislative Matters - AS 24.60.080(c)(8)** – Did you receive a gift of legal services related to legislative matters worth \$250 or more? Please call the Ethics Office for more information if this situation applies.

Must be delivered to Legislative Council **within 60 days**.

- **Gift from Another Government** – AS 24.60.080(f) – Have you received a gift from another government or official worth \$250 or more?

IMPORTANT: Fines are levied for late disclosures. The fine is \$2.00 per day up to a maximum of \$100. Committee policy has been to allow for one late disclosure before levying fines. A late disclosure is a “one time only” waiver.

The forms for all disclosures are located in the 2005 Standards of Conduct Handbook as well as the ethics website (www.legis.state.ak.us and then click on Ethics). Please give the Ethics Office a call if you have questions about what to disclose or when the disclosure is due.

GIFTS

I have received numerous questions concerning gifts.

Gifts Received Because of Legislative Status: Keep in mind a legislator or legislative employee may receive a gift(s) from the same person/entity if less than \$250 aggregate in a calendar year. There is no reporting requirement. However, we suggest you keep a log of gifts received; description of item, date received, approximate value and from whom. If a gift(s) exceed the \$250 limit, the gift must be returned. You may not pay the difference in the value of the gift over \$250. Note: The four types of gifts previously mentioned do not apply to the above statement.

Gifts Received From Immediate Family Members: Gifts from immediate family members are not subject to disclosure and have no maximum dollar limit. Immediate family includes spouse or domestic partner, child, parent, sibling, grandparent, aunt or uncle, stepparent, step-sister/brother, step-grandparent, step-aunt or step-uncle pursuant to AS 24.60.080(k). (If the immediate family member is a lobbyist, please call the Ethics office for more information.)

Gifts Not Connected to Legislative Status: Gifts not connected to legislative status may be accepted at any time. If the gifts(s) from the same person/entity are worth more than \$250 in a calendar year, a confidential annual disclosure may be required under AS 24.60.080(c)(6). Please call the Ethics office for clarification. (If the gift is from a lobbyist, please call the Ethics office for more information.)

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

*Please check your **fax machine** to make sure the ID (phone number) and time are listed correctly. Ethics disclosures received by fax are recorded based on the date printed on the top of the form. Also, if you transported your fax machine from Juneau you may still have the Juneau phone number listed. The Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991 requires the following information on each fax sent: date, time, name of the individual sending the message and phone number. Thanks.*

NEW SECTION TO AS 24.60

Legislative Ethics Code

Chapter 163. Senate Bill 203. 2004 Regular Session of the Twenty-Third State Legislature. Effective July 1, 2005. An act relating to administrative hearings, to hearing officers, and to administrative law judges; establishing the office of administrative hearings and relating to that office; and providing for an effective date.

Please add the following language to your 2005 Standards of Conduct Handbook which was distributed at the beginning of the legislative session. (Note: Yellow section, page A-5.)

AS 24.60.030(i) (Effective July 1, 2005) Except for supplying information requested by the hearing officer or the individual, board, or commission with authority to make the final decision in the case, or when responding to contacts initiated by the hearing officer or the individual, board, or commission with authority to make the final decision in the case, a legislator or legislative employee may not attempt to influence the outcome of an administrative hearing by directly or indirectly contacting or attempting to contact the hearing officer assigned to the hearing or the individual, board, or commission with authority to make the final decision in the case unless the

- (1) contact is made in the presence of all parties to the hearing or the parties' representatives and the contact is made a part of the record; or
- (2) fact and substance of the contact is promptly disclosed by the legislator or legislative employee to all parties to the hearing and the contact is made a part of the record.

Have a Great Summer and Enjoy Our Beautiful Weather!!!

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P.S. Start an ethics file. Place the ADVISOR newsletter and copies of ethics disclosures in the file for future reference.