

SELECT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE ETHICS
Alaska State Legislature

THE ADVISOR
July 2003

Committee Members: Senator Ben Stevens, Senator Kim Elton, Representative Norman Rokeberg, Representative Mary Kapsner, H. Conner Thomas, Dennis "Skip" Cook, Bonnie Mehner, Herman G. Walker Jr, and Marianne Stillner

- **The committee would like to welcome Marianne Stillner as a new member to the committee. Ms. Stillner is from Auke Bay and was appointed on May 6, 2003 by Chief Justice Dana Fabe and confirmed by the Legislature during the 2003 session.**
- **The committee would like to thank Shirley McCoy for her service on the Ethics Committee. She served from 1993 to 2003. Her experience and historical perspective will be greatly missed.**

Staff: Joyce Anderson

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday

QUOTE OF THE MONTH: Ethics rules in government do not grow in a vacuum -- they reflect social and political standards of right and wrong. Arguably, the fundamental principal of ethical government is mutual respect. Eleanor D. Glor and Ian Greene, "The Evolution of Ethical Government" in the publication Public Integrity, Winter 2002-2003.

DISCLOSURES DUE DURING THE INTERIM
within 30 days of receipt of the gift

Gift of Travel/Hospitality for Legislative Matters - AS 24.60.080(c)(4) A disclosure is required if a legislator or legislative employee receives a gift of travel and hospitality for matters of legislative concern worth \$250 or more. If several gifts of travel/hospitality from the same person/entity total more than \$250 aggregate in a calendar year, all gifts must be disclosed when the threshold is met. No disclosure is required if legislative funds are used for the travel. However if a state department or another government agency/organization provides the gift, a disclosure is required.

Gift of Legal Services Related to Legislative Matters - AS 24.60.080(c)(8) A legislator or legislative employee who accepts a gift of legal services related to a legislative matter must disclose if the gift is worth \$250 or more, or if gifts for legal services from the same person/entity total \$250 or more in a calendar year.

Gift Received by Family Member Because of Legislative Connection - AS

24.60.080(i) A legislator or legislative employee who knows or reasonably should know that "a family member" has received a gift because of the family member's connection with the legislator or legislative employee shall report the gift with a value of over \$250. Family member means: spouse, spousal equivalent, child, including stepchild and adoptive child of the person, the spouse or the person's spousal equivalent, a parent, sibling, grandparent, aunt, uncle or step-relative of the person, the person's spouse or the person's spousal equivalent.

The forms for all disclosures are located in the 2003 Standards of Conduct Handbook distributed at the beginning of session as well as available on the ethics website (www.legis.state.ak.us and then click on Ethics).

Please give the Ethics Office a call if you have any questions about disclosures or any other ethical concerns.

**ETHICS LEGISLATION PASSED DURING
2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

SB 89 -- RELATING TO LOBBYING AND LEGISLATIVE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT Signed by the Governor June 20, 2003, Chapter 115 SLA 03, effective September 15, 2003.

The bill adds a new section to the ethics "gift" section allowing a legislator or legislative employee to accept a ticket from a lobbyist for a charity event at any time including during a legislative session. Tickets to or gifts received at a charity event are subject to the gift limit of \$250 per person/entity aggregate in a calendar year. Further the charity must be a registered 501(c)(3) organization and the Alaska Legislative Council must have approved the charity event in advance. The ticket entitles the bearer to entertainment, food or beverages, or other gifts or services.

Note: Many calls were received at the Ethics Office concerning this issue during the legislative session. Recently issued Advisory Opinion 02-02 is still effective with the exception of tickets from a lobbyist to a charity event as noted above.

SB 119 -- RELATING TO THE ALASKA PUBLIC OFFICES COMMISSION Signed by the Governor on June 17, 2003, Chapter 108 SLA 03, effective September 14, 2003.

The bill changes the term "spousal equivalent" in both the lobbying law and the ethics law to "domestic partner". The definition of "domestic partner" to mean a person who is cohabiting with another person in a relationship that is like a marriage but is not a legal marriage.

**CHANGE TO APPENDIX G
2003 STANDARDS OF CONDUCT HANDBOOK**

The Select Committee on Legislative Ethics at the June 3, 2003 meeting removed the Commercial Fishing and Agriculture Bank Loans as a reportable loan program under AS 24.60.050(c). Please delete this program from the list in Appendix G.

HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER
and
Enjoy our Beautiful Weather and Activities!!

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