

## § 7.1

- 7.6 Outside employment and activities by Commissioners.
- 7.7 Prohibition against making complaints and investigations public.
- 7.8 Ex parte communications in enforcement actions.

AUTHORITY: 2 U.S.C. 437c, 437d, and 438; 5 U.S.C. 7321 *et seq.* and app. 3.

SOURCE: 76 FR 70330, Nov. 14, 2011, unless otherwise noted.

### § 7.1 Scope.

(a) The regulations in this part apply to members and employees of the Federal Election Commission (“Commission”).

(b) In addition, members and employees of the Commission are subject to the following regulations:

(1) 5 CFR part 735 (Employee Responsibilities and Conduct);

(2) 5 CFR part 2634 (Executive Branch Financial Disclosure, Qualified Trusts, and Certificates of Divestiture);

(3) 5 CFR part 2635 (Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch); and

(4) 5 CFR part 4701 (Supplemental Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Federal Election Commission).

### § 7.2 Definitions.

As used in this part:

(a) *Commission* means the Federal Election Commission, 999 E Street NW., Washington, DC 20463.

(b) *Commissioner* means a member of the Federal Election Commission, in accordance with 2 U.S.C. 437c.

(c) *Designated Agency Ethics Official* means the employee designated by the Commission to administer the provisions of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. appendix), as amended, and includes a designee of the Designated Agency Ethics Official. The General Counsel serves as the Commission’s Designated Agency Ethics Official.

(d) *Employee* means an employee of the Federal Election Commission and includes a special Government employee as defined in 18 U.S.C. 202(a).

(e) *Ex parte communication* means any written or oral communication by any person outside the agency to any Commissioner or any member of any Commissioner’s staff, but not to any other

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Commission employee, that imparts information or argument regarding prospective Commission action or potential action concerning any pending enforcement matter.

(f) *Inspector General* means the individual appointed by the Commission to administer the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended (5 U.S.C. appendix), and includes any designee of the Inspector General.

### § 7.3 Interpretation and guidance.

(a) A Commissioner or employee seeking advice and guidance on matters covered by this part or 5 CFR parts 735, 2634, 2635, 2640, or 4701 may consult with the Designated Agency Ethics Official. The Designated Agency Ethics Official should be consulted before undertaking any action that might violate this part or 5 CFR parts 735, 2634, 2635, 2640, or 4701 governing the conduct of Commissioners or employees.

(b) The Designated Agency Ethics Official, a Commissioner, or an employee may request an opinion from the Director of the Office of Government Ethics regarding an interpretation of 5 CFR parts 2634, 2635, or 2640.

### § 7.4 Reporting suspected violations.

Commissioners and employees shall disclose immediately any suspected violation of a statute or of a rule set forth in this part or of a rule set forth in 5 CFR parts 735, 2634, 2635, 2640, or 4701 to the Designated Agency Ethics Official, the Office of Inspector General, or other appropriate law enforcement authorities.

### § 7.5 Corrective action.

A violation of this part or 5 CFR parts 735, 2634, 2635, 2640, or 4701 by an employee may be cause for appropriate corrective, disciplinary, or adverse action in addition to any penalty prescribed by law.

### § 7.6 Outside employment and activities by Commissioners.

No member of the Commission may devote a substantial portion of his or her time to any other business, vocation, or employment. Any individual who is engaging substantially in any