

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS

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[For the Office of Government Ethics statement of organization, see the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Title 5, Part 2600]

The Office of Government Ethics exercises leadership in the executive branch to prevent conflicts of interest on the part of Government employees and to resolve those conflicts of interest that do occur. In partnership with executive branch agencies and departments, the Office fosters high ethical standards for employees and strengthens the public's confidence that the Government's business is conducted with impartiality and integrity. The Office is the principal agency for administering the Ethics in Government Act for the executive branch.

The Office of Government Ethics is a separate executive agency established under the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, as amended (5 U.S.C. app. 401).

The Director of the Office is appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate for a 5-year term.

Activities

The chief responsibilities of the Office are:

- developing rules and regulations pertaining to standards of ethical conduct of executive branch officials, public and confidential financial disclosure of executive branch officials, executive agency ethics training programs, and the identification and resolution of conflicts of interest;
- monitoring and investigating compliance with the executive branch financial disclosure requirements of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, as amended;
- providing ethics program assistance and information to executive branch agencies through a desk officer system;

- conducting periodic reviews of the ethics programs of executive agencies;
- ordering corrective action on the part of agencies and employees, including orders to establish or modify an agency's ethics program;
- providing guidance on and promoting understanding of ethical standards in executive agencies through an extensive program of Government ethics advice, education, and training;
- evaluating the effectiveness of the Ethics Act, the conflict of interest laws, and other related statutes; and
- recommending appropriate new legislation or amendments.

Sources of Information

Electronic Access Information regarding Office of Government Ethics services and programs is available in electronic format on the Internet, at www.usoge.gov.

Publications The Office of Government Ethics periodically updates its publication, *The Informal Advisory Letters and Memoranda and Formal Opinions of the United States Office of*

Government Ethics, available from the Government Printing Office. In addition, the Office publishes a periodic newsletter on Government ethics and has available ethics publications, instructional videotapes, and a CD–

ROM. Upon request, the Office also provides copies of executive branch public financial disclosure reports (SF 278's) in accordance with the Ethics Act and the Office's regulations.

For further information, contact the Office of Government Ethics, Suite 500, 1201 New York Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20005–3917. Phone, 202–208–8000. TDD, 202–208–8025. Fax, 202–208–8037. Internet, www.usoge.gov.

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

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[For the Office of Personnel Management statement of organization, see the *Federal Register* of Jan. 5, 1979, 44 FR 1501]

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) administers a merit system to ensure compliance with personnel laws and regulations and assists agencies in recruiting, examining, and promoting people on the basis of their knowledge and skills, regardless of their race, religion, sex, political influence, or other nonmerit factors. OPM's role is to provide guidance to agencies in operating human resources programs which effectively support their missions and to provide an array of personnel services to applicants and employees. OPM supports Government program