

United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS
HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 220
SECOND AND CONSTITUTION AVENUE, NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6425

Annual Report of the Select Committee on Ethics 111th Congress, First Session

January 29, 2010

The Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007 (the “Act”) calls for the Select Committee on Ethics of the United States Senate to issue an annual report not later than January 31 of each year providing information in certain categories describing its activities for the preceding year. Reported below is the information describing the Committee’s activities in 2009 in the categories set forth in the Act:

(1) The number of alleged violations of Senate rules received from any source, including the number raised by a Senator or staff of the Committee: 99. (In addition, 26 alleged violations from the previous year were carried into 2009.)

(2) The number of alleged violations that were dismissed –

(A) For lack of subject matter jurisdiction or in which, even if the allegations in the complaint are true, no violation of Senate rules would exist: 58. (This figure includes 12 matters that were carried into 2009.)

(B) Because they failed to provide sufficient facts as to any material violation of the Senate rules beyond mere allegation or assertion: 45. (This figure includes 5 matters that were carried into 2009.)

(3) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry: 13. (This figure includes 8 matters from the previous year carried into 2009.)

(4) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry that resulted in an adjudicatory review: 0.

(5) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry and the Committee dismissed the matter for lack of substantial merit: 8. (This figure includes matters in which the Committee subsequently lost jurisdiction. It also includes two letters of public dismissal.)

(6) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry and the Committee issued private or public letters of admonition: 1.

(7) The number of matters resulting in a disciplinary sanction: 0.

(8) Any other information deemed by the Committee to be appropriate to describe its activities in the previous year:

- In 2009, the Committee staff **conducted 10 Member code of conduct training sessions and 5 new Member sessions; 19 employee code of conduct training sessions; 12 Member and committee office campaign briefings; 27 ethics seminars for Member DC offices, state offices, and Senate committees; 3 private sector ethics briefings; and 7 international ethics briefings.**
- In 2009, the Committee staff handled **12,667 telephone inquiries** for ethics advice and guidance.
- In 2009, the Committee wrote **996 ethics advisory letters and responses** including, but not limited to, **752 travel and gifts matters** (Senate Rule 35) and **111 conflict of interest matters** (Senate Rule 37).
- In 2009, the Committee **issued 3,309 letters concerning financial disclosure filings** by Senators, Senate staff and Senate candidates and **reviewed 1,663 reports.**