

# United States Senate

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

## Annual Report for 2008 – Select Committee on Ethics

January 30, 2009

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 no 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 2008 in the categories set forth in the Act:

(1) *The number of alleged violations of Senate rules received from any source [in 2008], including the number raised by a Senator or staff of the Committee: **85**.* (This figure does not include 13 alleged violations from the previous year carried into 2008.)

(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: **52**.* (This figure includes 5 matters originating in the previous year.)

(B) *Because they failed to provide sufficient facts as to any material violation of the Senate rules beyond mere allegation or assertion: **21**.* (This figure includes 4 matters originating in the previous year.)

(3) *The number of alleged violations in which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry: **10**.* (This figure includes 4 matters from the previous year carried into 2008.)

(4) *The number of alleged violations that resulted in an adjudicatory review: **0**.*

(5) *The number of alleged violations that the Committee dismissed for lack of substantial merit: **4**.* (This figure includes 1 matter from the previous year carried into 2008.)

(6) *The number of private letters of admonition or public letters of admonition issued: **2**.*

(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:*

- Between January 4 and February 25, 2008 the Committee staff conducted mandatory ethics training for all Senate employees: **8 training sessions for Members, 19 training sessions for staff, and 1 training session for Member spouses.** In addition, the Committee conducted **11 new employee training sessions** during the year; **17 ethics seminars** for Member DC offices, state offices, Senate committees, and outside delegations; **2 mandatory campaign related ethics briefings**; and **1 Senator-elect orientation session and 1 training session for transition staff.**
- In 2008, Committee staff handled **15,555 telephone inquiries** for ethics advice and guidance.
- In 2008, the Committee wrote **1,264 ethics advisory letters and responses**, including **869 advisories concerning gifts or travel.**
- The Committee issued **3,395 letters concerning financial disclosure filings** by Senators, Senate staff and Senate candidates and reviewed **1,510 reports.**