

United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Annual Report of the Select Committee on Ethics 115th Congress, Second Session

January 29, 2018

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 31st 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 2017 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: 124. (In addition, 2 alleged violations from the previous year were carried into 2017.)

(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: 108.

(B) Because they failed to provide sufficient facts as to any material violation of the Senate rules beyond mere allegation or assertion: 3.

(3) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry: 11. (This figure includes 2 matters from the previous year carried into 2017.)

(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 or because it was inadvertent, technical or otherwise of a *de minimis* nature: 4.

(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: 0.

(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 2017, the Committee staff conducted **2 new Member and staff ethics training sessions; 17 Member and committee office campaign briefings; 24 employee Code of Conduct training sessions; 6 public financial disclosure clinics, seminars, and webinars; 14 ethics seminars and customized briefings for Member DC offices, state offices, and Senate committees; 5 private sector ethics briefings; and 6 international briefings.**
- In 2017, the Committee staff handled approximately **11,067 telephone inquiries and 2,722 inquiries by email** for ethics advice and guidance.
- In 2017, the Committee wrote approximately **903 ethics advisory letters and responses** including, but not limited to, **692 travel and gifts matters** (Senate Rule 35) and **85 conflict of interest matters** (Senate Rule 37).
- In 2017, the Committee received **4,141 public financial disclosure and periodic disclosure of financial transactions reports.**