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Annual Report for 2012

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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 112th Congress

January 31, 2013

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 2012 in the categories set forth in the Act:

- (1) The number of alleged violations of Senate rules received from any source, including those raised by a Senator or staff of the Committee: 47. (In addition, two alleged violations from the previous year were carried into 2012.)
- (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: 36.
 - (B) Because they failed to provide sufficient facts as to any material violation of the Senate rules beyond mere allegation or assertion: 8.
- (3) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry: 5. (The figure includes two matters from the previous calendar year carried into 2012.)
- (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: 1.
- (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: 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:
 - In 2012, the Committee staff conducted **three new Member ethics training sessions; 33 Member and committee office campaign briefings; 18 employee code of conduct training sessions; 11 Member, spouse, and employee STOCK (Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge) Act briefings; eight public financial disclosure**

seminars and clinics; 24 ethics seminars and customized briefings for Member DC offices, state offices, and Senate committees; six private sector ethics briefings; and 15 international briefings.

- In 2012, the Committee staff handled approximately **9,616 telephone inquiries and 2,097 email inquiries by email** for ethics advice and guidance.
- In 2012, the Committee wrote approximately **761 ethics advisory letters**, including **576 letters regarding travel and gifts matters** (Senate Rule 35) and **113 letters regarding conflict of interest matters** (Senate Rule 37).
- In 2012, the Committee received and reviewed approximately **3,142** Periodic Disclosure of Financial Transactions reports filed by Members, officers, and employees of the Senate.
- In 2012, the Committee **issued 3,259 advisory letters concerning financial disclosure filings** by Senators, staff, and Senate candidates and **reviewed 1,915 reports**.