

OSE NEWS

February 2020

Advisory Opinion Update

On February 20, 2020 the *Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board* met and decided on the opinion, summarized below. Click on the Advisory Opinion number to read the full text of the opinion.

Advisory Opinion No. 2020-1

Application of the Code of Ethics Concerning Free Travel for Faculty Members

The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board concluded that based on the facts presented, the Code of Ethics for Public Officials does not permit faculty-led travel. The conclusion is confined to the specific facts outlined in the "Facts" section, and there may be other models that present no concerns under the Code.

Ethics Liaison Action Items

REMINDER: Review Ethics Liaison List for Accuracy

Designation of Filers of Statements of Financial Interests

As we continue to prepare for the May 1, 2020 Statements of Financial Interests filing deadline; recent retirements, and employee transfers may require changes to the list of required SFI filers. Please take some time during the upcoming weeks to update the list of SFI filers using the online filing system. Please complete updates by **Monday, March 2, 2020**.

The Office of State Ethics will send the first Notice of Filing to required filers on March 16, 2020.

Governor's Standard and Designation Guidelines (Rev. 1/2020)

The current standard requires "filing of Annual Statements of Financial Interests by all persons in the Executive Branch and Quasi-Public Agencies who exercise (i) significant policy-making, regulatory or contractual authority; (ii) significant decision-making and/or supervisory responsibility for the review and/or award of State contracts; or (iii) significant decision-making and/or supervisory responsibility over staff that monitor State contracts."

For New Employees: Within ten days, the ethics liaison should add the new employee to the designation list and enter them into the filing system.

New employees who assume their designated positions after March 31 must file SFIs for the preceding year within 30 days of assuming such positions. New employees who assume their designated positions between January 1 and March 31 must file SFIs for the preceding year by May 1.

For Departing Employees: Within ten days, the ethics liaison must update the designation list and enter the departure date of the individual, this action prompts the Office of State Ethics to notice these individuals of their requirement to file an SFI within 60 days of their departure.

Current employees who are designated filers must file annually by May 1.

Our Number One Rule: Always Get Advice!

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Ethics Matters!



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