

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Office of Inspector General
Washington, DC 20546-0001



March 31, 2009

TO: NASA General Counsel

FROM: Assistant Inspector General for Auditing

SUBJECT: Addendum to Results of Review of Required Registration Fee for the
2008 NASA General Counsel Conference (Report No. IG-09-010,
January 29, 2009)

In an e-mail response to our report (see the Enclosure), the Lead Counsel for the Science Mission Directorate and the Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate, on behalf of the Office of the General Counsel (OGC), agreed to implement our recommendation. Specifically, the response stated that your office would cease the practice of requiring employees, as a condition of a Government activity, to pay for non-reimbursable expenses. Although OGC took exception to the possibility of an ethics rule violation, we consider this recommendation closed for reporting purposes since our recommendation will be implemented.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 202-358-2572.

signed

Evelyn R. Klemstine

Enclosure

cc:

Lead Counsel, Science Mission Directorate and Aeronautics Research Mission
Directorate

Management's Comments

From: McCarthy, Richard J. (HQ-MD000)
Sent: Thursday, March 05, 2009 2:47 PM
To: Devlin, Daniel (HQ-WBH10)
Cc: Wholley, Michael C. (HQ-MA000); Sherman, Richard W. (HQ-MC000); Falcon, R Andrew (HQ-MB000); Harris, Randolph (HQ-MA000); Miller, Lisha A. (HQ-LK000)
Subject: OIG inquiry into 2008 GC Conference/OIG Report No. 09-010

Mr. Devlin:

In response to your inquiry to me, and on behalf of the OGC management team, we respond to the OIG Report 09-010, recommendation No. 1. You will recall this concerned the requirement of a mandatory fee payment from employees for food and beverages, and other expenses, during the conduct of the 2008 General Counsel's conference held in Washington, D.C.

Be advised that the OGC will no longer require the payment of the fee from employees at future meetings. In addition, the OGC does not concur with the finding contained in the Report 09-010 regarding the implication of an ethics rules violation due to the imposition of the cited fee.

Please contact me if you have any questions. Thank you.

Richard J. McCarthy
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Science Mission Directorate
Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate
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