



OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

David Skaggs, Chair *Porter Goss, Co-Chair*
Yvonne Burke *Jay Eagen*
Karan English *William Frenzel*
Allison Hayward *Abner Mikva*

Leo J. Wise, Staff Director & Chief Counsel
1017 Longworth House Office Building
(202) 225-9739
(202) 226-0882 fax

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 20, 2008

Contact: Bill Cable
202-225-9739

LEO WISE TO HEAD OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS

The Board of the Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE) has named Leo J. Wise, a former trial attorney at the United States Department of Justice (DOJ), as the office's first Staff Director and Chief Counsel.

Wise served most recently as a counsel to the Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Criminal Division at the DOJ. Prior to that, he was a trial attorney in the Fraud Section, a member of the Enron Task Force that successfully prosecuted Ken Lay and Jeffrey Skilling and a member of the Tobacco Litigation Team that successfully prosecuted the federal government's civil racketeering case against the cigarette industry. Wise received the top honors awarded by the Attorney General of the United States and the Director of the FBI.

Prior to joining the DOJ through the Attorney General's Honors Program, Wise was a law clerk to the Honorable Jan E. Dubois of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. He is a graduate of Harvard Law School, the School of Advanced International Studies and the Johns Hopkins University. He is an officer in the United States Navy Reserve and an adjunct professor the School of Public Affairs at American University.

"The Board of OCE is delighted that Leo Wise will bring his exceptional experience and good judgment in the conduct of high-profile and sensitive investigations to the work of the Office," commented David E. Skaggs, Chairman of the Board of the OCE. Porter Goss Co-Chairman of the Board noted that, "with the hiring of a Staff Director and Chief Counsel, the Board will now be in a position to adopt rules of procedure for its investigations and begin operation in the 111th Congress."

The Office of Congressional Ethics, established by the House of Representatives, is an independent, non-partisan entity charged with reviewing allegations of misconduct against House Members and staff and, when appropriate, referring matters to the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct (commonly referred to as the Ethics Committee).

###