When may I accept an invitation?
- Like any other personal gift, you may accept an invitation if:
  - it is based on a personal relationship;
  - it is from someone with no interests in matters before the Department and no one is being charged to attend;
  - it is to an event at which you are speaking as a Government official;
  - it is from a foreign government; or
  - you pay fair market value.
- In addition, if you are not a political appointee, you may accept the invitation if:
  - it is $20 or less in value (if total gifts from that source are $50 or less that year) or
  - it is to a "widely-attended gathering" and is approved by your supervisor.
- If you are a political appointee, you may accept an invitation of less than $20 or to a widely-attended event only if it is not from a lobbyist or lobbying organization.

What is a "widely-attended gathering"?
- A widely-attended gathering (or WAG) is an event with a large number of people (usually more than 40) from outside the U.S. Government who represent a diversity of views.

When may I accept an invitation to a widely-attended gathering (WAG)?
- You can accept an invitation to a WAG if your supervisor approves based on a determination that the benefit of the employee's attendance will outweigh any appearance of personal benefit and loss of impartiality.

Do some events present a problem?
- Yes, you cannot accept an invitation to an event if:
  - the event is primarily entertainment;
  - the invitation is not from the host and either the value is more than $390 or fewer than 100 persons are attending; or
  - if you are a political appointee, the invitation is from (or the host is) a lobbyist or lobbying organization.

How do I obtain approval to attend a widely-attended gathering?
- You must get written approval from a supervisor. The Ethics Law and Programs Division has created a form that can be used by supervisor; it is available through a link on the Division webpage at www.commerce.gov/ethics.