

RESTRICTIONS AFTER LEAVING FEDERAL SERVICE

A WORD
ABOUT
ETHICS

Are there restrictions on me after I leave Federal service?

- Yes. After you leave the Government you cannot represent (see below) anyone before a Federal agency or Federal court regarding:
 - any specific-party matter (see below) on which you worked or
 - for 2 years after leaving the Government, any specific-party matter on which a subordinate worked.

Are these the only restrictions?

- No. You also cannot:
 - use protected nonpublic information,
 - receive payment for representational activities of others (such as a partner of yours) that took place during the period you worked for the Government, or
 - testify on matters related to your Government work.

What is a “specific-party matter”?

- Any matter in which those involved are identified by name, such as a contract, grant, patent, law suit, or license.

What is “representing”?

- Communicating to a Federal official to influence Government action on behalf of someone other than yourself.

Are there any additional restrictions?

- Yes. In addition to the general restrictions on all employees:
 - *senior employees* (employees with base pay of \$160,111.50 or more per year, paid under the Executive Schedule, or are O-7 or higher) are barred for 1 year (or 2 years for political appointees) from representing anyone before their former agency and for 1 year from representing or advising a foreign government on its dealings with the U.S. Government;
 - *political appointees* are also barred from contacting as a lobbyist any political appointee during the President’s term;
 - *attorneys* are subject to bar rules;
 - *employees who received a buy-out* are barred for 5 years from re-employment with the Government;
 - *procurements official and project managers* for a procurement of \$10,000,000 or more are barred for 1 year from receiving compensation from the contractor;
 - *EDA employees* are barred for 2 years from working for EDA grantees; and
 - *USPTO employees* are barred for 1 year from obtaining patent rights.

How can I get advice and more information about these rules?

- By contacting an ethics official at 202-482-5384 or ethicsdivision@doc.gov.

Ethics Law and Programs Division – Office of the General Counsel – United States
Department of Commerce

202-482-5384 – ethicsdivision@doc.gov – www.commerce.gov/ethics

August 31, 2016