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COUNSEL TO THE CHAIR

R. BLAKE CHISAM,  
CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

## U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF  
OFFICIAL CONDUCT

Washington, DC 20515-6328

JO BONNER, ALABAMA  
RANKING REPUBLICAN MEMBER

K. MICHAEL CONAWAY, TEXAS  
CHARLES W. DENT, PENNSYLVANIA  
GREGG HARPER, MISSISSIPPI  
MICHAEL T. McCAUL, TEXAS

TODD UNGERECHT  
COUNSEL TO THE RANKING  
REPUBLICAN MEMBER

SUITE HT-2, THE CAPITOL  
(202) 225-7103

February 19, 2010

The Honorable Robert Brady  
Chairman  
Committee on House Administration  
1309 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with the regulations of the Committee on House Administration, I am submitting herewith three copies of the monthly report for January including:

1. Summary of Progress and projected programs;
2. Statement of Expense under H.R. 279B (111<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2nd Session); and Statement of Expense under H.R. 279 (111<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session); and
3. A listing of Committee employees showing addresses, duties, and gross monthly salaries.

This letter certifies that copies of this report are available to each Member of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

Sincerely,



Zoe Lofgren  
Chair

Enclosures

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COMMITTEE  
HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

## **COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT**

**January 2010**

The Committee continued to fulfill its responsibilities to advise and educate Members and staff on the laws, rules and standards of official conduct. (An enumeration of those laws and rules is found in H. Rep. 110-938, *Summary of Activities, One Hundred Tenth Congress, A Report of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct*, 110<sup>th</sup> Cong., 2d Sess. (Jan. 3, 2009).) As a general matter, the Committee's activities in receiving and responding to requests for advice from House Members and staff are conducted on a confidential basis. The Committee received 45 requests for advisory opinions in January of 2010.

In cooperation with the Committee on House Administration and the Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards, the Committee also issued advice to Members and staff about the extent to which official resources may be used to help those impacted by the devastating earthquake in Haiti. That memorandum is available on the Committee's Web site, at <http://ethics.house.gov/>.

In accordance with the Rules of the House of Representatives of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, the Committee continued to review and approve privately sponsored, officially connected travel. The Committee received 179 such requests in January of 2010.

The Committee also announced the appointment of a bipartisan working group to assess and make recommendations regarding its process for the review and approval of privately-funded, officially connected travel by House members, officers, and employees. Committee members Representative Peter Welch and Representative Charles Dent will comprise the working group.

House Rule 25, clause 5(i) charges the Committee with undertaking an annual review of its guidelines and regulations regarding such travel. While the Committee has undertaken such a review each year, the Committee determined that, based on its three years of experience in managing the travel approval process, a more in-depth review of the process and regulations would result in significant improvements to the efficiency, effectiveness, and transparency of the travel review process. The Committee will seek public input during the working group's review process.

In addition, the Committee is required under the House rules to offer annual ethics training to each Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, officer, and employee of the House. Such training is mandatory for all House officers and employees, and new officers or employees must receive training not later than 60 days after beginning service to the House. The Committee continued to provide such training in January of 2010. The Committee provided training sessions attended by 216 individuals in January of 2010.

The Committee continued to fulfill its investigatory responsibilities, and publicly announced action with respect to one investigation.

Rep. Fortney “Pete” Stark. On January 28, 2010, the Committee announced that it had unanimously voted to release a public Report finding that Representative Pete Stark did not violate any provision of the Code of Official Conduct or any law, rule, or regulation, or other standard of conduct applicable to his conduct in the performance of his duties or the discharge of his responsibilities relating to a state law requirement that all Maryland homeowners submit a one-time application to verify eligibility for a property tax credit called the Homestead Tax Credit. The Committee found that no further action in this matter is warranted. The matter was dismissed and the Committee considers it closed.

In accordance with clauses 3(a)(2) and 3(b) of House Rule XI and Committee Rule 10(a)(7), the Committee unanimously agreed to issue the Report to the House. The Report follows the receipt of materials forwarded to the Committee by the Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE) and addresses the findings and conclusions of the Committee with regard to conduct of Representative Stark. OCE’s Report and Findings and Representative Stark’s Response are contained within the Committee’s Report.

The Report is available on the Committee’s Web site, at <http://ethics.house.gov/>.

Rep. Todd Tiaht. On January 15, 2010, the Chair and Ranking Republican Member of the Committee announced that they have jointly decided to extend a matter regarding Representative Todd Tiaht, which was transmitted to the Committee by the Office of Congressional Ethics on December 2, 2009. The Committee will announce its course of action in this matter forwarded to the Committee by the Office of Congressional Ethics on or before March 2, 2010.

Rep. Peter Visclosky. On January 15, 2010, the Chair and Ranking Republican Member of the Committee announced that they have jointly decided to extend a matter regarding Representative Peter Visclosky, which was transmitted to the Committee by the Office of Congressional Ethics on December 2, 2009. The Committee will announce its course of action in this matter forwarded to the Committee by the Office of Congressional Ethics on or before March 2, 2010.

In testimony before the Committee on House Administration, the Chair and Ranking Republican Member reviewed the Committee’s work and accomplishments in 2009, as well as its budget. The prepared statements of the Chair and Ranking Republican Member, which detail the scope of the Committee’s work in 2009, are included with this report. The Committee’s budget for the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session, was \$2.7 million. Of that amount, as of December 31, 2009, the Committee had spent \$2.2 million, with approximately another \$0.2 million obligated. The Committee anticipates returning approximately \$0.3 million in unspent funds. These funds were not spent because for part of the year, the Committee was not fully staffed.

At the outset of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, the Committee on Standards employed only 15 staff, and had 9 vacancies. It lacked a permanent staff director. Of its staff, only one attorney was fully dedicated to the Committee's investigative work. During 2009, the Committee's Director of Advice and Education was appointed by the President to serve as the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama. However, in the last year, the Committee hired 11 new staff, including a permanent staff director and chief counsel, a deputy chief counsel and seven investigative attorneys. As a result, the Committee is fully staffed for the first time.

To assist the Committee in continuing to fulfill its essential responsibilities and to promote an effective, active, nonpartisan ethics process, the Committee respectfully requests additional funding for 2010 in the amount of \$600,000 to hire additional staff and improve its use of technology. In addition to being fully staffed for the first time, the Committee has sought and received authorization to expand from its current allotment for 24 full-time employees to 29 employees. The Committee intends to fill those positions by hiring a new Director of Advice and Education, three investigative counsels, and an additional counsel for its financial disclosure unit. Funding these positions will require an additional \$550,000. The Committee also plans to begin designing appropriate technological solutions to improve its travel, training and financial disclosure systems and processes, which would require an additional \$50,000 for the purpose of entering into contracts to commence the design of software for these purposes.

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**Testimony**  
**Rep. Zoe Lofgren, Chair**  
**Committee on Standards of Official Conduct**

**Before the**  
**Committee on House Administration**

**January 27, 2010**

Good morning, Chairman Brady and Ranking Member Lungren. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee on House Administration today on behalf of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. We appreciate this opportunity to return and provide you with a status report of how the Committee on Standards has expended its budget during the past year, as well as its activities in general.

As you know, the Committee is tasked with ensuring that Members, officers and employees of the House adhere to and uphold the highest standards of ethical conduct in the performance of the duties. The Committee has sole jurisdiction over the interpretation of the Code of Official Conduct, which governs the acts of House Members, officers, and employees. The Committee is the only standing House committee with equal numbers of Democratic and Republican members. The Committee's staff is required by rule to be professional and nonpartisan. We are committed to an active, fair and nonpartisan ethics process.

The Committee's core responsibilities include providing training, advice, and education to House Members, officers, and employees; reviewing and approving requests to accept privately-sponsored travel related to official duties; reviewing and certifying all financial disclosure reports Members, candidates and senior staff are required to file; and investigating and adjudicating allegations of impropriety and violations of House ethics rules.

From a budget perspective, the Committee's budget for the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session, was \$2.7 million. Of that amount, as of December 31, 2009, the Committee had spent \$2.2 million, with approximately another \$0.2 million obligated. The Committee anticipates returning approximately \$0.3 million in unspent funds. These funds were not spent because for part of the year, the Committee was not fully staffed.

When we appeared before this committee last year, at the outset of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, the Committee on Standards employed only 15 staff, and had 9 vacancies. It lacked a permanent staff director. Of its staff, only one attorney was fully dedicated to the Committee's investigative work. During 2009, the Committee's Director of Advice and Education was appointed by the President to serve as the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama.

However, in the last year, the Committee hired 11 new staff, including a permanent staff director and chief counsel, a deputy chief counsel and seven investigative attorneys. As a result, the Committee is fully staffed for the first time – and the staff has been hard at work.

Within the scope of its training, advice and education, travel, and financial disclosure responsibilities, in 2009 the Committee:

- issued more than 475 formal advisory opinions regarding ethics rules;
- released seven advisory memoranda on various ethics topics to the House;
- fielded more than 9,700 informal telephone calls and 3,900 emails requesting guidance on ethics issues;
- provided training to more than 10,500 House Members, officers, and employees, and reviewed their certifications for satisfying the House's mandatory training requirements; and
- reviewed more than 2,700 financial disclosure statements filed by House Members, senior staff, and House candidates.

Within the scope of its investigative responsibilities, there are currently 48 investigative matters before the Committee. The Committee's workload, just within its investigative unit, is substantial. In 2009, the Committee:

- commenced or continued investigative fact-gathering regarding the conduct of 36 House Members, seven House employees, and one general matter;
- issued 17 full Committee subpoenas;
- resolved 25 investigative matters without empaneling an investigative subcommittee or taking other formal action;
- empaneled three investigative subcommittees; and

- carried over and expanded the jurisdiction of a fourth investigative subcommittee.

Collectively, in 2009, the four currently active investigative subcommittees formed by the Committee:

- authorized the issuance of 199 subpoenas;
- interviewed 91 witnesses;
- reviewed 31,900 pages of documents; and
- held approximately 80 investigative subcommittee meetings.

The Committee will build on this record in 2010. To assist the Committee in continuing to fulfill its essential responsibilities and to promote an effective, active, nonpartisan ethics process, the Committee respectfully requests additional funding for 2010 in the amount of \$600,000.

As I noted a moment ago, the Committee is now fully staffed for the first time. In addition, we have sought and received authorization to expand from the Committee's current allotment for 24 full-time employees to 29 employees. The Committee intends to fill those positions by hiring a new Director of Advice and Education, three investigative counsels, and an additional counsel for its financial disclosure unit. Funding these positions will require an additional \$550,000.

The Committee has a substantial investigative workload. Currently, there are 48 investigative matters before the Committee. Four investigative subcommittees continue their work. In other matters the Committee is investigating, but thus far has not opted to empanel investigative subcommittees, the Committee's staff faces the task of scrutinizing in excess of 200,000 pages of documents, with more expected to arrive, to perform its duties. Hiring additional investigative counsels is essential to helping the Committee address its investigative responsibilities.

In addition, to allow the Committee to begin designing appropriate technological solutions to improve its travel, training and financial disclosure systems and processes, we are requesting an additional \$50,000 for the purpose of entering into contracts to commence the design of software for these purposes.

For these reasons, the Ranking Republican Member and I believe that our request for additional funds for the on Standards of Official Conduct is both necessary and appropriate. We thank you and the members of the Committee on House Administration for your consideration, and we look forward to answering any questions you may have.

Statement of  
Ranking Member Jo Bonner  
Committee on Standards of Official Conduct

Before the  
Committee on House Administration  
January 27, 2010

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ranking Member, and other distinguished members of the committee, thank you very much for the opportunity to be here to speak about the Ethics Committee's budget and its status in accomplishing our priorities during the 111th Congress.

I am honored to serve as the Ranking Member of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct with Chairwoman Lofgren, and eight of our House colleagues. We share a commitment to preserve the highest ethical standards of the House of Representatives, and to increase American citizens' confidence in their elected representatives.

As you know, the most important function of this committee is to help educate and provide professional advice to Members and House staff about many complex ethical issues and to ensure that they meet their ethical responsibilities. This past year, the Committee focused on improving both the timeliness and the quality of the guidance, and I am pleased that significant progress has been made in this regard.

Last year, more than 10,500 House Members and their staff, in Washington, DC and in district offices throughout the country certified that they completed ethics training. The ethics committee also issued 475 confidential, formal written advisory opinions and responded to thousands of telephone calls and emails from Members and staff on a variety of ethics questions. The Committee has also reviewed over 2,700 financial disclosure reports and over 1,600 requests for privately-sponsored travel to assist Member and staff compliance with House rules. While we have improved the advice and education and financial disclosure review functions, more progress must be made to improve the timeliness of the responses to Members and staff.

In addition, the Committee is responsible for fairly and consistently addressing potential violations of House rules. In 2009, we also took steps to improve transparency, including more frequent public reports on the Committee's activities. The Committee reviewed and took action on over three dozen matters involving Member conduct. Many of these involve serious allegations, and the Committee has hired several senior level attorneys with investigative experience to ensure each matter will be handled fairly and professionally.

The Committee became fully staffed in the latter part of 2009, but continues to tackle an increased workload. There are other goals and challenges facing the Committee as we move forward in 2010, including improving technology for a variety of the Committee's functions. I look forward to continue working with Chairwoman Lofgren to ensure we efficiently allocate the resources we are given to achieve our goals, and at the same time, that we respect and protect the institution that the American people look to and know as the United States Congress.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

United States House of Representatives  
Committee on Standards of Official Conduct  
Fund Balance Statement as of 1/31/2010

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All BOC codes

Resolution: 279B

Report Done: 2/18/2010

Whole Committee - Funding Limit

Less Expenses

Total Authorization      \$3,441,922.00

Year	Month
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2010	January	\$210,652.85
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Total Committee Expenses to Date		\$210,652.85
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Unexpended Authorization		\$3,231,269.15
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# Committee on Standards of Official Conduct

H. Res. Resolution: 279B

Statement of expenses from 1/1/2010 to 1/31/2010

Whole Committee - Funding Limit

Report Done: Thursday, February 18, 2010

<b>Category</b>	<b>January 2010</b>	<b>Cumulative For Funding Resolution: 279B</b>	<b>1/31/2010</b>
Staff Salaries	\$210,051.29	\$210,051.29	
Overtime	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Consultant Contracts	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Equipment	\$466.35	\$466.35	
Travel	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Rent, Communications and Utilities	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Printing and Reproduction	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Miscellaneous Other Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Specialized Training	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Training Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Representational Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Supplies and Materials	\$135.21	\$135.21	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$210,652.85</b>	<b>\$210,652.85</b>	

# Committee on Standards of Official Conduct

H. Res. Resolution: 279BF

Statement of expenses from 1/1/2010 to 1/31/2010

Whole Committee - Funding Limit

Report Done: Tuesday, February 16, 2010

<b>Category</b>	<b>January 2010</b>	<b>Cumulative For Funding Resolution: 279BF</b>	<b>1/31/2010</b>
Staff Salaries	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Overtime	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Consultant Contracts	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Travel	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Rent, Communications and Utilities	\$19.60	\$19.60	\$19.60
Printing and Reproduction	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Miscellaneous Other Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Specialized Training	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Training Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Representational Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Supplies and Materials	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$19.60</b>	<b>\$19.60</b>	<b>\$19.60</b>

United States House of Representatives  
Committee on Standards of Official Conduct  
Fund Balance Statement as of 1/31/2010

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All BOC codes

Resolution: 279BF

Report Done: 2/16/2010

Whole Committee - Funding Limit

Less Expenses

Total Authorization      \$5,000.00

Year	Month
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2010	January
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\$19.60

Total Committee Expenses to Date

\$19.60

Unexpended Authorization

\$4,980.40

United States House of Representatives  
Committee on Standards of Official Conduct  
Fund Balance Statement as of 1/31/2010

All BOC codes

Resolution: 279

Report Done: 2/18/2010

Whole Committee - Funding Limit

Less Expenses

Total Authorization      \$2,735,247.00

Year	Month	
2009	January	\$133,847.97
2009	February	\$145,514.71
2009	March	\$166,502.65
2009	April	\$166,458.23
2009	May	\$159,343.73
2009	June	\$163,857.19
2009	July	\$169,680.38
2009	August	\$180,341.03
2009	September	\$219,977.45
2009	October	\$229,272.81
2009	November	\$248,570.87
2009	December	\$236,976.28
2010	January	\$45,731.81
Total Committee Expenses to Date		\$2,266,075.11
Unexpended Authorization		\$469,171.89

## Committee on Standards of Official Conduct

H. Res. Resolution: 279

Statement of expenses from 1/1/2010 to 1/31/2010

Whole Committee - Funding Limit

Report Done: Thursday, February 18, 2010

<b>Category</b>	<b>January 2010</b>	<b>Cumulative For Funding Resolution: 279</b>	<b>1/31/2010</b>
Staff Salaries	\$15,003.51	\$2,078,056.13	
Overtime	\$1,101.55	\$1,504.32	
Transit Benefits	\$0.00	\$2,028.61	
Consultant Contracts	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Equipment	\$6,922.85	\$39,327.25	
Travel	\$0.00	\$576.72	
Rent, Communications and Utilities	\$3,538.66	\$28,042.33	
Printing and Reproduction	\$127.60	\$2,318.20	
Miscellaneous Other Services	\$2,587.29	\$41,181.79	
Specialized Training	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Training Expenses	\$0.00	\$3,910.00	
Representational Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Supplies and Materials	\$16,450.35	\$69,129.76	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$45,731.81</b>	<b>\$2,266,075.11</b>	

**COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT**

**January 2010**

**STANDING COMMITTEE STAFF**

<b><u>NAMES</u></b>	<b><u>ADDRESSES</u></b>	<b><u>DUTIES</u></b>	<b><u>MONTHLY SALARIES</u></b>
Marc Borodin	Fairfax, VA	Counsel	11,833.33
Blake Chisam	Arlington, VA	Chief Counsel/Staff Director	14,375.00
Sheria Clarke	Woodbridge, VA	Counsel	6,666.67
Frank Davies	McLean, VA	Senior Investigator	8,755.00
Carol Dixon	Washington, DC	Counsel	12,482.32
Samuel Harvey	Washington, DC	Staff Assistant	1,715.28
Donna Hayes	Hyattsville, MD	Staff Assistant	2,753.63
John V. Jesaitis	Washington, DC	Committee Investigative Staff	5,000.00
Amelia Johnson	Arlington, VA	Investigative Clerk	2,916.67
Peter L. Johnson	Alexandria, VA	System & Financial Disclosure Admin.	7,275.89
Morgan Kim	Arlington, VA	Deputy Chief Counsel	13,977.79
Deborah M. Morris	Alexandria, VA	Counsel	11,833.33
Susan Olson	Arlington, VA	Counsel	12,482.32
Deborah Peay	Washington, DC	Senior Financial Disclosure Manager	9,876.98
Margaret Perl	Falls Church, VA	Counsel	8,219.40

<u>NAMES</u>	<u>ADDRESSES</u>	<u>DUTIES</u>	<u>SALARIES</u>
Thomas A. Rust	Arlington, VA	Counsel	8,750.00
Donald Sherman	Washington, DC	Counsel	6,666.67
Stan Simpson	Takoma Park, MD	Director of Financial Disclosure Review	11,172.00
Tonia Smith	Baltimore, MD	Counsel	11,172.00
Stacey Sovereign	McLean, VA	Counsel	9,833.33
Clifford Stoddard, Jr.	Clinton, MD	Counsel	10,130.11
Daniel Taylor	Arlington, VA	Counsel to the Chair	11,951.67
Todd Ungerecht	Herndon, VA	Counsel to the Ranking Republican Member	11,951.67
Joanne White	Ft. Wash., MD	Administrative Staff Director	9,942.46

**Overtime**

Samuel Harvey \$445.31  
Amelia Johnson \$656.24