

standards established in the interpretative regulations promulgated, either in interim or final form by the Office of Government Ethics and published at 5 CFR part 737.

(b) Former officers and employees of the Department wanting to know whether a proposed course of conduct would be in conformity with the Act or the interpretive regulations thereunder may contact the Assistant Legal Adviser for Management to request an advisory opinion.

Subpart C—Administrative Enforcement Proceedings

§ 18.6 Authority to prohibit appearances.

Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 207(j), if the Director General finds, after notice and opportunity for a hearing, that a former officer or employee of the Department has violated 18 U.S.C. 207(a), (b) or (c), the Director General in his/her discretion may prohibit that person from engaging in practice before the Department for a period not to exceed five years, or may take other appropriate disciplinary action.

§ 18.7 Report of violation by a former employee.

(a) If an officer or employee of the Department has reason to believe that a former officer or employee of the Department has violated any provision of this part, or if any such officer or employee receives information to that effect, he/she shall promptly make a written report thereof, which report or a copy thereof shall be forwarded to the Director General. If any other person has information of such violations, he/she may make a report thereof to the Director General or to any officer or employee of the Department.

(b) The Director General shall coordinate proceedings under this part with the Department of Justice in cases where it initiates criminal prosecution.

§ 18.8 Institution of proceeding.

Whenever the Director General determines that there is sufficient reason to believe that any former officer or employee of the Department has violated 18 U.S.C. 207(a), (b) or (c), he/she may institute an administrative discipli-

nary proceeding. The proceeding may be for that person's suspension from practice before the Department or for some lesser penalty. The proceeding shall be instituted by a complaint which names the respondent and is signed by the Director General and filed in his/her office. Except in cases of willfulness, or where time, the nature of the proceeding, or the public interest does not permit, a proceeding will not be instituted under this section until facts or conduct which may warrant such action have been called to the attention of the proposed respondent in writing and he/she has been accorded the opportunity to provide his/her position on the matter.

§ 18.9 Contents of complaint.

A complaint shall plainly and concisely describe the allegations which constitute the basis for the proceeding. A complaint shall be deemed sufficient if it fairly informs the respondent of the charges against him/her so that the respondent is able to prepare a defense. Written notification shall be given of the place and of the time within which the respondent shall file his/her answer, which time shall not be less than 15 days from the date of service of the complaint. Notice shall be given that a decision by default may be rendered against the respondent in the event he/she fails to file an answer.

§ 18.10 Service of complaint and other papers.

(a) *Complaint.* The complaint or a copy thereof may be served upon the respondent by certified mail; by delivering it to the respondent or his/her attorney or agent of record either in person; or by leaving it at the office or place of business of the respondent, attorney or agent; in any other manner which has been agreed to by the respondent; or by first-class mail in case of a person resident abroad.

(b) *Service of papers other than complaint.* Any paper other than the complaint may be served upon a respondent as provided in paragraph (a) of this section or by mailing the paper by first-class mail to the respondent at the last address known to the Director General, or by mailing the paper by first-class mail to the respondent's attorney or