



Federal Advisory Committee Act: Member Roles and Ethical Considerations

The Science Advisory Board for the Office
of Justice Programs

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FAC Purpose

- Federal Advisory Committees (FAC) are established to help inform federal policy, programs
- FACs assemble individuals with diverse expertise, experience, backgrounds

Member Roles

- Advisory Committee is to provide advice on social science and statistics to the Assistant Attorney General of OJP
- Advice should help OJP enhance its overall impact and performance of its programs by assisting OJP's adherence to the highest levels of scientific rigor.

Member Roles

- Conduct hearings to gather information on the scientific soundness of OJP programs and the impact of OJP's research, statistics and grant programs.
- Serve as a base of contact with the academic and practitioner communities.
- Science Advisor Board is independent, but operates through Designated Federal Official.

Ethical Considerations

- Access to OJP staff and non-public information
- Conflict of interest is a major concern
 - Personal conflicts
 - Organizational conflicts
 - Family conflicts
- Generally may not accept gifts

Ethical Considerations

- Think general vs. specific recommendations
- Specific recommendations require financial disclosure forms

Overall: Avoid taking positions that look as if any particular organization or individual is being favored

Lobbying

- 2002 anti-lobbying statute expanded lobbying restrictions to state/local/tribal governments, all grantees and FAC members
- Federally registered lobbyists are prohibited from serving on FACs

Scenario #1

An OJP witness is about to testify before the Advisory Committee concerning problems with a particular research project. Immediately before s/he begins to testify, you remember that the project is funded by OJP and operated by your employer. What should you do? Discuss.

Additional Guidance

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