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Lobbying Compliance Handbook Released with New Information on GAO Audits, Executive Branch Lobbying

Bethesda, Md. (July 15, 2009) – Lobbyists.info is pleased to announce the publication of the 2009 edition of the *Lobbying Compliance Handbook: A Practitioner's Guide in the Age of HLOGA*. Written by lobbying and campaign finance expert Cleta Mitchell, the latest version contains new information regarding President Obama's executive order on ethics as it relates to lobbyists and the process of a GAO audit.

The 2009 edition of *The Lobbying Compliance Handbook* also incorporates the updates that were provided to subscribers throughout the year. These updates included information on filing the LD-203, the bundling regulations provided by the Federal Election Commission and the restrictions on lobbying the executive branch related to stimulus funding.

Additionally, a new chapter is provided that expands on the audits that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) conducts on compliance with the Lobbying Disclosure Act (LDA) and the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act (HLOGA). The chapter describes the GAO's auditing process, tips for recordkeeping and documentation, and a case study that describes how an organization prepared for and handled the audit.

Another new chapter includes information on the changes the Obama administration has made regarding lobbying the executive branch. Specifically, it describes the lobbyist gift ban for political appointees and the restrictions in place for lobbyists wishing to enter the administration.

In addition to these new chapters, *The Lobbying Compliance Handbook* contains information on the following:

- Details on when registration is required for lobbyists, as well as the information needing to be disclosed as part of their LD-2 and LD-203 filings
- Key aspects of compliance and documentation systems for all of the lobbying disclosure forms
- A lobbyist's guide to providing permissible meals and gifts under HLOGA and the House and Senate gift rules
- A step-by-step guide to obtaining approval for providing travel to a congressional member or staffer

Sample forms and checklists are also provided for lobbyists to track the time and expenses for the LD-2 filing and campaign contributions and other reportable payments on the LD-203.

The table of contents and more information on *The Lobbying Compliance Handbook* is available at http://www.lobbyists.info/ProductDetail/the-19-0-24/Lobbying_Compliance_HLOGA_Handbook. *The Lobbying Compliance Handbook* is currently on sale for \$489 and includes important updates sent throughout the year to subscribers.

About the Author

Cleta Mitchell is a partner in the Washington, D.C. office of Foley & Lardner LLP and a member of the firm's Political Law Practice. With more than 30 years of experience in law, politics and public policy, Ms. Mitchell advises corporations, nonprofit and issue organizations, candidates, campaigns, and individuals on state and federal campaign finance law, election law, and compliance issues related to lobbying, ethics and financial disclosure. Ms. Mitchell practices before the Federal Election Commission, the ethics committees of the US House and Senate and similar state and local enforcement bodies and agencies.

Ms. Mitchell has extensive experience on the federal lobbying and ethics law enacted by Congress in 2007, having taught more than a dozen seminars on the subject since its passage. In 2008, Ms. Mitchell authored *The Lobbying Compliance Handbook*, published by Columbia Books, Inc.

Ms. Mitchell represents numerous candidates, campaigns and members of Congress, as well as state and national political party committees. She has served as legal counsel to the National Republican Senatorial Committee and the National Republican Congressional Committee. Ms. Mitchell served as co-counsel for the National Rifle Association in the Supreme Court case involving the 2002 federal campaign finance law.

Ms. Mitchell was named a "Top Lawyer" in Washington D.C. by the *Washingtonian* for her work in political and campaign law. Ms. Mitchell was a teaching fellow at the Institute of Politics, Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in 1981 and was the Shapiro Fellow at the School of Media and Public Affairs at The George Washington University in 2001.

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