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2d Session

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES {

REPORT

117-__

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH
CONGRESS

R E P O R T
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON ETHICS



January 2, 2023.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House
on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS ON JANUARY 2, 2023

**117TH CONGRESS, 2ND SESSION
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON ETHICS**

**SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES
117TH CONGRESS**

JANUARY 2, 2023

Ms. WILD from the Committee on Ethics submitted the following

REPORT

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Chairwoman
Dean Phillips, Minnesota
Veronica Escobar, Texas
Mondaire Jones, New York

Michael Guest, Mississippi
Acting Ranking Member
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Christine Gwinn, *Counsel*

January 2, 2023

The Honorable Cheryl L. Johnson
Clerk, House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Johnson:

Pursuant to clauses 3(a)(2) and 3(b) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, we herewith transmit the attached Report, “Summary of Activities 117th Congress.”

Sincerely,

Susan Wild
Chairwoman

Michael Guest
Acting Ranking Member

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SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

January 2, 2023—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the

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Ms. WILD and Mr. GUEST, from the Committee on Ethics, submitted the following

R E P O R T

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Committee acknowledges the tragic loss of its former Ranking Member Representative Jackie Walorski of Indiana. Ranking Member Walorski's dedication to public service and the institution is missed by all.

OVERVIEW

The Committee on Ethics (Committee) is tasked with interpreting and enforcing the House's ethics rules. 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 professional staff is required by rule to be nonpartisan.

In the 117th Congress, the Committee was led initially by Chairman Theodore E. Deutch and Ranking Member Jackie Walorski and then by Chairwoman Susan Wild and Acting Ranking Member Michael Guest. The Members appointed at the beginning of the Congress were Dean Phillips, Veronica Escobar, Mondaire Jones, Dave Joyce, John H. Rutherford, and Kelly Armstrong.

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 for the House, officers, and senior staff are required to file; and investigating and adjudicating allegations of misconduct and violations of rules, laws, or other standards of conduct.

The Committee met 24 times in the 117th Congress, including 15 times in 2021 and 9 times in 2022.

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

- Issued nearly 750 formal advisory opinions regarding ethics rules;
- Reviewed and approved more than 2,900 requests to accept privately-sponsored, officially-connected travel;
- Fielded more than 36,000 informal telephone calls, emails, and in-person requests for guidance on ethics issues;
- Released 25 advisory memoranda on various ethics topics to the House;
- Provided training to over 14,000 House Members, officers, and employees each year, and reviewed their certifications for satisfying the House's mandatory training requirements;
- Received nearly 9,400 Financial Disclosure Statements and amendments filed by House Members, officers, senior staff, and House candidates; and
- Received more than 4,000 Periodic Transaction Reports filed by House Members, officers, and senior staff, containing thousands of transactions.

In the 117th Congress, the Committee also had responsibility to consider appeals of fines imposed by the Sergeant at Arms pursuant to House Resolutions 38 and 73, and House Rule II, clause 3(g). In the 117th Congress, the Committee was notified of 111 fines involving 20 Members and considered appeals of 47 of those fines.

In addition, the Committee actively investigates allegations against House Members, officers, and employees, using a mix of investigative techniques to determine the validity of factual allegations, explore potential rules violations, and recommend appropriate sanctions and corrective actions. The Committee's options for investigating a matter include fact-gathering under Committee Rules 16(c) or 18(a), the impanelment of investigative subcommittees (ISC), consideration of formal complaints, and the review of transmittals from the Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE). Committee review of a matter in any of these formats is an "investigation" under House and Committee rules. Also, it is not uncommon for a matter to be investigated by the Committee in more than one of these formats over the course of the Committee's overall review of that matter. For example, as discussed further in this report, from time to time the Committee may begin an investigation under Committee Rule 18(a) and subsequently determine that it is appropriate to continue the investigation through an ISC.

The initiation or status of an investigative matter may or may not be publicly disclosed, depending on the circumstances of the individual matter. However, the fact that

the Committee is investigating a particular matter, opts to investigate a matter in one format instead of another, is required or chooses to make a public statement regarding a pending investigative matter, or that a House Member, officer, or employee is referenced in an investigative matter should not be construed as a finding or suggestion that the Member, officer, or employee has committed any violation of the rules, law, or standards of conduct.

During the 117th Congress, within the scope of its investigative responsibilities, the Committee:

- Commenced or continued investigative fact-gathering regarding 72 separate investigative matters;
- Impaneled three ISCs, in the matters of Delegate Michael San Nicolas, Representative Jeff Fortenberry, and Representative Madison Cawthorn;
- Held 12 ISC meetings;
- Filed 11 reports with the House totaling approximately 350 pages regarding various investigative matters;
- Publicly addressed 50 matters, described in Section VI of this report;
- Resolved 6 additional matters;
- Conducted 42 voluntary witness interviews;
- Authorized the issuance of 1 subpoena;
- Conducted 1 interview pursuant to subpoena; and
- Reviewed over 125,000 pages of documents.

There were a total of 26 investigative matters pending before the Committee as of January 2, 2023.

All of the Committee's work as summarized in this report is made possible by the Committee's talented professional, nonpartisan staff. The Members of the Committee wish to acknowledge their hard work and dedication to the Committee and the House. In addition, the Committee wishes to thank its departing Members for their service and for the thoughtfulness and collegiality they showed during their time on the Committee.

I. INTRODUCTION

House Rule XI, clause 1(d), requires each committee to submit to the House, not later than January 2 of each odd-numbered year, a report on the activities of that committee under that rule and House Rule X. This report summarizes the activities of the Committee for the entirety of the 117th Congress.

The jurisdiction of the Committee on Ethics is defined in clauses 3(g), 4(d)(1) and 6(c)(5) of House Rule II, clauses 1(g) and 11(g)(4) of House Rule X, clause 3 of House Rule XI, and clause 5(h) of House Rule XXV. The text of those provisions is attached as Appendix I to this Report.

In addition, a number of provisions of statutory law confer authority on the Committee. Specifically, for purposes of the statutes on gifts to federal employees (5 U.S.C. § 7353) and gifts to superiors (5 U.S.C. § 7351), both the Committee and the House of Representatives are the “supervising ethics office” of House Members, officers, and employees. In addition, as discussed further in Part III below, for House Members, officers, and employees, the Committee is both the “supervising ethics office” with regard to financial disclosure under the Ethics in Government Act (EIGA) (5 U.S.C. app. §§ 101 *et seq.*) and the “employing agency” for certain purposes under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act (5 U.S.C. § 7342). The outside employment and earned income limitations of the EIGA are administered by the Committee with respect to House Members, officers, and employees (5 U.S.C. app. § 503(1)(A)). Finally, the notification of negotiation and recusal requirements created by the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act (HLOGA) are administered, in part, by the Committee.

II. ADVICE AND EDUCATION

Pursuant to a provision of the Ethics Reform Act of 1989 (2 U.S.C. § 4711(i)), the Committee maintains an Office of Advice and Education, which is staffed as directed by the Committee’s Chair and Ranking Member. Under the statute, the primary responsibilities of the Office include the following:

- Providing information and guidance to House Members, officers, and employees on the laws, rules, and other standards of conduct applicable to them in their official capacities;
- Drafting responses to specific advisory opinion requests received from House Members, officers, and employees, and submitting them to the Chair and Ranking Member for review and approval;
- Drafting advisory memoranda on the ethics rules for general distribution to House Members, officers, and employees, and submitting them to the Chair and Ranking Member, or the full Committee, for review and approval; and
- Developing and conducting educational briefings for House Members, officers, and employees.

The duties of the Office of Advice and Education are also addressed in Committee Rule 3, which sets out additional requirements and procedures for the issuance of Committee advisory opinions.

Under Committee Rule 3(j), the Committee will keep confidential any request for advice from a Member, officer, or employee, as well as any response to such a request. As

a further inducement to House Members, officers, and employees to seek Committee advice whenever they have any uncertainty on the applicable laws, rules, or standards, statutory law (2 U.S.C. § 4711(i)(4)) provides that no information provided to the Committee by a Member or staff person when seeking advice on prospective conduct may be used as a basis for initiating a Committee investigation if the individual acts in accordance with the Committee's written advice. In the same vein, Committee Rule 3(k) provides that the Committee may take no adverse action in regard to any conduct that has been undertaken in reliance on a written opinion of the Committee if the conduct conforms to the specific facts addressed in the opinion. Committee Rule 3(l) also precludes the Committee from using information provided to the Committee by a requesting individual "seeking advice regarding prospective conduct ... as the basis for initiating an investigation," provided that the requesting individual "acts in good faith in accordance with the written advice of the Committee." In addition, the Committee understands that federal courts may consider the good faith reliance of a House Member, officer, or employee on written Committee advice as a defense to Justice Department prosecution regarding certain statutory violations.¹

The Committee believes that a broad, active program for advice and education is an extremely important means for attaining understanding of, and compliance with, the ethics rules. The specifics of the Committee's efforts in the areas of publications, briefings, and advisory opinion letters during the 117th Congress are set forth below. In addition, on a daily basis, Committee staff attorneys provided informal advice in response to inquiries received from Members, staff persons, and third parties in telephone calls and e-mails directed to the Committee office, as well as in person. During the 117th Congress, Committee attorneys responded to more than 36,000 phone calls and e-mail messages seeking advice, and participated in many informal meetings with Members, House staff, or outside individuals or groups regarding specific ethics matters.

PUBLICATIONS

The Committee's major publication is the *House Ethics Manual*. The Manual provides detailed explanations of all aspects of the ethics rules and statutes applicable to House Members, officers, and employees. Topics covered by the Manual include the acceptance of gifts or travel, campaign activity, casework, outside employment, and involvement with official and outside organizations. In the 117th Congress, the Committee issued an updated print of the Manual, including revised travel and gift sections. The Committee also updated the *Highlights of the House Ethics Rules*. All current Committee publications, including the *House Ethics Manual 2022 Print* and the *Highlights of the House Ethics Rules 2022 Print*, are available from the Committee's office and their text is posted in a mobile-friendly searchable format on the Committee's website: <https://ethics.house.gov>.

¹ For example, a federal court held that it is a complete defense to a prosecution for conduct assertedly in violation of a related federal criminal strict-liability statute (18 U.S.C. § 208) that the conduct was undertaken in good faith reliance upon erroneous legal advice received from the official's supervising ethics office. *United States v. Hedges*, 912 F.2d 1397, 1403 n.2 (11th Cir. 1990).

The Committee updates and expands upon the materials in the Manual, as well as highlights matters of particular concern, through the issuance of general advisory memoranda to all House Members, officers, and employees. The memoranda issued during the 117th Congress were as follows:

- The 2021 Outside Earned Income Limit and Salaries Triggering the Financial Disclosure Requirement and Post-Employment Restrictions Applicable to House Officers and Employees (February 8, 2021);
- Ethics Guidance Regarding Financial Interest in Funding Requests (April 12, 2021);
- Upcoming Financial Disclosure Filing Deadline & Automatic Extension (April 26, 2021);
- Reminder of Financial Disclosure Filing Deadline & Assistance Available (July 19, 2021);
- Reminder of Financial Disclosure Filing Deadline (August 6, 2021);
- Reminder of Financial Disclosure Filing Deadline (August 10, 2021);
- Joint Afghanistan Guidance (August 30, 2021);
- Important Information Relating to Hurricane Ida (September 10, 2021);
- Joint Guidance Regarding Redistricting (September 10, 2021);
- Reminder about Annual Ethics Training Requirements for 2021 (December 3, 2021);
- Joint Guidance Regarding Important Information Relating to Central U.S. Tornadoes (December 14, 2021);
- Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act CY2021 Reporting (December 15, 2021);
- The 2022 Outside Earned Income Limit and Salaries Triggering the Financial Disclosure Requirement and Post-Employment Restrictions Applicable to House Officers and Employees (January 13, 2022);
- Joint Guidance Regarding Ukraine Humanitarian Relief Efforts (March 4, 2022);
- Upcoming Financial Disclosure Clinics & Training (April 14, 2022);
- Guest Policy Change and Reminder of Gift Rules for Attendance at Events (September 19, 2022);

- Annual Member Ethics Training Now Live (September 22, 2022);
- Joint Guidance Relating to Hurricanes Fiona and Ian (September 29, 2022);
- Upcoming Live Ethics Training Session (October 7, 2022);
- Two Upcoming Live, In-Person Ethics Training Sessions (October 24, 2022);
- Member Swearing-in Events (November 29, 2022);
- Reminder about Annual Ethics Training Requirement for 2022 (December 15, 2022);
- Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act CY 2022 Reporting Reminder (December 15, 2022);
- Negotiations for Future Employment and Restrictions on Post-Employment for House Members and Officers (December 15, 2022);
- Negotiations for Future Employment and Restrictions on Post-Employment for House Staff (December 15, 2022).

A copy of each of these advisory memoranda is included as Appendix II to this Report.

The Committee also submits a report each month of the Committee's activities to the Committee on House Administration (CHA). Finally, with this report, the Committee has sought to provide as much transparency as is appropriate. In addition to the many numbers referred to throughout this report, the Committee publishes the following summary chart in the interest of transparency.

Committee Report (numbers are approximate)	2021	2022	TOTAL
Formal Advice and Approval			
Advisory Opinion Requests Received	410	332	742
Advisory Opinions Mailed	380	283	663
Travel Requests Received	1,229	2,115	3,344
Travel Opinions Mailed	1,018	1,882	2,900
Informal Advice (including Financial Disclosure)			
Phone Calls (approximate)	8,777	9,862	18,639
Emails (approximate)	9,991	7,004	16,995
Training			
Total # of House Employees (as of Dec. 31, 2022)			
Employees having completed training	14,427	12,268	26,695
Training briefings (scheduled training sessions)	50	33	83
Personal Advisory Meetings with Members, officers, and employees	90	200	390
Investigations			
Investigative Matters carried over from the 116th Congress	13		13
Investigative Matters commenced in the 117th Congress	30	29	59
Investigative Subcommittees carried over from the 116th Congress	1		1
Investigative Subcommittees commenced	1	1	2
Publicly Disclosed Resolutions	4	28	32
Confidential Resolutions	5	1	6
Referrals received from the Office of Congressional Ethics	10	8	18
Financial Disclosures			
FD Reports filed by Members, officers, and employees	3,405	3,597	7,002
FD Reports filed by Candidates	643	999	1,642
FD Reports and amendments reviewed by Committee staff	3,854	4,018	7,782
PTRs filed by Members, officers, and employees	2,110	1,978	4,088
Total FD Reports and PTRs filed by all filers	6,158	6,574	12,732
Committee Publications			
Pink Sheets/General Advisories	12	13	25
Public Statements	61	42	103
Investigative Reports	4	7	11
Miscellaneous Oversight			
Recusals	35	66	101
Negotiations	93	194	287
Qualified Blind Trusts	4	6	--
Legal Expense Funds	9	10	--
Foreign Gifts and Travel Reports	10	11	21
Meetings			
Full Committee Meetings	15	9	24
Subcommittee Meetings	2	10	12
Personnel			
Lowest Total Staff Level	21	21	--
Highest Total Staff Level	24	27	--

ETHICS TRAINING

Clause 3(a)(6) of House Rule XI, which originated in the 110th Congress, requires all House Members and employees to complete ethics training each calendar year, pursuant

to guidelines to be issued by the Committee. The House rules and Committee's guidelines require each House employee to complete one hour of ethics training each calendar year. The guidelines also require all House employees who are paid at the "senior staff rate" to complete an additional hour of training once each Congress on issues primarily of interest to senior staff.² Rule XI requires new House Members and employees to complete ethics training within 60 days of the commencement of their service to the House.³

Pursuant to its obligations under Rule XI, the Committee held 49 ethics training sessions during 2021 and 33 during 2022. During the 117th Congress, all Members, officers, and employees were permitted to fulfill their training requirement either through attending a training session in person or by viewing an on-line presentation. The training sessions for new Members and employees provided a general summary of the House ethics rules in all areas, such as gifts, travel, campaign activity, casework, involvement with outside entities, and outside employment. The live and on-line sessions for existing Members and employees covered specific topics, such as gifts and travel or campaign work, on a more in-depth basis. The Committee also had several different options that senior staff could use to fulfill their requirement of one additional hour of training. The on-line training provided a general overview of ethics rules of particular interest to senior staff. The live training sessions focused in depth on a single topic of importance for senior staff.

In 2021, the Committee trained 310 employees at live ethics briefings, and more than 14,700 used one of the on-demand training options. During 2022, the Committee trained 630 employees at live ethics briefings, and more than 14,200 through one of the on-demand training options. The total number of employees who completed ethics training for 2022 will be determined after January 31, 2023, the date that House Rule XI established as the deadline for employees to certify completion of the ethics training requirement for 2022.

In addition to the training required under House Rule XI, the Committee also provided training in several other contexts. The House will include 74 new Members in the 118th Congress, most of whom have not previously served in the House. The Committee made a presentation to the Members-elect of the 118th Congress during New Member Orientation and participated in two issue-specific panels. The Committee also met with numerous departing Members and staff to counsel them on the ethics rules related to their transition to private life and the post-employment restrictions. The Committee also provided training open to all House Members, officers, and employees on the financial disclosure rules, which are discussed further in Section III.

Committee staff also participated in approximately 5 briefings sponsored by or held for the members of outside organizations. In addition, Committee staff led approximately

² In 2022, the senior staff rate was \$135,468 per year, or a monthly salary above \$11,289. This figure is subject to change each year, and the Committee issues a general advisory memorandum to all House Members, officers, and employees announcing changes in this and other salary thresholds relevant to ethics rules.

³ The requirement that new Members receive training within 60 days of commencement of their service to the House was added to House Rule XI in the 114th Congress.

6 briefings for visiting international dignitaries from a variety of countries, including North Macedonia, Ukraine, and Kosovo.

ADVISORY OPINION LETTERS

The Committee's Office of Advice and Education, under the direction and supervision of the Committee's Chair and Ranking Member, prepared and issued 663 private advisory opinions during the 117th Congress: 380 in 2021 and 283 in 2022.

Opinions issued by the Committee in the 117th Congress addressed a wide range of subjects, including various provisions of the gift rule, Member or staff participation in fund-raising activities of charities and for other purposes, the outside earned income and employment limitations, campaign activity by staff, and the post-employment restrictions.

TRAVEL APPROVAL LETTERS

As discussed above, House Rule XXV, clause 5(d)(2), which was enacted at the start of the 110th Congress, charged each House Member or employee with obtaining approval of the Committee prior to undertaking any travel paid for by a private source on matters connected to the individual's House duties. Since 2007, the Committee has conducted a thorough review of each proposed privately-sponsored trip.

Committee approval of a proposed trip does not reflect an endorsement of the trip sponsor or a determination regarding the safety or security of a proposed trip. Instead, Committee approval is limited to the question of whether the proposed trip complies with the relevant laws, rules, or regulations. To that end, the Committee's nonpartisan, professional staff recommends changes where necessary to bring a proposed trip into compliance with relevant laws, rules, or regulations and, on occasion, informs House Members and employees that a proposed trip is not permissible. The Committee recognizes both the significant benefit the public receives when their Representatives and their Representatives' staff receive hands-on education and experience, as well as the mandate that outside groups be appropriately limited in what gifts and support they are allowed to provide to Members of Congress and congressional staff.

The Committee is directed by House Rules to develop and revise as necessary guidelines and regulations governing the acceptance of privately-sponsored, officially-connected travel by House Members, officers, and employees.⁴ The Committee issued initial travel regulations in a pair of memoranda dated February 20 and March 14, 2007. At the end of the 112th Congress, the Committee adopted new travel regulations (Travel Regulations). The new Travel Regulations were issued on December 27, 2012, and were effective for all trips beginning on or after April 1, 2013. In the 116th Congress, the Committee adopted revised Travel Regulations and FGDA Regulations. The new Travel Regulations were effective for all trips starting on or after April 1, 2021. In general, the Committee requires that any House Member, officer, or employee who wishes to accept an offer of privately-sponsored, officially-connected travel must submit all required

⁴ House Rule XXV, clause 5(i).

paperwork to the Committee at least 30 days prior to the start of the trip.⁵ However, the 30-day requirement does not apply to certain types of trips, and the Committee retains authority to approve requests submitted after that deadline in exceptional circumstances.⁶ When the Committee opts to approve a request filed after the general deadline, the approval letter sent to the traveler – which must ultimately be publicly disclosed – notes that fact.

Under the travel approval process established by the Committee to implement this rule, the Committee reviewed more than 1,200 requests to accept privately-sponsored, officially-connected travel, and issued letters approving more than 1,000 such requests in 2021. In 2022, the Committee reviewed over 2,100 requests to accept privately-sponsored, officially-connected travel, and issued letters approving over 1,800 such requests.

House Rules and the Committee’s Travel Regulations require all House Members, officers, and employees who receive Committee approval to accept privately-sponsored, officially-connected travel to file detailed paperwork about the trip with the Clerk within 15 days of the conclusion of the trip.⁷ The Committee also reviewed the post-travel disclosure forms filed by the traveler for each approved trip and requested amendments or other remedial action by the traveler when deemed necessary.⁸

The post-travel filings are made available to the public in a searchable online database on the Clerk’s website, at http://clerk.house.gov/public_disc/giftTravel-search.aspx. The public, the media, and outside groups have used this valuable resource for years, and the Committee anticipates that they will continue to do so. The Committee requires those Members, officers, and employees who are required to file financial disclosure statements, as discussed in Section III, to also provide information about privately-sponsored, officially-connected travel on their financial disclosure filings, but the public should be aware that much more detailed and timely public filings regarding such travel are required, and the most authoritative source of those filings is the Clerk’s website.

III. FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

Title I of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (EIGA), as amended (5 U.S.C. app. §§ 101-111), requires certain officials in all branches of the federal government, as well as candidates for federal office, to file publicly-available Financial Disclosure Statements (Statements). These Statements disclose information concerning the filer’s finances, as well as those of certain family members. By May 15 of each year, these “covered individuals” are required to file a Statement that provides information for the preceding calendar year. In addition, the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act (STOCK Act) amended EIGA in 2012 to add a requirement that financial disclosure filers must report certain securities transactions over \$1,000 within 30 days of notice, but no later than 45 days after the

⁵ Travel Regulations at Part 500 – Committee Approval Process.

⁶ *Id.* at § 501.1.

⁷ House Rule XXV, clause 5(b)(1)(A)(ii); Travel Regulations at Part 600 – Post-Travel Disclosure.

⁸ From time to time, a traveler may inadvertently fail to file all of the required paperwork with their post-travel submission. That is not an indication that the information was not provided to the Committee prior to the trip and before the Committee approved the request, only that the traveler’s subsequent submission was incomplete.

transaction. The Committee has termed these interim reports “Periodic Transaction Reports” or “PTRs.”

Financial disclosure filings are not intended to be net worth statements, nor are they well suited to that purpose. As the Commission on Administrative Review of the 95th Congress stated in recommending broader financial disclosure requirements: “The objectives of financial disclosure are to inform the public about the financial interests of government officials in order to increase public confidence in the integrity of government and to deter potential conflicts of interest.”⁹

All Members of the House, including Members who are serving the first year of their first term, are required to file a Statement. In addition, any officer or employee of the House who was paid at or above 120 percent of the minimum pay for Executive Branch GS-15 (the “senior staff” rate) for at least 60 days in a calendar year must file a Statement on or before May 15 of the following year. Certain other employees, including those designated by a Member as a “principal assistant” for financial disclosure purposes and employees who are shared staff of three or more offices, are also subject to some financial disclosure filing requirements.

Starting in 2013, financial disclosure filers were able to use an online electronic filing system to draft and submit their Statements and PTRs. Thanks to a very industrious collaboration with the Clerk of the House to create the online system, and extensive outreach and education, nearly all Members and staff used the online electronic filing system to submit their calendar year 2021 Statements. Specifically, 95% of Members and House staff used the online system to draft and submit their 2021 Statements.

The Committee engages in substantial training efforts to assist filers with completing their Statements and PTRs. In 2021, the Committee held two briefings for Members, officers, and employees. In 2022, the Committee held three briefings for Members, officers, and employees and three walk-in clinics to support filers’ use of the electronic filing system for Statements and PTRs.

For the 117th Congress, the Committee continued its long-standing practice of Committee staff meeting with Members, officers, and employees of the House to assist filers with their Statements and PTRs. Committee staff responded to telephone, e-mail, and in-person questions from filers on an as-needed basis, in addition to reviewing drafts of Statements and PTRs. The Committee encourages all financial disclosure filers to avail themselves of opportunities to seek and receive information and assistance.

For calendar year 2021, the Legislative Resource Center of the Clerk’s office referred a total of 4,048 Financial Disclosure Statements to the Committee for review. Of those, 3,405 were Statements filed by current or new House Members or employees, and 643 were Statements filed by candidates for the House. The Clerk’s office also referred a total of 1,514 PTRs to the Committee for review. The Committee received 653 PTRs from Members and 861 PTRs from officers and employees.

⁹ House Comm’n on Admin. Review, *Financial Ethics*, H. Doc. 95-73, 96th Cong., 1st Sess. 6 (1977).

For calendar year 2022, the Legislative Resource Center of the Clerk's office referred a total of 4,596 Statements to the Committee for review.¹⁰ Of those, 3,597 were Statements filed by current or new House Members or employees, and 999 were Statements filed by candidates for the House. The Clerk's office also referred a total of 1,397 PTRs to the Committee for review. The Committee received 590 PTRs from Members and 807 PTRs from officers and employees.

Where the Committee's review indicated that a filed Statement or PTR was deficient, the Committee requested an amendment from the filer. Such amendments are routine and, without evidence of a knowing or willful violation, the Committee will usually take no further action after the amendment has been filed. Amendments are made publicly available in the same manner as other financial disclosure filings. The Committee also followed up with filers whose Statements indicated non-compliance with applicable law, such as the outside employment and outside earned income limitations.

On February 28, 2022, and March 2, 2022, the Committee received referrals from the Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE) regarding allegations that several Members may have failed to timely file Periodic Transaction Reports (PTRs) for various reportable transactions. These referrals are discussed in more detail below. The Committee voted to dismiss the referrals. The Committee concluded that there was not clear evidence that the errors and omissions in the Members' PTRs were knowing or willful and that the Members were generally unclear on the requirements relating to PTR filings. The Committee worked with each Member, and they all made diligent efforts to take appropriate remedial actions and ensure their continued compliance with applicable financial disclosure requirements. Accurate and timely FD filings are an important part of the House's conflict of interest protections, and the Committee takes the statutory FD requirements and its oversight of them very seriously. The Committee is working to address various programmatic issues raised by the referrals.

More information about financial disclosure, including the Committee's instruction booklet for filers and blank copies of Statement and PTR forms, is available on the Committee's website, at <https://ethics.house.gov/financial-disclosure>. In addition, financial disclosure filings of Members and candidates and other information about financial disclosure is available on the Clerk's website, at http://clerk.house.gov/public_disc/financial.aspx.

IV. COMMITTEE RULES

After the beginning of each Congress, the Committee must adopt rules for that Congress. On February 25, 2021, the Committee met and adopted the Committee rules for

¹⁰ In 2021, due to the unprecedented challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee exercised its authority under EIGA to automatically grant all House Members and employees who were required to file an annual Financial Disclosure Statement the full 90-day extension permitted by law.

the 117th Congress. The substance of the Committee rules for the 117th Congress was largely identical to the amended rules adopted in the 116th Congress.¹¹

A copy of the Committee Rules for the 117th Congress is included as Appendix III to this Report.

VI. FINE APPEALS

On January 12, 2021, the House passed House Resolution 38, which stated, in part, that during a period in which the Speaker has announced a public health emergency due to a novel coronavirus to be in effect, “the Sergeant-at-Arms [(SAA)] is authorized and directed to impose a fine against a Member, Delegate, or the Resident Commissioner for the failure to wear a mask in contravention of the Speaker’s announced policies of January 4, 2021.”¹² A fine imposed under House Resolution 38 “shall be treated as though imposed under clause 3(g) of rule II.”¹³ The relevant portion of House Rule II, adopted in the 115th Congress, establishes a process for fines imposed by the SAA against Members for the use of electronic devices to take recordings on the House floor; the Rule provides for a \$500 fine for the first offense and a \$2,500 fine for any subsequent offense. Under House Rule II, a Member who is fined by the SAA pursuant to that rule “may appeal the fine in writing to the Committee on Ethics not later than 30 calendar days” after notification of the fine.¹⁴ The Committee has 30 calendar days to consider the appeal, and a fine will be upheld unless the appeal is agreed to by a majority of the Committee.¹⁵ Upon a determination regarding the appeal, the Chair of the Committee shall notify the Member, the Speaker, the SAA, and the Chief Administrative Officer, and shall make the notification publicly available.¹⁶

On February 2, 2021, the House passed House Resolution 73, which directed the SAA to fine Members for failure to complete security screening prior to entrance to the House Chamber. Fines pursuant to House Resolution 73 operated in a similar manner to fines pursuant to House Resolution 38. A Member who was fined pursuant to House Resolution 73 could appeal the fine to the Committee; the Committee had 30 days to consider any appeal; if a majority of the Committee did not agree to the appeal within that time, the fine was upheld; and upon a determination on the appeal, the Chair of the Committee was directed to notify the Member, the Speaker, the SAA, and the Chief Administrative Officer, and to make the notification publicly available.¹⁷ Unlike House Resolution 38 fines, the Chair of the Committee was also required to make public the initial

¹¹ In the 112th Congress, as a result of the efforts of a working group formed to assess the Committee’s rules and procedures, numerous changes were made to the Committee’s investigative rules, including changes to Committee Rules 4, 9, 17A, 18, 19 and 23. Those changes were adopted by the Committee on May 18, 2012. House Comm. on Ethics, *Summary of Activities One Hundred Twelfth Congress*, H. Rept. 112-730, 112th Cong. 2nd Sess. 21 (2012).

¹² H. Res. 38 Sec. 4(a)(1) (117th Cong.).

¹³ *See id.* Sec. 4(a)(2); *see also* H. Res. 85 Sec. 8(b) (117th Cong.).

¹⁴ House Rule II, clause 3(g)(3)(B).

¹⁵ House Rule II, clause 3(g)(3)(C).

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ H. Res. 73. Sec. 1(a)-(b) (117th Cong.).

notification of the fine, prior to the Committee’s determination on the matter.¹⁸ House Resolution 73 also provided for a \$5,000 fine for the first offense and a \$10,000 fine for any subsequent offense.

Implementation and adjudication of the fine appeal process under House Resolution 38 and House Resolution 73 was a significant drain on the Committee’s resources in the 117th Congress. On March 9, 2021, the Committee adopted its “Special Policies and Procedures Relating to Fine Notifications and Appeals.” The SAA sent the Committee 101 notifications of fines pursuant to House Resolution 38 and 10 notifications of fines pursuant to House Resolution 73. The Committee received 37 timely appeals of fines pursuant to House Resolution 38 and 10 timely appeals of fines pursuant to House Resolution 73. The Committee held 5 executive session meetings in which 9 Members met with the Committee to present their arguments for their appeal. The Committee voted on each timely appeal, including holding votes at 11 executive session meetings. A majority of the Members of the Committee did not agree to the any of the appeals of fines pursuant to House Resolution 38. A majority of the Members agreed to six appeals of fines pursuant to House Resolution 73.

VII. DISSEMINATION OF MANIPULATED MEDIA

On January 8, 2021, the House passed House Resolution 8, which stated, in part, that the Committee was directed to report to the House, not later than December 31, 2021, any recommended amendments to the Code of Official Conduct, as well as any accompanying regulations, intended to address the circumstances and instances, if any, for which a Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, officer, or employee of the House “may be subject to discipline for dissemination by electronic means, including by social media, of any image, video, or audio file that has been distorted or manipulated with the intent to mislead the public.”¹⁹

The Committee did not recommend any amendments to the Code of Official Conduct or any accompanying regulations. However, the Committee has previously issued guidance on this topic.

On January 28, 2020, the Committee circulated a general advisory opinion to the House community addressing the “Intentional Use of Audio-Visual Distortions & Deep Fakes.”²⁰ In that general advisory opinion, the Committee advised that Members “must exercise care in communicating, especially when using electronic communication[.]”²¹ The Committee explained that “Members have a duty, and a First Amendment right, to contribute to the public discourse, including through parody and satire. However, manipulation of images and videos that are intended to mislead the public can harm the discourse and reflect discredibly on the House,” and “Members, officers, and employees posting deep fakes or other audio-visual distortions intended to mislead the public may be

¹⁸ H.Res. 73. Sec. 1(a)(3) (117th Cong.).

¹⁹ H. Res. 8 Sec. 3(y) (117th Cong.).

²⁰ Comm. on Ethics, *Intentional Use of Audio-Visual Distortions & Deep Fakes* (Jan. 28, 2020).

²¹ *Id.* at 1.

in violation of the Code of Official Conduct.”²² Accordingly, the Committee advised that “[p]rior to disseminating any image, video, or audio file by electronic means, including social media, Members and staff are expected to take reasonable efforts to consider whether such representations are deep fakes or intentionally distorted to mislead the public.”²³

VIII. INVESTIGATIONS

Article I, Section 5 of the Constitution grants each chamber of Congress the power to “punish its Members for disorderly Behaviour, and, with the Concurrence of two thirds, expel a Member.” The Committee is designated by House rule as the body which conducts the investigative and adjudicatory functions which usually precede a vote by the full House regarding such punishment or expulsion. House Rule XI, clause 3, as well as Committee Rules 13 through 28, describe specific guidelines and procedures for the exercise of that authority.

As a general matter, the Committee’s investigative jurisdiction extends to current House Members, officers and employees.²⁴ When a Member, officer, or employee, who is the subject of a Committee investigation, resigns, the Committee loses jurisdiction over the individual. In the 117th Congress, four individuals resigned from the House while the Committee had an open investigation regarding them.

The Committee may not undertake an investigation of an alleged violation that occurred before the third previous Congress unless the Committee determines that the alleged violation is directly related to an alleged violation that occurred in a more recent Congress.²⁵

In most cases, the Committee only investigates matters that allegedly occurred while the individual was a House Member, officer, or employee. However, the Committee has asserted jurisdiction over alleged conduct that may have violated laws, regulations, or standards of conduct, which occurred prior to a Member’s swearing-in but in connection with a successful campaign for the House of Representatives. Further, the Committee is required to investigate whenever a Member, officer, or employee of the House is convicted of a felony, regardless of whether the underlying conduct occurred while the individual was a Member, officer, or employee of the House.

As a general matter, the Committee’s investigations are conducted either pursuant to authorization by the Chair and Ranking Member, under Committee Rule 18(a), or pursuant to a vote by the Committee to impanel an ISC. Most investigations are conducted pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a).²⁶ Even those investigations that ultimately result in the formation of an ISC usually begin as Committee Rule 18(a) investigations. Committee Rule 18(a) and ISC investigations differ only in process, not substance. In both kinds of

²² *Id.*

²³ *Id.* at 2.

²⁴ House Rule XI, clause 3(a)(2).

²⁵ House Rule XI, clause 3(b)(3).

²⁶ An investigation of a formal complaint or information offered as a complaint pursuant to Committee Rule 15 is conducted pursuant to a similar rule, Committee Rule 16(c), until an ISC is impaneled or the question of whether to impanel one is placed on the Committee’s agenda.

investigations, Committee staff is authorized by Members of the Committee to interview witnesses, request documents and information, and engage in other investigative actions. Further, both the Committee and ISC may authorize subpoenas for documents and witness testimony.²⁷ Members of the Committee can, and do, attend and participate in voluntary interviews with witnesses in both 18(a) and ISC investigations.

The Committee may opt to investigate a matter under Committee Rule 18(a) rather than an ISC for a number of reasons. For example, investigating pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a) preserves the Committee's ability both to deploy its limited resources in the most efficient manner possible, and to maintain the confidentiality of its investigations. In general, the Committee publicly announces when it has voted to impanel an ISC. In contrast, most investigations conducted pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a) are confidential. Maintaining the confidentiality of investigations minimizes the risk of interference and protects the identities of complainants. Indeed, in past investigations, employees of a Member have brought allegations of misconduct to the Committee when they have remained in the employ of the Member and faced intimidation or reprisal.²⁸ Maintaining a confidential investigation also avoids unnecessarily tarnishing a Member's reputation before a determination of wrongdoing has been made.

The fact that an investigation is conducted in a confidential manner does not preclude the Committee from making a public statement at the end of the investigation. For example, in recent Congresses, the Committee has issued public reports to the House and/or letters of reproof in a number of investigative matters that were initiated by the Committee and that had not previously been publicly disclosed by the Committee.²⁹

Whether the Committee investigates a matter under Committee Rule 18(a) or through an ISC, by rule, the Committee may choose to exercise its investigative authority in several different scenarios.³⁰ However, most Committee investigations begin when the Committee, on its own initiative, undertakes an investigation. In the 117th Congress, the

²⁷ The mechanism for issuing a subpoena by the Committee or an ISC does differ. Where an ISC has been impaneled, it can authorize a subpoena, to be signed by the Committee's Chair and Ranking Member. If the investigation is at the Committee Rule 18(a) stage, the full Committee can vote to issue a subpoena to be signed by the Chair.

²⁸ See, e.g., House Comm. on Ethics, *In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Laura Richardson*, H. Rept. 112-642, 112th Cong. 2d Sess. (2012).

²⁹ See, e.g., House Comm. on Ethics, *In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Elizabeth Esty*, H. Rept. 115-1093, 115th Cong. 2d Sess. (2018); House Comm. on Ethics, *In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative David McKinley*, H. Rept. 114-795, 114th Cong. 2d Sess. (2016); House Comm. on Ethics, *In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Phil Gingrey*, H. Rept. 113-664, 113th Cong. 2d Sess. (2014).

³⁰ Specifically, the Committee may exercise its investigative authority when: (1) information offered as a complaint by a Member of the House of Representatives is transmitted directly to the Committee; (2) information offered as a complaint by an individual not a Member of the House is transmitted to the Committee, provided that a Member of the House certifies in writing that such Member believes the information is submitted in good faith and warrants the review and consideration of the Committee; (3) the Committee, on its own initiative, undertakes an investigation; (4) a Member, officer, or employee is convicted in a Federal, State, or local court of a felony; (5) the House of Representatives, by resolution, authorizes or directs the Committee to undertake an inquiry or investigation; or (6) a referral from the OCE is transmitted to the Committee. See Committee Rule 14(a).

Committee commenced or continued investigative fact-gathering regarding 72 separate investigative matters, most of which were begun at the Committee's initiative. Those matters also included referrals from the OCE. In the 117th Congress, the OCE referred 18 matters to the Committee, 15 with a recommendation for further review, 2 with a recommendation that all of the allegations be dismissed, and one that was referred without a recommendation due to a tie vote of OCE's Board.

In the 116th Congress, the House issued a reprimand and a fine at the recommendation of the Committee and an investigative subcommittee in one matter. The Committee also issued a reproof in one matter. Including those two matters, since 2008, the Committee has recommended that the House issue a censure in one matter, recommended in two matters that the House issue a reprimand, and issued 15 reproofs. Nine of those resolutions followed investigations initiated by the Committee under its own authority, while nine of those resolutions followed recommendations by the OCE that the Committee review the allegations. In addition to these formal sanctions, the Committee has admonished 6 Members, officers, and employees since 2008.³¹

The OCE is an independent office within the House created by a House resolution in the 110th Congress after the release of a report of the Democratic Members of the Special Ethics Task Force on Ethics Enforcement (Task Force Report).³² According to the Task Force Report, the OCE Board has the responsibility to review information on allegations of misconduct by Members, officers, and employees of the House and make recommendations to the Committee for the Committee's official consideration and action.

Two OCE Board members may initiate a review by notifying all other OCE Board members in writing. The OCE Board then has 30 calendar days to consider the matter in a preliminary review phase and may vote to either terminate the review or progress to the second-phase review. Once in the second phase, the OCE Board has 45 calendar days (with a possible one-time extension of 14 days) to complete consideration of the matter and refer it to the Committee with a recommendation for dismissal, further review, or as unresolved due to a tie vote. The OCE Board's referral may not contain any conclusions regarding the validity of the allegations upon which it is based or the guilt or innocence of the individual who is the subject of the review. The Task Force believed that "the timeline requirements instituted by the new process are critical: matters will spend at most three months under consideration by the Board of the OCE before being referred to the Committee for resolution."³³ The Task Force considered whether to give the OCE either direct or indirect subpoena power. But the Task Force Report ultimately decided not to give the OCE subpoena power based on a number of factors. Instead, the Task Force Report stated that the Board's referral may include recommendations for the issuance of subpoenas by the Committee where Members feel it appropriate.

³¹ An admonishment is not a formal sanction of the Committee or the House. It is a warning that certain conduct can be found in violation of House Rules and potentially lead to sanction.

³² Special Task Force on Ethics Enforcement, *Report of the Democratic Members of the Special Task Force on Ethics Enforcement*, (H.Rept. 110-1, 110th Cong. 1st Sess. (Comm. Print 2007).

³³ *Id.* at 14. The 18 OCE referrals received by the Committee in the 117th Congress were transmitted an average of 122 days after the start of the preliminary review phase.

When the Committee receives a referral from the OCE, it is required to review the referral “without prejudice or presumptions as to the merit of the allegations.”³⁴ The Committee thus makes an independent determination about how to proceed in the matter based on the information before the Committee, which may include not only the OCE referral and supporting documents provided to the Committee by the OCE, but other information. It is not uncommon that the Committee’s review will require more than 90 days because of the need to review documents, interview witnesses, and/or assess the legal significance of evidence, among other investigative steps. Some investigations may require the review of tens of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of pages of documents. For example, in the 116th Congress one investigation that spanned multiple Congresses required the Committee to review more than 200,000 pages of documents to resolve the matter.³⁵

In some instances, the Committee may be asked to defer its investigation by another law enforcement entity, generally the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). The Committee typically honors such requests, barring unusual circumstances. For one thing, parallel investigations pose the risk of compromising one another. Also, for the most serious criminal violations, only DOJ can pursue a prosecution to seek imprisonment, the most serious possible consequence for a violation of law.³⁶ Provided that the Committee still retains jurisdiction, a decision by the Committee to defer does not preclude the Committee from continuing its investigation later, regardless of the outcome of the other entity’s investigation. In addition, a decision by the Committee to defer an investigation does not itself indicate that any violation has occurred or reflect any judgment on behalf of the Committee. In the 117th Congress, the Committee did opt to defer several investigations at the request of DOJ, as described further below.

The Committee also received information offered as a referral from the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol. The information was received by the Committee on December 27, 2022.

The Committee publicly addressed 50 investigative matters during the 117th Congress. In addition to confidential matters, the Committee also carried over several public matters from the 116th Congress. In the 117th Congress, the Committee continued to address the matters concerning Representative Sanford Bishop, Representative Bill Huizenga, Representative Steven Palazzo, and Delegate Michael San Nicolas. A chronological overview of public statements made by the Committee in the 117th Congress regarding investigative matters follows.

On March 1, 2021, the Committee made public the OCE Report in the matter of Delegate Michael F.Q. San Nicolas.

³⁴ Committee Rule 17A(a).

³⁵ House Comm. on Ethics, *In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative David Schweikert*, H. Rept. 116-46, 116th Cong. 2d Sess. (2020).

³⁶ DOJ will not lose jurisdiction to continue an investigation and pursue prosecution, if it determines that is appropriate, in the event that a Member or employee leaves the House, whether through resignation or defeat for reelection.

On March 1, 2021, the Committee announced that, pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a), it would continue to review allegations referred by the OCE regarding Representative Steven Palazzo.

On April 9, 2021, the Committee announced that, pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a), it would review allegations that Representative Matt Gaetz may have engaged in sexual misconduct and/or illicit drug use, shared inappropriate images or videos on the House floor, misused state identification records, converted campaign funds to personal use, and/or accepted a bribe, improper gratuity, or impermissible gift.

On April 9, 2021, the Committee announced that, pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a), it would review allegations that Representative Tom Reed may have engaged in sexual misconduct.

On May 20, 2021, the Committee announced it had unanimously voted to re-authorize an ISC for the 117th Congress to review allegations involving Delegate Michael F.Q. San Nicolas.

On July 26, 2021, the Committee transmitted a Report to the House regarding allegations relating to Representative Joyce Beatty.

On July 30, 2021, the Committee transmitted a Report to the House regarding allegations relating to Representative Hank Johnson.

On September 28, 2021, the Committee transmitted a Report to the House regarding allegations relating to Representative Al Green.

On September 28, 2021, the Committee transmitted a Report to the House regarding allegations relating to Representative Sheila Jackson Lee.

On October 21, 2021, the Committee announced that, pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a), it would continue to review allegations referred by the OCE regarding Representative Tom Malinowski.

On October 21, 2021, the Committee announced that, pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a), it would continue to review allegations referred by the OCE regarding Representative Alex Mooney.

On October 21, 2021, the Committee announced that, pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a), it would continue to review allegations referred by the OCE regarding Representative Jim Hagedorn.

On November 29, 2021, the Committee announced that, pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a), it would continue to review allegations referred by the OCE regarding John Sample.

On December 3, 2021, the Committee announced it had unanimously voted to establish an ISC with regard to allegations that Representative Jeff Fortenberry accepted

illegal campaign contributions and engaged in a scheme to falsify or conceal material facts and/or made false statements, during a federal investigation into his campaign committee's alleged acceptance of illegal campaign contributions.

On January 24, 2022, the Committee announced that, pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a), it would continue to review allegations referred by the OCE regarding Rep. Doug Lamborn.

On February 7, 2022, the Committee transmitted a Report to the House regarding allegations relating to Representative Jamaal Bowman.

On March 22, 2022, the Committee announced that a majority of the Committee did not vote to dismiss allegations referred by the OCE regarding Representative Ilhan Omar.

On April 1, 2022, the Committee released a statement that Representative Jeff Fortenberry had resigned from Congress, and, as a consequence, the ISC and the Committee no longer had jurisdiction over him.

On May 23, 2022, the Committee transmitted a Report to the House regarding allegations relating to Representative Madison Cawthorn.

On May 23, 2022, the Committee announced it had unanimously voted to establish an ISC with regard to allegations that Representative Madison Cawthorn improperly promoted a cryptocurrency in which he may have had an undisclosed financial interest, and/or engaged in an improper relationship with an individual employed on his congressional staff.

On May 23, 2022, the Committee announced that, pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a), it would continue to review allegations referred by the OCE regarding Representative Ronny Jackson.

On May 23, 2022, the Committee announced that, pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a), it would continue to review allegations referred by the OCE regarding Representative Alex Mooney.

On May 31, 2022, the Committee announced that, pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a), it would continue to review allegations referred by the OCE regarding Representative Pat Fallon.

On May 31, 2022, the Committee announced that, pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a), it would continue to review allegations referred by the OCE regarding Representative Chris Jacobs.

On May 31, 2022, the Committee announced that, pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a), it would continue to review allegations referred by the OCE regarding Representative John Rutherford.

On June 24, 2022, the Committee transmitted a Report to the House regarding allegations relating to Delegate Michael F.Q. San Nicolas, and announced its referral of substantial evidence of potential violations of federal criminal law to the Department of Justice.

On July 22, 2022, the Committee transmitted a Report to the House regarding allegations relating to Representative Judy Chu.

On July 29, 2022, the Committee transmitted a Report to the House regarding allegations relating to the arrests of Members of the House during a protest outside the United States Supreme Court on July 19, 2022.

On July 29, 2022, the Committee announced its dismissal of allegations referred by OCE regarding Representatives Pat Fallon, Chris Jacobs, and Thomas Suozzi.

On July 29, 2022, the Committee transmitted a Report to the House regarding allegations relating to Representative Andy Levin.

On August 24, 2022, the Committee announced its dismissal of allegations referred by OCE regarding Representative John Rutherford.

On November 21, 2022, the Committee announced that, pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a), it would continue to review allegations referred by the OCE regarding Representative Carolyn Maloney.

On November 28, 2022, the Committee announced that, pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a), it would continue to review allegations referred by the OCE regarding Representative Kaiali'i Kahele.

On December 6, 2022, the Committee transmitted a Report to the House regarding allegations relating to Representative Madison Cawthom.

These investigative matters are described in more detail below, in alphabetical order. Copies of all of the Committee's public statements related to these matters are included as Appendix IV to this Report. Those statements, along with any attachments referenced in the statements, are available on the Committee's website. All of the Committee's Reports as filed with the House are also available on the Committee's website.

In the Matter of Allegations Relating to the Arrests of Members of the House During a Protest Outside the United States Supreme Court on July 19, 2022

In accordance with the requirements of Committee Rule 18(e)(2), the Committee convened on July 27, 2022, to consider the arrests of Representatives Alma Adams, Cori Bush, Katherine Clark, Madeline Dean, Veronica Escobar, Sara Jacobs, Barbara Lee, Andy Levin, Carolyn Maloney, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Ilhan Omar, Ayanna Pressley, Jan Schakowsky, Jackie Speier, Rashida Tlaib, Nydia Velázquez, and Bonnie Watson Coleman for crowding, obstructing, or incommoding, during a protest outside the United States

Supreme Court Building in Washington, D.C., on July 29, 2022. Each Member paid or stated that they intended to pay a \$50 collateral payment, whereupon the local court would dispose of the charge. The legal proceedings related to the arrests were expected to be resolved with no further action.

After reviewing and considering this matter, the Committee voted against impaneling an ISC related to the conduct of the Members. In reaching this decision, the Committee considered the scope and nature of the violations, and determined it to be one for which review by an ISC was not warranted. On July 29, 2022, the Committee submitted a Report to the House describing the facts and its findings regarding this matter, as well as its determination to take no further action in this matter.

In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Joyce Beatty

In accordance with the requirements of Committee Rule 18(e)(2), the Committee convened on July 20, 2021, to consider the arrest of Representative Joyce Beatty for crowding, obstructing, or incommoding, during a protest inside a Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C., on July 15, 2021. Representative Beatty forfeited a \$50 collateral payment, whereupon the local court disposed of the charge. The legal proceedings related to Representative Beatty's arrest were thus resolved.

After reviewing and considering this matter, the Committee voted against impaneling an ISC related to the conduct of Representative Beatty. In reaching this decision, the Committee considered the scope and nature of the violations, and determined it to be one for which review by an ISC was not warranted. On July 26, 2021, the Committee submitted a Report to the House describing the facts and its findings regarding this matter, as well as its determination to take no further action in this matter.

In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Sanford Bishop, Jr.

On February 10, 2020, the OCE forwarded to the Committee a Report and Findings in which it recommended further review of allegations that Representative Sanford Bishop, Jr.'s campaign committee reported disbursements that were not attributable to bona fide campaign or political purposes, and that Representative Bishop authorized expenditures from his Members' Representational Allowance (MRA) that were not for permissible official expenses, in violation of federal law, House rules and other standards of conduct.

On July 31, 2020, the Committee released the OCE Report and Findings, along with Representative Bishop's response, and noted in a public statement that the Committee was continuing to review the allegations pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a).

As of the conclusion of the 117th Congress, the Committee had not completed its investigation into this matter. Representative Bishop was reelected to the House for the 118th Congress.

In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Jamaal Bowman

In accordance with the requirements of Committee Rule 18(e)(2), the Committee convened on February 4, 2022, to consider the arrest of Representative Jamaal Bowman for unauthorized entry during a protest outside the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C., on January 20, 2022. Representative Bowman stated he intended to pay a \$200 collateral payment, whereupon the local court would dispose of the charge. The legal proceedings related to Representative Bowman's arrest were expected to be resolved with no further action.

After reviewing and considering this matter, the Committee voted against impaneling an ISC related to the conduct of Representative Bowman. In reaching this decision, the Committee considered the scope and nature of the violations and determined it to be one for which review by an ISC was not warranted. On February 7, 2022, the Committee submitted a Report to the House describing the facts and its findings regarding this matter, as well as its determination to take no further action in this matter.

In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Madison Cawthorn

On May 23, 2022, the Committee announced that it had unanimously voted on May 11, 2022, to establish an ISC with jurisdiction to investigate whether Representative Madison Cawthorn may have: improperly promoted a cryptocurrency in which he had an undisclosed financial interest, and/or had an improper relationship with a member of his congressional staff.

At the completion of its investigation, the ISC unanimously concluded there was substantial evidence that Representative Cawthorn promoted a cryptocurrency in which he had a financial interest in violation of rules protecting against conflicts of interest; that he failed to file timely reports to the House disclosing his transactions relating to the cryptocurrency; and that his purchase of the cryptocurrency was on more generous terms than were available to the general public, resulting in an improper gift. The ISC also unanimously concluded that Representative Cawthorn did not engage in an improper relationship with a member of his congressional staff.

On November 16, 2022, the ISC unanimously voted to adopt and transmit a Report to the full Committee detailing the violations and the facts giving rise to those violations. The ISC Report also recommended the Report serve to admonish Representative Cawthorn, and that the Committee direct Representative Cawthorn to repay the approximate value of the gift he received to a suitable charity and to pay applicable late fees for his late filings of PTRs.

On December 6, 2022, the Committee made public its Report, in which it adopted the ISC's Report and recommendations, directing that Representative Cawthorn repay \$14,237.49 to a suitable charity not later than December 31, 2022, and to pay \$1,000 in late filing fees to the U.S. Treasury and file an additional PTR related to a sale of the cryptocurrency not later than December 20, 2022. Representative Cawthorn filed the additional PTR and has publicly stated that he donated \$15,000 to two nonprofit organizations.

In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Madison Cawthorn

In accordance with the requirements of Committee Rule 18(e)(2), the Committee convened on May 11, 2022, to consider misdemeanor charges filed against Representative Madison Cawthorn for driving with a revoked license and speeding in North Carolina. Representative Cawthorn has paid a fine to resolve one of the charges and intends to pay any fines associated with the remaining charges.

After reviewing and considering this matter, the Committee voted against impaneling an ISC related to the conduct of Representative Cawthorn. In reaching this decision, the Committee considered the scope and nature of the violations, and determined it to be one for which review by an ISC was not warranted. On May 24, 2022, the Committee submitted a Report to the House describing the facts and its findings regarding this matter, as well as its determination to take no further action in this matter.

In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Judy Chu

In accordance with the requirements of Committee Rule 18(e)(2), the Committee convened on July 20, 2022, to consider the arrest of Representative Judy Chu for crowding, obstructing, or incommoding, during a protest outside the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C., on June 30, 2022. Representative Chu forfeited a \$50 collateral payment, whereupon the local court disposed of the charge. The legal proceedings related to Representative Chu's arrest were thus resolved.

After reviewing and considering this matter, the Committee voted against impaneling an ISC related to the conduct of Representative Chu. In reaching this decision, the Committee considered the scope and nature of the violations, and determined it to be one for which review by an ISC was not warranted. On July 26, 2022, the Committee submitted a Report to the House describing the facts and its findings regarding this matter, as well as its determination to take no further action in this matter.

In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Pat Fallon

On March 2, 2022, the OCE forwarded to the Committee a Report and Findings in which it recommended further review of allegations that Representative Pat Fallon may have violated House rules, standards of conduct, and federal law by failing to file timely PTRs for various reportable transactions. On May 31, 2022, the Committee released the OCE Report and Findings, along with Representative Fallon's response, and noted in a public statement that the Committee was continuing to review the allegations pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a).

On July 29, 2022, the Committee released a public statement noting it found no clear evidence that the errors and omissions in Representative Fallon's PTRs were knowing or willful and that he was generally unclear on the requirements relating to PTR filings. Accordingly, the Committee unanimously voted to dismiss the matter and to take no further action.

In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Jeff Fortenberry

On October 19, 2021, criminal charges against Representative Jeff Fortenberry were filed in the United States District Court for the Central District of California. The Committee unanimously voted to establish an ISC to determine whether Representative Fortenberry violated the Code of Official Conduct or any law, rule, regulation or other applicable standard of conduct in the performance of his duties or the discharge of his responsibilities, with respect to allegations that: Representative Fortenberry's 2016 congressional campaign may have accepted illegal contributions; and Representative Fortenberry engaged in a scheme to falsify and conceal material facts and/or made false statements, during a federal investigation into his campaign committee's alleged acceptance of illegal campaign contributions. The Committee, following precedent, unanimously recommended to the ISC that it defer consideration of the matter in response to a request from DOJ.

On March 26, 2022, Representative Fortenberry announced his resignation from the House, effective March 31, 2022, at which time the ISC and the Committee lost jurisdiction to continue its investigation.

In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Matt Gaetz

On April 9, 2021, the Committee announced that it was investigating, pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a), allegations that Representative Matt Gaetz may have engaged in sexual misconduct and/or illicit drug use, shared inappropriate images or videos on the House floor, misused state identification records, converted campaign funds to personal use, and/or accepted a bribe, improper gratuity, or impermissible gift. The Committee, following precedent, deferred consideration of the matter in response to a request from DOJ.

At the conclusion of the 117th Congress, the Committee had not completed its investigation into this matter. Representative Gaetz was reelected to the House for the 118th Congress.

In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Al Green

In accordance with the requirements of Committee Rule 18(e)(2), the Committee convened on September 22, 2021, to consider the arrest of Representative Al Green for crowding, obstructing, or incommoding, during a protest outside the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C., on August 3, 2021. Representative Green stated he intended to pay a \$50 collateral payment, whereupon the local court would dispose of the charge. The legal proceedings related to Representative Green's arrest were expected to be resolved with no further action.

After reviewing and considering this matter, the Committee voted against impaneling an ISC related to the conduct of Representative Green. In reaching this decision, the Committee considered the scope and nature of the violations, and determined it to be one for which review by an ISC was not warranted. On September 28, 2021, the Committee submitted a Report to the House describing the facts and its findings regarding this matter, as well as its determination to take no further action in this matter.

In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Jim Hagedorn

On July 23, 2021, OCE forwarded to the Committee a Report and Findings in which it recommended further review of allegations that Representative Jim Hagedorn may have used official funds to contract for franking services with companies owned or controlled by his staff members and that Representative Hagedorn's campaign committee, Friends of Hagedorn may have used private office space at no cost or for a rate below market value. The Committee released the OCE Report and Findings, along with Representative Hagedorn's response, on October 21, 2021, and noted in the public statement that the Committee was continuing to review the allegations pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a). On February 17, 2022, Representative Hagedorn passed away, at which time the Committee lost jurisdiction to continue its investigation.

In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Bill Huizenga

On August 16, 2019, the OCE forwarded to the Committee a Report and Findings in which it recommended further review of allegations that Representative Bill Huizenga's campaign committee reported campaign disbursements that may not be legitimate and verifiable campaign expenditures attributable to bona fide campaign or political purposes and accepted contributions from individuals employed in his congressional office, in violation of federal law, House rules and other standards of conduct. The OCE also reviewed an allegation that Representative Huizenga authorized expenditures from his MRA for impermissible official expenses, but the OCE recommended the Committee dismiss that allegation. On November 14, 2019, the Committee released the OCE Report and Findings and noted in a public statement that the Committee was continuing to review the allegations pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a).

As of the conclusion of the 117th Congress, the Committee had not completed its investigation into this matter. Representative Huizenga was reelected to the House for the 118th Congress.

In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Ronny Jackson, Jr.

On December 22, 2021, OCE forwarded to the Committee a Report and Findings in which it recommended further review of allegations that Representative Ronny Jackson, Jr.'s campaign committee reported campaign disbursements that may not be legitimate and verifiable campaign expenditures attributable to bona fide campaign or political purposes.

On May 23, 2022, the Committee released the OCE Report and Findings, along with Representative Jackson's response, and noted in a public statement that the Committee was continuing to review the allegations pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a).

As of the conclusion of the 117th Congress, the Committee had not completed its investigation into this matter. Representative Jackson was reelected to the House for the 118th Congress.

In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Sheila Jackson Lee

In accordance with the requirements of Committee Rule 18(e)(2), the Committee convened on September 22, 2021, to consider the arrest of Representative Sheila Jackson Lee for crowding, obstructing, or incommoding, during a protest outside a Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C., on July 29, 2021. Representative Jackson Lee forfeited a \$50 collateral payment, whereupon the local court disposed of the charge. The legal proceedings related to Representative Jackson Lee's arrest were thus resolved.

After reviewing and considering this matter, the Committee voted against impaneling an ISC related to the conduct of Representative Jackson Lee. In reaching this decision, the Committee considered the scope and nature of the violations, and determined it to be one for which review by an ISC was not warranted. On September 28, 2021, the Committee submitted a Report to the House describing the facts and its findings regarding this matter, as well as its determination to take no further action in this matter.

In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Chris Jacobs

On February 28, 2022, the OCE forwarded to the Committee a Report regarding allegations that Representative Chris Jacobs may have violated House rules, standards of conduct, and federal law by failing to file timely PTRs for various reportable transactions. OCE did not make a recommendation regarding the allegations because of a tie vote of the OCE Board. On May 31, 2022, the Committee released the OCE Report, along with Representative Jacobs's response, and noted in a public statement that the Committee was continuing to review the allegations pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a).

On July 29, 2022, the Committee released a public statement announcing it found no clear evidence that the errors and omissions in Representative Jacobs's PTRs were knowing or willful and that he was generally unclear on the requirements relating to PTR filings. Accordingly, the Committee unanimously voted to dismiss the matter and to take no further action.

In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Hank Johnson

In accordance with the requirements of Committee Rule 18(e)(2), the Committee convened on July 28, 2021, to consider the arrest of Representative Hank Johnson for crowding, obstructing, or incommoding, during a protest outside a Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C., on July 22, 2021. Representative Johnson forfeited a \$50 collateral payment, whereupon the local court disposed of the charge. The legal proceedings related to Representative Johnson's arrest were thus resolved.

After reviewing and considering this matter, the Committee voted against impaneling an ISC related to the conduct of Representative Johnson. In reaching this decision, the Committee considered the scope and nature of the violations, and determined it to be one for which review by an ISC was not warranted. On July 30, 2021, the Committee submitted a Report to the House describing the facts and its findings regarding this matter, as well as its determination to take no further action in this matter.

In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Kaiali'i Kahele

On August 30, 2022, OCE forwarded to the Committee a Report and Findings in which it recommended further review of allegations that Representative Kaiali'i Kahele may have misused official resources for campaign or political purposes. The OCE also reviewed an allegation that Representative Kahele took official action motivated by financial interest or that he dispenses special favors or privileges, but recommended dismissal of that allegation.

On November 28, 2022, the Committee released the OCE Report and Findings, along with Representative Kahele's response, and noted in a public statement that the Committee was continuing to review the allegations pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a).

Representative Kahele did not seek reelection to the House, and the Committee will not have jurisdiction to continue the investigation after January 3, 2023.

In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Mike Kelly

On July 23, 2021, the OCE forwarded to the Committee a Report and Findings in which it recommended further review of allegations that Representative Mike Kelly's wife may have purchased stock based on confidential or material nonpublic information that Representative Kelly had learned during his official job duties. The Committee released the OCE Report and Findings, along with Representative Kelly's response, on October 21, 2021, and noted in a public statement that the Committee was continuing to review the allegations pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a).

At the conclusion of the 117th Congress, the Committee had not completed its investigation into this matter. Representative Kelly was reelected to the House for the 118th Congress.

In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Doug Lamborn

On October 25, 2021, the Committee received a Report and Findings from OCE recommending further review of allegations that Representative Doug Lamborn may have misused official resources for personal and non-official purposes; and that Representative Lamborn may have solicited or accepted improper gifts from subordinates. The Committee released the OCE Report and Findings, along with Representative Lamborn's response, on January 24, 2022, and noted in a public statement that the Committee was continuing to review the allegations pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a).

At the conclusion of the 117th Congress, the Committee had not completed its investigation into this matter. Representative Lamborn was reelected to the House for the 118th Congress.

In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Andy Levin

In accordance with the requirements of Committee Rule 18(e)(2), the Committee convened on July 27, 2022, to consider the arrest of Representative Andy Levin for crowding, obstructing, or incommoding, during a protest outside the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C., on July 20, 2022. Representative Levin forfeited a \$50 collateral

payment, whereupon the local court disposed of the charge. The legal proceedings related to Representative Levin's arrest were thus resolved.

After reviewing and considering this matter, the Committee voted against impaneling an ISC related to the conduct of Representative Levin. In reaching this decision, the Committee considered the scope and nature of the violations, and determined it to be one for which review by an ISC was not warranted. On July 29, 2022, the Committee submitted a Report to the House describing the facts and its findings regarding this matter, as well as its determination to take no further action in this matter.

In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Tom Malinowski

On July 23, 2021, the OCE forwarded to the Committee a Report and Findings in which it recommended further review of allegations that Representative Tom Malinowski may have violated House rules, standards of conduct, and federal law by failing to properly disclose stocks that he purchased or sold or failing to properly file PTRs for any of the stock transactions he made between 2019 and 2020. On October 21, 2021, the Committee released the OCE Report and Findings, along with Representative Malinowski's response, and noted in a public statement that the Committee was continuing to review the allegations pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a).

As of the conclusion of the 117th Congress, the Committee had not completed its review into this matter. Representative Malinowski lost his bid for reelection to the House and the Committee will no longer have jurisdiction to continue its investigation after January 3, 2023.

In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Carolyn Maloney

On June 23, 2022, the OCE forwarded to the Committee a Report and Findings in which it recommended further review of allegations that Representative Carolyn Maloney may have solicited or accepted impermissible gifts associated with her attendance at the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Met Gala. The Committee released the OCE Report and Findings, along with Representative Maloney's response, on November 21, 2022, and noted in a public statement that the Committee was continuing to review the allegations pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a).

At the conclusion of the 117th Congress, the Committee had not completed its investigation into this matter. Representative Maloney lost her bid for reelection to the House and the Committee will no longer have jurisdiction to continue the investigation after January 3, 2023.

In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Alex Mooney

On July 23, 2021, the OCE forwarded to the Committee a Report and Findings in which it recommended further review of allegations that: Representative Alex Mooney's campaign committees reported campaign disbursements that are not legitimate and verifiable campaign expenditures attributable to a bona fide campaign or political purposes; and Representative Mooney's campaign committees omitted required information from its

Federal Election Commission candidate committee reports. The Committee released the OCE Report and Findings on October 21, 2021, and noted in a public statement that the Committee was continuing to review the allegations pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a).

On December 22, 2021, the OCE forwarded to the Committee a second Report and Findings in which it recommended further review of allegations that: Representative Mooney's campaign committees reported campaign disbursements that may not be legitimate and verifiable campaign expenditures attributable to bona fide campaign or political purposes; Representative Mooney may have authorized expenditures from his MRA that were not for permissible official expenses; Representative Mooney may have used official resources, including staff time, for unofficial or campaign purposes; and Representative Mooney may have withheld, concealed, or otherwise falsified information during the prior OCE review. The Committee released the OCE Report and Findings on May 23, 2022, and noted in a public statement that the Committee was continuing to review the allegations pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a).

At the conclusion of the 117th Congress, the Committee had not completed its investigation into this matter. Representative Mooney was reelected to the House for the 118th Congress.

In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Marie Newman

On October 25, 2021, the OCE forwarded to the Committee a Report and Findings in which it recommended further review of allegations that Representative Marie Newman promised federal employment to a potential primary opponent for the purpose of procuring political support. The Committee released the OCE Report and Findings, along with Representative Newman's response, on January 21, 2022, and noted in a public statement that the Committee was continuing to review the allegations pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a).

Representative Newman lost her bid for reelection to the House and the Committee will no longer have jurisdiction to continue the investigation after January 3, 2023.

In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

On June 23, 2022, the OCE forwarded to the Committee a Report and Findings regarding Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

At the conclusion of the 117th Congress, the Committee had not completed its investigation into this matter. Representative Ocasio-Cortez was reelected to the House for the 118th Congress.

In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Ilhan Omar

On December 22, 2021, the OCE forwarded to the Committee a Report in which it recommended dismissal of allegations that Representative Ilhan Omar may have omitted required information from her annual financial disclosure reports and may have received an advance payment on royalties relating to her memoir. On March 22, 2022, the

Committee released the OCE Report. OCE did not transmit findings to the Committee, so no findings were published. The Committee noted in the public statement that a majority of the Committee did not vote to dismiss the matter, House Rule XI, clause 3 and Committee Rule 17A provide for no specific further action, and that the Committee would not further review the matter.

In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Steven Palazzo

On September 2, 2020, the OCE forwarded to the Committee a Report and Findings in which it recommended further review of allegations that Representative Steven Palazzo's principal campaign committee, Palazzo for Congress, made disbursements that were not for legitimate and verifiable campaign expenditures; Representative Palazzo improperly used or authorized the use of his MRA for personal and/or campaign purposes; and Representative Palazzo used his official position and/or congressional resources to procure special assistance for his family member. The Committee released the OCE Report and Findings, along with Representative Palazzo's response, on March 1, 2021, and noted in the public statement that the Committee was continuing to review the allegations pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a).

Representative Palazzo lost his bid for reelection to the House and the Committee will no longer have jurisdiction to continue the investigation after January 3, 2023.

In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Tom Reed

On April 9, 2021, the Committee announced that it was investigating, pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a), allegations that Representative Tom Reed may have engaged in sexual misconduct, in violation of House Rules, laws, or other standards of conduct. On March 10, 2022, Representative Reed announced his resignation from the House, effective immediately, at which time the Committee lost jurisdiction to continue its investigation.

In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative John Rutherford

On February 28, 2022, the OCE forwarded to the Committee a Report and Findings in which it recommended further review of allegations that Representative John Rutherford may have violated House rules, standards of conduct, and federal law by failing to file timely PTRs for various reportable transactions. On May 31, 2022, the Committee released the OCE Report and Findings, along with Representative Rutherford's response, and noted in a public statement that the Committee was continuing to review the allegations pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a).

On August 24, 2022, the Committee released a public statement noting it found no clear evidence that the errors and omissions in Representative Rutherford's PTRs were knowing or willful and that he was generally unclear on the requirements relating to PTR filings. Accordingly, the Committee unanimously voted to dismiss the matter and to take no further action.

In the Matter of Allegations Relating to John Sample

On August 26, 2021, OCE forwarded to the Committee a Report and Findings in which it recommended further review of allegations that John Sample may have been involved in and benefited from the use of official funds to procure services from companies owned or controlled by congressional staff members, including himself. The Committee released the OCE Report and Findings on November 29, 2021, and noted in the public statement that the Committee was continuing to review the allegations pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a).

On August 9, 2022, Mr. Sample resigned from the office of the First Congressional District of Minnesota, at which point the Committee lost jurisdiction to continue its investigation.

In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Delegate Michael F.Q. San Nicolas

On October 24, 2019, the Committee announced that it was investigating, pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a), allegations that Delegate Michael F.Q. San Nicolas may have engaged in a sexual relationship with an individual on his congressional staff, converted campaign funds to personal use, and/or accepted improper or excessive campaign contributions.

On June 12, 2020, the Committee announced that it had unanimously voted on March 11, 2020, to establish an ISC with jurisdiction to investigate whether Delegate San Nicolas may have: engaged in a sexual relationship with an individual on his congressional staff; converted campaign funds to personal use; accepted improper and/or excessive campaign contributions; reported campaign disbursements that may not be legitimate and verifiable campaign expenditures attributable to bona fide campaign or political purposes; omitted required information from or disclosed false information in reports filed with the Federal Election Commission; made false statements to government investigators or agencies; and/or improperly interfered or attempted to interfere in a government investigation of related allegations. The Committee determined to take that action following the receipt of a Report and Findings from OCE regarding the matter.

On May 20, 2021, the Committee announced that it unanimously voted to re-authorize an ISC for the 117th Congress to review the same allegations involving Delegate San Nicolas.

At the completion of its investigation, the ISC unanimously concluded that there was “substantial evidence that Delegate San Nicolas: accepted improper and/or excessive campaign contributions; engaged in a conspiracy to hide the proceeds of an illicit campaign contribution; knowingly caused his campaign committee to file false or incomplete reports with the FEC; and attempted to interfere with [the] Committee’s investigation (including OCE’s referral to the Committee) by causing his congressional staff to contact a likely witness in the Committee’s investigation in an attempt to persuade the witness to lie.” The ISC considered whether to seek a House-level sanction but, in light of the “potential violations of federal criminal law” and the applicable statutes of limitations, recommended that the Committee refer the matter to DOJ for further review.

On June 23, 2022, the Committee submitted to the House its Report regarding this matter, in which the Committee agreed with the ISC's findings and recommendations. The Committee concluded that Delegate San Nicolas' conduct may have violated several campaign finance laws, federal conspiracy law, and laws against witness tampering and obstruction of Congress. The Committee voted unanimously to refer this matter to DOJ.

In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Thomas Suozzi

On February 28, 2022, the OCE forwarded to the Committee a Report and Findings in which it recommended further review of allegations that Representative Thomas Suozzi may have violated House rules, standards of conduct, and federal law by failing to file timely PTRs for various reportable transactions. On July 29, 2022, the Committee released the OCE Report and Findings, along with Representative Suozzi's response, and noted in a public statement that the Committee found no clear evidence that the errors and omissions in Representative Suozzi's PTRs were knowing or willful and that he was generally unclear on the requirements relating to PTR filings. Accordingly, the Committee unanimously voted to dismiss the matter and to take no further action.