

## Advisory Opinion 2007-5

**Please Note: For clarity, references to and excerpts from provisions of statutes or the Ethics Guidelines have been updated to conform to subsequent changes in numbering and language, where the changes have not affected the substance of the Opinion.**

November 15, 2007

David Frydman, Esq.  
House Legal Counsel  
State House Room 312

Dear Attorney Frydman,

At its meeting on October 29, 2007, the Legislative Ethics Committee reviewed your request for an advisory opinion in a memorandum dated October 19, 2007. In your memorandum, you ask the Committee for an advisory opinion regarding your acceptance of a fellowship award from the Carsey Institute at the University of New Hampshire. Your inquiry states that the award includes an invitation to participate in a fellowship program that entails attendance at a three day policy leadership institute conference that will include underwriting or reimbursement of your expenses for food, travel, and lodging, and a \$1000 award.

We advise as follows: The underwriting or reimbursement relating to your attendance at the conference would clearly fall within the definition of "expense reimbursement," as defined in RSA 14-C:2, III, and your acceptance of it would be permitted provided that you report it. RSA 14-C:4.

Your acceptance of the \$1000 award is also permitted because you would be participating in discussion groups and other activities that fall within the definition of "honorarium." RSA 14-C:2, V. You will be required to report acceptance of the honorarium pursuant to RSA 14-C:4.

Please contact me if I can answer any further questions regarding this matter.

Very truly yours,  
Russell F. Hilliard  
Chairman

cc: Members of the Legislative Ethics Committee