

Management Services (S8G) provides the Assistant Inspector General and Deputy Assistant Inspector General with staff assistance on the full range of their responsibilities.

Add Subchapter:

#### Subchapter S8H

Office of the Counsel to the Inspector General

S8H.00 Mission

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#### *Section S8H.00 The Office of the Counsel to the Inspector General—(Mission)*

The Office of the Counsel to the Inspector General (OCIG) (S8H) provides independent authoritative legal advice, guidance and counsel to the IG and senior staff on legal issues; regulatory strategy; legislative proposals; and integration and interpretation of new and emerging authorities and Agency responsibilities under anticipated and current regulatory authorities. The OCIG provides advice on the legal issues being deliberated concerning relevant regulatory and procedural information and reviews documents and other materials to ensure sufficiency and compliance with regulatory requirements. The OCIG is responsible for the implementation of the Civil Monetary Penalty (CMP) program, including imposition of penalties and assessments, and the settlement and litigation of CMP cases. The OCIG is also responsible for the coordination and drafting of regulatory commentary.

#### *Section S8H.10 The Office of the Counsel to the Inspector General—(Organization)*

The Office of the Counsel to the Inspector General (OCIG) (S8H) under the leadership of the Counsel to the Inspector General, includes:

A. Counsel to the Inspector General (S8H).

B. The Immediate Office of the Counsel to the Inspector General (S8H).

#### *Section S8H.20 The Office of the Counsel to the Inspector General—(Functions)*

A. The Counsel to the Inspector General (S8H) is directly responsible to the Inspector General for providing authoritative legal advice concerning legal and regulatory strategy; legislative proposals; program authority and responsibilities; and the content of applicable statutes, regulations, rulings, administrative decisions and judicial precedents in all matters relating to

audits and investigations of Agency programs and the CMP program.

B. The Immediate Office of the Counsel to the Inspector General (S8H) provides staff assistance to the Counsel in support of the full range of his/her responsibilities.

1. The office implements the CMP program.

2. The office formulates CMP regulations and develops operating policies and procedures.

3. The office conducts or directs research involving controversial legal questions, issues, problems and complex cases concerning the interpretation, application and enforcement of Agency statutes, rules and regulations.

4. The office reviews, evaluates and analyzes factual and legal issues and materials resulting from hearings, court actions and other proceedings.

5. The office reviews proposed legislation, regulations, policies and procedures to identify vulnerabilities and recommend modifications, where appropriate.

6. The office reviews OIG files and records in response to Privacy and Freedom of Information Act requests.

7. The office provides legal advice to officials and employees regarding ethics and standards of conduct matters. Coordinates the OIG's confidential reporting system reporting on financial interests and outside activities.

8. The office imposes, settles and litigates CMP cases brought under sections 1129 and 1140 of the Social Security Act.

9. The office coordinates and drafts regulatory commentary.

Dated: June 23, 1996.

David C. Williams,  
Inspector General, Social Security  
Administration.

[FR Doc. 96-17649 Filed 7-10-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4190-29-P

## STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE

### Sunshine Act Meeting

**TIME AND DATE:** Sunday, July 28, 1996, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Monday, July 29, 1996, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

**PLACE:** Opryland Hotel, 2800 Opryland Drive, Nashville, TN 37214.

**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:** FY 1996 grant requests and internal Institute business.

**PORTIONS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** All matters other than those noted as closed below.

**PORTIONS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC:** Internal personnel matters; Board committee meetings.

## CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:

David I. Tevelin, Executive Director,  
State Justice Institute, 1650 King Street,  
Suite 600, Alexandria, VA 22314, (703)-  
684-6100.

David I. Tevelin,

Executive Director.

[FR Doc. 96-17755 Filed 7-9-96; 11:29 am]

BILLING CODE 6820-SC-M

## OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

### Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee for Trade; Meeting

**AGENCY:** Office of the United States Trade Representative.

**ACTION:** Notice that the Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee for Trade will hold meetings during the period beginning July 15, 1996 through November 30, 1996. These meetings will be closed to the public.

**SUMMARY:** The Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee of Trade will hold meetings beginning July 15, 1996 through November 30, 1996. The meetings will include a review and discussion of current issues which influence U.S. agricultural trade policy that include, but are not limited to, issues concerning WTO accession negotiations with various countries; U.S./Mexico bilateral agricultural trade issues; U.S./Canada bilateral agricultural trade issues; Chile NAFTA accession negotiations; international sanitary and phytosanitary barriers to trade; implementation of USDA's Long-term Agricultural Trade Strategy, and WTO Uruguay Round Agreement implementation issues. Pursuant to section 2155(f)(2) of title 19 of the United States Code, the U.S. Trade Representative has determined that these meetings will be concerned solely with matters the disclosure of which would seriously compromise the development by the United States Government of trade policy priorities, negotiating objectives, and bargaining positions. Accordingly, these meetings will be closed to the public.

**DATES:** The meetings are scheduled beginning July 15, 1996 through November 30, 1996, unless otherwise notified.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be held at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 14th & Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250, unless otherwise notified.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Clayton Parker, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Office of the

United States Trade Representative,  
(202) 395-6120 or John Winski, Joint  
Executive Secretary, Agricultural Policy  
Advisory Committee for Trade, Foreign  
Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of  
Agriculture, at (202) 720-6829.

Charlene Barshefsky,

*Acting United States Trade Representative.*

[FR Doc. 96-17428 Filed 7-10-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-10-M

**Trade Policy Staff Committee: Request  
for Comments Concerning Basic  
Telecommunications Services  
Negotiations Under World Trade  
Organization's General Agreement on  
Trade in Services**

**ACTION:** Notice and request for  
comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of the U.S. Trade  
Representative (USTR) is soliciting a  
second round of public comments on  
the requests made to U.S. negotiating  
partners in the Group of Basic  
Telecommunications (GBT) of the  
General Agreement on Trade in Services  
(GATS). The GATS is one of the  
Uruguay Round agreements  
administered by the World Trade  
Organization. Interested persons are  
invited to submit their comments on  
market-opening commitments that  
should be sought in the basic  
telecommunications services sector by  
August 1, 1996.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
William Corbett, Office of Services,  
Investment and Intellectual Property,  
Office of the United States Trade  
Representative, at (202) 395-4510 or  
Laura B. Sherman, Office of the General  
Counsel, Office of the United States  
Trade Representative, at (202) 395-  
3150.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Group  
on Basic Telecommunications (GBT)  
was created in April 1996 by a Decision  
on Commitments on Basic  
Telecommunications of the WTO  
Council on Trade in Services. It is the  
successor to the Negotiating Group on  
Basic Telecommunications (NGBT),  
which was created in April 1994 by a  
Marrakesh Ministerial Decision with a  
mandate to conclude talks by April 30,  
1996. The New group's charge is to  
continue negotiations on liberalization  
of trade in telecommunications  
transport networks and services within  
the framework of the General Agreement  
on Trade in Services. The Decision set  
the date for entry into force of a  
prospective agreement as January 1,  
1998 and established the period of

January 15 through February 15, 1997  
during which current negotiating offers  
could be modified or supplemented and  
MFN exceptions could be taken.

These arrangements, sought by the  
United States, effectively extended the  
life of negotiations to obtain more and  
better offers and thereby the critical  
mass necessary for the United States to  
maintain its offer.

The United States is in the process of  
refining requests for market-opening  
commitments from other countries  
participating in the GBT. These requests  
must be submitted by the end of  
September 1996. A list of countries  
participating in and observing the GBT  
is attached.

The United States objective in the  
negotiations is to obtain levels of  
openness in the telecom markets of  
other participants equivalent to the level  
in the United States. Interested persons  
are invited to submit their comments on  
commitments the United States should  
seek in wire or wireless  
communications, satellite systems,  
regulatory schemes, interconnection  
issues, foreign ownership restrictions,  
and competition safeguards, among  
other things.

Comments should be filed no later  
than August 1, 1996. Comments must be  
in English and provided in twenty  
copies to Mr. William Corbett, Office of  
Services, Investment and Intellectual  
Property, Office of the United States  
Trade Representative, Room 301, 600  
17th Street, Washington D.C. 20508.  
Non-confidential information received  
will be available for public inspection  
by appointment, in the USTR Reading  
Room, Room 101, Monday through  
Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and  
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. For an  
appointment call Brenda Webb on 202-  
395-6186. Business confidential  
information will be subject to the  
requirements of 15 CFR § 2003.6. Any  
business confidential material must be  
clearly marked as such on the cover  
letter or page and each succeeding page,  
and must be accompanied by a non-  
confidential summary thereof.

Frederick L. Montgomery,  
*Chairman, Trade Policy Staff Committee.*

**WTO Group on Basic  
Telecommunications**

**Participants in the NGBT**

Argentina  
Australia  
Barbados\*  
Brazil  
Canada  
Chile  
Colombia  
Cote d'Ivoire  
Cuba\*

Cyprus\*  
Czech Republic  
Dominican Republic  
Ecuador  
Egypt\*  
European Union  
Austria  
Belgium  
Denmark  
Finland  
France  
Germany  
Greece  
Ireland  
Italy  
Luxembourg  
Netherlands  
Portugal  
Spain  
Sweden  
United Kingdom  
Hong Kong  
Hungary  
Iceland  
India  
Israel  
Japan  
Korea  
Mauritius  
Mexico  
Morocco  
New Zealand  
Norway  
Pakistan  
Peru  
Philippines  
Poland  
Singapore  
Slovak Republic  
Switzerland  
Thailand  
Tunisia\*  
Turkey  
United States  
Venezuela

**Observes in the NGBT**

Bolivia  
Brunei  
Bulgaria  
China  
Chinese Taipei  
Costa Rica  
El Salvador  
Guatemala  
Honduras  
Indonesia  
Ivory Coast  
Jamaica  
Latvia  
Madagascar  
Malaysia  
Myanmar  
Nicaragua  
Pakistan  
Panama  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
Slovenia  
South Africa  
Trinidad & Tobago  
United Arab Emirates  
Uruguay

Participants making offers = 48 governments