

# ETHICS CENTRAL

*Office Of Internal Audit and Ethics*

To Promote Ethical Awareness, the Office Of Internal Audit & Ethics sends out a quarterly newsletter. In this edition, we highlight Keys to Becoming Ethically Balanced.

## KEYS TO BECOMING ETHICALLY BALANCED

If you want to become ethically balanced, consider these four keys and incorporate them into your life.



**Values-**Values are defined as your accepted principles or standards. They are the fundamental principles or rules that you live by that make you “ethical.” You must have deeply-held core values that show themselves in the everyday moral decisions you make.

**Perspective-** Perspective is defined as, “A measured or objective assessment of a situation.” The key to perspective is the ability to self-assess. Having an ethical perspective requires the ability to be flexible in interpreting and analyzing things within a morally principled framework. It means that you are able to see the big picture and work within it.

**Responsibility-** Responsibility is defined as, “The state, fact, or position of being accountable to somebody or for something.” Ethically balanced people accept responsibility for their ethical shortcomings and make a genuine effort to change for the better. Responsibility is more than accepting blame. It is an effort to do what it takes to learn, change, and move forward after failure.

**Character -** You must have a genuine awareness of who you are at your very core. This is character. Your character is the real you behind the façades and outward appearances. Your character should not change with the circumstances but be a constant moral anchor.

\*\*Information obtained from Global Ethics Solutions\*\*

## ASK AN ETHIC’S OFFICER

*Can I keep a door prize or raffle item?*

**Yes.** you may keep a door prize or raffle item with two stipulations:

- (1)The drawing, contest, or raffle in which the prize is won must be non-exclusive.
- (2)Your status as a Tribal Official cannot afford you an advantage over other participants.

If these two conditions are met then a Tribal Official is allowed to keep the prize, and it does not have to be reported on the Gift Reporting Form.



## FALL REMINDERS



**Due October 15**

➤ Q4 Gift Reports

➤ Annual Attestation & Disclosure Statement



## TOP 5 ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

- 1.) Public Service is a public trust—always consider whether your actions will be, or will be perceived to be, contrary to the public interest.
- 2.) Avoid situations in which you must weigh your obligations to the public against your personal interests.
- 3.) Avoid situations that will create the perception of undue influence.
- 4.) Avoid actions that may be perceived as a personal use of public office, including use of authority to support private interest.
- 5.) Safeguard Tribal property and resources.

\*\*Information obtained & modified from the US Dept. of Commerce\*\*

# ETHICS IN THE NEWS

## RECENTLY REMOVED DA GREG NEWMAN HAS NEW POSITION WITH ASHEVILLE, BUNCOMBE COUNTY



District Attorney Greg Newman listens to testimony from Superior Court Judge Athena Brooks-Asheville Citizen Times

One month after Greg Newman was removed from office as district attorney in a rare court proceeding, he has been approved to work in Asheville and Buncombe County as a defense attorney for indigent clients – those who have been accused of a crime and can't afford a lawyer.

The N.C Bar issued a statement clarifying that although removed as district attorney, Newman still retained his license to practice law. The bar argued that Newman's conduct warranted disbarment, however; the commission suspended his license for three years but stayed the suspension as long as he met certain conditions.

*Asheville Citizens Times*

## DIST. 2 TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE CHARGED WITH ACCEPTING ILLEGAL CONTRIBUTION



Bobby Slover- Cherokee Phoenix

Cherokee Nation election candidate Bobby Slover, was charged July 21 with accepting an illegal campaign contribution. The CN Attorney General's Office asserts Slover "unlawfully and knowingly" accepted a \$1,000 campaign donation from a legal entity, which is prohibited.

On June 15, Lisa Dawn Cookson of Tahlequah, a Slover campaign volunteer was accused of preparing, altering and signing more than 90 absentee ballot request forms without the knowledge or consent of voters "in an attempt to alter the outcome" of the June 5 election.

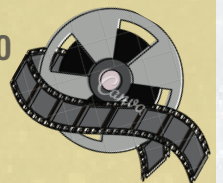
Under CN law, election fraud and false personation is punishable by up to three years for each count and a maximum fine of \$15,000.

*Cherokee Phoenix*

## ETHICS SPOTLIGHT GIFTS VS. BRIBES

Everyone knows that bribes are illegal, but what about gifts? What's the difference? A **bribe** is a payment offered to or accepted by, a Tribal Official to take a specific action (can you get me that contract?) or fail to take action (gee, officer do you have to write that ticket?). Bribes are **ALWAYS** illegal.

A **gift** is a gratuity not tied to a specific action. Tribal Officials may be allowed to accept a gift as long as they follow the guidelines outlined in the Ethics Rules of Procedure.



## Ethics Questions?



(828) 359-7030



(800)-455-9014



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