

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 Conflicts of Interest

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: WHAT SHOULD I KNOW?

What is a Conflict of Interest?

A Tribal Official has a conflict of interest when his or her ability to be an objective-decision maker could be impaired by his or her own interests, or the interest of immediate family members.

A conflict of interest can be real or perceived.

What are some examples of Conflicts of Interest?

You oversee the bid process for a project that your immediate family member has submitted bid.

A contractor who was selected to do work for the Tribe offers you their company box at a major sporting event.

How Should a Tribal Official Respond to a Conflict of Interest?

When a Tribal Official is confronted with a conflict of interest, he or she must abstain from making decisions about or influencing how the matter is resolved. Such abstention or recusal should include refraining from:

- ⊙ Voting
- ⊙ Taking any other action on the matter
- ⊙ Discussing
- ⊙ Influencing

If a Tribal Official is offered a gift, donation or contribution, from a contractor, potential contractor or subcontractor, he or she must refrain from accepting the gift, donation or contribution. The Tribal Official should immediately inform the contractor, potential contractor or subcontractor they are not allowed to accept gifts, donations or contributions.

AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT CONFLICTS OF INTEREST ARE MANAGED TO REMAIN TRANSPARENT AND TO MAINTAIN THE PUBLIC'S TRUST AND CONFIDENCE.

ETHICS IN THE NEWS

REP. JONATHAN HILL GIVEN \$12,000 FINE FOR DOZENS OF ETHICS VIOLATIONS

South Carolina Rep. Jonathan Hill will need to pay a \$12,000 fine and has been publicly reprimanded for ethics violations including taking campaign donations without proper disclosure and taking cash donations for more money than allowed.

Hill admitted to 54 ethics violations, including using campaign funds to pay his mortgage once and make two monthly music subscription payments.

The other violations involved poor record keeping of donations, failing to keep records of cash contributions as well as taking cash donations above the \$25 threshold at least 14 times.

Hill had faced 133 ethics violations, 14 were dismissed and more than half of the original allegations were consolidated into fewer violations.

Hill announced earlier this year that he was not seeking a fifth two-year term in office, he cited the demands of the office.

Yahoo News

Summer Reminders

July 15

➤ Q3 Gift Reports Due

July 29

➤ Quarterly Ethics Training



ETHICS SPOTLIGHT

C C S Q O U G U M R
 V I J L S Z S Y O Y
 A B P U O W K M R S
 L I C J V Y S L A T
 U O Z O A I A G L P
 E E E G M M J L S A
 S H O N E S T Y T N
 I N T E G R I T Y Y
 L S C S R X Y O Y H
 D R S V Z A D W E C

Honesty Integrity Values Morals Loyalty

ASK AN ETHIC'S OFFICER

What happens if I violate the Code of Ethics?

Any Tribal official who violates Cherokee Code, Chapter 117, Article IV, Section 117-45, Standards of Ethical Conduct, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by the Cherokee Court or any successor court, by a fine of no more than \$5,000.00 or 12 months' confinement, or both.

Ethics Questions?



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