

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 The Standards of Ethical Conduct.

THE STANDARDS OF ETHICAL CONDUCT

On October 17, 2022, Tribal Council passed Ordinance 368 to amend §117-45 governing the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Tribal Officials.

Ordinance Changes to the Standards of Ethical Conduct

- Narrowed the language to clarify Tribal Officials are not allowed to contract with the Tribe directly or through a business entity.
- Added a new section for Violation Consequences.
- Violations of the Standards of Ethical Conduct are no longer treated as a misdemeanor.

What Happens Now if a Tribal Official Violates the Code of Ethics?

- Tribal Officials who violate the Code of Ethics will be subject to an administrative fine.
 - This fine will be assessed by the Audit & Ethics Committee and will be based on previous violations and the severity of the violation.
- The Audit & Ethics Committee may also impose/recommend corrective action.
- The Audit & Ethics Committee will forward its findings to the appropriate agency, office or appointing authority.

Ordinance changes may be viewed by using the following link:
[Standards of Ethical Conduct: 117-45](#)



ETHICS IN THE NEWS

FORMER MASHPEE WAMPANOAG TRIBE CHAIRMAN AND ARCHITECTURE FIRM OWNER SENTENCED IN BRIBERY CASE

The former Chairman of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and the owner of an architecture-and-design firm in Providence, R.I. were sentenced today for bribery relating to the Tribe’s plans to build a resort and casino in Taunton, Mass.

Cedric Cromwell was sentenced by U.S. Senior District Court Judge Douglas P. Woodlock to three years in prison and one year of supervised release. David DeQuattro was sentenced by Judge Woodlock to one year of probation to be spent in home confinement with electronic monitoring. Cromwell and DeQuattro were each also ordered to pay fines in the amounts of \$25,000 and \$50,000, respectively.

On May 5, 2022, the defendants were convicted by a federal jury following a 10-day trial. Specifically, Cromwell was convicted of two counts of accepting bribes as an agent of an Indian tribal government, three counts of extortion under color of official right and one count of conspiring to commit extortion. DeQuattro was convicted of one count of paying a bribe to an agent of an Indian tribal government. Cromwell continues to face four remaining charges of filing a false tax return.

Source: US DOJ

WINTER REMINDERS

Due January 17

➔ Q1 Gift Reports



ETHICS SPOTLIGHT

GIFTS: WHAT IS AN ACCEPTABLE GIFT?

It is the middle of the holiday season. Offices are filling with cards, boxes of candy, and fruit baskets. All of this takes place in the spirit of the season. In the midst of holiday goodwill, the line between acceptable and unacceptable gifts may become blurred, leading to associated ethics risks.

The Code of Ethics prohibits Tribal Officials from soliciting or accepting anything of value that could have a substantial and improper influence on the performance of duties.

The rules of procedure provide guidance on Gift Giving and Receiving. Nominal or inexpensive gifts such as a coffee mug, tin of popcorn, or a t-shirt are not considered substantial. These types of minor gifts are not prohibited. Although you may still choose to decline them to avoid even the appearance of impropriety.



Ethics Questions?



(828) 359-7030



(800)-455-9014
ebci.alertline.com



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