



Ethics In The Public Eye

Government Ethics

Ethics offices are becoming more commonplace in federal, state, and local public agencies. The State of New York is the newest of the states to require ethics training for state employees and officials. Governor Mario Cuomo states, "top government employees should have no questions, no gray areas and no possibility of confusion regarding what is proper and what is not." [Cuomo Orders Ethics Training](#)

Business Ethics

Good Ethics is Good Business. That may sound like a bumper sticker, but it is also the conclusion of a recent national study conducted by the Ethics & Compliance Officer Association. According to their report; "Research shows that a strong ethical culture creates a happier, healthier organization. Critical studies connect positive, ethical cultures to lower rates of observed misconduct; reduced pressure to compromise standards; increased reporting of misconduct to leadership; greater satisfaction with management's response to misconduct; greater satisfaction with the organization as a whole; lowered exposure to situations inviting misconduct; and increased sense of preparedness to handle situations inviting misconduct." [Full Report](#)

Social Responsibility

The EPA ranks America's top ten greenest companies for 2011 with *Intel* topping the list for the third straight year. More than 85% of the electricity that *Intel* will use this year comes from renewable sources like solar or wind, making it the largest corporate purchaser of green power in the country. *Staples* and *Wal-Mart* round out the top three. [Read the full list](#)

Senior executives of Swiss-based *Transocean Ltd.*, owners of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig that exploded in the Gulf of Mexico last year spilling 205 million gallons of oil, are donating their bonuses to the families of 11 workers killed in the disaster.

"The executive team made this decision because we believe it is the right thing to do," chief executive Steven Newman said. [Full Story](#)

More News

There are ways to guard against being corrupted by the power that is a reality for many leaders in today's organizations, says *Harvard Business Review*. [Management Tip of the Day: How to Fight Your Power Trip](#)

Four federal agencies and 20 states announced a sweeping \$137 million settlement with *Bank of America* for its role in a bid-rigging scheme that played out at the Charlotte bank and other major financial institutions [Bank of America to pay \\$137 million](#)

Social media cites like *Facebook*, *Twitter* and *YouTube* have been embraced by Madison Avenue as effective new ways to reach consumers. But what happens when behavior on social media is deemed antisocial? Aflac fired its former spokesperson immediately after he [tweeted insensitive and offensive remarks about the tragedy in Japan](#) via his personal *Twitter* account;

The Ethics Office will use this new format for its quarterly report to give a heads-up for Directors and managers about interesting matters in corporate and governmental ethics from across the nation.

A summary of the categories of matters received by our office follows.

Ethics Matters

Matters brought to the MWD Ethics Office
January – March 2011

Gifts	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	20%
Nepotism	■ ■ ■ ■	15%
Customer Relations	■ ■ ■ ■	15%
Policy Issues/Theft of Goods/Services	■ ■ ■ ■	15%
Release of Protected Information	■ ■	10%
Conflicts of Interest/Commitment	■ ■	10%
Policy Issues	■	5%
Director's Conflict of Interest/Commitment	■	5%
Employee Relations	■	5%