

COMBATING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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ABSTRACT – Combating Conflicts of Interest

Conflicts of interest are more than headlines that blurt, "Politician caught in conflict of interest " or "professional denies conflict of interest allegations in the auto industry. " Have you ever wondered if you should be thankful that you haven't been the object of a business section newspaper story for conflicts of interest violations? Or, are you wondering about what to do to forestall such a story making you an interesting tidbit for one of the financial news services? Read on if you've wondered what exactly is a conflict of interest, why such conflicts are ethically significant, and what you can do to avoid being in one.

The problem comes when this private interest comes into conflict with the second element of recognizing the existence of a conflict of interest: that is your acting within or because or in conjunction with--an "official duty." Your official duty quite literally exists as the duty you have because you have an office, position, responsibility, authority, or are directed to act in an official capacity. The concept of obligation is paramount to this element.

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