



The BEGA/OGE Newsletter

ETHICALLY SPEAKING

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

As Summer draws to a close, things are continuing to heat up here at BEGA. Between reaching negotiated disposition in high-profile investigations, responding to requests for ethics advice and conducting ethics training programs our staff members have their hands full as we head into Fall.



As mentioned in our last newsletter, we have started to initiate enforcement action against designated employees and public officials who failed to file their Financial Disclosure Statements (FDS) during the annual filing season that recently concluded. Late fees can be assessed against non-filers at a rate of \$10 per day up to a maximum of \$300, plus additional penalties may be imposed for deliberate non-compliance with the FDS filing requirements.

Lastly, we are looking forward to hosting our annual Ethics Day event on Thursday, October 3, 2019 here at One Judiciary Square. Once the full agenda for Ethics Day is finalized we will share it on our website and in next month's newsletter.

As always, if you have questions or need advice regarding your ethical obligations as a District employee, feel free to contact us at (202) 481-3411 or via email at bega@dc.gov.

Regards,
Brent Wolfingbarger, Director

BEGA Happenings:

On July 9, 2019, Board of Ethics and Government Accountability filled the fifth and final vacancy on our Board. BEGA is pleased announce the appointment of **Felice C. Smith**.

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BOARD OF ETHICS AND
GOVERNMENT
ACCOUNTABILITY

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BEGA Happenings:

Felice C. Smith is Senior Counsel and Deputy Chief Ethics Officer with the Export-Import Bank of the United States, Office of Ethics.

Ms. Smith is an accomplished administrative law and federal ethics attorney with over 12 years of experience. As Deputy Chief Ethics Officer of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, she is responsible for day-to-day management of all aspects of the agency executive branch federal ethics program. Ms. Smith establishes training priorities for the Office of Ethics, develops strategic compliance solutions as part of the enterprise risk management program, and advises all staff, senior management, and the Board of Directors on Standards of Conduct and related federal ethics provisions. Having dedicated her legal career to public service, Ms. Smith has represented and advised various federal agencies in the legislative and executive branches since 2006, including the Library of Congress, Department of Justice, and Export-Import Bank. Ms. Smith has a breadth of experience in just about every subject area of law affecting federal agencies, including, employment law, intellectual property, anti-fraud and corruption, contract law, federal sector ethics, civil litigation, and safety and health compliance. Ms. Smith is also an Excellence in Government Program Senior Fellow with the Partnership for Public Service and a member of the U.S. Senate Toastmasters International Club.

A Ward 5 resident, Ms. Smith received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Juris Doctor from Howard University.

We are excited to have her on our team. Meet her at our next Board meeting on September 5, 2019!

Enforcement Matters :

- ❖ A Councilmember was fined \$20,000 for using Council time or government resources for purposes other than official business or other government-approved or sponsored activities; requesting his Chief of Staff to perform during regular working hours personal services on his behalf not related to her official government functions and activities; and knowingly using the prestige of his office or public position for his private gain. Read the full agreement [here](#).

Upcoming Events :

- ❖ **August 14, 2019:** 10 a.m. – BEGA monthly training 441 4th St. NW, Suite 540 South
- ❖ **September 5, 2019:** 10 a.m. - BEGA monthly Board Meeting 441 4th St. NW, Suite 540 South
- ❖ **October 3, 2019 – Ethics Day.** Location TBD

ETHICS TIPS!

Leaving District employment soon? Looking to do some outside consulting? BEGA does more than just agency-wide trainings and enforcement. Attorneys are also available for individual counseling sessions regarding any of the Code of Conduct provisions.

If you have any questions about these or other government ethics gifting matters, contact the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability at 202-481-3411 or bega@dc.gov.

Ethics in the News

❖ Interested in prosecutions involving the conflict of interest federal criminal statutes? Information on 12 prosecutions from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018 by the U.S. Attorneys' Offices and the Civil Division and Public Integrity Section of the Department of Justice was just published [here](#).