

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
BOARD OF ETHICS AND GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY



Office of Government Ethics  
Darrin P. Sobin, Director  
Asia Stewart-Mitchell, Attorney Advisor

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***Ethically Speaking***  
***The BEGA Newsletter***

**Message from the Director**

Happy New Year everyone. This year we are hoping to significantly ramp up our training program to increase opportunities for government employees to receive Ethics training. Our monthly 2 Hour Trainings will continue in the BEGA Hearing Room (441 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 540 South – sign up through DCHR), and are open to all District employees. We also hope to increase our mobile, agency specific ethics trainings. If any agency Ethics Counselor wishes to request an on-site training at the agency, please contact us. Most requests can be accommodated with only a 3-4 week lead time. *Darrin P. Sobin – Director*

**BEGA Happenings –**

- **Enforcement Matters**
  - ❖ A District employee entered into a Negotiated Disposition, agreeing to pay a fine of \$300 for Code of Conduct violations involving misuse of a government vehicle. Read the disposition [here](#).
  - ❖ A Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs employee entered into a Negotiated Disposition, agreeing to pay a fine of \$1,000 for Code of Conduct violations surrounding his use of D.C. Government resources to benefit someone closely affiliated to him. Read the disposition [here](#).
  - ❖ A Commissioner of one of the District's Advisory Neighborhood Commissions was admonished for her participation in discussions regarding grants (*Cont'd*)

(*Cont'd*) from an organization for which she serves as board member. Read the disposition [here](#).

- **Formal Advisory Opinions**
  - ❖ BEGA recently issued a Social Media Advisory Opinion. It can be viewed [here](#).
- **2016 Best Practices Report**
  - ❖ BEGA recently issued its 2016 Best Practices Report. It can be viewed [here](#).

**Upcoming Events –**

- February 9, 2017 - BEGA Monthly Board Meeting - 441 4<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Suite 540 South
- February 14, 2017 – Ethics Training - 441 4<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Suite 540 South
- February 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – Financial Disclosure Training - 441 4<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Suite 540 South

**Ethics In the News –**

- [Governor of Maryland calls for ethics reforms](#)
- [Former Maryland State Delegate, Will Campos pleads guilty to accepting bribes for official favor](#)
- [South Dakota lawmakers take first steps to repeal ethics law](#)
- [Former Detroit transit officer indicted in corruption probe](#)

**Good to Know – Employee Cooperation**

Employees are obligated to immediately and directly report credible violations of the District Code of Conduct and fully cooperate with any investigation, enforcement action, or other official function of the Office of Government Ethics; an agency may not coerce, harass or retaliate against an employee acting in good faith to cooperate with such an action.

**If you have any questions, we can be reached at 202-481-3411, or through our website at [www.bega-dc.gov](http://www.bega-dc.gov)**