



Ethics In The Public Eye

(Compiled from Linked Sources)

Government Ethics

WASHINGTON – Conflicts of Interest. The Supreme Court upheld conflict-of-interest laws across the nation that forbid legislators and city council members from voting on matters in which they have a conflict of interest, rejecting the argument that governmental votes cast by elected officials are free speech protected by the 1st Amendment. [Full Story](#)

CHICAGO – Fraud. Chicago Department of Public Health employees lied about the hours they worked and went shopping while on the clock, the city’s watchdog said today. [Full Story](#)

Disclosure

NEW YORK - Senate Passes Public Integrity Reform Act of 2011. The Public Integrity Reform Act of 2011, bill S.5679, significantly expands disclosure of outside employment and income of all legislators and makes the information available to the public. It creates unprecedented transparency and creates an independent, bipartisan Commission on Public Ethics with strong enforcement powers to investigate violations of law by members of the executive and legislative branches – as well as oversee lobbyists with newly expanded disclosure rules. The bill could also result in stripping violators of their pensions if they betray the public’s trust. [Full Story](#)

Retaliation

ATLANTA - A major shake-up is underway at the state’s ethics commission. The top two staffers are both on their way out after the commission voted to slash one staffer's salary and eliminate the other staffer's position.

But there is more. The budget decision was made while those two staffers were conducting an investigation of Governor Nathan Deal's campaign-- an investigation that the FBI offered to help with. [Full Story](#)

Business Ethics

FORT WAYNE - Ethics Award: CNC Industries receives the 2011 Better Business Bureau Torch Award for marketplace ethics and integrity. Recipients are selected for their commitment to conducting business in an ethical manner, gaining trust in the marketplace and exhibiting integrity. [Full Story](#)

Corporate News

May 2, 2011 – Social Media
In what labor officials and lawyers view as a groundbreaking case involving workers and social media, the National Labor Relations Board has accused a company of illegally firing an employee after she criticized her supervisor on her Facebook page. [Full Story](#)

May 6, 2011 - Privacy
Two Allina hospitals in Anoka County have fired 32 employees for improperly accessing the medical records of patients who were hospitalized in March in the wake of a massive drug overdose at a party in Blaine, Massachusetts. [Full Story](#)

May 9, 2011 – Whistleblowing
CompUSA and Tiger Direct CEO Gilbert Fiorentino agreed to resign and surrender \$11 million in assets to parent company Systemax in the wake of a whistleblower allegation, and subsequent investigation, of impropriety and self-interest. [Full Story](#)

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

Ethics Matters

Matters brought to the MWD Ethics Office
April – June 2011

Policy Issues	■■■■■■■	22%
Conflicts of Interest/Commitment	■■■■■	19%
Outside Employment	■■■■	15%
Gifts	■■■	11%
Employee/ Customer Relations	■■	7%
Theft of Time/Misuse of Position	■■	7%
Discrimination	■	4%
Misuse of Resources	■	4%
Safety Issues/Kickbacks	■	4%
Theft of Goods and Services	■	4%
Workplace Violence/Threats	■	4%