

ETHICS WEEK 2025

Keeping Government Transparent and Ethical

OCTOBER 14-17, 2025



COURSE SCHEDULE

Courses subject to change. Each course is offered in-person only or virtually only – read each course description carefully. You must register for each in-person session individually. However, one registration will register you for all virtual courses.

For the virtual courses, add each virtual course to your calendar once you receive registration emails from WebEx.

For ADA accommodations, contact bega.training@dc.gov. For technical issues, contact our IT Representative, kevin.brown@dc.gov.

Day 1 – Tuesday, October 14, 2025 (In Person)

10:00 – 11:00

**OGE Director's Introduction and
2025 Financial Disclosure Season Recognition**

[Register](#)

- Ashley Cooks, Director of Government Ethics

11:00 – 12:00

**An Outside Employment Conversation with the
DC Auditor's Office**

[Register](#)

- Audit Supervisor Ed Farley
- Senior Auditor Imani Boston

*******LUNCH BREAK – 12:00 – 1:00*******

1:00 – 2:00

**Seeking, Negotiating, and Post-Employment:
How to do it and what could go wrong**

[Register](#)

An OGE attorney walks through how to properly seek, negotiate for and maintain outside employment, how to proceed with employment after leaving District government and some of the potential issues with outside employment and post-employment

- Maurice Echols, OGE Attorney Advisor

2:15 – 3:15

Outside Employment Case-by-Case

[Register](#)

A review of the Office of Government Ethics more recent outside employment cases.

- Asia Stewart-Mitchell, OGE Supervisory Attorney

3:30 – 4:30

**Outside Employment and Activity:
Hypotheticals and Everyday Scenarios**

[Register](#)

Information on and a hypothetical for each of the nine outside employment restrictions.

- Brenda Keels, OGE Attorney Advisor

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Day 2 – Wednesday, October 15, 2025 (In Person)

10:00 – 11:00

Ethics Gameshow

[Register](#)

Test your knowledge of the ethics rules using real-life scenarios.

- Lynn Tran, Senior Counsel to BEGA's Board

11:15 – 12:15

**Donations and Gifts: When and How to
Accept Things on Behalf of the District**

[Register](#)

- Maurice Echols, OGE Attorney Advisor
- Dominique Scott, Director of Serve DC

*******LUNCH BREAK – 12:00 – 2:00*******

2:00 – 3:00

**“WAG” Stands for Widely Attended Gathering:
Accepting Free Attendance to Events in Your
Official Capacity**

[Register](#)

Information on the District's exceptions to the prohibition on accepting gifts, as they pertain to accepting free attendance to conferences and events.

- Maurice Echols, OGE Attorney Advisor
- Brenda Keels, OGE Attorney Advisor
- Shannon Monk, OGE Attorney Advisor

3:15 – 4:15

This or That: Is it Ethics or a Personnel Matter

[Register](#)

An OGE Attorney and a DCHR representative discuss common issues reported to both offices and identify the issues as ethics-related, HR-related or both.

- Asia Stewart-Mitchell, OGE Supervisory Attorney
- Vernon Thompson, DCHR Attorney Advisor

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Day 3 – Thursday, October 16, 2025 (Hybrid)

10:00 – 10:15

OOG Director's Introduction – The State of Government Transparency in DC

[Register](#)

The Director opens a full day of FOIA and Open Meetings courses and discusses the state of government transparency in the District of Columbia.

- Niquelle Allen, Director of Open Government

10:15 – 10:45

The Responsible Use of AI Tools in Government

[Register](#)

This course will provide an explanation of the basic characteristics of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies, including generative AI and large language models (LLMs). The course will cover the impact of AI on government records and FOIA and discuss how AI is currently impacting the government services.

- Niquelle Allen, Director of Open Government

11:00 – 12:00

History of the OMA/Recent Changes to the OMA

[Register](#)

This course will provide an overview of the history of DC's Open Meetings Act and discuss recent changes made to the Act by the D.C. Council.

- Brandon Lewis, OOG Attorney Advisor

*******LUNCH BREAK – 12:00 – 12:30 *******

12:30 – 1:30

Overview of Recent FOIA and OMA Advisory Opinions and Advice

[Register](#)

This course is an overview of recent FOIA and OMA Advisory Opinions and Advice issued by the Office of Open Government.

- Louis Neal, OOG Chief Counsel

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Day 3 – Thursday, October 16, 2025 (Hybrid) (cont.)

1:45 – 2:45

Introduction to the DC Freedom of Information Act

[Register](#)

This course will provide a brief history of D.C. FOIA, an overview of the FOIA exemptions, and practical topics for FOIA officers.

- Joan Lelma, OOG Attorney Advisor

3:00 – 4:00

Parliamentary Procedure

[Register](#)

This course teaches the basics of Robert's Rules of Order, focusing on the 7 FUNDAMENTAL MOTIONS

- Susan Leahy

Day 4 – Friday, October 17, 2025 (Virtual)

10:30 – 11:30

Legal Ethics for Government Attorneys

[Register](#)

Government attorneys can earn CLE credit at the annual overview of legal ethics.

- Rashee Raj, BEGA General Counsel
- Nakia Matthews, DC Bar Senior Legal Ethics Counsel

11:45 – 12:45

Fireside Chat: Outside Employment

[Register](#)

- Rashee Raj, BEGA General Counsel

*****END*****