



District of Columbia

**BEGA October 2025 Newsletter***District of Columbia sent this bulletin at 10/10/2025 09:11 AM EDT*

# Ethically Speaking

Board of Ethics and Government Accountability Newsletter

**Volume 10, Issue 5****October 2025**

## A Message From the Director

Dear Ethics Counselors and BEGA Friends, welcome to the fall season. We've been diligently preparing for Ethics Week 2025 - Keeping Government Transparent and Ethical - and have found several ways to achieve this goal.



Studies show that key factors include attending ethics trainings and seminars, proactively seeking advice, reporting violations, sharing ethics information, and disclosing financial interests. We have built a symposium to address these practices. I hope to see you there!

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## New and Notable



### Ethics Week 2025 is here

Ethics Week 2025: Keeping Government Transparent and Ethical will be held next week, October 14-17. Join us for a mix of in-person and virtual courses. The course schedule and sign-up information is available on the [Ethics Week 2025](#) page on BEGA's website.

### New Outside Employment and Lobbying Training

OGE has added new courses to our Learning Management System on the rules governing Outside Employment and Lobbying in the District. You can check out the new courses [here](#).

### Acting General Counsel Asia Stewart-Mitchell

OGE Supervisory Attorney Asia Stewart-Mitchell has been appointed to serve as BEGA's Acting General Counsel.

## Enforcement Updates

## Upcoming Events

### General Ethics Training

11/12/25 - 1:00 pm  
12/10/25 - 1:00 pm

### Board and Commission Training

10/20/25 - 11:00 am

### Lobbyist Registration & Reporting and E-Filing Training

12/17/25 - 10:30 am

### Ethics Counselor Brown Bag Gifts

11/24/25 - 1:00 pm

27-0007-F In re M. Davis

The Board approved a negotiated disposition with Respondent, a Metropolitan Police Officer, for three counts of using government time and resources for other than official business or government approved or sponsored activities in violation of DPM § 1807.1(b). Respondent worked at Giant Food Store during the same time he reported working for MPD on 193 occasions between August 2021 and June 2023, posted an Instagram video of himself in a movie theater at a time he was scheduled to work overtime for MPD, and used a MPD vehicle to transport himself to and from his outside employment at Giant. Respondent agreed to pay a \$10,500 civil penalty and attend ethics training.

25-0008-F In re M. Stinson

The Board approved a negotiated disposition with

Respondent, a former Instructional Superintendent with DC Public Schools for four violations of the Code of Conduct: (1) Respondent used her position to influence a subordinate principal to fund business between the principal's school and a company that employed Respondent in violation of D.C. Official Code § 1-1162.23(a); (2) Respondent misrepresented the income from her outside employment in 2021 and 2022 on her Financial Disclosure Statement in violation of D.C. Official Code § 1-1162.24(a)(1); Respondent reported working a full day for the District or taking sick leave when she was engaged in her outside employment in violation of DPM § 1807.1(b)' and (4) Respondent used her District government email to send and receive correspondence regarding her outside consulting business in violation of DPM § 1808. Respondent

agreed to pay a \$15,000 civil penalty.

24-0134-P In re C Jones

The Director of Government Ethics imposed a \$500 ministerial fine against Respondent, a former employee of the Department of Employment Services (DOES) for failure to file a full and complete financial disclosure statement in violation of D.C. Official Code § 1-1162.24(a)(1). Respondent failed to disclose a property management company that he owned with his spouse on his public financial disclosure statements in 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022.

25-0064-P In re M. Whittier

The Director of Government Ethics issued a public reprimand to Respondent, an employee with DOES, for violating DPM § 1807.1(b) by engaging in outside employment during her District tour of duty.

Ethics in the News

Retired four-star general Robert Burke, was sentenced to six years in prison for



attempting to direct millions of dollars in federal contracts to a company in exchange for a job with the company. Admiral Burke was convicted of four felony counts, including bribery and conspiracy, in connection with a scheme to direct a subordinate to award a contract to a company that offered him a position after his retirement. Read more about the case [here](#).

The federal Office of Government Ethics has highlighted guidance on the application of the ethics rules in light of the lapse in appropriations. The guidance previously issued by OGE is linked below:

- LA-18-6: Ethics Laws and Regulations Continue to Apply to Federal Government Employees during Furlough Periods
- LA-19-01: Ethics Guidance for Employees in Non-Pay Status

#### During a Lapse in Appropriations

- [Deferred Resignation Program and Other Extended Leave Statuses– Frequently Asked Questions](#)

## State and Local Ethics

A recent ProPublica review of hundreds of proposed ethics changes across the country found lawmakers in multiple states sought to block reforms intended to increase public trust in government. These include laws to increase gifts limits, strengthen conflict of interest provisions, and expand financial disclosure reporting requirements. The ProPublica article highlighted a law passed in Louisiana which makes it harder for the Louisiana Board of Ethics to launch investigations as well as a pending South Carolina bill that would exempt government appointees from filing financial disclosure reports. The report also noted failed efforts in Virginia to require disclosure of digital assets, in North Dakota to give more power and resources to the state's ethics commission, as well as unsuccessful proposals to increase lobbying and campaign finance disclosures in New Mexico and expanded conflict of interest rules in Connecticut. [Read more here.](#)

One of states flagged in the ProPublica report, Louisiana, reached an agreement with Governor Jeff Landry to resolve violations of the state's gift rules. Governor Landry agreed to pay a \$900 fine and disclose gifts of travel stemming from an investigation into Landry's acceptance of travel on a political donor's private plane when he was the state's attorney general. The governor disclosed 19 occasions when he accepted and did not report free travel and accommodations dating back to 2021, valued at an estimated \$13,540. [Read more about the reported gifts here.](#)

The Texas Ethics Commission fined a former state representative, Chris Paddie, \$105,000 for violating the state's revolving door law. Paddie was the author of the 2019 revolving door law which prohibited state legislators from becoming lobbyists within two years of donating campaign funds to other politicians. The \$100,000 fine against Paddie is the highest imposed by the commission since 2010, when the commission imposed a \$100,000 fine against a Texas Court of Criminal Appeals judge for failing to disclose income and property on her annual financial disclosure reports. [Read more here.](#)

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## Ask BEGA



**Question:** I recently joined the District government as a Program Specialist with the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services ("DYRS"). As part of my onboarding, I attended an ethics training facilitated by BEGA. During the training, the facilitator explained that District government employees are prohibited from giving, accepting, or soliciting monetary gifts from prohibited sources, unless the gift undergoes the proper donations process with

Serve DC.

This rule seemed straightforward until a co-worker sent a mass email to the entire agency soliciting donations for various charitable organizations across the District of Columbia. The subject line of the email was: "*Give a Little Hope: The DC One Fund Campaign Kick-Off Starts Today!*"

Could you please clarify whether it is permissible to donate through the DC One Fund, or whether the mass email solicitation I received raises an ethics concern that should be formally reported to BEGA?

**Answer:** As you noted, some ethics regulations restrict the giving, accepting, and soliciting of gifts—both monetary and non-monetary. Specifically, the District Personnel Manual ("DPM"), Chapter 18, Sections 1803 and 1804, provides rules regarding gifts from outside sources and gifts between employees.

You stated that an employee from your agency sent an email for the purpose of soliciting donations for the DC One Fund Campaign. Under normal circumstances, such solicitation would violate the DPM rules that govern prohibited gifts; however, the DC One Fund is excluded from this restriction because it is the District government's official workplace giving program.

Specifically, the DC One Fund is managed by the Office of the Secretary of the District of Columbia. The program was established to provide DC government employees with the opportunity to contribute to charitable organizations within their community and is the only authorized on-the-job charitable solicitation among DC government employees. Its purpose is to ensure an effective, efficient, and unified campaign that supports worthy charitable causes while minimizing workplace disruption.

Furthermore, District employees who administer and participate in the program must follow specific rules and guidelines to ensure ethical compliance. . For further details, we encourage you to reach out to our office with specific questions and review the resources linked below:

- [BEGA's DC One Fund Advisory Opinion](#)
- [BEGA's DC One Fund Do's and Don'ts](#)



1030 15th Street, NW  
Suite 700 West  
Washington, DC 20005  
Phone: 202-481-3411  
Email: [bega@dc.gov](mailto:bega@dc.gov)  
Website: [bega.dc.gov](http://bega.dc.gov)

**Board of Ethics and Government Accountability  
Office of Government Ethics**

**Ashley D. Cooks**  
**Rashee Raj**  
**Asia Stewart-Mitchell**  
**Maurice Echols**  
**Brenda Keels**  
**Shannon Monk**  
**Lynn Y. Tran**

Director of Government Ethics  
General Counsel  
Supervisory Attorney  
Attorney Advisor  
Attorney Advisor  
Attorney Advisor  
Senior Attorney Advisor to BEGA's Board

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