

Meyers, Robert (COE)

INQ 08-93

From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2008 10:50 AM
To: Santiago, Raymond (LIB)
Subject: RE: Question

Raymond,

Thanks for responding to my request for clarification. Given your particular question, I am focusing on two sections of the ethics code: 1) conflicting employment and 2) exploitation of official position. With respect to conflicting employment, the question is whether the outside employment could impair an employee's independence of judgment in performance of his/her public duties. Based on the description of the consulting work you have done in the past and likely to do in the future, such activities do not conflict with your county employment. Regarding the exploitation of official position provision, you have clearly indicated that you have not solicited these engagements and these opportunities have presented themselves based upon your 36 years of experience in the field. Therefore, no conflict of interest exists under this exploitation of official position provision, either.

Please keep in mind that you are required to receive approval for outside employment on an annual basis and you must disclose the income generated from these activities by July 1st of the following year for all outside employment income earned in the prior year.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Robert Meyers, Executive Director
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust
(305) 350-0613

From: Santiago, Raymond (LIB)
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2008 3:38 PM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Subject: RE: Question

Robert,

I use the term consulting in a rather general way. I have in the past been asked to do presentations on library services to the public, marketing of library services, leadership development, and facilities planning. During the course of these presentations I'm often asked many follow-up questions relating to their specific situations. This is what I refer to as consulting. I am not actively involved in soliciting these engagements, they come as a result of my involvement in professional organizations, and because of the position I hold (after 36 years as a librarian some people think I know something).

Thanks again for taking the time to review my question.

Raymond

Raymond Santiago, Director
Miami-Dade Public Library System
101 West Flagler Street
Miami, Florida 33130

5/27/2008

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From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2008 2:23 PM
To: Santiago, Raymond (LIB)
Subject: RE: Question

Raymond,

Thank you for your e-mail. I can't see how serving as a reviewer could constitute an ethical breach. As far as the consulting goes, could you provide me with more information about the type of consulting work you are doing for other libraries?

Thanks,

Robert

From: Santiago, Raymond (LIB)
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2008 5:53 PM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Subject: Question

Robert,

For the past few years I have been a grant reader and reviewer for the Institute of Museum and Library Services in Washington, DC. IMLS pays for my travel expenses to Washington as well as providing me with an honorarium. I take annual leave for the time I'm away serving on the review panel. In addition I file an Outside Employment form as well as an Outside Income form as required by the County. I have also been asked on occasion to consult and/or do presentations by other library systems and professional associations. Again, I have taken annual leave when an honorarium is involved and have indicated the income on my financial disclosures. My ACM is asking if my service as a reviewer, or as a consultant to other libraries, is an ethical breach. I would appreciate your opinion on this question.

Raymond

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