



● Ethics Officer's March Monthly Report

Summary

This report provides a general update on the progress and activities for the Ethics Office for March 2013.

Attachments

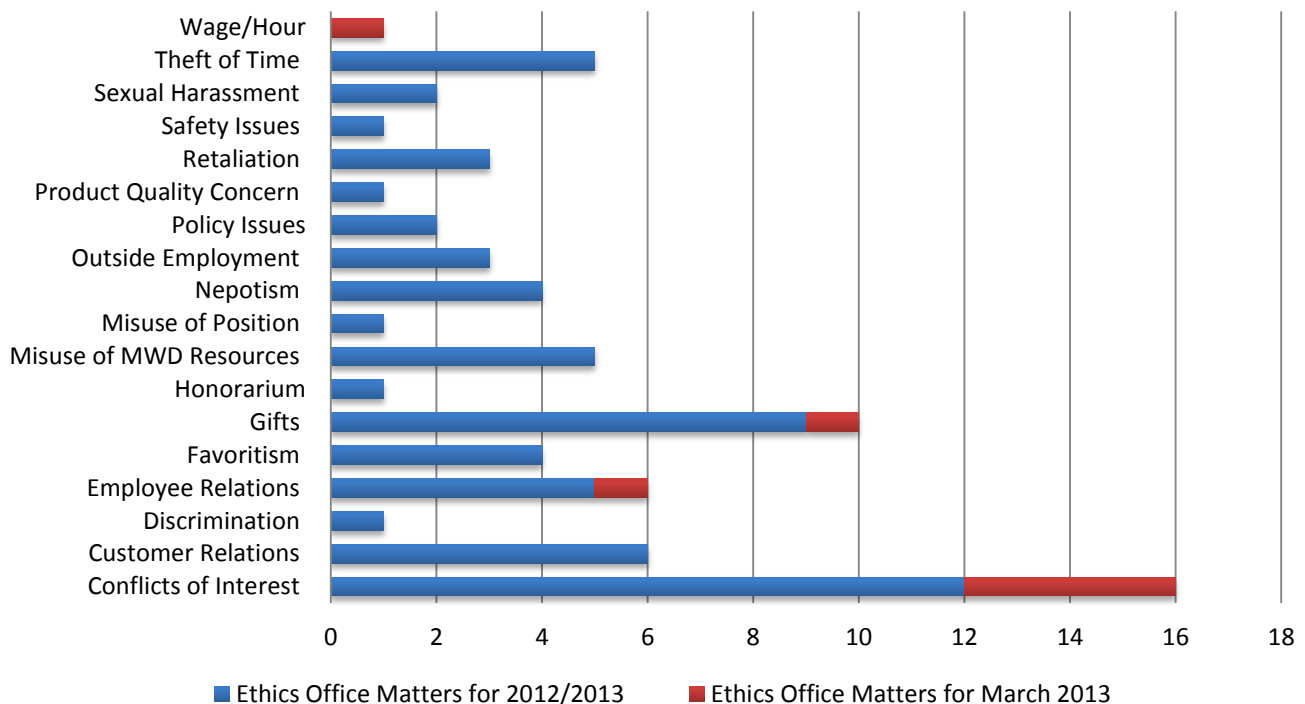
None

Detailed Report

Activities

1. The Ethics Officer continues to prepare an overview of the Ethics Office addressing its mandate, its resources, and her recommendations for the Department going forward.
2. The Ethics Officer attended a three-day Director-sponsored Colorado River Aqueduct Inspection Trip on March 1-3, 2013.
3. The Ethics Officer provided an overview of the Ethics Office for Union representatives on March 22, 2013.
4. The Ethics Officer provided an overview of the Ethics Office for employees at La Verne on March 27, 2013.
5. A new poster (recycled from previous versions) has been sent to all facilities as a reminder that the Ethics Office is available to employees.
6. The Ethics Officer conducted New Director Orientation for two Directors.
7. The Ethics Educator conducted New Employee Orientation for four employees.
8. The Ethics Office website logged 1,003 visitors from March 1-31, 2013.

Matters Brought to the Attention of the Ethics Office



Type	March 2013	YTD 2012/2013
Ethics Complaints		
<i>Customer Relations</i>	1P	4
<i>Favoritism</i>		4
<i>Nepotism</i>		3
<i>Employee Relations</i>	1+1P	2
<i>Sexual Harassment</i>		2
<i>Conflict of Interest</i>	2+1P	
<i>Discrimination</i>		1
<i>Theft of Time</i>	1P	3
<i>Misuse of MWD Resources</i>		2
<i>Misuse of Position</i>		1
<i>Policy Issues</i>		1
<i>Product Quality Concerns</i>		1
<i>Wage/Hour</i>	1	
<i>Retaliation</i>	1P	1
<i>Safety</i>		1
<i>Total</i>	3	26
<i>P = Pending</i>	5P	
Ethics Advice		
<i>Conflicts of Interest</i>	2+2P	11
<i>Gifts</i>	1P	9
<i>Outside Employment</i>		3
<i>Policy Issues</i>		1
<i>Theft of Time</i>		1
<i>Customer Relations</i>		1
<i>Employee Relations</i>		2
<i>Misuse of MWD Resources</i>		3
<i>Nepotism</i>		1
<i>Honorarium</i>		1
<i>Total</i>	2	33
<i>P = Pending</i>	3P	

Summaries of Queries and Ethics Office Responses

1. **March 14, 2013 – Issue: Potential Conflict of Interest**

A query was received regarding whether a Metropolitan Director can vote on Metropolitan affiliated projects where the Director has disclosed a conflict of interest.

Disposition: Pending

2. **March 22, 2013 – Issue: Potential Conflict of Interest**

A query was received regarding whether an annuitant who acted as a subcontractor for a responder to an RFQ could serve on the Metropolitan evaluation panel reviewing all proposals. Such a dual role would violate Operating Policy H-O3's prohibition against outside work involving matters before Metropolitan and may also violate state law.

Disposition: Closed

3. **March 26, 2013 – Issue: Potential Conflict of Interest**

A query was received regarding whether there is a conflict of interest for a Metropolitan Director to host a political fundraising event. Directors and others may host political fundraising events as long as they do not use Metropolitan resources and do not solicit funds at Metropolitan facilities.

Disposition: Closed

4. **March 27, 2013 – Issue: Potential Conflict of Interest**

A query was received regarding whether there is a conflict of interest for the spouse of a Metropolitan employee to enter into a contract with Metropolitan.

Disposition: Pending

5. **March 27, 2013 – Issue: Gifts**

A query was received regarding whether payments made by Metropolitan for guests of invitees to inspection trips could be reportable gifts under the Political Reform Act. This question was researched in conjunction with the General Counsel's staff. We have also consulted with advice personnel at the Fair Political Practices Commission and are awaiting a response from them.

Disposition: Pending