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AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES ETHICS GUIDELINES

Preamble

Consulting engineering is an important and learned profession. The members of the profession recognize that their work has a direct and vital impact on the quality of life for all people. Accordingly, the services provided by consulting engineers require honesty, impartiality, fairness and equity and must be dedicated to the protection of public health, safety and welfare. In the practice of their profession, consulting engineers must perform under a standard of professional behavior which requires adherence to the highest principles of ethical conduct on behalf of the public, clients, employees and the profession.

Fundamental Canons

Consulting engineers, in the fulfillment of their professional duties, shall:

1. Hold paramount the safety, health and welfare of the public in the performance of their professional duties.
2. Perform services only in areas of their competence.
3. Issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner.
4. Act in professional matters for each client as faithful agents or trustees.
5. Improper solicitation of professional assignments

CASE STUDIES

1. ABC Structural Design advertises on the local radio station. ABC Structural Design will pay a ten per cent finders fee for any type of structural engineering work referred to them.
2. CFG Structural Group is owned by Carby Freque, PE. He has no other employees. He solicits other engineering companies for their job histories. Then he tells future clients that the other engineering company employees are employed by his CFG Structural Group.
3. JJQ Structural Partners gives the local mayor free consulting advice for his real estate projects in exchange for engineering work referrals.
4. RPX Structural Associates has two large engineering projects involving different clients, LLQ Interests and CCQ Enterprises. When prospective clients of LLQ Interests call RPX Structural Associates with questions regarding product design, RPX Structural Associates refers the prospective clients to CCQ Enterprises.
5. XXY Structural Experts employs only structural engineers. Their board of registration requires a special examination for performing seismic design. Engineers at XXY Structural Experts have never taken the seismic exam. XXY Structural Experts periodically performs structural design requiring seismic expertise.
6. QQY Structural Engineers has designed several bridges for the county where several accidents have occurred because of poor design.
7. RQF Structural Consultants has designed several retaining walls which they know do not meet county specifications.

CASE STUDIES (continued)

8. The president of QPQ Structural Design Group tells the county commissioners that an unknown source told him (the president) that another engineering company makes faulty designs.
9. RVQ Structural Designers pays contractors for their recommendations to high-rise developers.
10. AQQ Structural Consulting accepts payments from contractors to make the latter sole bidders on certain projects.
11. YQX Structural Associates uses the most expensive contractors for the construction projects that they have designed. One of their clients objects; YQX Structural Associates then gives the work to a notoriously incompetent contractor.
12. YYF Structural Design prepares bids for a client's project. The brother of the president of YYF Structural Design owns a plumbing company and bids on the project. The brother bids \$47,000. The lowest bidder is \$45,000. The president forges his brother's bid to \$42,000. The client approves the low bid of \$42,000. Later, the president issues several false change orders after the project starts.
13. ZXT Structural Consultants offer to perform design for a public library building at reduced rates. Their design is faulty.
14. CQM Structural Constructors make a report that knowingly contains false statements.

CASE STUDIES (continued)

15. An engineer for RQI Structural Contractors accepts electrical design work for which he has no experience. RQI Structural Contractors has no electrical engineers.
16. The city engineer has a professional engineering stamp which shows his registration number and says PE. The city engineer only studied general structural engineering in the university. His practical experience only involved structural engineering. The city engineer refuses to contract any electrical or chemical engineering work.
17. BBQ Structural Engineering designs a public building which later collapses. Independent investigation shows BBQ Structural Engineering made a poor analysis of the soil tests.
18. AQQ Structural Group pays a secretary at the office of the local Association of construction contractors to prepare bids for the association construction projects that AQQ Structural Group wants to do.
19. QXQ Structural Consultants tells their city council that they have the best mechanical design engineers. QXQ Structural Consultants has no mechanical engineers.
20. QXQ Structural Consultants receive a mechanical design project from their city council. They perform the project. The design has defects.