



# DAU Board of Visitors 2014 Ethics Review

Presented by  
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# Federal Ethics: An Overview

- Why me?
- Basic Concepts
- Federal Criminal Statutes
- 2 Key Principles
- Common Problem Areas
- Hatch Act



# Why Me?

- DAU's Board of Visitors is a "FACA" Committee
- Also, each of you is a  
"Special Government Employee"



**Your reward: Must file Financial Disclosure Report  
& Must Receive Annual Ethics Training**

# Some Basics

What is “ethics”?

Correct behavior in a particular context

Why is ethical behavior important for Government employees?

Saves taxpayer \$\$\$

Reinforces legitimacy of Government actions  
(Fairness & Impartiality)



# Sources of Federal Ethics Rules

Ethics rules come from:

1. Federal criminal statutes (bribery, conflict of interest, etc.)
2. Federal ethics regulations
3. Miscellaneous regulations (FAR, GSA regs, etc.)



# Ethics

## Federal Criminal Statutes Related to Ethics

- Bribery (18 USC § 201)
- Prohibited Representation (18 USC §§ 203, 205)
- Post-employment representation (18 USC § 207)
- Conflicting Financial Interests (18 USC § 208)
- Private compensation (18 USC § 209)

Other relevant criminal statutes: larceny, fraud, misuse of Government database, false official statement, etc.



# Basic Principles

Federal ethics rules are derived from two basic principles. These are:

1. Federal employees shall not use their public office for private gain.
2. Federal employees shall avoid actions that cast doubt on the integrity and fairness with which the Government conducts its business.



**Some problem areas to watch out for . . . →**

# Misuse of Public Office

1. Misuse of Government Time, Resources, Title  
(Authorized purposes only; "limited personal use" rule)
2. Conflict of Interest  
(Official actions serve personal or other private financial interest)



# Upholding Public Confidence

## Actions That Cast Doubt on Government's Integrity & Fairness

### 1. Prohibited Gifts & Solicitations

(Given due to Government position, or from "prohibited source")

### 2. Misuse of non-public information

(Improper access/use of Federal database)



# Hatch Act Reminder

The Hatch Act prohibits Federal employees from engaging in certain partisan political activities. These generally include:

- ✦ Engaging in **partisan political activity** while on-duty, in workplace, etc.
- ✦ Political fundraising (“solicit, accept, receive”)
- ✦ Using official position to influence election;
- ✦ Soliciting political activity from anyone w/ business connection to DAU;
- ✦ Run for public office in partisan election.

# Conclusion

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