



## Journal of Legal Affairs and Dispute Resolution in Engineering and Construction

### Special Issue: Professional Ethics in Engineering and Construction

Guest Editor: Tara L. Hoke

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**P**rofessional ethics may be broadly defined as a set of moral principles that govern how a professional interacts with clients, fellow professionals, and the public at large. Upon adoption by a professional community, ethical standards become the rubric by which a profession measures the conduct of its members. Such standards emphasize values such as competency, honesty, and integrity and reflect a commitment by the profession to uphold and advance these values even where they conflict with the professional's personal benefit.

While ethical standards and the law share a common theme of distinguishing between what is permissible and impermissible in a given set of circumstances, the two subjects are by no means interchangeable. What is legal might not always be ethical, and an activity that satisfies ethical obligations may still violate the letter of the law. In many cases, however, professional ethics and the law work hand in hand, to guide and regulate the responsibility of engineers, attorneys, and other professionals to serve as faithful trustees and to preserve the public welfare.

#### Aims and Scope

The purpose of this special issue will be to explore the interplay between professional ethics and the law, as applied both to engineering and construction professionals engaging in legal matters and to attorneys representing professionals in the engineering and construction field. Subjects that will be considered for this special issue include, but are not necessarily confined to:

- Ethical and legal challenges of engineering projects in the global marketplace
- Contract liability limitations and the engineer's fiduciary duty to clients
- Employment ethics: non-compete and non-solicitation agreements and a departing employee's rights and obligations
- Ethical issues in expert witness selection, compensation, and testimony
- Conflicts of interest in multi-party construction dispute resolution
- Ownership of design ideas: copyright law and the ethical obligation of credit and attribution
- Creating the ethical workplace: policies and procedures that promote ethical vigilance and legal compliance
- Whistle-blowing

#### Dates, Submission Guidelines & URLs

High-quality original manuscripts are invited within the theme of "Professional Ethics." Manuscripts that treat ethical issues within the framework of existing laws and legal precedents and present arguments from a blend of ethical and legal perspectives are strongly preferred. Each scholarly paper will be sent for a rigorous peer-review assessment by at least two reviewers. Case studies are encouraged, and consideration will be given to manuscripts of a conceptual nature. All papers must be submitted in the standard ASCE format as detailed [www.asce.org/journals](http://www.asce.org/journals). For this journal, the Chicago style of works cited must be used, divided between lists of cases, references, and endnotes.

The submission deadline is 15 August 2011 and is critical to the schedule. The full paper must be submitted electronically at the journal's Editorial Manager Web site at [www.edmgr.com/jrnlaeng](http://www.edmgr.com/jrnlaeng). Please e-mail any query to the guest editor, Tara L. Hoke, using the following contact information:

**Tara L. Hoke, JD, Assistant General Counsel, American Society of Civil Engineers**

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