

Thank you, Kim.

The ethics guide is certainly a priceless resource.

Next we have a report from Scott Currie of the departmental ethics office.

Scott will speak to us concerning the use of public office for private gain.

Thanks, Ed and Donna.

We all know that the first principle of ethical conduct states that public service is a public trust.

It requires employees to place loyalty in the constitution, to the laws of the land, and to ethical principles above private gain.

Donna, I'm receiving breaking news from Chicago, Illinois, that a special agent for the Department of Treasury proved to be touchable.

Apparently Nessie Elliot, a supervisory special agent was a passenger in a car that was pulled over by a local police officer.

When the officer approached the vehicle, the employee presented the officer with her credentials, identifying herself as a federal agent.

The police officer, however, had never asked to see the employee's identification.

Believing that law enforcement officials may be tempted to treat other law enforcement officials favorably the department determines that the employee presented her government credentials to the officer hoping to receive favorable treatment.

The federal employee did not explicitly ask the police officer for any favors, but the circumstances led her agency to conclude that she had attempted to use her official position for personal gain, which we know is prohibited by the standards of ethical conduct.

As a result, the employee's agency determined that she was unfit to supervise and demoted her.

And Donna, here's a classic example from Washington, D. C.

If a high-ranking official misusing his position citing their strict age policy, a rental car company in Arlington refused to rent a car to the son of a bureau director.

Outraged, this father wrote on agency letterhead to the president of the rental car company and mailed in a government-paid envelope.

The company president was not amused and responded.

The bureau chief was fined for his personal use of official postage.

Ed, one hour of ethics training is bad enough.

Can you imagine being required to take four hours of ethics training?

And Donna, we often receive reports of employees using their government credit card for personal use.

An employee may not use government purchase authority, including government charge cards for personal acquisitions, even if the employee reimburses the government.

And Donna, I recently received a report from Washington of an I. T. specialist with the defense information systems agency who was reprimanded for offenses committed over a span of a year.

The investigators found that the specialist used his government travel card to pay for nearly \$3,000 worth of food, gas, and rental cars while on personal trips to Indiana to visit his girlfriend.

Ed, I hope she was worth it!

Because in addition to being suspended for three days, the specialist was required to reimburse the government for over \$1,000 of cell phone abuse, payoff his government credit card and take two days of personal leave.

Okay.

Donna, I'm getting a report from Atlanta, Georgia, that an employee paid the price for giving a government credit card to a friend.

Apparently when the employee's office issued him a

government fleet credit card, he decided to give the card to the friend.

This friend subsequently used the now stolen card for personal expenditures totaling over \$13,000, including gasoline, automotive parts and food.

Employee's generosity was amply rewarded by a district court judge who sentenced him to two years probation and liable for the money spent by his friend.

And the government fleet credit card program provides for the maintenance of government-owned and leased vehicles and is only to be used for authorized employees for official purposes.

Donna, these ethics violations seem to keep taking me back to Washington, D. C.

It was there that a supervisory accountant found herself at the receiving end of criminal charges for government travel card abuse, a situation that should have come as no surprise, given that her responsibilities included managing the NFS travel card program.

Investigators found that on 47 separate occasions, the accountant used her travel card to make personal purchases and unauthorized cash withdrawals.

When the I. G. began an audit of the travel card program, the accountant purged her own transactions from the records in an unsuccessful attempt to hide her misuse.

Not surprisingly, her misuse of the travel card not only ended her career at the NFS but barred her from all future federal employment.

And Donna, back to you.