

Special Trustee's Video Ethics Message (8/26/14) Transcript

The Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST) is committed to communicating and demonstrating the highest standards of ethical conduct.

OST has a fiduciary responsibility to its beneficiaries – American Indian Tribes, individual American Indians, and Alaska Natives to be a good steward of the funds it collects, records, invests, and disburses on their behalf; and OST has a fiduciary responsibility to the American public to make the best possible use of the federal funds that it receives to conduct its operations.

OST must demonstrate to its stakeholders and the public that its employees and managers are accountable for their actions and that OST conducts business in a trustworthy manner.

In addition to my duties as Special Trustee, I also serve as the primary ethics official at OST. While I delegate the day-to-day ethics activities to OST's Deputy Ethics Counselor, today, I reiterate to you that OST is committed to safeguarding its reputation as an ethically responsible and transparent government agency.

Each of you has a critical role in maintaining OST's integrity and reputation in the communities that we serve. Our commitment to ethical and transparent behavior and business practices must be demonstrated in every action we take and every decision we make.

To assist us in this process, OST is committed to abiding by the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch and for incorporating and appreciating our core values of service, integrity, excellence, respect, and emotional intelligence.

I appreciate that every day we confront issues that are complex and difficult. I expect you to use good judgment and common sense and to seek advice when you are unsure of the action to take.

OST has a number of resources to assist you in the decision making process, including but not limited to:

- your supervisor or manager
- the Human Resources Office
- the Ethics Office
- the Ombudsman
- and OST union representatives

Please join me in sustaining a workplace where we are all proud to work and where we know we have done the right thing by acting honestly and treating each other and our beneficiaries, contractors, and suppliers fairly and with dignity and respect.

Thank you for your commitment to upholding a high standard of ethics and for acting with integrity throughout Indian Country.

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