



*Queen
Anne's
County*

The Liberty Building
107 North Liberty Street
Centreville, Maryland 21617

Telephone 410-758-4406
Facsimile 410-758-6913

Tina Miles, Clerk
Lynn Knight, Attorney

The Ethics Commission

Robert Mueller, Esquire, Chairman
Kendall Ruffatto, Esquire
Reverend Nanese A. Hawthorne
Benjamin C. Tilghman, Jr.
Harold O. Wilson

Advisory Opinion from August 16, 2010.

The Commission considered the facts that were provided regarding the gift to a county employee of the cost to attend a Golf Outing and Seminar and whether it violated the gift provision of the County Public Ethics Law.

The Commission determined that from the information provided, the appearance of conflict would be created under the Ethics Law, as defined in § 8-12 (C) (2). The employee does hold some position of influence as a manager of capital projects. The purpose of the event, as stated in the invitation was to invite people of influence. The employee's attendance at no cost, but being provided by a supplier to county projects through a general or subcontractor, reasonably could give an informed member of the public the ability to conclude that the purpose of the invitation is to improve the provider's chances of selling his product for County projects. While the Commission is not concluding this to be true, it does conclude that the conclusion reasonably could be reached; and therefore, an appearance. If the employee wishes to attend the event, we suggest that he pay his own admission to avoid any appearance of a violation of the Ethics Law.

Advisory Opinion 10-11