

Country case: US House of Representatives' ethics clauses for consultants

Description

Beyond integrity clauses integrated into consultant agreements, some organisations recommend that consultants be considered as employees and as such require that they abide to the organisation's code of conduct and overall ethical rules and regulations.

The US House of Representatives, for example, subjects consultants to the House's ethical clauses, including those pertaining to gift acceptance, undue influence exerted on the consultant, discrimination, etc. (US House of Representatives Committee on Ethics, n.d.). Consultants are required to execute an oath of confidentiality before receiving access to classified information. In addition to these rules, consultants are also prohibited from engaging in certain lobbying activities, such as lobbying the contracting committee on any matter. Consultants are also subject to the House's gift rules governing the acceptance of anything having monetary value such as services, travels, meals, tickets, sporting events, shows, etc.

While the House's rules do not require consultants to file public financial disclosure statements given the short term nature of their services, the Ethics Committee strongly recommends that each committee, before entering into a consulting contract, obtain some basic financial information on the individual's source of income, the type of income and the rate at which he is compensated, the identity of each client for whom he is providing services, the nature and value of any investment and liability held by the individual that could be affected by the services provided to the committee. These recommendations are intended to allow monitoring of the consultant's compliance with conflict of interest rules.

Source: OECD (2015), [Effective Delivery of Large Infrastructure Projects: The Case of the New International Airport of Mexico City](#), OECD Publishing, Paris.

Public Procurement
Principle: **Integrity,
Capacity**

Procurement Stage:
Tendering

Audience: **Policy Maker,
Procuring Entity, Private
Sector**