



ESTABLISHING PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

Presenter: Allison Silberberg, Vice Mayor, Alexandria, Virginia

Public Management

Lesson Description

Being an ethical public servant requires trust and a commitment to transparency and objectivity. In this lesson we examine a few of the ways that elected officials and civil servants can work to avoid situations that can lead to ethical lapses.

Learning Objectives

1. Understanding public trust and the rule of law as cornerstones of democracy.
2. Maintaining transparency and fairness in leadership and representation.
3. Understanding the essential role of empathy, passion and a desire for social justice in serving the public.

Discussion Questions

1. What constitutes ethical and unethical behavior for those serving in positions of public trust?
2. What are the ways in which individuals, groups or businesses can attempt to influence elected leaders and public servants? What are some of the ways those working on behalf of a community can respond to undue influence?

Developmental Actions

1. Develop a code of conduct that you would adopt and adhere to as a leader.
2. Outline specific actions you can take to make certain that you adhere to this code.

About the Video Presenter

Allison Silberberg, the vice mayor of Alexandria, Virginia, is a writer and lifelong advocate for social justice issues. Elected to the Alexandria City Council in 2012, Silberberg has over 20 years of experience in community leadership and public service. Her writing focuses extensively on the role of the individual in creating social change. She is the author of *Visionaries In Our Midst: Ordinary People Who Are Changing Our World*, a book that profiles individuals who are making a difference in the U.S. Her writing has appeared in the *Washington Post*, the *Dallas Morning News*, and on PBS.org. Originally from Dallas, Silberberg has a B.A. in international relations and history from American University and an M.F.A. in playwriting from the School of Theater, Film and Television at the University of California, Los Angeles.

