



ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES

Government Contractor Ethics Committee on Administration & Management FACT SHEET

fast facts

SCOPE

The project aims to determine whether the ethics rules applicable to contractors and their employees should be expanded.

CURRENT STATUS

ACUS staff and the Committee Chair are currently in the process of gathering data from experts in the contractor community on the extent of the ethical risks under the current system of contractor ethics and on potential cost effective solutions.

CONTACTS

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at a glance

ACUS RESEARCH

Administrative Conference research projects are gathered from many sources: from Congress, from other federal agencies, from public interest or other organizations, from academics and other experts, and from members of the public.

The Government Contractor Ethics project is evaluating whether and to what extent regulations should be expanded in applying ethics rules to government contractor employees.

BACKGROUND

Federal employees and contractor employees are subject to widely disparate ethics regimes. Whereas government employees must comply with extensive rules covering things like personal conflicts of interest, receiving gifts, and post-employment restrictions, contractor employees are generally not subject to such specific regulations (though contractors performing contracts exceeding \$5 million must have an internal ethics code).

Government contracting has vastly expanded in recent years, and some have suggested that the ethics regime currently applicable to contractors is insufficient. At the same time, new regulations can create additional costs for contractors and agencies.

The project seeks to determine how agencies can ensure ethical conduct on the part of contractors without imposing excessive compliance costs.

RESOURCES

Project materials are available at on the ACUS website under Research>Current Research Projects.



current projects

projects in the pipeline

The following research projects are in the ACUS pipeline. Details forthcoming.

Immigration Adjudication

Science in the Administrative Process

Methods of Collaborative Governance

Midnight Rules

Government in the Sunshine Act

MEDIA CONTACT

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Government Contractor Ethics

Staff Counsel: Reeve Bull . rbull@acus.gov

This project is evaluating to what extent regulations should be expanded in applying ethics rules to government contractor employees.

Purposeless Procedural Traps

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This project is aimed at identifying and recommending ways to eliminate purposeless procedural rules that result in the non-merits-based dismissal of claims by or against the federal government.

FACA in the 21st Century

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This project will explore agencies' best practices under FACA and potential improvements to promote the use of new media and "collaborative governance."

e-Rulemaking Innovations and Experiments

This study will review innovations and experiments in e-Rulemaking currently occurring at federal agencies. The study will identify innovations and best practices that might be incorporated into FDMS and regulations.gov or otherwise spread to other agencies.

Rulemaking Comments

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This study will review a variety of legal and practical issues that have arisen in connection with the "comment" phase of notice-and-comment rulemaking, including the timing, availability, confidentiality, and impact of comments, as well as agencies' duty to reply to comments.

Legal Issues in e-Rulemaking

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This project explores the legal issues that arise as agencies change from paper-based to electronic rulemaking.

Video Hearings

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ACUS is currently conducting an in-house project examining the use of video hearings by federal agencies, which will examine the costs and benefits of video hearings as they are currently used and the possibilities for expansion of use within federal agencies.