

Mr. Asghar

Due Oct 23

3pm

**CVEG 1021: Civil Engineering Lab**  
**Ethics in Civil Engineering**  
**HW # 1**

**Fall 2017**  
**Dr. Ahmed**

**Due: Monday, October 9, 2017 (3PM In class; no exceptions)**

**Submit Hard copies of your Write up (No E-mails)**

**USE MS WORD: Times New Roman, Font 12, 1.5 Line Spacing**

**AVOID SIMPLE YES/NO ANSWERS; EXPAND AND EXPLAIN YOUR VIEW  
USING APPROPRIATE ASCE *CODES OF ETHICS***

**SITUATION:** You are a lead engineer with the XYZ structural design firm and have been working with this company for some time. Mike is the owner of XYZ and has successfully operated the business for over twenty years. You respect Mike and hope to move up in the company as your relationship grows.

In order to improve access to government contracts XYZ often uses subcontractors from minority-owned firms. Most large public works projects include monies set aside specifically for employment of such companies, and applicants must satisfy the requirement to employ them in order to compete effectively.

Recently, Mike has strongly encouraged you and others in your company to rely heavily upon the services of the PV Design Group, a minority-owned firm which has done only minor work for you in the past. Although a typical procedure would be to offer up sub-contracting jobs for competing bids, if a company is willing to do the work for a reasonable price, you can save considerable time and energy by just offering them the job directly. Mike insists that PV Design Group is more than willing to work within your budget constraints. Upon contacting PV Design, you realize that your boss' (Mike's) daughter Ms. Kay is the firm's vice president. Kay states that she purchased partial ownership in the company using a loan from her father.

1. Does Kay's ownership in the firm represent a "conflict of interest" for you in hiring PV?
2. Is it ethical to offer any jobs to PV Design without taking competing bids?
3. What, if anything, should you do at this point?

Offer an in-depth discussion on the situation based on your independent answers to the above questions using your knowledge of the ASCE Cannons of Ethics and relevant categories discussed in class.

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**ASCE Code of Ethics**

**Fundamental Principles**

Engineers uphold and advance the integrity, honor and dignity of the engineering profession by:

- a. using their knowledge and skill for the enhancement of human welfare and the environment;
- b. being honest and impartial and serving with fidelity the public, their employers and clients;
- c. striving to increase the competence and prestige of the engineering profession; and
- d. supporting the professional and technical societies of their disciplines.

**Fundamental Canons**

- a. Engineers shall hold paramount the safety, health and welfare of the public and shall strive to comply with the principles of sustainable development<sup>3</sup> in the performance of their professional duties.
- b. Engineers shall perform services only in areas of their competence.
- c. Engineers shall issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner.
- d. Engineers shall act in professional matters for each employer or client as faithful agents or trustees, and shall avoid conflicts of interest.
- e. Engineers shall build their professional reputation on the merit of their services and shall not compete unfairly with others.
- f. Engineers shall act in such a manner as to uphold and enhance the honor, integrity, and dignity of the engineering profession and shall act with zero-tolerance for bribery, fraud, and corruption.
- g. Engineers shall continue their professional development throughout their careers, and shall provide opportunities for the professional development of those engineers under their supervision.