



Online Ethics Center
FOR ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE

Advertising: Calendars & Pencils (adapted from NSPE Case No. 78-8)

Year

1999

Description

This is an open-ended scenario for discussion based on a case from the NSPE Board of Ethical Review. It questions the ethics of offering advertising or gifts to potential and current clients.

Body

Story 1 --- Austin is a principal of a consulting engineering firm. He wants to purchase and distribute gifts to clients and prospective clients. After having researched many products, Austin proposes two possibilities. One suggestion is to purchase and distribute wall calendars in the fall of the year. On each page of the calendar will be printed: Austin & Associates, Consulting Engineers, 1234 Main Street, Capital City, Ohio, Phone 123-456-7890. The other suggestion is to purchase and distribute pencils to present to potential clients. On each pencil will be inscribed: Austin & Associates Research & Development Company, Capital City, Ohio.

How would you respond to his suggestions?

[NSPE Code of Ethics](#) An earlier version may have been used in this case.

Notes

See the original NSPE case at: [Advertising of Company - Case No. 78-8](#).

Rights

Use of Materials on the OEC

Resource Type

Case Study / Scenario

Parent Collection

Professional Ethics in Engineering Practice: Discussion Cases Based on NSPE BER Cases

Topics

Bribery and Extortion

Corruption

Workplace Ethics

Discipline(s)

Engineering

Publisher

Online Ethics Center

Authoring Institution

National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE)