

ANSWERS FROM THE CITY ETHICIST

#6: Moonlighting Becomes You...

Question: *I want to work for a private employer in addition to my full-time City job. Is that okay? –Alice, Public Servant*

Answer: *Perhaps. Full-time public servants cannot work for any person, firm, or organization that has business dealings with any City agency. Common examples of organizations that have City business include private universities such as Fordham and NYU, private hospitals such as St. Luke's and Beth Israel, and retailers like Macy's and Home Depot. It is your responsibility as a public servant to determine whether your outside employer has City business.*



The Conflicts of Interest Board understands that City employees often need to supplement their incomes with outside employment. So the Board regularly issues waivers to City employees allowing them to work for employers who have City business. Obtaining a waiver is a two-step process. First, you must obtain approval from your agency head. Second, the Board must then determine that the position would not conflict with the purposes of the interests of the City. So if you get a waiver and don't use City time or resources in performing your outside job, you should have nothing to worry about. But remember always to check with your agency about moonlighting because some agencies have stricter rules than the above.

Answers from the City Ethicist is written monthly by the staff of the New York City Conflicts of Interest Board. COIB offers advice to City employees about City Charter Chapter 68, the Conflicts of Interest Law. Answers from the City Ethicist is provided as general information, and should not replace the text of Chapter 68. For legal advice on City ethics matters, please call the Board at 212-442-1400. All calls are confidential, and you may call anonymously if you wish. You may also visit us online at nyc.gov/ethics.