

Ethics

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ARC-Architectural Design 5

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AIA Codes of Ethics Canon 1

General Obligations - Rules

- 1.101- While practicing architect, one must be consistent with their care and ideas and should apply those attributes equally to those also practicing architecture around them.
- 1.401- An individual should never engage in discriminatory or harassment behavior, including but not limited to race, religion, age, disability, gender, status, gender identity, or sexual orientation.
- 1.402- An individual should never engage in behavior that disregards the rights of others.

AIA Codes of Ethics Canon 2

Obligations to the Public - Rules

- 2.101- An individual should not knowingly break the law.
- 2.102- An individual should not give any gift or money to a public official, knowing that it can influence their decision on a project the individual is working on.
- 2.103- An individual serving the public should not accept money or gift which are intended to influence their decision.
- 2.104- Individuals should not be involved in fraud.
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- 2.106- An individual should not assist someone in their activities that the individual willingly knows is fraud.
- 2.301- Individuals making public statements on architectural issues should also announce if they are making money or personal gain on the issue.
- 2.401- an individual should make the clients aware of potential environmental impacts or consequences as a result of the work performed.

AIA Codes of Ethics Canon 3

Obligations to the Client - Rules

- 3.101- Individuals shall take into account of laws and regulations while working on their project. If need be, they should also seek advice of other individuals that are qualify in that regard.
- 3.102- Individuals should only received consulats from trained individuals who are qualified by educations, training or experience.
- 3.103- Individuals should not change the project without consent or knowledge of the clients.
- 3.201- Individuals should not give their professional service in their judgement could be affected by the responsibility of another project or personal gain. Unless those involve know about the responsibility and consent to it after full disclosure.
- 3.202- When acting as an independent interpreter, they shall render decisions impartially.
- 3.301- Individuals should not mislead others about the results that can be achieved by use of the individuals services or y violating the law or code.
- 3.401- An individual should not knowingly give information that would affect the client or that should be remained confidence, unless it is required by code or the law.

AIA Codes of Ethics Canon 4

Obligations to the Profession - Rules

- 4.101- An individual that has knowledge that another individual has violated this code which should raise questions about that individuals honesty, should be reported to the National Ethics Council.
- 4.102- An individual shall not sign or seal any professional document in which they did not have direct control over.
- 4.103- Individuals should not, when speaking about their own profession, make false statements about it.
- 4.201- Individuals should not make false statements about their qualifications, experience or performance and shall tell the truth about the work and nature of the responsibility they are claiming credit form.
- 4.202- Individuals should make an effort to those they supervise to conform to this code.

AIA Codes of Ethics Canon 5

Obligations to Colleagues- Rules

- 5.101- Individuals should treat their fellow colleagues with equal respect and a reasonable working environment.
- 5.201- Individuals who agree to work with intern that want to gain experience shall give them reasonable assist in a timely manner and documented for the program of the internship.
- 5.301- Individuals shall give respect to professional contribution to fellow colleagues, employees, employers and business associates.
- 5.302- Individuals that are leaving a place of employment, shall not take any material from the previous employment, even if it was created from the individual.
- 5.303- Individuals shall not withhold permission from an employee that is leaving to take material relating to work performed by them that are not confidential.

AIA Codes of Ethics Canon 6

Obligations to the Environment - Rules

- 6.501- Individuals shall consult with their clients about the environmental impacts of their project.

Ethic Case Study

Hunter Roberts Scams Schools in New York



Summary of the Case

Hunter Roberts construction group, is one of the biggest construction companies in New York. In 2015, they admitted to committing financial fraud. They were task with constructing or rebuilding many NYC schools but while working on those projects, they overbilled them without the client's knowledge. Some notable jobs were building the charter school in Red Hook, rebuilding the Fiterman hall at Manhattan Community college after 9/11, and the reconstruction of seats of the Brooklyn Academy of Music's Harvey Theater. Instead of going to court for the fraud, they came to a non prosecution agreement.

What Went Wrong?

- The Hunter Robert's group overcharged clients for eight years on almost all their projects.
- They falsify the numbers of hours worked for worker
- What they did was added 1 or 2 unworked hours per day on foremans timesheet
- There was one instance where a foreman went on vacation, and they still had him on payroll during that time and even put overtime in for him on his timesheet also
- They also inflated their rates
- What they did was for a selected group of foremans, they higher their rates then those specified on the clients contract, without telling the clients, the clients then paid the overage

Major Problem

The problem with what the Hunter Roberts group did, was that it was extremely unethical. They over charge their clients for work that was never done. They also change the rates of their foreman, without the consent of their clients and not specified on their contract agreement. What the Hunter Roberts group did was breach the contract they had, but also broke some contractor-clients ethic codes. They increases the charge to the client, without their knowledge, and made the clients pay for no extra work.

Conclusion & Recommendations

In conclusion, the Hunter Roberts group broke a lot of laws and ethic rules. They did not go to court for these things. They instead came to an agreement with the U.S. attorney office for the Eastern District of New York. They agreed on a non-prosecution agreement in where they are doing to pay \$7 million in penalties. 1 million dollars would go to the clients affected and the other 6 million would go to the government.

My recommendation is to not charge your client in secret. Scamming them for money for work that never happened should not happen. My other recommendation would be for clients, at the end of every week, check how much you are being charge and for what. Do not just pay without knowing what you are paying for. That is how you end up overpaying for things.