



Conflicts of Interest

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Video fades in

Vendor: Hey thanks Bobby I really appreciate the opportunity.

Bobby: Hey no problem, your company's work history and reputation speaks for itself. The committee has done a good job in narrowing our final candidates.

Vendor: Hey when do you think the decision will be made?

Bobby: Well, with the scope of this project, I don't see it being more than a few weeks.

Vendor: Excellent – Excellent! (slaps Bobby on the shoulder). Hey listen, you have done a great job leading this effort (Bobby tries to inject that it is a team effort). Ahhh, you are too modest, it's obvious you carry some weight around here. Hey listen I had an unexpected trip come up this weekend and I can't use these. I want you to have them (hands a confused Bobby an envelope). (Vendor looks at his watch). But listen I gotta run, time for me to get out of here. Take care.

Scene switches to Bobby returning to work from the weekend . (30-45 seconds)

Bobby returns to work from the weekend. Fellow employee asks about his weekend says he has a message to return a call. Bobby dials the number. Vendor is on the other line.

Vendor: Hello

Bobby: Hey this is Bobby.

Vendor: Bobby! (Bobby says a not too confident hello). How you doing, hope you had a great weekend. I was glad I could be a part of it. I was just calling to say that we've done our research on your company in preparation for your final decision. (Bobby interjects – "that's the committee's final decision") (Vendor goes on as if he is not listening)



Vendor: We understand that your brother owns a sub-contracting company that is totally unrelated to what we do here and to what you guys do, but we have a subsidiary out in Houston that may be able to use his services. If all works out well I may be able to throw some business his way.

Bobby: Wait a minute! How do you guys know about my brother and what does this have to do with this project.

Vendor: Bobby – Bobby. When we research clients we go well below the surface just as I'm sure you guys do when you research guys like us. But hey, don't sweat it. It's just a something I thought I'd throw out.

Vendor: Listen, I gotta run. If there is anything else I can do to help you make the final decision you just let me know.

Scene switches to final vendor

Vendor: Hey Bobby!

Bobby: Good to see ya.

Vendor: Glad to be back.

Bobby: Hey, good luck with your presentation (and starts to away)

Vendor: Hey (grabbing Bobby by the arm) where you going? The meeting's in here.

Bobby: Listen, you guys have a strong company. The committee has selected you guys as a finalist. Based on the events of the last couple of weeks, I've had to rescue myself from the committee. (Handing envelope he was previously given back to the vendor) I just don't feel comfortable about the integrity of my vote.
(vendor looks surprised and confused)

Listen, you guys have got a strong company. Let your reputation and work history speak for itself. You'll do just fine. See you later (and he walks off).

Video fades and show:

"Refrain from accepting any gift or thing of value in those instances prohibited by law or Board of Regents policy."