**Professional Ethics**

**Gallagher Video Study Sheet: The Slippery Slope in the Workplace**

1. Decisions made today will define your life forever. Every choice has a consequence.

2. Chuck Gallagher went from a pillar of the community to a nobody.

3. The unethical continuum is a slippery slope. Think of it as a series of concentric circles around a center.

4. The outside circle on the unethical (slippery slope) continuum is “it is not good for the customer.”

One sells the customer more than they need and this is a generally accepted in the work place action. It

is good for the seller but not for the customer.

Gallagher used the example of his stepfather and mother buying a TV.

5. The second ring on the unethical continuum is “It is not good for the company.” Gallagher used the

example of using your work computer to create a flyer. This is also an unethical practice in the

workplace. “Everyone” does it. This has to do with ethics and company’s compliance policies.

6. The next ring moving inward is a “policy violation.” This is a norm in the workplace. An example would

be using the company credit card for personal dinner. The rationalization is also that everyone does it.

7. The next ring is just plain unethical. For example, we share company information with outsiders or

make fun of (or treat) a coworker inappropriately. This is not acceptable in the workplace.

8. The inner most circle at the heart of the matter is where the action becomes illegal.

This leads to orange jumpsuit and handcuffs.