

Planning Ethics:



The American Planning Association's
Professional Institute
**American Institute
of Certified Planners**

Making Great Communities Happen

*Created by the Ethics Committee,
American Institute of Certified Planners,
April 2019*

Panelists



Michael Blue, FAICP – Evanston, IL



Kurt Christiansen, FAICP – Richmond, VA



Carol Rhea-Phillips, FAICP – Huntsville, AL

Agenda

Refresher on Planning Ethics

Panelists Share Personal Ethical Scenarios

Questions?

AICP's Ethics Code

Adopted in 1948 by the American Institute of Planners; revised in 1959, 1970, 1978, 1991, 2005, and 2016

*NOTE: Please turn **on** your cell phones: planning.org/ethics*

A. Aspirational Principles

Responsibility to Public, Clients/Employees, and Profession/Colleagues

B. Rules of Conduct

Twenty-Six Rules to Which AICP Members Are Held Accountable

C. Advisory Opinions

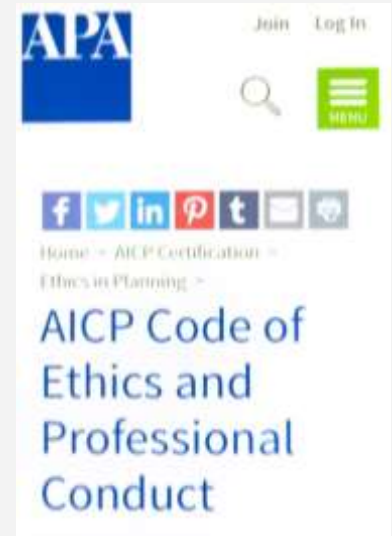
Informal Advice, Formal Advisory Opinions, Annual Report

D. Complaints of Misconduct

Filings, Preliminary Charge/Dismissal, Settlement, Decision, Appeal

E. Discipline of Members

Confidential Letter of Admonition, Public Censure, Suspension, Revocation



APA's Ethical Principles of Planning

Adopted by the APA Board of Directors in 1980; revised in 1992

Guidelines for those who participate in the process of planning as advisors, advocates, and decision makers

1. Serve the public interest

Provide accurate information, provide opportunity for all, protect natural and built environment, pay attention to long-range consequences of action, etc.

2. Maintain high standards of integrity/proficiency

Provide independent judgment, disclose personal interests, seek no gifts or favors, avoid conflicts of interest, don't disclose confidential information, don't misrepresent facts, respect rights of all persons, etc.

3. Improve planning competence

Provide high level of professionalism, commit no wrongful acts, contribute time for groups lacking planning resources, treat other professionals fairly, etc.

Ethical Misconduct Cases in 2019

Four Cases Dismissed

(No preliminary charge filed)

Three Cases Dismissed

(After a preliminary charge is filed)

Six Cases Settled

(Five for misuse of AICP credential)

One Disciplinary Action

(Letter of Admonition: for disclosure of confidential information)



Credit: abovethelaw.com

Actions Cited in Misconduct Charges (2019)

- *Rule of Conduct #1*
Providing inaccurate information (an out-of-date building code)
- *Rule of Conduct #4*
Working on secondary job (as realtor) without notifying supervisor
- *Rules of Conduct #6 and #14*
Working on a rezoning that could benefit planner's personal residence
- *Rule of Conduct #7*
Revealing confidential information on a project (two cases)
- *Rule of Conduct #10*
Misrepresenting the views of another professional

Ethics Topics

Derived from misconduct cases and informal inquiries in 2018

Honest and Fair Dealing

Conflicts of Interest

False/Deceptive Statements

Respect for Confidentiality

Abuse of Position

Quality of Practice

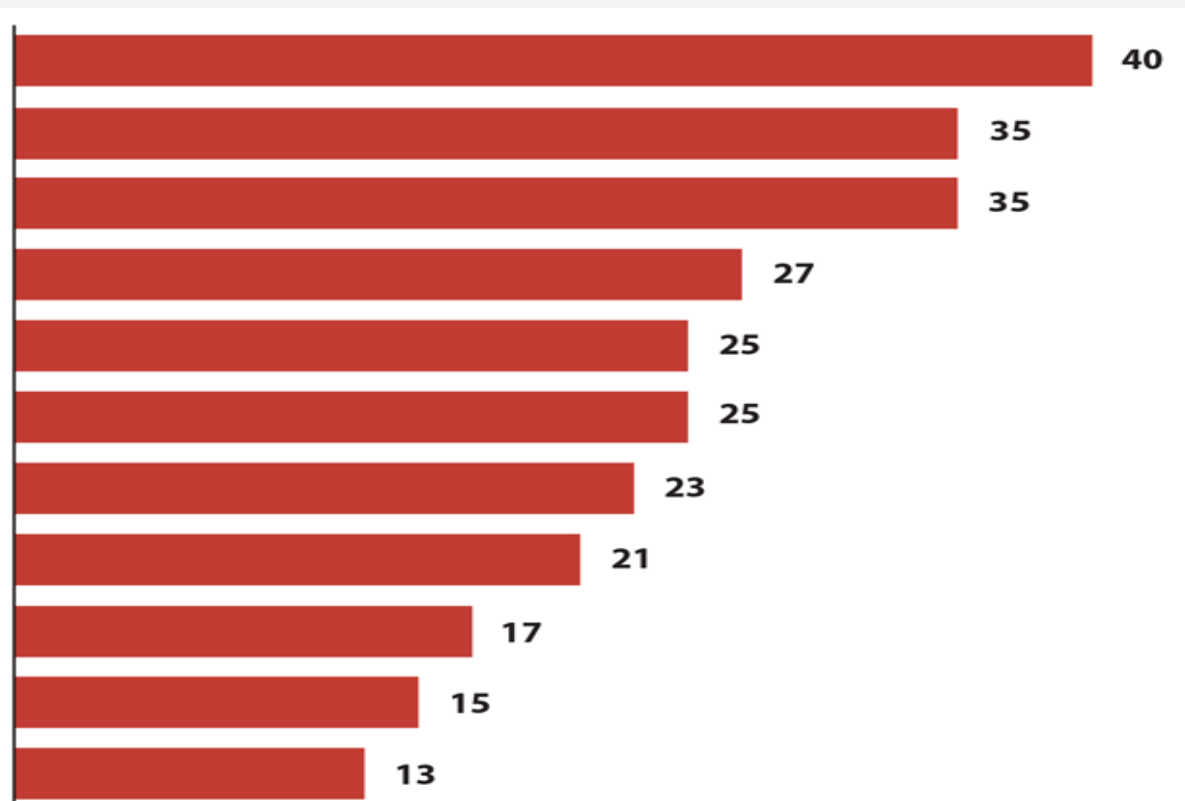
Legal and Ethical Conduct

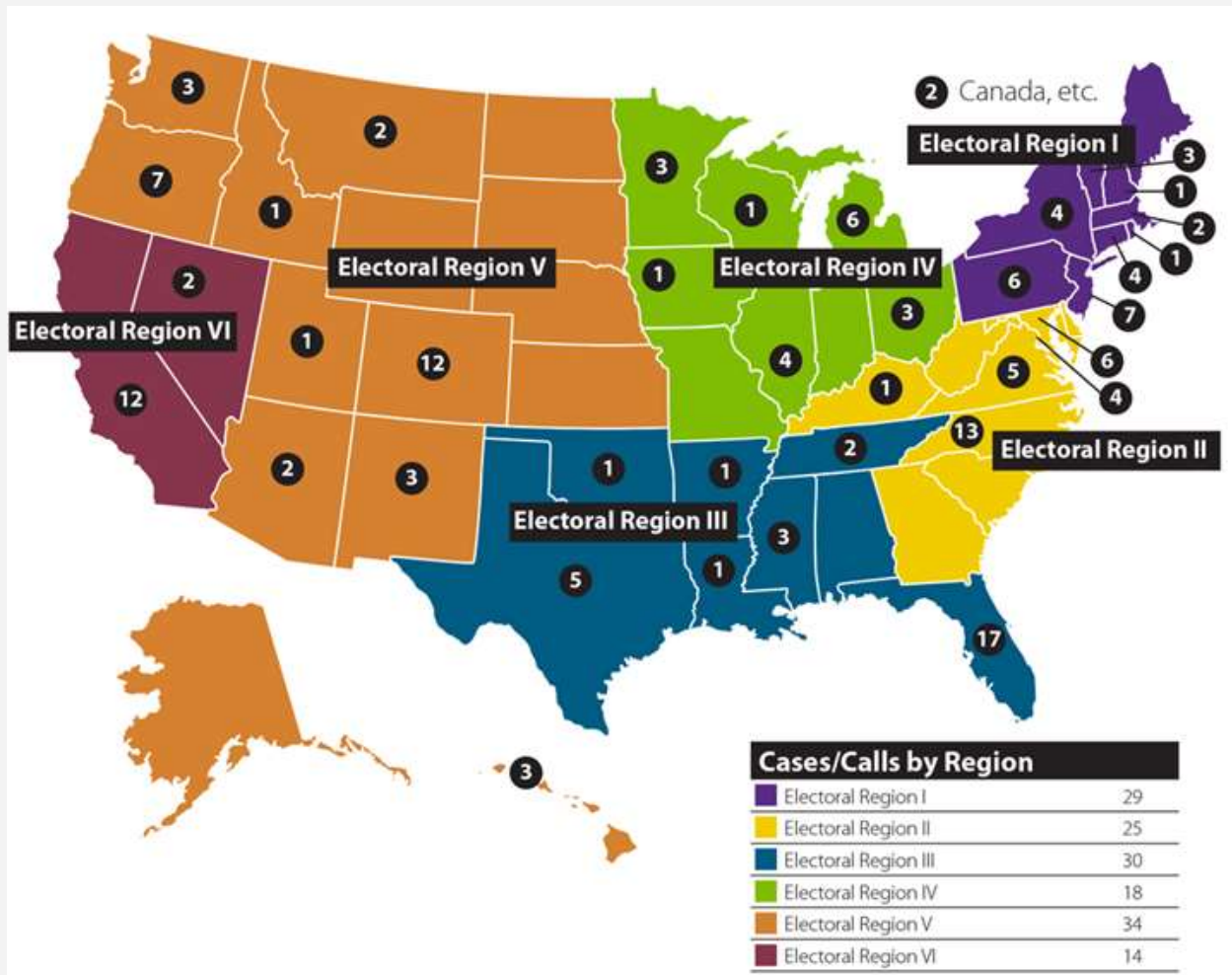
Misuse of AICP Credential

Loyalty to Employer

Private Communication

Lack of Cooperation





Our Stories:

Final Note

- For informal advice regarding ethical conduct, please contact the AICP Ethics Officer, Jim Peters, FAICP, at 312-786-6360 or ethics@planning.org.
- For more information, please visit planning.org/ethics

AICP Ethics Committee

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