

(b) *General principles applicable to arbitrators.* Selected arbitrators are persons acting on behalf of the United States, and the following general principles apply to them. Where a situation is not covered by standards set forth specifically in this subpart, selected arbitrators shall apply these general principles in all cases in determining whether their conduct is proper. Listed arbitrators shall apply these principles where applicable.

(1) Arbitrators are engaged in a matter of trust that requires them to place ethical and legal principles above private gain.

(2) Arbitrators shall not hold financial interests that conflict with the conscientious performance of their service.

(3) Arbitrators shall not engage in financial transactions using nonpublic information or allow the improper use of such information to further any private interest.

(4) Selected arbitrators shall not solicit or accept any gift or other item of monetary value from any person or entity whose interests may be affected by the arbitrators' decisions. Listed arbitrators may accept gifts of nominal value or gifts from friends and family as specified in §251.34(b).

(5) Arbitrators shall put forth their honest efforts in the performance of their service.

(6) Arbitrators shall act impartially and not give preferential treatment to any individual, organization, or entity whose interests may be affected by the arbitrators' decisions.

(7) Arbitrators shall not engage in outside employment or activities, including seeking or negotiating for employment, that conflicts with the performance of their service.

(8) Arbitrators shall endeavor to avoid any actions creating the appearance that they are violating the law or the ethical standards set forth in this subpart.

(9) Arbitrators shall maintain order and decorum in the proceedings, be patient, dignified, and courteous to the parties, witnesses, and their representatives, and dispose promptly the business before them.

[59 FR 23981, May 9, 1994, as amended at 63 FR 30635, June 5, 1998]

§ 251.31 Financial interests.

(a) No selected arbitrator shall have a direct or indirect financial interest—

(1) In the case of a distribution proceeding, in any claimant to the proceeding whether or not in a voluntary settlement agreement, or any copyright owner who receives royalties from such claimants because of their representation;

(2) In the case of a rate adjustment proceeding, in any individual, organization or entity that would be affected by the outcome of the proceeding.

(b) "Direct or indirect financial interest" shall include: Being employed by, being a consultant to, being a representative or agent for, being a member or affiliate of, being a partner of, holding any office in, owning any stocks, bonds, or other securities, or deriving any income from the prohibited entity.

(c) "Direct or indirect financial interest" shall not include—

(1) Owning shares in any stock or bond mutual fund or blind trust which might have an interest in a prohibited entity but whose decisions to invest or sell is not under the control of the selected arbitrator, or

(2) Receiving any post-employment benefit such as health insurance or a pension so long as the benefit would not be affected by the outcome of the proceeding.

(d) For the purposes of this section, the financial interests of the following persons will serve to disqualify the selected arbitrator to the same extent as if they were the arbitrator's own interests:

(1) The arbitrator's spouse;

(2) The arbitrator's minor child;

(3) The arbitrator's general partner, except that the personal financial holdings, including stock and bond investments, of such partner will not serve to disqualify the selected arbitrator; or

(4) An organization or entity for which the arbitrator serves as officer, director, trustee, general partner or employee.

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