Identifying Ethical Pitfalls

S	T	A	N	D
Sensitivity	Trust	Advantage	News	Danger
Will my actions make my supervisor uncomfortable ?	Will my actions weaken public trust ?	Will anyone get or seem to get an unfair advantage ?	Will my actions make a bad headline on the news ?	Will my actions put my agency at legal risk ?

for growing better government.

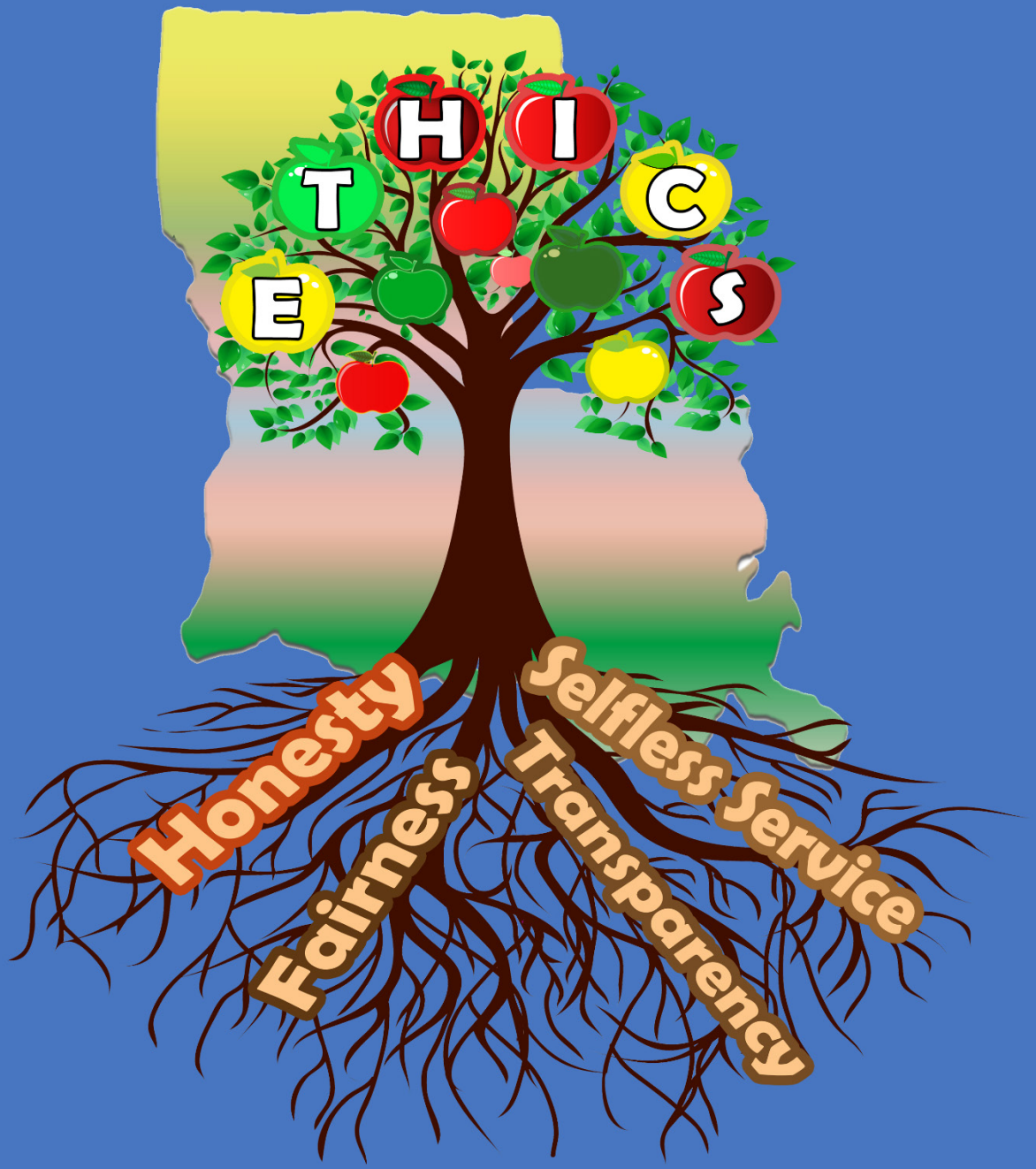
Louisiana Board of Ethics

Cliff Fails the Stand Test

In the video you watched during training, Cliff tells his supervisor that he's going to meet with a contractor to review work being done on a subdivision in the south end of Riverrun Parish. Instead he hops in the agency truck and drives to a casino where he spends the rest of the day gambling with a friend.

In Cliff's scenario, each of the STAND questions deserves a "yes" response. Here's why.

S Sensitivity	**Is Cliff's boss likely to feel uncomfortable about what Cliff did? Would his co-workers approve of his behavior?**	Yes. Supervisors do not like to find out that employees have been dishonest, wasteful, and irresponsible. Also, other employees would feel like Cliff is receiving special treatment, which hurts morale.
T Trust	**Will Cliff's behavior weaken the public's trust in government?**	Yes. Cliff's behavior would damage the public's trust in government. Taxpayers get angry when they see public servants misusing public resources.
A Advantage	**Did anyone get an unfair advantage in Cliff's situation? Cliff himself, for instance?**	Yes. Cliff gave himself the unfair advantage of using his agency truck to take a trip and partying while on the clock. Other employees and citizens don't get to use government resources as they please.
N News	**Would Cliff's behavior make government look bad in the news or on the Internet?**	Yes. People attribute the bad behavior of public servants to government itself. Cliff's behavior reinforces the worst stereotypes of government and public employees.
D Danger	**Could Cliff's behavior create a legal problem for the parish government or his agency?**	Cliff puts his agency and parish at an unnecessary legal risk. If he crashed into someone, his parish would likely be sued.



Good Roots > Good Fruit > Good Government

Louisiana Board of Ethics
617 N. Third Street
LaSalle Building, 10th Floor
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

225.219.5600

P. O. Box 4368
Louisiana Board of Ethics
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

ethics.la.gov