

## **Committee on Professional Ethics**

# **REPORT TO COUNCIL**

### **2014 Midwinter Meeting — Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

As chair of the Committee on Professional Ethics (COPE), I am pleased to report on the committee's activities since the 2013 Annual Conference:

#### Explanatory Statements on the Code of Ethics

As a committee of Council, COPE's charge is to augment the Code of Ethics by explanatory interpretations and additional statements. Currently, three such explanatory statements exist: "Questions and Answers on Speech in the Workplace," "Questions and Answers on Enforcement of the Code of Ethics of the American Library Association," and "Questions and Answers on Ethics and Social Media." A new Q&A on conflicts of interest is being prepared and will be finalized by Annual Conference 2014. In addition, a new statement on copyright will be drafted in conjunction with the Committee on Legislation's Copyright Subcommittee and the OITP Copyright Education Subcommittee. A task force composed of members from the three groups has been established and will create the initial draft of the statement.

#### Educational Programming

The 2014 Annual Conference program will focus on libraries' relationship with law enforcement and the ethical issues that arise when balancing safety and security with privacy and access to library services. Tentatively titled "What Would You Do? Ethics in Action with Libraries and Law Enforcement," the program will feature librarians from academic, public, and school libraries as well as a law enforcement representative. The program will include interactive elements for attendee participation and showcase model policies and procedures for working with law enforcement agencies.

In 2009, a Council-approved resolution acknowledging ethics as an educational priority of the Association launched our Ethics Education Initiative. ALA had contracted with the Institute for Global Ethics (IGE) to offer their Ethical Fitness® seminar. The contract expired in October 2013 and is currently being renegotiated. The committee will update Council on the future of this initiative once the contract process is complete.

In closing, the Committee on Professional Ethics thanks the unit liaisons and the OIF staff for their commitment, assistance, and hard work.

Respectfully Submitted,

ALA Committee on Professional Ethics

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