

TO SERVE THE PUBLIC INTEREST

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According to Abigail Spanberger, public servants should be focused on serving the public, not any special interest group, and good governance should be an expectation not an exception.

The term “Public Interest” is often thrown around without a precise definition. Public interest law reflects the needs of a specific community. They do not define the public interest, the organization will determine what it means to work for the public interest in your particular community. Public interest work could be indirect or direct legal service. Many organizations keep their definition broad or vague so that it reflects all of their members. Public interest is not just about what matters to everyone in society. It is about the common good, the general welfare and security and the well-being of everyone in the community they serve. It is about issues that affect everyone, even if many of them are not aware of it or even if they do not appear to care. The public interest is in having a safe, healthy, and completely functioning society. Many people feel a need to serve the public interest or to improve the well-being of others, even strangers.

As public servants, they shall identify themselves as people who are responsible to serve the best interest of the people that they are serving. Taking into account the beneficial effects and positive impacts of their services to the people. Objectivity, honesty, and integrity are major personal and professional attitudes and values that they must demonstrate and possess.

Serving the public interest requires objective perceptions and actions to provide fair services that are expected to be acquired by their clients. It is about the ability to apply appropriate and related theories of services that they have acquired and learned. It is seeing the general view and analyzing aspects of it to provide justifiable decisions and actions. Being objective while dealing with and serving the clients may serve as a means of giving a concrete example of this good value. It insists that actions may not be dependent based on the favor of a person who is serving or the one who is being served, through this it will introduce and apply the principle of balance and fairness.

Demonstrating these principles will satisfy the demands of the public interest because of the favors that will be enjoyed by both parties. According to an American Statesman, diplomat, lawyer, architect, philosopher and the third president of the United States, Mr. Thomas Jefferson “When a man adopts public trust, he should believe himself as public property.”

Honesty refers to the application of general truth governed by laws. Thus, it implies correctness and appropriateness of actions in dealing with the situations. Seeing every part of circumstances that may provide basis and answers for given questions and situations. By honest identification of discrepancies and inconsistencies may suggest meaningful recommendations for existing processes that will result in a strengthened and reinforced system of operation and management. Honest communication and integration with clients will ensure the smoothness, appropriateness, and orderliness of the processes as enablers to provide a successful means of serving the public interest. One fruitful attempt to measure and understand honesty is to develop standardized and validated behavioral measures of individual dishonesty. The inherent tendency for dishonesty could differ significantly across potential candidates for public service or could be relatively constant within a country. Individuals’ inherent tendency for dishonesty may play a role in shaping corruption. Whether a public official engages in corrupt behavior will depend on many institutional features of the environment they face, an author of *Self-Employment for Welfare Recipients*, Cynthia Amore (2013)

Public servants’ integrity is not only a quality that must be possessed but shall be applied. It means they are not providing the services for their own but the general good of everyone. Applying designated roles and responsibilities with strong moral obligations is one of the major expectations from the public servants. It means serving the public interest in such a way that they will satisfy the demanded services in such a way that clients will identify that they are strongly holding integrity as a person. It is a clear identification and feelings of the customers that they can depend on them based on their words and actions that can be justified through their efforts and sacrifices for victorious accomplishments. Integrity is strongly related in being trustworthy. It is demonstrating trustworthiness and avoiding over-promising. For instance, if they were not able to complete a task or meet a deadline, be sure to let others know as quickly as possible to avoid waste of time and effort, this is where being respectful come in. Moreover, if they are

trusted with personal information, respect it. It means what is important to their clients will be treated as precious as they did. Public authorities must behave properly in their dealings with private citizens, businesses, and other public authorities. Office holders, elective representatives, and public servants must behave professionally and ethically. They must not commit fraud, accept bribes, or leak confidential information. This is the reason for rules of conduct, and it is why these persons have to swear an oath or make a declaration.

Serving public interest requires personal and professional competencies that shall be evolved and uplifted over time to meet the needs and demands of the clients and to provide dramatic system progress and development.

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