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Continuing Education Course #493  
Engineering Ethics: Conflicts of Interest

1. An engineer has a duty to act in the best interest of his or her employer and client but has no particular obligation to the general public.  
 a. True.  
 b. False.
2. No engineer has a need to concern themselves with the honor of the engineering profession as a whole.  
 a. True.  
 b. False.
3. Knowingly engaging in a conflict of interest is unethical but it cannot be considered deceptive.  
 a. True.  
 b. False.
4. Engineers should never specify products based on personal financial gain.  
 a. True.  
 b. False.
5. Canon 4 of the NPSE code of ethics states, in part, that engineers shall "act for each employer...as faithful agents and trustees." This means that engineers holding a salaried position with an engineering firm can never engage in outside work.  
 a. True.  
 b. False.
6. If an engineer untruthfully criticized another member of the profession in order to obtain employment then he or she has acted in an unethical manner.  
 a. True.  
 b. False.
7. If an engineer uses his or her employer's laboratory equipment to carry on outside private work, after first receiving the employer's permission, the engineer has acted in an unethical manner.  
 a. True.  
 b. False.
8. Belle is a professional engineer who specializes in structural design. She has signed and sealed a set of septic system design drawings done by a friend of hers as a favor, even though she is not familiar with septic systems. Has she acted in an unethical manner?  
 a. Yes.  
 b. No.
9. The engineer should always make any potential conflicts of interest known to all interest parties.

- a. True.
- b. False.

10. In the final analysis what is the ethical yardstick by which an engineer should measure his or her actions?

- a. What actions will make him or her the most money?
- b. What actions will advance his or her career the farthest and fastest?
- c. What will determine the highest standard of honesty and integrity?
- d. None of the above.

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