



Sender's Name:	Jayne Williams
Department Name:	General Counsel & Legal Advocacy
Date Email Sent:	6/6/19
Email Subject Line:	Ethics Act and Dinner with Vendors
Recipient Groups:	All AASB members who are currently registered for AASB Summer Conference, vendors and all board attorneys.

Email body:

We're looking forward to seeing you at Summer Conference where you will be coming into contact with our great vendors. AASB conference events offer vendors a great opportunity to talk with you, tell you about their products or services and learn about your needs. Some may even invite you to off-site meals after AASB events are over for the day. Those invitations may be made to the board team as a group, individual officials and even your families, so here's a quick reminder about how to handle those invitations.

Our Ethics law places limitations on public official (and public employee) contact with vendors whether your system is a current or potential customer. If you receive an invitation from a vendor, remember these important points:

- **No sales pitch.** You can accept off-site invitations for meals after the conference day—as a group or individually, with your board team or with your family—but this needs to be strictly social. That time should not be used as a sales pitch;
- **No Quid Pro Quo.** They can't ask and you can't offer to give them business (or maintain current business) based on this meal; and
- **Dollar limitations.** You may remember the \$25 for lobbyists/\$50 for principals limitation on meals and beverages. Unless the vendor paying for your meal is a lobbyist or a principal, those limits should not impact you.

As always, vendor-sponsored meals that are a part of the AASB Summer Conference can be enjoyed freely as long as no promises are offered in exchange for the event.

For more information, you can read the attached Ethics Commission opinion that discusses conferences and contact with vendors. The relevant portions are highlighted.

We hope this is helpful, but if you have specific questions, we encourage you to reach out to your local counsel.

Travel safely!

Attachments (if any):



Dinner with
Vendors.2011-01.pdf