The National Government Ethics Summit: Strengthening our Community

In any organization, it is the people who make or break an ethics program. Most people want to do the right thing, but knowing and understanding the rules often makes the difference between compliance and an ethics violation. That is why training is vitally important.

As the supervising ethics office for the executive branch, the U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE) is responsible for training agency ethics officials throughout the executive branch. These agency ethics officials, in turn, train the more than two million federal employees on the complex rules for ethics in government. This training process has got to work so that citizens can have confidence in the integrity of their government’s operations.

This September, OGE is embarking on an exciting new venture to deliver the highest quality training in an entirely different way, one that will charge the ethics program with a new level of energy. We are presenting the National Government Ethics Summit in Washington, D.C. The Summit is a series of events that will bring together leaders from the executive branch ethics community, representatives from the legislative and judicial branches, members of the press, advocates from good government groups, noted thinkers from academia, officials from state and local governments, and members of the international community.

The month-long series of events will span seven nonconsecutive days of live sessions throughout September. We will stream a number of the live sessions via social media, as well as several virtual-only events.

And, in these lean budget times, we have remained ever-mindful of cost. By holding these events exclusively at federal facilities in Washington, D.C., we have eliminated costs associated with renting a venue and traveling to a remote location. Where registration fees for conferences typically range from $500 to upwards of $1,000, the registration fee for the Summit is exactly $23. Also, by leveraging technology for live streaming video, we hope to get even more value for the taxpayers’ money by opening many of the presentations free of charge to ethics officials outside the Washington, D.C. area and interested members of the public. This conservation of resources is one way that we hope to lead by example.

Watch our website, www.oge.gov, and our Twitter feed, @OfficeGovEthics, for more information as the Summit draws closer. Members of the press may also contact OGE’s media liaison, Vincent Salamone, at 202-482-9274 or vincent.salamone@oge.gov.