

**TO:** ALA Council

**DATE:** January 5, 2023

**RE:** (select one)

ACTION REQUESTED

INFORMATION

REPORT

**ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT:** (add below)

Report: Committee on Professional Ethics (CD#24)

**Action requested:** (if applicable)

None.

**ACTION REQUESTED BY:** (add committee name)

N/A

**CONTACT PERSON:**

Julia Warga, Chair, Committee on Professional Ethics  
University Librarian, John Carroll University, University Heights, OH  
[jwarga@jcu.edu](mailto:jwarga@jcu.edu)

**STAFF LIAISON CONTACT:**

Eric Stroshane,  
Assistant Director, Office for Intellectual Freedom  
[estroshane@ala.org](mailto:estroshane@ala.org)

**COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL ETHICS  
REPORT TO COUNCIL  
2024 LIBLEARNX MEETING  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND**

As the chair of the Committee on Professional Ethics (COPE), I am pleased to report on the committee's activities since Annual Conference in June 2023:

**Charge**

The council committee on professional ethics shall augment the Code of Ethics by explanatory interpretations and additional statements prepared by this committee or elicited from other units of ALA. When units of the association develop statements dealing with ethical issues, a copy will be sent to the committee on professional ethics for review so that it may be compared to the existing ALA code of ethics in order to determine whether or not conflicts occur.

**COPE Statements, Q&As, and Working Groups**

As the Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) prepares to update the Intellectual Freedom Manual, the COPE committee members and liaison are reviewing the following committee documents for updates and possible publication in the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the manual:

[Enforcement of the Code of Ethics Q&A](#)

[Speech in the Workplace Q&A](#)

In anticipation of the report on ALA Core Values to be presented at LLX 2024, the committee is also preparing to review and update other committee documents for necessary revisions and updates:

[Copyright: An Interpretation of the Code of Ethics](#)

[Conflicts of Interest Q&A](#)

[Ethics and Social Media Q&A](#)

All five of these documents were last updated in 2019. The committee will create small working groups to review each document. If a decision is made to revise the document, the working

groups will continue their working on the rewrite. Once a draft is finalized, the document will be shared with ALA Council, unit leaders, and members for feedback before a final version is published.

### **Thank You**

The Committee on Professional Ethics would like to acknowledge the unit liaisons for their commitment. COPE also thanks the OIF staff for their commitment, assistance, and hard work. In particular, Eric Stroshane for serving as staff liaison, and Aimee Strittmatter for scheduling our meetings. COPE thanks President Emily Drabinski and the Executive Board for their confidence in the committee and for allowing them to serve ALA.

Respectfully submitted,  
ALA Committee on Professional Ethics

Julia Warga, chair  
Erin Berman  
Dr. Sheri Edwards  
Rory Patterson  
Dr. Karen Snow  
John Spears  
Amy Sarkaria Wiggins  
Andrea Caporale (committee associate)  
Afton Fawn Ussery (committee associate)