

**Wednesday, August 12, 2020**

**Living Life Under a Microscope:  
The Reality of Being a Public Official;  
Ethics, Transparency and Accountability**

In this two-part, 2.75-hour program, Brandy Johnson, principal attorney with Governmental Law, LCC in Lincoln, will address a myriad of challenges public officials face, not the least of which is balancing their legal and ethical obligations.

**2:00 - 3:30 p.m.** – In the first segment of her presentation, Ms. Johnson will provide a clear understanding of the distinctions between the law and ethics, discuss “blind spots” that can hamper well-meaning public officials from acting legally and ethically, and share helpful suggestions for cultivating an ethical culture in county government. She next will focus on government transparency, including navigating open meetings laws and the challenges faced when balancing the public’s right to know versus the need for confidentiality, as well as guidance for handling requests of outside public interest groups, public emails and the vast social media world.

**3:30 - 3:45 p.m.** – Break

**3:45 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.** – The second segment of Ms. Johnson’s presentation will focus on accountability and the legal and other consequences of unethical and dysfunctional behavior, with an emphasis on overcoming “outlier” behavior and toxic internal work relationships, and considerations for reporting ethics issues. Ms. Johnson will conclude with a look at some actual fraud and ethics claims that have taken place in Nebraska counties, how they were discovered, legal outcomes and how they could have been prevented.

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**Thursday, August 13, 2020**

**Living Life Under a Microscope:  
Combating Internal and External Fraud;  
Courthouse Security – Keys to Protecting Your Personal Safety and Integrity**

This 2.75-hour program will consist of two segments, the first presented by Eric Rodriguez, financial crimes risk manager for Nelnet, Inc., and an independent financial crimes risk consultant, and the second presented by Terry Baxter, NIRMA’s law enforcement and safety specialist.

**9:00 - 10:30 a.m.** – Mr. Rodriguez will share an in-depth but clear understanding of the various triggers that can lead to both internal and external fraud in the public sector, the red flags to you should be on the lookout for and preventive measures your entity can take to avoid becoming a victim.

**10:30 - 10:45 a.m.** – Break

**10:45 a.m. - 12:00 noon** – In this session, Mr. Baxter will discuss best practices for fortifying the physical security of your courthouse and other facilities to protect the personal safety of your officials, employees and the public, and prevent the disruption of operations that can be caused by those with unscrupulous motives, including so-called “First Amendment auditors.”