

# *Code of Ethics*

*For the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG®)*

## **Preamble**

The non-profit National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG®) is an organization through which member boards may act and counsel together to improve the discharge of their responsibilities in administering the practice of geology.

## **Statement of Intent**

The ASBOG® Code of Ethics is to facilitate the professional and ethical operation of the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG®) by providing guidance to its members on issues of professional ethics. It fosters and promotes ethical behavior among the ASBOG® members, individuals, and groups associated with ASBOG®. Although this Code of Ethics provides guidance for ASBOG® members, it does not, and for reasons of practicality cannot address or provide guidance in all possible ethical situations.

## **ASBOG®'s Membership and Individuals Formally Associated with ASBOG®**

- **Member Boards** - The State Board or other legal entities constituted by their respective states, territories, and the District of Columbia of the United States of America to administer the practice of geology.
- **Member** - A member of ASBOG® is a registered geologist on a member board, or a designated representative of that board.
- **Delegate** - A delegate is an individual designated by a member board to represent that member board at annual or special meetings.
- **Affiliate Member** - Persons or organizations with a substantial interest in geology or registration may be invited to be affiliate members on an annual basis.
- **Associate Member Board** - ASBOG® may recognize as an associate member board any state that has enacted legislation to regulate the profession of geology and has provided a mechanism for that regulation.
- **Associate Member** - An associate member of ASBOG® shall be a registered geologist on an associate member board or a designated representative of that associate member board.
- **ASBOG® Officers and Committee Members** - Officers are elected by the membership of ASBOG® and constitute the Executive Committee of ASBOG®. Committee members are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the President and Executive Committee of ASBOG®.

- **ASBOG® Employees and Consultants** - Those individuals formally affiliated with ASBOG® by written or oral contract.

**Individuals and Organizations Affiliated with ASBOG and Influenced by the Actions of ASBOG®**

- **Current registrants**- Those geoscientists currently licensed or registered by member states.
- **Potential registrants** - Individuals interested in being licensed or registered in one or more states.
- **State legislatures and regulatory agencies** - Those organizations having legislative and administrative responsibilities for the overseeing of state boards of geology.
- **Public**- Individuals and groups of individuals seeking geological information and advice. Those living and operating under the results of geological investigations.

**ASBOG®'s Major Activities**

- Facilitating the coordination of registration activities among states and countries
- Developing uniform procedures for administering and coordinating the practice of geology
- Developing the two written examinations, *Fundamentals* and *Practice*
- Cooperating with member boards in the administration of the examinations
- Conducting task analyses (surveys of the practice of geology) to form bases for examinations
- Disseminating information on the licensure process and the examinations to individuals and organizations
- Serving as a national and international advocate for licensure (registration) of geoscientists

**Members and Representatives of ASBOG® shall:**

- only provide guidance and/or express opinions in those areas in which the individual is technically competent.
- function without prejudice with respect to sex, religion, national or ethnic origin, age, sexual preference, or physical or mental disability.
- be fair in all dealings with all parties.
- be objective in all decisions
- act with professionalism to enhance the image of the geological profession and ASBOG®.
- take full responsibility for their work.
- work aggressively to enhance their personal professional competency.
- work to improve the services provided by ASBOG®
- cooperate with other appropriate organizations

- encourage all members to accept and to adhere to these guidelines.
- work aggressively for the enforcement of these guidelines.
- report to appropriate ASBOG® personnel any member or members in violation of this Code of Ethics.

**Members and Representatives of ASBOG® shall not:**

- disclose confidential written or oral information (i.e. examination questions, personnel records, correspondence, etc.) and shall comply with all procedures to safeguard confidential materials.
- shall not participate in any examination review course development or operation for a period of 3 years following participation in any ASBOG® examination workshop.
- represent ASBOG® in written and oral format without prior authorization.
- be involved in matters of moral turpitude.
- act in violation of civil laws.
- be disloyal to ASBOG®.
- misuse organizational resources.
- be dishonest or incomplete in the disclosure of information.
- participate in inappropriate gift giving and receiving.

**Procedures for resolving ethical issues:**

In addition to this Code of Ethics, ASBOG® will endorse and operate in accord with the American Geological Institute (AGI) Ethics Guidelines for Geoscience Professionals and recommend these guidelines to its membership.

The Ethics Committee and the Executive Committee are the elements of ASBOG® that have the collective responsibility for overseeing issues related to ethics. The Ethics Committee conducts investigations and makes recommendations for action to the Executive Committee on violations of the ASBOG® Code of Ethics and the AGI Guidelines.