



**July 2024
Government
Procurement
Services**

This newsletter informs government purchasing and contracting professionals about public procurement topics.

UPCOMING CLASSES:

Using Request for Proposals

(Arlington)

July 24, 2024

Purchasing 101 for Everyone

(Virtual)

August 6, 2024



[More Info](#)

**Recent Supreme Court
Ruling on Gratuities**

Training Schedule



On June 26, 2024, the Supreme Court ruled on ***Snyder v. United States***. The case involves James Snyder, a former mayor of Portage, Indiana. In 2013, Mayor Portage awarded two contracts to a local trucking company, Great Lakes Peterbilt, and ultimately purchased five trash trucks from the company for about \$1.1 million. In 2014, Peterbilt cut a \$13,000 check to Snyder.

Snyder was later convicted of accepting an illegal gratuity in violation of U.S. Code §666(a)(1)(B) and sentenced to one year and nine months in jail. On appeal, Snyder argued that §666 criminalizes only bribes, not gratuities. The Seventh Circuit affirmed Snyder's conviction.

The Supreme Court ruled that §666 is a bribery statute and not a gratuities statute. Bribery and gratuities are two separate crimes with two different sets of elements. Bribery requires that the official have a corrupt state of mind and accept (or agree to accept) the payment intending to be influenced in the official act (quid pro quo). A gratuity is a payment for a past favor, the granting of which did not constitute illegal activity or a "pay to play" component.



Group Discounts Available

CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION

[Workshop Description](#)

[Schedule/Register](#)

November 5, 2024

ESSENTIALS OF CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

[Workshop Description](#)

[Schedule/Register](#)

December 4-5, 2024

ETHICS AND FRAUD IN CONTRACTING

[Workshop Description](#)

[Schedule/Register](#)

September 25, 2024

November 19, 2024

There is too much information to include in this newsletter. I encourage you to read more about this significant ruling and discuss with your legal department if or how the ruling could affect your entity.

[Supreme Court Ruling](#)

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Question:

"Our Police Department asked me to hire a Forensic Science Expert to assist with a criminal case. What is the appropriate procurement method for these types of services?"



Answer: Professional Services. A forensic analyst or forensic science expert was added to the list of professions under the Professional Services Act, effective September 1, 2021 [Texas Government Code, §2254.002]. It was introduced during the 87th Legislative Session through HB 3774.

**Job Opening - Purchaser
Texas State Soil and Water
Conservation Board**

**FUNDAMENTALS OF
PUBLIC PURCHASING**

[Workshop Description](#)

[Schedule/Register](#)

October 8-9, 2024

November 12-13, 2024

NEGOTIATION SKILLS

[Workshop Description](#)

[Schedule/Register](#)

October 23, 2024

**PROCUREMENT
MANAGEMENT ACADEMY**

[Workshop Description](#)

[Schedule/Register](#)

October 16, 2024

December 10-11, 2024

PURCHASING 101

FOR EVERYONE

[Workshop Description](#)

[Schedule/Register](#)

August 6, 2024

December 4, 2024

Temple, Texas

<https://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/contact-us/employment>



SPECIFICATION WRITING

[Workshop Description](#)

[Schedule/Register](#)

September 26, 2024

December 19, 2024

USING REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

[Workshop Description](#)

[Schedule/Register](#)

July 24, 2024

November 21, 2024

WRITING STATEMENTS OF WORK

[Workshop Description](#)

[Schedule/Register](#)

October 22, 2024

November 7, 2024

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