



Reasoning with Ethics

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A Project of The School for Ethical Education

www.ethicsed.org

*Ethics in action
creates character*

Follow the Money

When a law firm reimburses its partners for donations to political campaigns it can qualify as a straw-dog donor scheme, which is illegal at the state and federal levels. In a recent case reported by CBS News, we learn



that the Thornton Law Firm in Boston has been reimbursing its partners for gifts to political candidates in challenging races all over the country. If the partners make a donation to a candidate, the Law Firm as noted in the video here (<http://bit.ly/Straw-Dog-Gifts>) almost immediately reimburses the partner.

Several topics for student discussion are raised by this story. Clearly the core values of respect for the law and the authority of the Federal Elections Commission is violated. But what core values would be required by junior partners to resist senior partners' "suggestion" that the donation be made? What ethical will and social skill would support a person's resistance to this type of internal job pressure? In addition, why should a student care if this straw-dog donor law is violated? Who is being harmed in this violation?

Students may respond to these questions on our website at - <http://bit.ly/SEEethicsblog> where more information is available in support of ***Reasoning with Ethics***.

Contact information

The School for Ethical Education is a not for profit teaching agency in Milford, CT with the mission to advance strategies of placing ethics in action to create character. As a non-sectarian 501(C)3, SEE is supported by fees for service, grants and donations. For more information visit our website at www.ethicsed.org Please reply with "unsubscribe" in the subject heading if you want to be removed from this Reasoning with Ethics Blog.

Use this blog to:

1. *Lead class discussions in social studies, civics, ethics or advisory classes.*
2. *Teach students skills to analyze cases with core values.*
3. *Teach students about the four-components of ethical functioning*