



Reasoning with Ethics

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A Project of The School for Ethical Education | www.ethicsed.org

Ethics in action creates character.

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 ethical values.
3. Recognize skills in support of SEE's Tri-Factor Model of ethical functioning.

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Embezzlement: A Violation of Trust

Multiple news outlets have reported that federal prosecutors have filed charges against union leaders of the United Auto Workers (UAW). A UAW council president, Edward Robinson and up to six other UAW officials have been charged with embezzling up to \$1.5 million since 2010. They are accused of fabricating travel records and soliciting and taking bribes to provide favorable negotiations to UAW contractors.



The definition of embezzlement includes the theft of funds placed in one's trust by an employer. If the charges are proven, the UAW officials would face jail time for their theft and bribery that clearly harmed their employer and their fellow UAW members.

The scope of this corruption required the cooperation of multiple UAW executives. Students are requested to consider how they might have responded if they became aware of the corruption as a UAW official. What core values would be needed to resist the temptation of joining the other corrupt leaders? What social or professional skills would help one live out core values and expose corruption?

Regarding this archived case, the following links provide more background information.

AP Story (10/31/19) <https://www.ksdk.com/article/news/local/president-of-a-uaw-council-in-missouri-faces-embezzlement-charges/63-8372d73d-c488-4a72-b20f-f13035a1a9b4>

Fox News2 (MO) video (10/31/19) <https://fox2now.com/2019/10/31/united-auto-workers-officer-in-missouri-faces-embezzlement-charges/>

CBS Video Story (8/31/19) <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/fbi-raids-uaw-president-gary-jones-home-detroit-today-2019-08-28/>

Contact information

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