

NATIONAL SPEAKERS ASSOCIATION CHAPTER ANTITRUST COMPLIANCE POLICY

Chapter Name: _____

The National Speakers Association (NSA) is subject to the antitrust laws of the United States, as are most professional societies. Antitrust laws promote competition and prohibit unlawful restraint of trade. These laws are vigorously enforced to keep companies from engaging in anti-competitive practices. Any discussion among competitors of prices, terms and conditions of sale, allocation of markets or customers, joint refusals to deal, costs of doing business, or future business plans could be interpreted as signaling or a tacit agreement leading to illegal collusion. This is serious criminal conduct that could result in substantial fines and jail sentences, as well as treble damages in civil lawsuits.

NSA, therefore, recognizes the need to be constantly vigilant to prevent actions that could result in an illegal "restraint of trade or commerce." Any failure on the part of NSA to comply strictly with the antitrust laws could result in severe penalties. The laws of the United States that define the antitrust liabilities of professional societies are the Sherman Act, the Clayton Act, the Robinson-Patman Act and the Federal Trade Commission Act.

NSA strictly adheres to these antitrust laws. Each member and participant in the activities of NSA bears a serious responsibility at all times to comply with the laws, both at formal meetings and in informal discussions. Think before you speak (or write); always consider how your remarks could be interpreted, in and out of context. Avoid creating or participating in any situation which could be misinterpreted as noncompliance. And finally, consult legal counsel whenever any uncertainty arises.

The following basic principles are endorsed by NSA's Board of Directors as a guide for all members of the Association and its Chapters.

1. The NSA and its members shall make every effort to ensure that all of their actions comply with both the letter and spirit of the antitrust laws of the United States.

2. The NSA shall not indulge in, or sanction, any discussion of current or future fees or prices for public speaking. NSA meetings and publications will never be a forum for the exchange of information that could lead to the establishment of cooperative arrangements or activities in violation of the antitrust laws.
3. No NSA activity or communication shall include any discussion of pricing methods, terms or conditions of sale, allocation of territories or customers, joint refusals to deal with suppliers or customers, profit levels, wage rates, solicitation of others' employees, restricting lawful advertising, or other aspects of competition.
4. The NSA shall conduct all statistical and information exchange program functions on a voluntary basis, and all data collected from individuals shall be treated confidentially and in accordance with the antitrust laws.
5. The NSA shall never enter into or sanction any agreement that tends to restrict competition between members or within the profession generally.
6. No NSA activity or communication shall include any discussion that might be construed as an attempt to: (i) prevent any business entity from gaining access to any market or customer for its products and services, (ii) prevent any business entity from obtaining products and services freely in the market through competition.
7. Meetings will be conducted according to these procedures:
 - a. Written agendas will be prepared in advance. Agendas will not include any subjects that are identified in this Policy as improper for consideration or discussion.
 - b. Meeting handouts and presentations should, whenever feasible, be reviewed in advance of meetings.
 - c. Meetings should follow the written agenda and not depart from the agenda except for legitimate reason, which should be recorded in the minutes. Informal or "off the record" discussions of business topics



are not permitted at meetings or other activities of the association.

- d. Accurate and complete minutes should be prepared. The minutes should include the time and place of the meeting, a list of all individuals present and their affiliations, a statement of all matters discussed and actions taken with a summary of the reasons therefor, and a record of any votes taken.

- 8. All members and participants in NSA and NSA Chapter activities are expected to observe the foregoing rules both at formal meetings and in informal discussions, whether in conjunction with NSA meetings or otherwise.

The National Speakers Association and its members subscribe to the basic philosophy that free trade and the interaction of competitive forces yield the best allocation of economic resources, the lowest cost to clients, the highest quality and the greatest progress. NSA’s policy on antitrust reaffirms its commitment to conduct the Association’s affairs in a manner conducive to the attainment of those goals.

The Board of Directors of the Chapter has reviewed the Antitrust Compliance Policy of the National Speakers Association. The Board agreed to comply with this NSA policy.

Date Signed: _____

Board of Directors Signatures:

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