

Curriculum Guide for Presentations on:

Legal Issues and Confidentiality

Goal: To raise awareness of the major legal issues church officers, including treasurers, are likely to encounter as they engage in their responsibilities.

Points to cover when presenting on legal issues and confidentiality:

1. Legal issues which must be covered in the presentation:
 - a. Copyright and Trademarks
 - b. Corporate Structure and incorporating local entities
 - c. Property ownership
 - d. Contracts and contracting on behalf of the organization
 - e. Ascending liability
 - f. Affinity fraud
 - g. Conflict of Interest
 - h. Sexual misconduct
 - i. Consistency in application of policies
 - j. Privacy and data challenges
 - k. Disaster Readiness
 - l. Crisis management and communication
 - m. Special topics unique to the Division. For example, in the NAD, such topics would include tax issues, First Amendment protection; Sabbath accommodation; immigration and I-9 issues; supporting ministries. Topics chosen should be appropriate for the location of the presentation and the audience.
2. Confidentiality issues:
 - a. The priest-penitent privilege in law
 - b. Legal protections in Executive sessions
 - c. Loss of confidentiality protections
 - d. How to handle board members who cannot keep confidentiality
 - e. Defamation

Author's suggestion: An appropriate handout to be provided at a presentation on legal issues and confidentiality would be a listing of "legal land mines," the appropriate working policy references for dealing with such situations, and the Division's contact personnel for assistance. An example of such a list can be obtained from the Office of General Counsel at the General Conference. Contact person: Karnik Doumetzian. Email: karnikd@gc.adventist.org