

# THE PUBLIC SERVICE PUZZLER

MARCH

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Editor:

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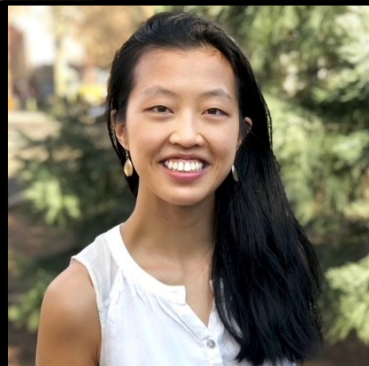
## ETHICAL BRACKETOLOGY

The Public Service Puzzler is too stressful. Last month, a government leprechaun forced us to solve riddles (*Nothing*, *City Employees*, *Time*, and *One*, by the way). Before that, we were writing municipal ethics-themed captions for a *New Yorker*-style caption contest and — I don't know about you — but I often find it difficult to win a *New Yorker*-style caption contest even when the subject matter *isn't* the \$50 Valuable Gift Rule.

I'm pretty sure, at this point, City employees have solved more ethics-related math puzzles than the folks at NASA (you heard me, OGE), and if corruption is ever hiding in a wordsearch, rest assured a *Puzzler* reader will find it. That's impressive! But it's also a lot. So this month, let's all take a break from the more brain-busting ethics analysis, kick back with a cold drink, and enjoy some of the absolute best March Madness action available: *Chapter 68 March Madness!*

Here's how it works: on the next page, you will find a Sweet 16 bracket containing some *can't-miss* provisions and prohibitions of Chapter 68 of the New York City Charter (the City's Conflicts of Interest Law) — the really good ones, the future first-round picks. These sections of the law will compete in a series of head-to-head matches with each other until all but one is eliminated, leaving us with the *Ultimate Ethics Law*! The strength of each team in the tournament is based on an unbeknownst-to-you survey of 11 Conflicts of Interest Board staffers, each having been asked to pick their "favorite" parts of Chapter 68 — the more popular the section of the law, the further it will go. Do you know COIB well enough to predict our winning bracket? Fill in the remainder of the bracket with your answers and send them to [Con-test@coib.nyc.gov](mailto:Con-test@coib.nyc.gov) before midnight on April 15th, and if your bracket is closest it'll be *you* metaphorically and ethically clipping those nets! Your municipal ethics Cinderella story begins now!

## LAST MONTH'S BIG WINNER: YVONNE CHOW!



Congratulations to last month's winner: Yvonne Chow! The Sphinx would be out of ideas with Yvonne, who was one of only a handful of people to correctly answer all four classic riddles! Who is this public servant problem-solver...

**What is your City/office title?**

My office title is Communications Lead; my civil service title is Community Coordinator.

**Communications Lead sounds like a busy job!**

I'm responsible for designing a diverse range of promotional and multilingual materials that support programs related to commercial recycling and composting, as well as waste reduction and commercial waste zones. This includes booklets, mailers, flyers, apps, maps, graphics, and web content.

**That...sounds like really satisfying work. How long have you been doing that?**

I worked at DOT for 16 months, and I'm approaching my 16th month at DSNY.

**Sounds like the City is lucky to have you! So when you're not saving the world, what do you get up to?**

Making music is something that brings me a lot of joy, especially when I'm singing, writing songs, playing the flute, or improvising jazzy riffs. I find that playing music with friends and family is a wonderful way to deepen our connection and share in something special.

**That's three months in a row that musicians have won the Puzzler! Are you sharing answers? Did you unionize? Anyway, last question: what's a fun fact most people don't know about you?**

I'm proud to say that I've completed a two-year streak on Duolingo! As part of my language learning journey, I'm currently studying Danish and German in preparation for my upcoming trip to Copenhagen and Hamburg.

**That owl frightens me; besides, I've found municipal ethics is already kind of a universal language, ya know? No? Well anyway, congrats Yvonne and thanks again for reading the Public Service Puzzler!**

Post-Employment  
Appearance Ban

Confidential Information  
Restrictions

Misuse of Resources

Expert Witness  
Prohibition

\$50 Valuable  
Gift Rule

Coercive political  
activity prohibition

Appearances Before  
the City

Particular Matter  
Bar

Annual Financial  
Disclosure

Lobbyist  
Gift Rule

Job-seeking  
Restrictions

Moonlighting  
Waivers

Gratuities Ban

Investment Limits

Gifts of City Travel

Superior-Subordinate  
Financial Relationship Ban

WINNER!

Good Luck!

-RC