

THE PUBLIC SERVICE PUZZLER

MARCH 2022

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CAPTION CONTEST



You know how this works: send your funniest ethics-related caption to contest@coib.nyc.gov by Wednesday, April 13th. We'll feature our favorite in next month's *Public Service Puzzler*!

CONFLICTS WORDLE SOLUTION



We received *many* responses to the last Puzzler — looks like a lot of you are into Wordle (so are we)!

The answer is **TRUST**, which relates to ethics in two ways:

First, trusts, as a financial instrument, are outlined in a few places in the law. Placing one's assets into a [blind trust](#), for instance, permits a City employee to retain what would otherwise be prohibited ownership interests (typically, a prospective high-level appointee with an extensive stock portfolio who doesn't wish to sell the stocks before taking the City position). And [legal defense trusts](#) provide the means for public servants with certain types of legal troubles to raise and spend money from private donors without running afoul of the conflicts of interest law's restrictions on valuable gifts and misuse of position.

Secondly, as many of you noted, [the very first sentence of our law](#) is the entire reason for there to even be a Chapter 68, and a COIB: *Public service is a public trust*.

Congratulations to everyone who wrote in with the correct answer. While we can only feature one of you (chosen at random), *you're all winners* in our eyes.

MEET AMY HOM



What is your City/office title? I'm a Management Auditor at the Department for the Aging's Claiming and Revenue Unit.

What do you do in your job? The CRU evaluates revenues received from federal, State, and City entities.

How long have you worked for the City? I just celebrated my 36th anniversary at DFTA in January.

What's the most memorable celebrity encounter you've had? In the late seventies, my father owned a coin-operated laundromat in downtown Brooklyn. One of our customers was Jim Clemons, the New York Knicks point guard. I remember trying to act cool and normal when he was there to drop off his laundry, but I was probably gaping at him like a star-struck fan the entire time.

A fun fact about you someone wouldn't know just by looking: This is not necessarily a fun fact, but people do not know that I am hearing-impaired by looking at me. I want to stress that I have been very lucky at work because all my supervisors and coworkers do not see me as disabled, and that gives me the confidence in my own ability to do my job.