

**Fuzzy Lines and
Phantasmagorias:
Ethical Considerations for
Water Professionals**

fuzz·y *adjective*

- Covered with fuzz.
- Of or resembling fuzz.
- Not clear; indistinct: *a fuzzy recollection of past events.*
- Not coherent; confused: *a fuzzy plan of action.*

phan•tas•ma•go•ri•a *noun*

- **bizarre images:** a series or group of strange or bizarre images seen as if in a dream
- **ever-changing scene:** a scene or view that encompasses many things and changes constantly

eth·ic *noun*

- **A set of principles of right conduct.**
- **A theory or a system of moral values.**
- **ethics** (*used with a sing. verb*) The study of the general nature of morals and of the specific moral choices to be made by a person; moral philosophy.
- **ethics** (*used with a sing. or pl. verb*) The rules or standards governing the conduct of a person or the members of a profession.

geoethics

- Many different meanings in the published literature.
- Some researchers identify it with "geographic ethics" thus implying a subject as wide as geography itself: including in it also ecoethics, animal ethics, ethics of the development, professional and science ethics applied to geography, etc.
- An even wider definition should include all scientific and applied activities relative to the Earth sciences.

Zagorchev (2003)

**Water Supply and
Water/Wastewater Treatment
fit within the definition of “geoethics”**

What it all “means”?


The basic principle of ethics is that *the end does not justify the means*. In other words, it is not ethical to use harmful means to achieve a personal or social benefit.

Things that are legal may be unethical.

Many experts are writing about it...

**SOARING THROUGH
TURBULENCE**

A New Model for Managers Who Want to Succeed in a Changing Business World



MICHAEL M. SEARS
CFO, The Boeing Company
and Thomas A. Schweich

“Either you
you are not.
make that de
do. And then
between.”

Oregonian

Ex-CFO of Boeing sentenced

Michael Sears gets four months in prison and a \$250,000 fine for trying to recruit an Air Force defense procurement officer

By **ALAN BJERGA**
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — A former top Boeing executive received a four-month prison sentence and a \$250,000 fine Friday for illegal job negotiations with an Air Force official who oversaw contracts with Boeing.

The scandal derailed a \$20 billion defense program and triggered a broader review of Pentagon contracts.

Former Chief Financial Officer Michael Sears, 57, was Boeing's third-ranking executive when he approached Darleen Druyun, the Air Force's No. 2 weapons buyer, about working for Boeing in the fall of 2002.



SEARS
Prosecutors seek example

At the time, Druyun was negotiating a

**“We are discussing no small matter,
but how we ought to live”**

Socrates, from Plato's Republic, Book 1:352d.



Detail of the Death of Socrates, Jacques-Louis David, 1787, MOMA, NY

“...how we ought to live.”

“I just don't feel I did anything wrong. I just did what everyone else in the industry was doing.”



KAREN RYAN,
PUBLIC RELATIONS CONSULTANT
AND FORMER REPORTER, WHO
WORKED ON A DOZEN STORIES FOR
SEVEN FEDERAL AGENCIES

If everyone else is doing it,
does it become an industry
standard?

If it becomes an industry
standard, does it set a legal
precedent?

If everyone else is doing it, is
it still ethical?

Oregonian

“...how we ought to live”

Boeing chairman says ethics key to next CEO

WASHINGTON — Boeing Chairman Lewis F. Platt said Monday that he thinks both of Boeing's top two internal candidates for chief executive will stay at the company even if it turns to the outside for a new leader.



PLATT

Judgment an issue in Stonecipher firing

A strong background in ethics should be a defining characteristic in whoever is selected for the top job, Platt added.

“The knee-jerk reaction of the organization isn't always right when it comes to ethics,” he said. “We just need people who have a sixth sense of what's right and what's wrong.”

“We just need people who have a sixth sense of what is right and what is wrong”

Oregonian

Which part of the “sixth sense” has priority?



Which part of the “sixth sense” has priority?

Recalling the 2004 Election

Vietnam Swift Boat Veteran

Clackamas County, OR

Prosecutor

Is Mr. French unethical?

- Has affair with colleague.
- Lies about affair with colleague to supervisor.
- Files an affidavit regarding Candidate John Kerry based on hearsay.



FRENCH

*Decorated for
actions in Vietnam*

Oregonian

Which part of the “sixth sense” has priority?

State bar clears prosecutor over Kerry ad

Alfred French is found not to have committed ethics violations over the Swift Boat Veterans' claims and an interoffice affair

By **BOAZ HERZOG**
THE OREGONIAN

The Oregon State Bar has cleared Clackamas County prosecutor Alfred French of ethics violations when he lied years ago to his former boss about an interoffice affair and when he participated in a presidential campaign ad last year that said Democratic Sen. John Ker-



FRENCH
*Decorated for
actions in Vietnam*

ry lied about his Vietnam War record. The state bar is the regulating organization that licenses and disciplines attor-

neys in Oregon.

The bar's nine-member Professional Responsibility Board on Saturday put to rest its investigation, dismissing more than 60 complaints that French's actions involved dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation.

The ruling means that the 59-year-old father of three has emerged unscathed in two separate investigations into his conduct. Earlier this year, the secretary of state's office found that French did not violate Oregon election law by appearing in an ad by Swift Boat Veterans for Truth attacking Kerry.

"We're extremely pleased with the outcome," said Ralph Spooner, French's Salem attorney, who received notification about the state bar ruling Wednesday by mail. "We know they gave this matter careful and thorough attention

Please see **PROSECUTOR**, Page D5

What are the obligations of a profession to the public?

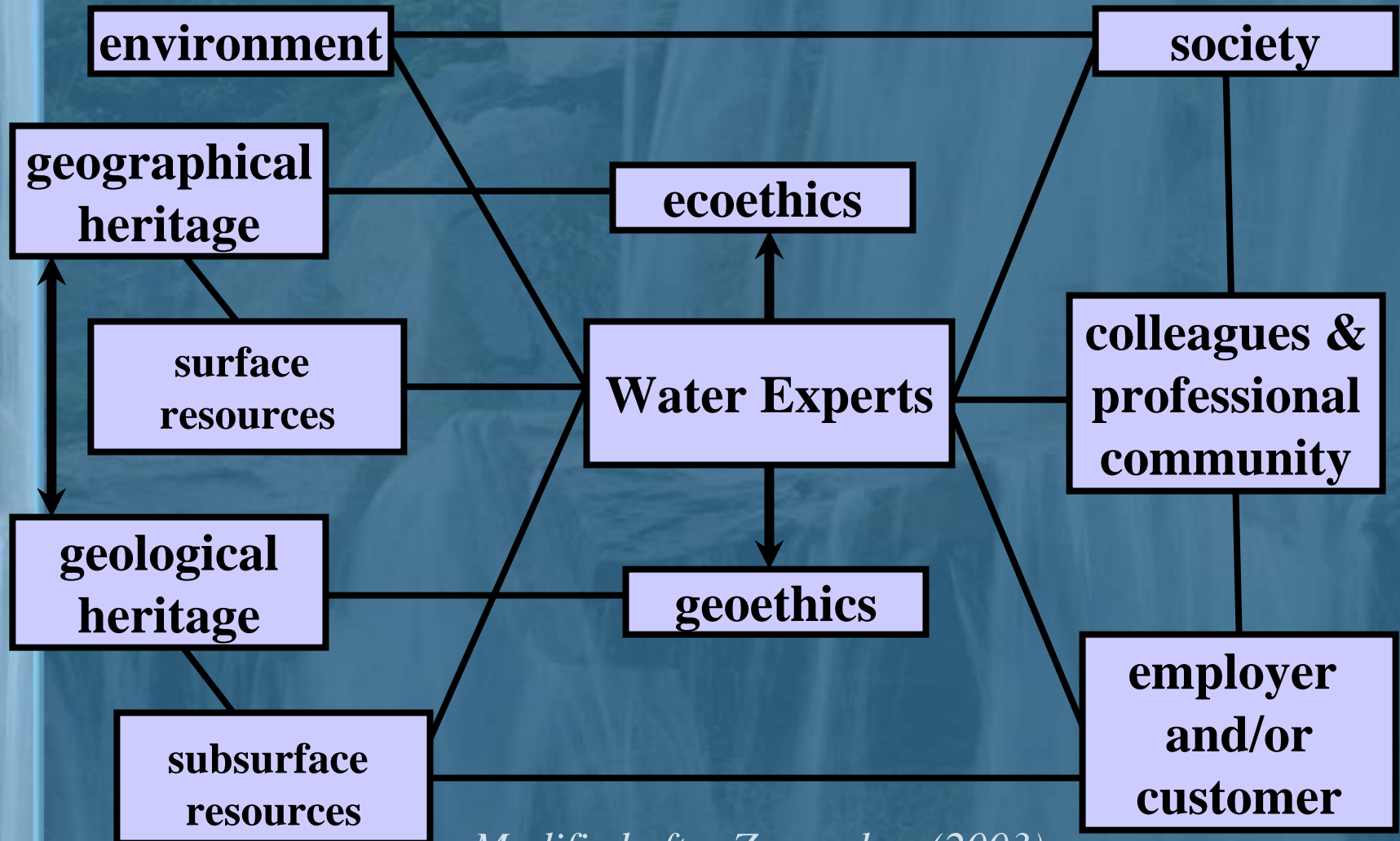
High court bars lawyer for 120 days

The state Supreme Court sanctions a Portland attorney whose file includes 116 complaints

The Oregon Supreme Court on Thursday issued a 120-day suspension to a Portland lawyer whose Oregon State Bar file contains 116 complaints from former clients, employees and adversaries.

Does a profession have an obligation to step in and ban “unethical” professionals from practicing?

Conflict Cartography of Water Ethics



Modified after Zagorchev (2003)

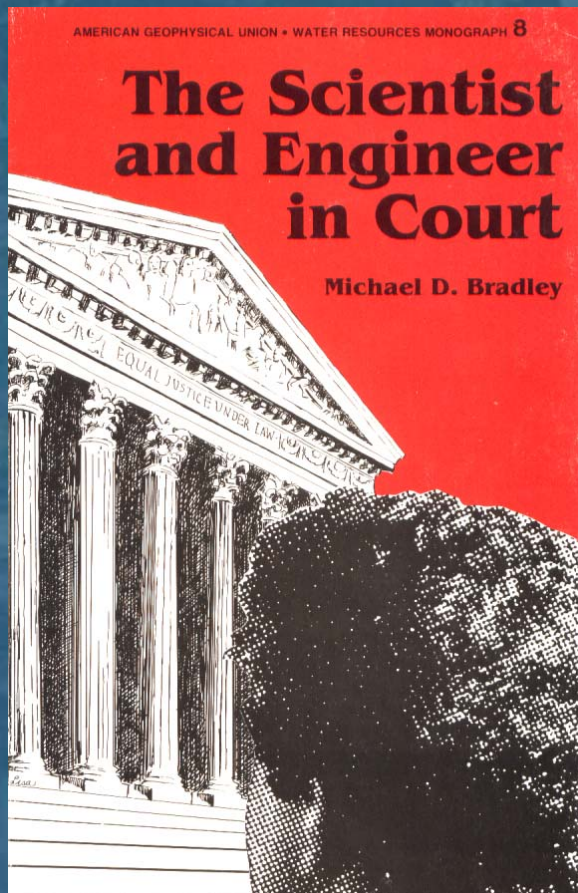
One of the Phantasmagorias

The Changing Landscape of Ethics in Society

- **Equity in Impact**
- **Equity in Environmental Quality**
- **Equity in Access to Resources**
- **Awareness of Uncertainty**
- **Transparency**
- **Economics**
- **Politics**

What is unethical in one place may be considered ethical in other places.

Are Scientists and Engineers without ethical indiscretions?



E-mails suggest USGS scientists planned to fabricate data on nuclear waste project

By **ERICA WERNER**
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — E-mails by several government scientists on the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste dump project suggest workers were planning to fabricate records and manipulate results to ensure outcomes that would help the project move forward.

"I don't have a clue when these programs were installed. So I've made up

the dates and names," wrote a U.S. Geological Survey employee in one e-mail released Friday by a congressional committee investigating suspected document falsification on the project.

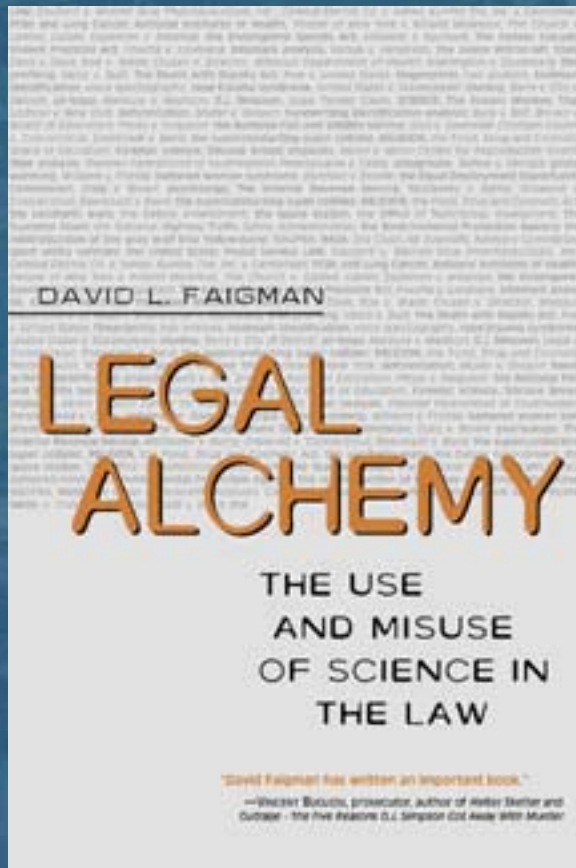
"This is as good as it's going to get. If they need more proof, I will be happy to make up more stuff."

In another message the same employee wrote to a colleague: "In the end

Please see **YUCCA**, Page AB

Oregonian, April 2

Emerging Challenges to Water Experts



Do we have an obligation to monitor the use and misuse of our digital data, analyses, reports and publications in other fields?

Should Water/Wastewater Certification Exams include testing the basic knowledge of ethics?

ALL I REALLY NEED TO KNOW I LEARNED IN KINDERGARTEN

- Share everything.
- Play fair.
- Don't hit people.
- Put things back where you found them.
- Clean up your own mess.
- Don't take things that aren't yours.
- Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody.
- Wash your hands before you eat.
- Flush.
- Live a balanced life.
- When you go out in the world, stick together.

Modified after Robert Fulghum

*“...how we ought to live” and how
to implement the “sixth sense”*

R-E-S-P-E-C-T

Find out what it means to me

R-E-S-P-E-C-T

-- Aretha Franklin

Weapons for Combat in Water Ethics

- **Respect yourself.**
- **Respect your community.**
- **Respect society who trusts your profession.**



**“Always do right--this will gratify
some and astonish the rest.”**

-- Mark Twain, 1901

Remembering ethics in the news...

