

AHLA GROUP EXERCISE ON ETHICS

1. In checking his law firm's computerized conflicts system, Arbitrator Arends is provided with a report of active matters only. Is this report sufficient?
2. While reviewing the list of attorneys, parties and witnesses, Arbitrator Sanchez notes that the daughter of the lead counsel for the claimant was a babysitter for his two-year-old twins on several occasions. Should he disclose this relationship?
3. On Day 1 of the hearing on a payer-provider dispute, Ms. Robinson appears as an expert witness for the hospital/claimant. After Day 3 of the hearing, while catching up on email, Arbitrator Roy sees a post from Robinson in a LinkedIn summary of activity. Roy did not realize they were connected through LinkedIn until he saw the post. Roy has 450 LinkedIn connections. He routinely accepts requests to connect from strangers to avoid offense.

On Day 4 of the hearing, Roy discloses the relationship. The insurer/respondent's attorney immediately demands his removal. How should Roy respond? Could this situation have been handled better?

4. Two years ago, Mr. Chang served on an arbitration panel with Ms. Grande, a Senior Partner at HealthLaw LCC. AHLA just appointed Chang to arbitrate a claim in which HealthLaw LLC represents one of the respondents. Grande has not entered an appearance. Can Chang accept this appointment? Does it matter whether HealthLaw LLC has five lawyers in one office, or 2,000 lawyers in 20 offices?
5. During a break in an arbitration hearing, Arbitrator Wertz uses the restroom. The soap dispenser is empty. Ms. Howard, counsel for the respondent, offers Wertz the hand sanitizer she keeps in her pocketbook. How should Wertz respond?
6. After being appointed to arbitrate an employment claim filed against Consolidated Health Systems, Arbitrator Engdahl discloses that he has previously arbitrated three claims involving Consolidated. The employee/claimant's attorney asks for details about these prior arbitrations, particularly the subject matter and outcome. How should Engdahl respond?
7. Arbitrator Stefanos is appointed to resolve a dispute between partners of an anesthesiology practice group. Her law firm recently provided advice to a hospital that contracts with the practice. Is this a conflict of interest? How should Stefanos handle this situation?