

6 Conflict of Interest

The following sections concern the groups of types of corruption: conflict of interest, extortion, nepotism, favouritism, money laundering and privacy/data breaches. They are often interrelated and interwoven with fraud and bribery. It is easier to steal from a thief than an honest man as the thief will never report it. Unfortunately this can imply the den of thieves who will never hire an honest person.

Mark Twain:

“To steal from a thief is not theft but merely larceny from a dishonest man.”

Louis L'Amour's book *The Walking Drum* states:

“Lie to a liar, for lies are his coin; steal from a thief, for that is easy; lay a trap for a trickster and catch him at the first attempt, but beware of an honest man” .

A conflict of interest in an organization occurs when an individual or entity has competing interests or loyalties that could potentially bias their decision-making or actions, to the detriment of the organization's best interests. With events it is almost impossible for some of the staff not to have a conflict of interest. It may not be to the detriment of the organisation's best interest. In fact a well-networked member of the staff who is active in the event industry is often a huge benefit to finding the right suppliers and dealing with the stakeholders, such as the sponsors.

In other words a conflict of interest is not corruption on its own but can pose the risk of corruption. This means that if it is not dealt with, the consequences can be legal prosecution and loss of reputa-