

Gift Ban

The gift ban section of the Ethics Act is highly relevant in a university environment. As a result of the university's diverse mission, employees at all levels, including appointees, may be presented with gifts (e.g., gratuity, discount, entertainment, hospitality, loan, forbearance, item having monetary value, honoraria related to employment or position, etc.) from a prohibited source.

Illinois Executive Order 15-09 (EO 15-09) further restricts gift acceptance by state and public university employees, prohibiting the solicitation or acceptance of any gift from a prohibited source unless one of the above exceptions is met.

A full listing of the exceptions provided within the Ethics Act can be found at:

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ChapterID=2&ActID=2529>.

EO 15-09 can also be referenced at:

https://www2.illinois.gov/Pages/government/execorders/2015_9.aspx.

Any gift offered in an effort to influence the official actions of an employee, even if it is permissible by an exception to the gift ban provisions, is inappropriate and possibly illegal and must not be accepted.