

On a monthly basis, I will be addressing you with a concern that I feel has merit. At the bottom of this page is my contact information. If you feel aggrieved or amused, or want to express agreement or disagreement, let me know your thoughts.

Shared Responsibility

Keep your eyes and ears open about the emerging concept of shared responsibility. As organizations and professions grow, more and more emphasis is being placed upon ethics. Recent news accounts remind us of many CEOs and employees who are making bad decisions and who lack the character and ethics necessary to resist the temptations facing them. They committed acts of misconduct, and now they are paying the price.

The question remains-how was the misconduct discovered? Did the wrongdoers turn themselves in because their conscience was bothering them? I doubt it! Someone, somewhere said "Enough is Enough," and did the responsible thing: spoke out.

Shared responsibility is a realization that it is everyone's responsibility to personally resist misconduct, and also everyone's responsibility to not tolerate the misconduct of others. It isn't just the training coordinator's responsibility to preach and teach about ethics and misconduct. It isn't just the sergeant's, the sheriff's and internal affairs officers' responsibility to discover and deal with misconduct. It is all our shared responsibility to make our profession better. It is all of our shared responsibility to require ethical decisions; "of ourselves first, and from our co-workers second. It is all of our shared responsibility to perform at the highest level possible and expect nothing less from our fellow professionals.

Yes, shared responsibility is a concept we all need to embrace-we must realize that together, we can make a difference.

[Email comment to the Executive Director](#)