

All panelists convened by NEH to review grant applications are asked to sign a form containing the following statement:

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

If you, as a reviewer or panelist for the National Endowment for the Humanities, receive a grant application on which your advice is requested, it may present a problem involving a conflict of interest. Such a problem might arise in a situation in which either you have been or will be involved in the project described in the application, either as a principal advisor, or—on a paid basis—as a consultant or otherwise, or if the project is presented on behalf of your employer. The same restrictions apply if your spouse or minor child is to be involved in the project described in the application, or if it is presented on behalf of an organization with whom you are negotiating for employment. In any of these cases, please mark “Recused. Conflict of Interest” on the evaluation sheet.

In addition, please mark “Recused. Conflict of Interest” if you are asked to review an application by:

- 1) anyone employed at your home institution,
- 2) anyone whom you have advised in a dissertation project,
- 3) Or anyone for whose current application you have written a letter of reference.

Naturally, it is also not permissible for individual applicants or principal investigators/project directors to participate in the review of their own or competing applications.

If an application presents no conflict of interest at the time you review it, a conflict of interest may still develop later on. Once you have reviewed an application, you should never represent the applicant in dealing with the National Endowment for the Humanities or another federal agency concerning that application or any grant that may result from it. You should not, for example, call an Endowment employee and ask that award of a grant be made speedily or request that the grant period be extended.

Furthermore, it is not appropriate, for your own purposes or for the purposes of the institutions or organizations you represent, for you to make specific use of confidential information derived from individual applications which you read while serving on an Endowment panel. On the other hand, this is to be distinguished from the entirely appropriate general benefit obtained by panelists who learn more about the Endowment, learn from other panelists, or become better acquainted with the state of a given discipline.