

**Ethic Statement for Library Trustees
For Chesterfield Township Library
County of Macomb
State of Michigan**

Ethics Statement for Public Library Trustees

“Government is a trust, and the officers of government are trustees; and both the trust and the trustees are created for the benefit of the people.”

So postulated Henry Clay in 1829 in a speech in Kentucky.

Trustees in the capacity of trust upon them shall observe ethical standards with absolute truth, integrity and honor.

Trustees must avoid situations in which personal interest might be served or financial benefits gained at the expense of library users, colleagues, or the situation.

It is incumbent upon any trustee to disqualify himself or herself immediately whenever the appearance of a conflict of interest exists.

Trustees must distinguish clearly in their actions and statements between their personal philosophies and attitudes and those of the institution, acknowledging the formal position of the Board even if they personally disagree.

Trustees must respect the confidential nature of library business while being aware and in compliance with applicable laws governing freedom of information.

Trustees must be prepared to support to the fullest the efforts of librarians in resisting censorship of library materials by groups or individuals.

Trustees who accept library board responsibilities are expected to perform all the functions of library trustees.

**Adopted by the Michigan Library Association Executive Board
June 19, 1989.**