

Whatcha Gonna Do?

The Situation

The specifications required the landscape contractor, Cawtna Bind, to collect seed tags from all seed bags to be delivered to the landscape architecture firm, Ada Mant and Associates, at the time of spreading the expensive lawn mix for a large regional school. Only one tag was received, and the consulting agristologist found that the resultant lawn did not, in fact, contain the seed percentages specified in the mix.

Whatcha Gonna Do?

What should Cawtna Bind do in the face of accusations by the agristology consultant that it did not use the seed specified by Ada Mant? Should Cawtna Bind admit he substituted a mix and claim that the planted seed was superior? Should he buy the correct seed tags from the shipper in the seed company mixing and bagging area and submit them? Should he take the school building committee on a three-day junket to a full-service resort? Should he join ASLA and gain credibility by pointing to its Code and Guidelines for Professional Conduct?

The Recommendation of the Ethics Committee

In reality, Cawtna Bind used the first three options. In hindsight, the honorable and ethical approach for Cawtna Bind would have been to submit a "request for substitution" to the landscape architect if he believed that it was an equal or superior product.

Since he was not a member of the Society, the ASLA Code and Guidelines for Professional Conduct could not be applied to Cawtna Bind.



Neither could the certification pledge of the Associated Landscape Contractors of America (ALCA). Each member of ALCA who is a Certified Landscape Professional makes the following pledge: "To be fair in all my marketing and other business dealings in order to gain respect and confidence of all customers and prospective customers."

Members of ASLA can and should point to the Society's adopted code of ethics with pride.

Editor's Note: One of the objectives of the ASLA Ethics Committee is to educate members about the ASLA Code and Guidelines for Professional Conduct. The code contains important principles relating to duties to clients and to members of the Society.

Readers are invited to send their comments on cases appearing in LAND to Managing Editor, 636 Eye Street NW, Washington DC 20001-3736 or E-mail to bwelsh@asla.org. Members are invited

to submit questions regarding ethical matters along with supporting data to Allen Hixon, FASLA, Ethics Committee Chair, c/o ASLA 636 Eye Street NW, Washington DC 20001-3736.

Membership Benefit Highlight —Emeritus Status

By Leslie Murray

Emeritus status is a valuable benefit provided to members who have maintained membership in ASLA for a long period of time. To thank these members for their commitment and contributions to the Society and the landscape architecture profession, ASLA offers a lifetime membership.

A currently enrolled Full Member may apply for emeritus status when he or