

Adopted by full HHLT BOD on 5-21-05
Amended by full HHLT BOD on 12-15-09
Amended and Approved by full HHLT BOD on 6-14-14



Whistleblower Policy

General

The Hudson Highlands Land Trust requires directors, officers and employees to observe high standards of business and personal ethics in the conduct of their duties and responsibilities. As employees and representatives of the Hudson Highlands Land Trust, we must practice honesty and integrity in fulfilling our responsibilities and comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

Reporting Responsibility

It is the responsibility of all directors, officers and employees to report ethics violations or suspected violations in accordance with this Whistleblower Policy.

No Retaliation

No director, officer or employee who in good faith reports an ethics violation shall suffer harassment, retaliation or adverse employment consequence. An employee who retaliates against someone who has reported a violation in good faith is subject to discipline up to and including termination of employment. This Whistleblower Policy is intended to encourage and enable employees and others to raise serious concerns within the Hudson Highlands Land Trust prior to seeking resolution outside the Trust.

Reporting Violations

The Hudson Highlands Land Trust has an open door policy and suggests that employees share their questions, concerns, suggestions or complaints with someone who can address them properly. In most cases, an employee's supervisor is in the best position to address an area of concern. However, if you are not comfortable speaking with your supervisor or you are not satisfied with your supervisor's response, you are encouraged to speak with the HHLT Compliance Officer or any member of the Board of Directors whom you are comfortable in approaching. Supervisors are required to report suspected ethics violations to the Hudson Highlands Land Trust's Compliance Officer, who has specific and exclusive responsibility to investigate all reported violations. For suspected fraud, or when you are not satisfied or uncomfortable with following Hudson Highlands Land Trust's open door policy, individuals should contact Hudson Highlands Land Trust's Compliance Officer directly.

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Compliance Officer

The Hudson Highlands Land Trust's Compliance Officer is the Executive Director and responsible for investigating and resolving all reported complaints and allegations concerning violations and, at his/her discretion, shall advise the Finance & Audit Committee, Executive Committee or entire Board; provided, that, in respect of any complaint or allegation concerning the Executive Director, the Compliance Officer shall be the Chairman of the Board. The Compliance Officer has direct access to the Finance & Audit Committee and is required to report to the Committee at least annually on compliance activity.

Accounting and Auditing Matters

The Finance & Audit Committee of the board of directors shall address all reported concerns or complaints regarding corporate accounting practices, internal controls or auditing. The Compliance Officer shall immediately notify the Finance & Audit Committee of any such complaint and work with the Committee until the matter is resolved.

Acting in Good Faith

Anyone filing a complaint concerning a violation or suspected violation must be acting in good faith and have reasonable grounds for believing the information disclosed indicates a violation. Any allegations that prove not to be substantiated and which prove to have been made maliciously or knowingly to be false will be viewed as a serious disciplinary offense.

Confidentiality

Violations or suspected violations may be submitted on a confidential basis by the complainant or may be submitted anonymously. Reports of violations or suspected violations will be kept confidential to the extent possible, consistent with the need to conduct an adequate investigation.

Handling of Reported Violations

The Compliance Officer will notify the sender and acknowledge receipt of the reported violation or suspected violation within five business days. All reports will be promptly investigated and appropriate corrective action will be taken if warranted by the investigation.

HHLT Compliance Officer:

Andrew T. Chmar
Executive Director
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HHLT Finance & Audit Committee

Christopher Buck
Vice-Chairman, HHLT
Tel: 845-204-9126
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