

Report No.	8	New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Substitute <input type="checkbox"/>	Amendment <input type="checkbox"/>
Submitted By:	Council on Ethics			
Date Submitted:	April 10, 2026	Reference Committee <input type="checkbox"/>	Direct to House <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Total Financial Implication:	\$ None			
Amount One-time	\$ None	Amount On-going	Approx.	

Report of the Council on Ethics

1 Since the last House of Delegates meeting, the Council on Ethics met on June 20,
2 2025; September 19, 2025; December 10, 2025; and March 27, 2026. Minutes of these
3 meetings are on file in the NYSDA office and have been distributed to the Board of
4 Trustees, component presidents, presidents-elect, executive directors, and council
5 chairs.

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7 **Ethics Hearings:** There was one hearing held pursuant to the NYSDA *Bylaws*,
8 Chapter X, Section 20, Paragraph B. The Council dismissed the case in its entirety.

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10 **Mandated Ethics and Jurisprudence Course Review:** At the request of the New York
11 State Dental Foundation, the Council undertook a review of the mandated Ethics and
12 Jurisprudence Course, which was identified as being outdated. The Council discussed
13 potential approaches to updating or redesigning the course to incorporate contemporary
14 ethical challenges, expanded case-based learning, and alignment with modern dental
15 practice. A subcommittee was established to review the existing materials and
16 recommend revisions, with ongoing work continuing into 2026.

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18 **Dental Ethics Scenario Videos:** When time permits, the Council members are shown
19 videos on dental ethics. These videos are posted on YouTube by the American College
20 of Dentists. Discussion among the members of the Council takes place after each
21 video.

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23 **Special Ethics Education Session:** At its March 2026 meeting, the Council hosted an
24 in-depth ethics education session led by guest speaker Ms. Pamela Zarkowski, JD,
25 MPH, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Detroit
26 Mercy. The presentation addressed contemporary ethical challenges facing dentistry,
27 including tensions between professional obligations and business pressures, evolving
28 workplace cultures, informed consent, technology and artificial intelligence, social media
29 influence, and the ethical responsibilities of dental educators and institutions. This
30 marked the Council's first extended ethics education session in several years and
31 reinforced the importance of ongoing professional ethics education.

32
33 **Student and Component Engagement:** The Council discussed opportunities for
34 collaboration with the American Student Dental Association, including a proposed virtual
35 ethics program for dental students across New York State. These initiatives are

36 intended to foster early engagement with ethical decision-making, professionalism, and
37 leadership within the dental profession.

38

39 **Nomination of Ethics Chair:** The Council unanimously recommended Dr. Julie A.
40 Connolly (New York County) to incoming NYSDA President Dr. Amarilis Jacobo for
41 appointment as Council Chair from June 2026-2027. If selected, this will be Dr.
42 Connolly's second term as Chair.

43

44 **Nomination of Lay Observer:** Mr. Robert Stern is recommended as the appointee for
45 the position of Lay Observer.

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