



CASE NO. 3: PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Rachel, Greg, Alain

RECAPITULATION OF CASE

- University professor testified at hearing for a proposed chemical production factory
- Testified that the factory will have no negative impact, using results of an analysis carried out by his grad students
- Research originally supported by a grant from the federal government, but when it expired, additional funding was provided by the company wishing to construct the factory
- At no time did the professor or the company reveal that the research was supported by the company



ISSUE CLARIFICATION

- Reported favorable results that were supported by the company without disclosing
- Final analysis completed with funding by the company (as we've seen, a lot can be done with data)



IS DISCLOSURE REQUIRED?

- YES
- Disclosure required when:
 - Reporting research results
 - Presenting facts or opinions before any public body, commission, or group



CATEGORY OF CONFLICT

- Scientific Conflict of Interest
 - Someone who offers scientific testimony
 - Individual's background and connections should be revealed before the testimony



DEALING WITH THE CONFLICT

- Worst: No disclosure, source of funding comes out during testimony, professor seen as deceptive, company not allowed to build factory
- Show objective scientific practices, industry standard procedures/analysis were used
- Professor does not testify (too late for this as it is already done)
- Best: Have an independent body verify results and analysis to ensure that undue influence is not being exerted on the results (then have them testify)

