

# Compliance & Ethics *Professional*<sup>®</sup>

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## Meet Maurice Gilbert

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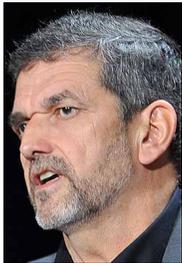
# Politics or compliance work? Stay in your lane.

*Please don't hesitate to call me about anything any time.*

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Snell

Compliance professionals need to stay in their lane. We have a number of compliance folks trying to expand our universe. They want us in governance, social responsibility, operations, politics, lobbying and a number of other areas in which we do not belong. Right now we have people spending endless hours telling us all to focus on politics. People get distracted by shiny objects and right now, DC is as at about 8 billion lumens.

Those who came before compliance professionals could not stay in their lane. While they were off doing things that had little to do with preventing, finding and fixing ethical and regulatory problems, no one jumped in to fill the void. The reputation of the business community went to heck, and we ended up with thousands of pages of more regulations, as if that was going to solve our problems. If you don't lobby, 45 other people will eagerly take up the task. If you don't study the impact of politics on compliance, 45 other people will jump in your seat. However, if the compliance folks don't look for, find and fix problems, no one else will jump in and investigate, correct a problem, discipline, and tell leadership bad news. NO ONE!

In football every position has its job. Everyone can't go running around the field doing other people's jobs. If they do, they fail. It's visually obvious when people don't stay in their lane in football. If everyone on a football team decides to go out for a pass and no one blocks for the quarterback, he gets creamed. Everyone looking on sees that it's wrong and knows exactly what went wrong: people didn't stay in their lane.

In business, it's not as obvious when you get out of your lane. But the negative results of getting out of your lane are just as severe. If you wander out of your compliance lane in business, it's not so obvious that the quarterback will get creamed until the government steps in and says, "Excuse me, you probably didn't notice but hundreds of your people set up 2,000,000 bogus bank accounts against your customers wishes over a period of years and you missed it."

Of course you can try to explain it to your leadership, "What was I doing when the press, public, and politicians dragged you out into the street and disgorged millions from your income, got you fired, ruined your career and reputation, and cost the company a fortune in settlements and lost reputation? Well, I was reading about how important politics is to compliance." \*