

# Compliance & Ethics *Professional*

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## Meet Lanny A. Breuer

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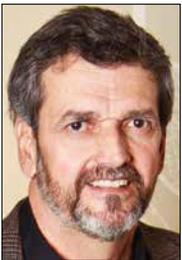
# Jack Nicholson was wrong

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

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People can handle the truth. At least, the people I want to work with can handle the truth. This country of ours has lost its way. We are spinning stories to the point of lying. We are leaving out pertinent facts when making our case. Our white lies



Snell

are turning black. We don't say what we mean. We are telling people what they want to hear instead of what they need to hear. We have gone past political correctness to denying the truth.

You don't have to be a jerk about it. You can be pleasant and still tell the truth. People can handle the truth.

At least, most people can handle the truth. And frankly, I don't really give a hoot about the people who can't handle the truth if it means we have to lie, distort the truth, or ignore the truth to keep them happy.

An excerpt from Wikipedia on the definition of integrity: *"In ethics, integrity is regarded as the honesty and truthfulness or accuracy of one's actions. Integrity can be regarded as the opposite of hypocrisy, in that it regards internal consistency as a virtue."*

Do you have integrity? It's a trick question. You really can't have or not have integrity.

It's not an exact science. It is an aspiration, and this country has lost its aspiration for integrity. Every country and every culture has a different level of aspiration for integrity. You all know countries that appear to have very little aspiration for integrity. Something else has become more important to them than integrity.

We are all so concerned about our causes that we have left integrity by the wayside. What we should be saying is that integrity comes first and my interests come second. We need to be more concerned with integrity than with ourselves.

I have worked with people like Rory Jaffe, currently the Executive Director for the California Hospital Patient Safety Organization (CHPSO). His integrity is impeccable, in my opinion. He is a matter-of-fact guy. He doesn't take much of anything personally. If you bring him a fact that disproves his point, he says thank you. He doesn't see it as a debate or a contest. He sees debate as a way to get at the truth. He will stick to his principles and vote his conscience even if his is the only hand in the air. He isn't affected much by peer pressure. He is not interested just in the facts that prove his point—he is interested in all the facts. He's nice, but tells the truth even if it hurts. I want to be more like Rory Jaffe. \*