

James Lager - Biography

Jim Lager is the Deputy Ethics Counselor to the [United States Government Accountability Office \(GAO\)](#), and advises GAO on conflicts of interest, ethics, personal and organizational independence, and manages GAO's ethics and "notice of interests" programs. Jim has substantial experience as a labor and employment lawyer, representing private and government clients in trial and appellate courts, and as an investigator in various contexts, including serving as a lead congressional investigator examining violation of US campaign laws. Jim is also an Adjunct Professor at the University of Maryland's Robert H. Smith School of Business where he teaches ethics to graduate students, and a collaborator to [Ethicalsystems.org](#), a nonprofit organization that makes the world's best research available and accessible to anyone interested in improving ethical culture and behavior.

A frequent speaker on behavioral ethics, Jim's publications include "Professionalism and Ethical Leadership from the General Counsel's Suite" (2016), "Governments Demand Compliance, Ethics Demands Leadership" (2010), and "Overcoming Cultures of Compliance to Reduce Corruption and Achieve Ethics in Government" (2009). His essay: "Have a Problem with Compliance?" was awarded the H. George Frederickson Best Article Award by the American Society for Public Administration. Jim received a Juris Doctorate from American University in Washington DC, and a Masters of Science in Organization Development from American University/NTL Institute for Applied Behavioral Science.