

Formation of the Procurement Collusion Strike Force

In November 2019, the United States Department of Justice announced the formation of the new Procurement Collusion Strike Force (PCSF) focusing on deterring, detecting, investigating, and prosecuting antitrust crimes, such as bid-rigging conspiracies and fraudulent schemes that undermine competition in government procurement, grant, and program funding.

PREVENTING COLLUSION

You can help prevent collusion in procurement and grant awards — or detect collusion after contract award— by using a simple four-part MAPS Analysis:

[M] ARKET – Who is in the market for this award?

[A] PPLICATIONS – Are there similarities between vendor applications or proposals?

[P] ATTERNS – Have patterns developed among competing vendors?

[S] USPICIOUS BEHAVIOR – Have vendors demonstrated behavior that suggests that they worked together on the award?

The PCSF will provide information about the federal antitrust laws and training programs, and information on where to report suspected criminal activity affecting public procurement.

The PCSF will be an interagency partnership consisting of prosecutors from the Antitrust Division, prosecutors from 13 U.S. Attorneys' Offices, and investigators from the FBI, the Department of Defense Office of Inspector General, the U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General and other partner federal Offices of Inspector General. "To protect taxpayer dollars, the Justice Department is doing its part to eliminate anticompetitive collusion, waste and abuse from government procurement," said Deputy Attorney General Rosen.

COLLUSION TRAINING FOCUSES

- **Who needs to be trained?** Federal, state, and local agency procurement and grant officers as well as agency auditors and investigators.
- **What is the focus of training?** Identifying the red flags of collusion.
- **What are the goals of training?** Preventing collusion related crimes in the process of awarding contracts and grants and identifying and investigating possible collusion and related crimes relating to contracts or grants that have been awarded for potential criminal prosecution.

References:

- <https://www.justice.gov/procurement-collusion-strike-force>

WBD has experience supporting both Defense and Civilian Agencies with their most challenging procurement needs.