**2012 Annual Training – Q & A Review**

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**Question 11 of 14**

A non-senior NIH scientist participated in preliminary, internal deliberations about her agency's need for additional laboratory facilities. After she left the NIH, the General Services Administration issued a request for proposals (RFP) seeking private architectural services to design the new laboratory space for the agency.

May the former employee represent an architectural firm in connection with its response to the RFP?

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**Answer 11 of 14**

Yes.

The former employee may represent an architectural firm in connection with its response to the RFP. During the preliminary stage in which the former employee participated, no specific architectural firms had been identified for the proposed work, therefore the RFP had not yet become a specific party matter and the lifetime ban does not apply. If she had been a senior employee the cooling off period might apply to prohibit this communication.