

Canterbury, Steve

From: Loughry, Allen
Sent: Wednesday, August 10, 2016 7:38 PM
To: Canterbury, Steve
Cc: Ketchum, Menis; Davis, Robin; Workman, Margaret; Benjamin, Brent; Loughry, Allen
Subject: August 31, 2016, administrative conference
Attachments: October 2013 WV invitation.pdf; Wyoming invitation.pdf

Steve,

In the same spirit as expressed by Justice Davis' August 2, 2016, letter regarding Court expenditures, I have an additional item that I would like added to the August 31, 2016, administrative conference schedule.

I was approached recently by someone from outside of the Court who said to me: "Why does the Supreme Court pay for parties at the home of Justice Davis?" I explained that that just was not correct and that they had incorrect information. The person adamantly told me that I was wrong.

With the above in mind, I would like to discuss the issue of State money spent on social events/parties at any individual justice's, judge's, magistrate's, or court employee's homes. I have the following questions and requests for information that I would like you to address at the upcoming administrative conference.

Has the Court ever paid for any social events at the private homes of any justice, circuit court judge, family court judge, magistrate, or court employee?

If the Court has paid for any such events, please list all of the dates with all total expenditures (with those expenditures broken down in detail), and any details surrounding such an event.

I am guessing that the parties at Justice Davis' home are not paid for with State tax dollars given the wording of the attached invitation and the fact that this issue has never been discussed to my knowledge by the entire Court. The October 8, 2013, invitation that went to all circuit judges, senior status judges, and some staff members states: "Justice Robin Davis cordially invites you to join her for a Cocktail Buffet."

Taking the October 8, 2013, "Cocktail Buffet" as an example for this discussion (and for the discussion related to any other party at any other time at any justice, circuit court judge, family court judge, or magistrate's home), was any State money spent on that event?

If so, how much? And, what would the specific breakdown of that spending be regardless of whether it would be for food, invitations, or any other expenditure? Did the State pay for food? Did the State pay for alcohol? Did the State pay for decorations? Were any Court employees assigned to work the party? What else did the State pay for, if anything?

To the extent that the Court has paid for any such parties as discussed above, I would like to discuss audit issues, any possible IRS issues, and discuss whether there are any current written policies on hand that deal with such a circumstance.

On a related note, I had a Chief Justice in Wyoming ask me if our Court paid for any of the Cocktail and Dinner party at Justice Davis' Wyoming home held July 25, 2016, for the Chief Justices of other states and territories. I assured him that was not the case. He responded by asking me if we paid dues to the National Center for State Courts to which I said "obviously we do." He then responded by saying, "then you paid for

part of the party because a majority of it was paid for by the NCSC and I just wondered who paid the rest." He told me that he was concerned about any political ramifications that could come from the dues from his State paying for such a private social event. I am not accusing anyone of anything improper with this question, but I am simply responding to what I was asked, which, in turn, has prompted me to think of a couple of additional questions in light of my earlier discussion. Again, I am sure the answer is no, but did any State money go toward paying for the Wyoming Cocktail and Dinner party in any manner?

Thanks to all of you for your patience with these questions. I believe they are important.

Allen