



Walker, Beth

From: Walker, Beth
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 9:26 PM
To: Workman, Margaret
Cc: Ketchum, Menis; Troy, Sue; Loughry, Allen; Davis, Robin
Subject: Re:

I agree that MK raises excellent points. There is considerable history on this practice, which I respect. I remember appearing before the Court and wondering if my case would come up before the old lunch break. I also recognize that the Capitol is somewhat remote and the cafeteria is not a great option.

All that being said, my decision is purely personal and I do not plan to announce it unless absolutely necessary to respond to a FOIA request. I will simply opt out of future lunches as a matter of personal preference.

Beth

On Dec 20, 2017, at 7:34 PM, Workman, Margaret <Margaret.Workman@courtswv.gov> wrote:

After reading MK's email, I think I find myself agreeing with him. And if we discontinue working lunches, we will have to restore the lunch break. It really takes an hour and a half to leave Capitol, drive somewhere for lunch and get back.

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 20, 2017, at 6:30 PM, Ketchum, Menis <Menis.Ketchum@courtswv.gov> wrote:

I called MW and told her that I am not in favor of paying reimbursement for lunches. It is an entirely appropriate expense. We stay on the bench until 1:30 or 2 p m. without a break. We then work during lunch on decisions. On Wednesday we also do Writs, petitions, and ect. There is nothing wrong with a working lunch.

Before MW and I came on the Court, it broke for lunch at 12:30 and started back at 2 p m. This really inconvenienced lawyers and litigants, especially out of town lawyers and litigants. It also inconveniences staff.

To pay for the lunches now will appear that we have done something improper and the FOIA forced us to pay it. I do not want to pay reimbursement for an entirely appropriate expense.

It is not like we have a Chef like the US Supreme Court, Illinois and other Courts where each Justice has his/her staff and office in their home town.

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 20, 2017, at 5:38 PM, Workman, Margaret <Margaret.Workman@courtswv.gov> wrote:

I just read Justice Walker's e-mail regarding her desire to reimburse the state for any funds expended on working

lunches. Can you please provide me a written memorandum memorializing the fact that I contacted you AT LEAST three to four weeks prior to receipt of the FOIA on this issue with the same request? You may have contemporaneous notes that would reflect exactly how long ago it was. I am checking my e mail and text notes to see if I can determine a date, but I may have made the request orally. You indicated at that time that it would be virtually impossible for you to ascertain the needed information. Although I stated my opinion at that time that the expenditure was not inappropriate (in view of the fact that the Court took no lunch break so the Court's decisions could be completed more quickly). However, to avoid any public perception of impropriety, I wished to reimburse the state. If you ARE able to ascertain the amounts, I want the record to demonstrate that my effort to make reimbursement preceded the FOIA request. (This is not to suggest that desire to reimburse after receipt of FOIA a negative...just want my record clear.). Thanks.

Sent from my iPad