

Meyers, Robert (COE)

INQ 07-27

From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2007 1:27 PM
To: Lampley, Gloria (PA)
Subject: RE: Ethical Question

Ms. Lampley-Williams,

After giving this matter serious consideration, I don't see a problem if the magistrate, specialist and tax agent have lunch together. If the magistrate had lunch with only one of the two, that may look more suspicious. However, it isn't unethical for people who have a personal relationship with one another to eat lunch together as long as they do not discuss public business during the course of their meal, which in this context means no conversations about recently-decided cases or pending cases. Therefore, I am not certain that a policy prohibiting contact between these parties is fair. I do understand the perception problem that is created if these parties have lunch together.

Sincerely,

Robert Meyers, Executive Director
 Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust
 (305) 350-0613

From: Lampley, Gloria (PA)
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2007 2:35 PM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Subject: Ethical Question

Hello Dr. Meyers,

I wish to speak with you concerning a question of ethics for the Property Appraisal Department. It difficult to describe the situation and the department's concern in an email. In short, the Property Appraisal Department has a work unit known as the Appeals Division. In this division the staff, classified as Income Evaluation Specialists, represents the Department at Value Adjustment Board hearings. We have encountered a situation where a staff member was seen having lunch with a property tax agent and a special magistrate on a day when the three of them were appearing at the same hearing. I wish to discuss the department's concern about this situation and get some guidelines on implementing policy, if necessary, for department specialists' association with tax agents and special magistrates while serving on the same board. Your time and attention to the matter is appreciated, thank you.

Gloria D. Lampley-Williams
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 "Delivering Excellence Every Day"

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