

**Meyers, Robert (COE)**

**From:** Meyers, Robert (COE)  
**Sent:** Friday, April 24, 2009 10:08 AM  
**To:** Meyers, Robert (COE)  
**Subject:** Inquiry

I spoke to Joel Hoffman, executive director of the Vizcaya Trust, on April 20<sup>th</sup> and he wished to know whether one of his board members has a conflict due to a lawsuit filed against the board member and the board member's employer by a principal of a firm seeking a contract with the Vizcaya Trust. As Mr. Hoffman explained it, the Trust has the authority to approve or reject this contract and he asks whether the board member may participate in and vote on this matter. The lawsuit against the board member is unrelated to the scope of services to be performed under the proposed contract.

I advised Mr. Hoffman that the board member had no voting conflict under the county's ethics code, but the lawsuit by the principal against the board member should be disclosed. If it is not obvious to the board member that the principal suing him is connected to the firm wishing to do business with the Vizcaya Trust, such information should be disclosed to him by the staff.

Robert Meyers  
April 20, 2009