

WAIVER OF GIFT RULE

INDIANA
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

Ethics Officer: Jami Sayeed

Appointing Officer: Michelle Allen

Employee: Caroline A. Stephens Ryker

JUL 14 2022

FILED

Business Relationship

The Indiana Office of Administrative Law Proceedings ("OALP") has a business relationship with the National Association of Hearing Officials ("NAHO") because OALP purchases NAHO memberships for its Administrative Law Judges ("ALJs"). IC 4-2-6-1(5),(7).

Nature and Value of the Gift

For serving as a NAHO board member, NAHO has agreed to reimburse Ms. Ryker for some of her travel expenses related to her attendance of the NAHO board meeting, which is held the day before the NAHO conference. Ms. Ryker's travel costs associated with the NAHO board meeting are approximately \$500.00. Ms. Ryker's expenses associated with the NAHO conference itself are being covered by the OALP because the conference is directly relevant to Ms. Ryker's job.

Public Interest

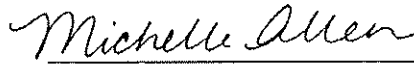
Ms. Ryker is an ALJ with the OALP. The NAHO conference is focused on best practices for ALJs. She will be able to take the skills that she learns at the conference and apply them to her own cases as well as pass on the knowledge to the ALJs which whom she works. Educating ALJs in best practices is in the public interest because it increases the quality of the hearings held and the decisions written during the adjudication of cases before the OALP. Ms. Ryker's participating as a NAHO board member falls within an area of professional development. She is able to grow her skills in leadership and connect with ALJ across the country who are facing challenges similar to those faced by Indiana. Her connections and new skills are an asset to OALP and are in the public interest.

Name/Role

Signature

Date

Michelle Allen, Director



July 6, 2022

Jami Sayeed, Ethics Officer

