

**U.S. Department of
Homeland Security**

**United States
Coast Guard**



United States Coast Guard
ALJ Docketing Center

40 S. Gay Street Room 412
Baltimore, MD 21202
Staff Symbol: ALJ Docketing Center
Phone: 410-962-7434
Fax: 410-962-5155
Email: Lauren.S.Staiti@uscg.mil

5720
FOIA 2011-0293
December 2, 2010

Pamela F. Lafreniere
13 R Hamilton Street
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740

Dear Ms. Lafreniere:

This letter is the final response to your August 23, 2010 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request addressed to the United States Coast Guard. You requested information concerning whether the Honorable Parlen McKenna was paid from the proceeds of the Asset Forfeiture Fund for his travel and/or expenses for his attendance at the Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia in July of 2005. Your request was forwarded by CG-611 and received in this office on October 26, 2010.

I conducted a comprehensive search of the travel paper files contained within the Baltimore, DC and Alameda Offices of the Chief Administrative Law Judge (ALJ), requested assistance in the form of asking questions from staff attorneys, paralegals and Judge McKenna, and searching electronic word, email and excel files using search terms relating to billing for NOAA.

No responsive documents were located because the location of the fund or account NOAA uses to reimburse the USCG ALJ's for services rendered is unavailable because the Office of the Chief Administrative Law Judge is not the record holder for that information. The ALJ program submits a billing report including time billed by individuals in the program and expenses relating to specific case work to NOAA. Reimbursable funds paid to the USCG by NOAA are placed in a general civilian payroll account for the entire USCG and a general reimbursable operating account for the entire USCG.

While an adequate search was conducted, you may appeal the determination that no records exist. Your appeal must be in writing and must be submitted within 60 days from the date of this letter. Your appeal must include specific reason(s) for a reconsideration of the denial, and must refer to your tracking number assigned to your request by the Coast Guard (FOIA Control Number: 2009-0293 File). Write "FOIA Appeal" on the face of the envelope and include a copy of this letter in your package. Send your appeal to:

COMMANDANT (CG-611)
U.S. COAST GUARD
ATTN: FOIA/PA OFFICER
2100 2nd ST SW STOP 7101
WASHINGTON, DC 20593-7101

These procedures are outlined in the DHS FOIA regulations found at 6 C.F.R. § 5.9. Copies of the FOIA and DHS regulations are available at www.dhs.gov/foia.

Provisions of the FOIA allow us to recover part of the cost of complying with your request. In this instance, because the cost is below the \$14 minimum, there is no charge.

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December 2, 2010

If we can be of any further assistance, please contact me at the above number.

Sincerely,



LAUREN S STAITI
Attorney Advisor and FOIA Coordinator
United States Coast Guard

Copy: CG-611 (FOIA Control Number: 2011-0293)