



Laura Belin <desmoinesdem@bleedingheartland.com>

follow-up questions

Smith, Brenna <brenna.smith@iowa.gov>
To: Laura Belin <desmoinesdem@bleedingheartland.com>
Cc: "Koopmans, Ryan" <ryan.koopmans@iowa.gov>

Tue, Aug 21, 2018 at 1:46 PM

Hi Laurie -

Ryan asked me to briefly respond to your inquiry.

The two-page legal analysis you reference was produced by our office.

We do not have a record of when the commission certificate was signed by the governor, but you are correct that it was sometime after June 21.

These certificates, which are frameable poster-sized documents (you were provided a reduced-size copy), must be specially printed outside of our office. We often do not receive them for signing until several weeks after the appointment. Since they memorialize the earlier appointment (and when they are prepared, it is unknown on what date they will be returned to our office and signed), the long-standing practice has been to consistently print them with the date of appointment rather than the date of signing.

Thanks,
Brenna

On Mon, Aug 20, 2018 at 3:05 PM, Laura Belin <desmoinesdem@bleedingheartland.com> wrote:

Dear Ryan,

I've been going through the public records I received last week and have a number of questions. I may have more later this week but wanted to get these inquiries to you today.

1. Who wrote the attached two-page legal analysis on judicial appointments? Since the author is not named, and the memo is not on any letterhead, it's not clear whether the governor's office produced that analysis for Chief Justice Cady to consider, or whether someone in the judicial branch wrote the memo.
2. In your July 2 e-mail to Molly Kottmeyer, you wrote, "the governor made the verbal appointment on the 21st while she was on the road and then signed the letter on Monday." To whom did Governor Reynolds allegedly make this "verbal appointment"?
3. If the governor verbally communicated her choice on June 21, why didn't staff produce a news release that day? Most of the staff were not on the road with Governor Reynolds. Her out-of-town events did not prevent staff from preparing and sending out a news release regarding another judicial appointment on June 21.
4. Who initiated the telephone conversation between you and Molly Kottmeyer on June 25? Were you returning a message seeking information about the Sixth Judicial District appointment, or did you call unprompted to let the Office of the Chief Justice know what was happening with the appointment?
5. The governor's public schedule showed only one event on June 22, one event on June 23, and one event on June 24. Yet the records show that the governor had not spoken with Jason Besler at the time of your phone call

with Molly Kottmeyer on the morning of June 25. If Governor Reynolds made this appointment on June 21, why didn't she inform anyone about it until June 25?

6. The records included a copy of a judicial appointment and commission certificate (attached). The document is dated June 21, even though it could not have been signed until the following week at the earliest. On what date did Governor Reynolds and Secretary Pate sign Jason Besler's appointment and commission certificate?

7. Who drew up the wrongly-dated judicial appointment and commission certificate for the governor and secretary of state to sign?

8. Is it your practice for Governor Reynolds to sometimes sign formal documents that are backdated? If so, under what circumstances?

Thank you in advance for any comment or clarification you can provide.

Yours,

Laurie Belin

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