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Was Gableman Fundraising for McCallum While on the State Clock?

Phone Records, Lack of Vacation Time Taken Raise Serious Questions

Milwaukee – New records obtained by One Wisconsin Now about the leave taken by Burnett County Judge Mike Gableman while he served as a state-paid Administrative Law Judge show Gableman was being paid by taxpayers on the same day he was later at a dinner on the other side of the state hosting a fundraiser for then-Governor Scott McCallum.

In his second week on the job, Gableman somehow managed to travel the 260 miles from his Appleton office to Cable to host a 6:00 p.m. fundraiser for Governor Scott McCallum Wednesday, June 12, 2002 and return the 260 miles without taking any vacation time on either the day of the event or the following day. [[Northwoods Regional Governor's Club Event Memo, 6/12/02](#)]

“Mike Gableman needs to explain how he got to a fundraiser four hours from his office by 6:00 p.m. without taking any time off to do it,” said Scot Ross, Executive Director of One Wisconsin Now. “On top of that, he would have had to drive through the night or get up pretty early to travel all the way back from the fundraiser in order to be back at work in the morning.

Phone records also show no long distance telephone calls made from Gableman's office from June 11 to June 13. Two days after he attended the McCallum fundraiser, Gableman made a phone call to McCallum's office, the first long distance call made after the fundraiser Gableman hosted. Leave records obtained by One Wisconsin Now show in his brief ten weeks as an ALJ, Gableman only took leave on June 28, 2002 and from August 21-23. [[Gableman ALJ Phone Records](#); [ALJ Leave Document](#)]

“These records raise serious questions about Gableman traveling to a McCallum fundraiser on taxpayer time,” said Ross, “Moreover, these records reinforce the conclusion that there continues to be no evidence Gableman was ever interviewed before being appointed by McCallum for the Burnett County judgeship.”

This is not the first example of Gableman's questionable use of taxpayer funds. Records show March 26, 2002, Gableman used resources from the Ashland County District Attorney's office to fax McCallum a list of attendees for a breakfast meeting at the Governor's residence. The list, which was sent on his DA's office letterhead, specifically noted that three of the handful of attendees were Ashland County Republican Party officials, including himself. [[Governor's Residence Event Fax, 3/26/02](#)]

Gableman was on the host committee for the June 12 McCallum fundraiser, introduced the him and sat at his head table. Records with the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign show Gableman made a \$1,250 contribution to McCallum dated June 18 – the second \$1,250 contribution made to McCallum. [[Gableman Contributions to McCallum, 12/31/01 & 6/18/02](#)]

(MORE)

It was after hosting this fundraiser and making these substantial contributions to Governor McCallum that Gableman leapt over six announced local candidates for a vacancy which he had not applied through the established process. Gableman was then chosen by McCallum after the Governor circumvented his own judicial selection process, rejecting two finalists chosen by the selection committee, neither of which had contributed to McCallum's campaign. [[McCallum Advisory Council on Judiciary Selection, 6/7/02](#)]

Documents obtained by One Wisconsin Now included in this release are available at:
<http://www.onewisconsinnow.org/page/content/suspiciousappointment>.

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