
2006 Wis Eth Bd 06
FEES & HONORARIUMS; GIFTS

¶1 You are a state public official. You asked whether you may retain:

- A glass vase given to you by an organization in recognition of your status as a state public official. The vase is engraved with your and the organization's names and the organization's logo.
- Engraved marble and brass bookends that a university has given you in appreciation of your having delivered the commencement address at one of the university's schools.

¶2 As with some recent items about which a state official has asked, you may retain the vase because its value is not extravagant and it is essentially commemorative in nature, likely having a sentimental value greater than its monetary value.

¶3 Wisconsin law [§19.56 (1), *Wisconsin Statutes*] encourages you to address groups about legislative, administrative, executive or judicial processes and proposals and issues initiated by or affecting a department or the judicial branch and to accept reasonable compensation from the sponsor when you do. The bookends offered are well within the ambit of reasonable compensation. If your address can be appropriately characterized as meeting the subject matter criterion, you may surely retain them.

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