

CASE DIGEST: *U.S. Dep't of VA, Member Servs. Health Res. Ctr.*, 71 FLRA 311 (2019)

In this case, the Arbitrator determined that the Agency violated a provision in the parties' collective-bargaining agreement that requires breaks for employees who use a particular computer-like screen for over one hour. The Arbitrator rejected the Agency's more restrictive interpretation that employees must have continuously stared at the screen for over one hour in order to qualify for a break because the clear and unambiguous contract language did not include such a requirement. On exceptions, the Agency argued that the Arbitrator's interpretation was implausible. The Authority denied the Agency's essence argument because the Arbitrator's interpretation was consistent with the plain language of the agreement.

Member DuBester concurred in the decision to deny the Agency's exception.

This case digest is a summary of a decision issued by the Federal Labor Relations Authority, with a short description of the issues and facts of the case. Descriptions contained in this case digest are for informational purposes only, do not constitute legal precedent, and are not intended to be a substitute for the opinion of the Authority.