

**CASE DIGEST:**     *AFGE, Local 2145 & U.S. Dep't of VA, Med. Ctr., Richmond, Va.,*  
71 FLRA 346 (2019)

This case concerned grievants who successfully sought compensation for time and expenses they incurred while traveling during non-duty hours for mandatory training. The Arbitrator found that the Agency violated the parties' agreement by not reimbursing the grievants for travel expenses and not granting them compensatory time. The Authority found that the Arbitrator properly denied the Union's request for interest on travel expenses. However, the Authority found that the Arbitrator prematurely denied the Union's request for attorney fees before the Union had had the opportunity to file its petition. Accordingly, the Authority denied the Union's exceptions in part and granted its exception to the Arbitrator's denial of attorney fees. The Authority set aside the portion of the award that denied attorney fees and remanded the attorney fee issue to the parties for resubmission to the Arbitrator.

Member DuBester concurred in the decision to deny the Union's exceptions in part and to remand the attorney fee issue. However, he reiterated his disagreement with the modification of the standards that the majority directed the Arbitrator to apply in determining entitlement to attorney fees.

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.