



STATE OF INDIANA

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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**INDIANA
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION**

JUL 27 2021

FILED

Name of Agency or Office: The Office of the Indiana Attorney General (OAG)

Name of Recipient: Parvinder K. Nijjar

Title of Recipient: Deputy Attorney General

Brief Description of Item Solicited, Accepted, or Received and approximate value of item:

Tuition and two nights hotel accommodations for the 2021 Indianapolis Bar Association Bench Bar Conference in Louisville, Kentucky: This educational and networking event was held June 17 -19, 2021, at the Omni Louisville.

Date of Receipt: June 17-19, 2021* Please see comments below on timing of waiver.

Name of Donor: Indianapolis Bar Association (IndyBar)

Donor's Address: 140 N. Illinois St. Indianapolis, IN 46204

Nature of Business Relationship with Agency:

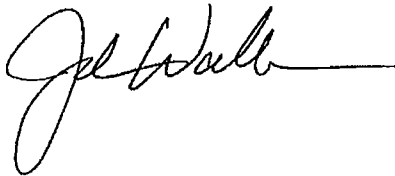
The OAG occasionally purchases continuing legal education courses (CLEs) for its staff provided by IndyBar. Thus far in 2021, the OAG has paid to IndyBar \$99.00 for CLE courses. In 2020, OAG paid to IndyBar \$819.00 and in 2019, \$1,900.00.

State Why Acceptance is in the Public Interest:

In April of 2021, Deputy Attorney General, Parvinder K. Nijjar, applied for and subsequently was awarded a scholarship from IndyBar to attend the 2021 Bench Bar Conference which was held in Louisville, Kentucky. The availability and application for the scholarship was published and included on the IndyBar Bench Bar Conference website. Ms. Nijjar applied for the scholarship independently and without assistance or knowledge of the OAG. Ms. Nijjar attended the conference which was held June 17th- 19th, 2021. The OAG has learned that thirty-five attorneys were awarded a scholarship.

On July 21, 2021, after being made aware of the scholarship award received by Ms. Nijjar, our office investigated whether the OAG had a business relationship with IndyBar. It was determined that it did have such a relationship. Ms. Nijjar had no reason to suspect such a relationship existed when she received the award and attended the conference. Only in reviewing an ancillary matter, was it discovered that a waiver may be required.

Although the IndyBar Bench Bar Conference for which Ms. Nijjar received a scholarship award for has already taken place, we do believe it qualifies for a waiver under the 42 IAC 1-5-1(b). The OAG did not become aware of the possible need for a waiver until July 21, 2021. Acceptance of this scholarship by Ms. Nijjar and attendance to the IndyBar Conference is clearly consistent with the Public Interest. The event provides invaluable educational and skill development to anyone in Ms. Nijjar's position as a Deputy Attorney General with the OAG. Courses were offered and attended by Ms. Nijjar which included topics such as mock trials, communication skill development, settlement conference techniques, mediation and arbitration techniques, ethics and judicial panel discussions. All these topics are materially related to the work Ms. Nijjar does as an attorney on behalf of the State of Indiana on a daily basis. Additionally, attending these courses at no cost is of public interest as it defers expenses for Ms. Nijjar's required continuing legal education requirements as an attorney. These would otherwise be paid for with taxpayer funds. There is also no reason to believe that IndyBar would derive any sort of favored or special treatment by the State or the OAG by awarding Ms. Nijjar the scholarship. IndyBar is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide services to its members, promote justice and enhance the legal profession. It provides invaluable educational and networking service to the local bar in both the public and private settings. We respectfully file this waiver under 42 IAC 1-5-1(c) for the award Ms. Nijjar received.



(Name of Approving Authority
Or Ethics Officer)

7/27/2021
(Date)

Must be filed with the State Ethics Commission within thirty days of event or receipt of item, whichever comes first.