

ALEXANDRA V. RIEMAN
GENERAL COUNSEL
SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF
FLORIDA



BROWARD COUNTY COURTHOUSE
ROOM 880
201 S.E. 6TH STREET
FT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33301
(954) 831-7560

August 4, 2014

Alison Fitzgerald
The Center for Public Integrity
Seventh Floor
910 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Re: July 15, 2014 Request for Judicial Branch Records

Dear Ms. Fitzgerald:

This letter is a response to your request for judicial branch records. Please be advised that access to judicial branch records is governed by Article I, §24(a) of the Florida Constitution and Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.420. The Circuit is unable to waive fees as authorized by Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.420 as the request will require substantial time to complete.

The Circuit estimates that based upon the judicial branch records request there are 149,000 emails between January 1, 2013 and July 15, 2014 which contain the word foreclosure. An initial assessment by the Circuit is that the cost:

- for securing the emails for review is 20 hours at an hourly rate of \$45.40 per hour for a total of \$908.00.
- for review, determination if it is a judicial branch record subject to public access, redaction if required, and printing is 2,480 hours (1 minute per email) at \$53.00 per hour for a total of \$131,440.00.

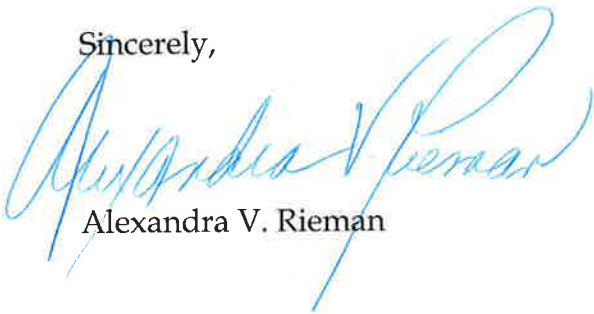
In addition the Circuit charges \$0.15 per page produced in response to the request for judicial branch records.

August 4, 2014
Alison Fitzgerald
The Center for Public Integrity
Page 2

If The Center for Public Integrity prefers to provide the Circuit with a word search criteria for the emails the Circuit will determine the number of emails based upon a new search criteria and provide a revised estimate of costs. If The Center for Public Integrity wants all 149,000 emails reviewed a cost deposit of \$66,000.00 is required with the balance due prior to production of the documents.

The Center for Public Integrity may want to review the Circuit's residential mortgage foreclosure webpage at <http://www.17th.flcourts.org/index.php/court-administration/court-programs/foreclosure-program> to determine if its request for judicial branch records may be tailored to result in a smaller number of emails to review.

Sincerely,



Alexandra V. Rieman

cc: Chief Judge Peter M. Weinstein
Kathleen R. Pugh, Trial Court Administrator