

On Fri, Jun 5, 2020 at 7:23 PM Lloyd, Matt (PAO) wrote:

On background as DOJ spox:

In 2019, before becoming a judge, Justin Walker learned that two of his former students, Jake Grey and Leah Spears, were interested in buying land for their first home. Walker and his wife offered to loan them the money for the land at the market rate of 4.25 percent. Judge Walker and his wife intended to do a kind act, and did not ask for anything in exchange for the loan. When the couple later refinanced through their builder, they repaid the loan in full.

In fall 2019, after the loan, Walker was appointed as a district court judge. At the time, consistent with his duties as a professor, he was teaching a first year legal writing course, and elected to finish teaching through the semester. Judge Walker continued to co-teach the yearlong course during the spring semester with Grey—who was hired through a public job posting.

Because they shared teaching duties for the spring semester, Judge Walker and Grey evenly split the salary typically received by visiting legal writing professors at the Brandeis School of Law.

From: Gabe Roth

Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2020 8:21 AM

To: Lloyd, Matt (PAO)

Subject: Re: FW: FW: Question on loan to former students

Hi, Matt. I'm hoping you can help me out on another detail that remains unclear from Judge Walker's disclosure report. On what date was the loan disbursed by Judge Walker, and on what date was it repaid in full? Many thanks, Gabe

On Tue, Jun 2, 2020 at 4:12 PM Gabe Roth wrote:

Thanks, Matt! I really appreciate that you and the judge got back to me so quickly. Story has been updated. Best, Gabe

On Tue, Jun 2, 2020 at 4:03 PM Lloyd, Matt (PAO) wrote:

Gabe, please use the below quote for your story attributable to a DOJ spokesperson:

“Judge Walker and his wife Ann made a loan to two former students to buy land to build their first home together. The two former students had graduated and married at the time the loan took place. The loan was at the market interest rate at the time—4.25%—and has since been repaid in full.”

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Justin Walker

Date: Tue, Jun 2, 2020 at 10:10 AM

Subject: FW: Question on loan to former students

To: Justin Walker

From: Gabe Roth

Date: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at 9:52 AM

To: Justin Walker

Subject: Question on loan to former students

Hi, Judge Walker,

This is Gabe Roth with Fix the Court. We review financial disclosure reports of federal judges and judicial nominees, among other things, and in the course of doing so, we saw something new: a \$50,000 to \$100,000 loan you'd given to two former students ([p. 5, l. 14](#)).

Due to the range in the "income gain" column, \$5,000-\$15,000 over the 15.5-month reporting period, the interest rate lies somewhere between 3.8% and 23.2%.

There's been some speculation online about this, namely why you gave the students a loan and what the interest rate is, and I'm hoping you could clear this up.

Good luck Thursday,

Gabe