

As you know, there have been a number of recent requests for the release of financial disclosure reports. This has generated several questions about when it is appropriate to seek redaction, and what information can be redacted. It is important to keep in mind that the judiciary's redaction authority is security-based. Most often, the question of what can be redacted will center upon whether the information could make it easier for someone who wishes you harm to find you or a member of your family in an unsecured location. If so, a redaction request might be appropriate. The following list of examples is by no means exhaustive, nor is it intended as a guarantee of what the Committee would or would not approve, but hopefully it will assist you in reviewing your reports for possible security implications.

- In Part I, reporting your position as president of the Maple Avenue Homeowners' Association would provide information about the neighborhood where you live. If you report that you chair the Springfield Library Committee, that would indicate your presence at Library Committee meetings; if the meetings are known or readily discoverable by the public, that could indicate your presence in an unsecured location. If the meeting room is secure, but the designated parking area is not, that still could present a security concern.
- In Part II, if you have a reportable agreement with a former law firm, perhaps you also have a continuing relationship with the organization which would place you there on a regular basis, therefore such information might present a security concern.
- In Part III A., if you are required to report teaching income, that could point to where you might regularly be found in an unsecured location. The same would apply if you were to report income from playing with the local philharmonic orchestra, as performances are publicly accessible venues. Additionally, if you were to report income from coaching your local little league team, that information would reveal where you might be found in an unsecured location, and it also could reveal where your child and other family members might be found. If your child is on the team, that could reveal secondary information such as the child's age, and perhaps where he or she attends school.
- In Part III B., the name of your spouse's employer can present a security risk. If your spouse is employed in a small office, that would provide fairly direct information on where he or she might be found in an unsecured location. If your spouse is employed by IBM, then given the size of the company and the number of locations where he or she might work, the risk posed by that information might be de minimis. However, if IBM has only a small satellite office in your location, the risk level would be significantly different. If your spouse holds a leadership position within a company, that might indicate his or her presence at company events, and it could make him or her "point-outable" if someone with bad intent were to enter a company office or store.
- In Part IV, if you report travel reimbursements for attending the same meeting or event each year, there could be a sufficient pattern to establish your likely presence at the same event the following year.
- In Part V, if you have a reportable gift of a club membership, then your presence at the club could become a security concern.
- In Part VI, one of the more common items of concern is a tuition liability. If you must report a tuition liability to a particular school (as opposed to a tuition service), that points to where your child can be found. If the liability is to a private middle school, the threat level generated by the disclosure could be significantly different than if the liability is to a large university.
- In most reports, Part VII has very little security related information, but that is not always the case. If you have an interest in a private holding that includes a location, such as 223 Northridge Drive, LLC, that could present a security risk. If there is only one branch of your bank within 30 miles of your duty station, that could be of concern. If your lake cottage is reportable, but you also use it yourself, particularly if you are well known in the community, that could help point someone to where you might be found in an unsecured

location. If you report assets within a 529 plan which reveal the ages of your children, that might present additional security implications.

I've been asked whether it is possible to redact dollar amounts in Part III A. or value codes in Part VII because high dollar values might make you or your family members preferred targets for kidnapping, OR whether it is possible to redact all of your holdings because their disclosure could create a heightened risk of identity theft. Although unusual, there might be specific circumstances where the nexus between the information and the risk presented could warrant the approval of additional redactions, particularly if you are involved in a high-threat trial, you are under a 24-hour security detail, you have specific threats, and/or you have had false liens filed against you by disgruntled litigants. In short, if you have special circumstances that could affect your redaction request, please feel free to call. I'm happy to discuss them with you.

Requests for public release of your reports can be disconcerting. An omnibus request from a major publisher could mean that your reports will be posted on the internet. A targeted request from a disgruntled litigant could have different implications. When you are notified of a request, a copy of the request form should be attached or linked to the notice, and I encourage you to review that document. It will tell you by whom the request was made, when the request was made, and at whom the request is directed (you, your entire court or circuit, all judges, etc.). If the request is from a private party, but you don't recognize the name, you might want to consider whether the requestor is someone tied to a disgruntled litigant. That information could assist you in determining what course to pursue.

Regarding notices of requests for your reports, please keep in mind that we will be copied on any communications sent to you through FiDO. However, staff at the AO intermittently send notices directly via email. When that happens, we will not be copied, nor will we be able to access the information through FiDO. I'm happy to review those messages, but you will need to forward them to me.

All of this is a long road to saying that we do not encourage excessive or unnecessary requests for redaction, but the security that redaction can provide is real and appropriate. No single answer is right for every filer in every instance. If you have questions or need assistance filing a request for redaction, please let me know. I'm happy to help in any way I can.