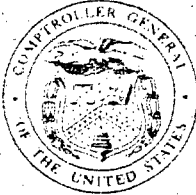


Blatch.

PLMC

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**DECISION**

**THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL  
OF THE UNITED STATES**

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20548

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FILE: B-197319

DATE: August 12, 1980

MATTER OF: Donald E. Wuerch  
Attorney's Fees

(REIMBURSEMENT for)  
Real Estate Expenses and

DIGEST: Employee may be reimbursed for the cost of attorney's fees paid to both the mortgagee's attorney and his own attorney if it is customary in the area for the purchaser to pay the attorney's fees of the mortgagee, and both fees are within the customary range of charges for these services in that locality.

Mr. Donald E. Wuerch seeks reimbursement for the attorney's fees of his attorney in addition to those of the mortgagee's attorney. He may be reimbursed for both amounts if otherwise proper.

The request for an advance decision is from Garry A. McKinney, Chief, Washington Field Finance Office, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, (NOAA), U. S. Department of Commerce. Mr. Wuerch, an employee of NOAA was transferred from Cleveland, Ohio, to Buffalo, New York and purchased a home in Buffalo in October 1977. He has already been reimbursed the \$410 paid to the mortgagee's attorney and now seeks reimbursement of the \$400 paid to his attorney.

Mr. Wuerch may be reimbursed for both amounts if it is customary in the Buffalo area for the purchaser to pay the attorney's fee of the mortgagee and both fees are within the customary range of charges for these services in the Buffalo area. Donald Mitgang, B-190616, March 22, 1978; Philibert A. Ouellet, B-191792, September 25, 1978.

*Milton J. Fowler*

For The Comptroller General  
of the United States

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