

**CASE DIGEST:** *U.S. Dep't of the Treasury, IRS*, 71 FLRA 400 (2019)  
(Member Abbott dissenting)

This case concerned an award granting attorney fees to Union counsel for (1) case-representation work related to the litigation and settlement of hundreds of overtime offers, and (2) work performed disputing the reasonableness of the Union's requested fees. Through the settlement of the underlying grievance, the Union secured over \$400,000 in backpay for the affected employees.

The Agency filed exceptions disputing the reasonableness of the awarded attorney fees. The Authority found no basis for reducing the fees for case-representation work based on either the reasonableness of the hours the attorneys worked or the degree of their success. Although the Union had requested additional remedies in the grievance, the Authority determined that the Union's failure to obtain them did not diminish the significance of the "substantial" \$400,000 backpay remedy. However, regarding the number of hours that the Union billed for work related to the fee dispute, the Authority found it unreasonable, and reduced the fees to reflect an appropriate amount.

This case digest is a summary of a decision issued by the Federal Labor Relations Authority, with a short description of the issues and facts of the case. Descriptions contained in this case digest are for informational purposes only, do not constitute legal precedent, and are not intended to be a substitute for the opinion of the Authority.