

[Forums](#) / [General Discussion](#)[Help](#)

Bridget Kelly and the Fifth Amendment.

✉ You are subscribed. [Unsubscribe](#)

🏷 No tags yet. [+ Add Tag](#)

Sort replies by: [Oldest first](#) [Newest first](#) [Most popular](#)



[Joseph DeVita](#) · 7 hours ago 🔒

There has been an issue for the past two months around Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey and allegations that the closure of lanes to the George Washington Bridge between Ft. Lee, NJ and New York City were political payback for the mayor on Ft. Lee not supporting Christie in his bid for reelection for governor.

His Chief of Staff, Bridget Kelly, wrote in an email "It is time for some traffic problems in Ft. Lee." Subsequently there was severe traffic congestion on the approaches to the bridge. Gov. Christie claims he was unaware of the situation both before and sometime after the traffic congestion at the bridge. A state legislative committee investigating this as a possible abuse of power on the part of the governor has subpoenaed Miss Kelly's email documents which she has refused to supply on the basis of her Fifth Amendment right against self incrimination. Today, Tuesday March 11, arguments were made before a New Jersey judge but a ruling has not been made as yet.

The question I pose for class discussion is; do you believe that she is within her rights to withhold email documents or must she supply them?

↑ 0 ↓ · flag

[Rebecca Hahn](#) · 7 hours ago 🔒

Technically, the committee shouldn't even be going to her to get them. Emails belong to the institution at which a person works and not to the person that actually sent or received them. The committee should just have the tech guys pull them off the email server or her computer.

↑ 0 ↓ · flag



[Joseph DeVita](#) · 7 hours ago 🔒

To clarify; the original email, the one referring to traffic problems in Ft. Lee, were indeed on government computers. The legislative committee argues that followup emails were on her personal, not government computers, which is the basis of her claim and those are the ones

they are seeking.

↑ 0 ↓ · flag

Rebecca Hahn · 5 hours ago 🔗

With that clarification, then i would say that she is within her rights. It seems odd that a public employee should be able to withhold documents that pertained to her job. I'm not talking emails about how her day was at work, but writing something specific to her work. It seems especially odd when another government agency wants to look at those emails. However, I also do not think that you give up your Constitutional rights when you work as a government employee and the 5th amendment would still apply.

That being said, I don't think that it is wise to take the 5th as it makes you look guilty, but I suppose that is better than being *proven* guilty.

This [article](#) makes a very good point that using personal computers for work allows employees to circumvent the law.

↑ 0 ↓ · flag

[+ Comment](#)

New post

To ensure a positive and productive discussion, please read our [forum posting policies](#) before posting.

B	<i>I</i>			Link	<code><code></code>	Pic	Math		Edit: Rich ▼	Preview
<div></div>										

☐ Make this post anonymous to other students

☒ Subscribe to this thread at the same time

Add post

