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Inspector General
Jeffrey E. Schanz

November 26, 2008

Re: FOIA Request 2008-26

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, received in this office on October 30, 2008, for a list of OIG investigations closed between January 1, 2007 and the present.

Enclosed please find a list of OIG investigations closed during the relevant period. There are eight pages responsive to your request, all of which are being released in part.

Information has been withheld from the enclosed documents pursuant to Exemption 7(A) the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(7)(A), which protects information compiled for law enforcement purposes, the release of which “could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings.” Although the withheld information concerns a closed OIG investigation, release of the information could reasonably be expected to interfere with an investigation of the same issues currently pending in LSC’s Office of Compliance and Enforcement.

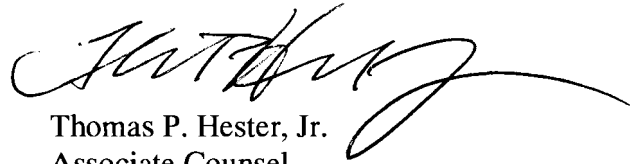
In addition, information has been withheld pursuant to Exemption 7(C) of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(7)(C), which protects information compiled for law enforcement purposes, the release of which “could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.” The withheld material consists of names and identifying information concerning person(s) of investigative interest; employees of grantees; and other individuals.

If you are dissatisfied with this response you may appeal, within 90 days of your receipt of this letter, to:

Jeffrey E. Schanz, Inspector General
Legal Services Corporation
3333 K St., N.W., 3rd Floor
Washington, DC 20007

Both the envelope and the letter must be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Hester, Jr.", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Thomas P. Hester, Jr.
Associate Counsel
Office of Inspector general
Legal Services Corporation

Closed_cases

Case No	Title	Subject/Grantee	Subject Firm	Date Opened	Date Closed	Type Case	Allegation
06-009	Congressional - [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	3/7/2006	3/30/2007	Conflict of Interest	Conflict of Interest
06-011	Nevada Legal Services	Nevada Legals Services		5/18/2006	8/31/2007	Theft	Stolen NLS checks forged and deposited into Bank America account
06-014	Congressional - 01	Barnett	Helaine	6/5/2006	6/7/2007	Misuse of Grant Funds	Barnett made misstatements to congress relate to travel to Ireland to attend a conference. It is alleged that Barnett flew 1st class instead of using the government air fare from DC to Shannon Airport, Ireland.
06-016	Legal Services of Alabama Birmingham office			9/8/2006	4/16/2007	Theft of funds	An administrative employee used client trust funds to pay a \$590.00 T-mobile cellular phone bill; has been accepting collect telephone calls from [REDACTED] who is incarcerated (\$165); used postage for personal use (\$4.00)
07-001	Financial Risk Assessment	Select Grantee		10/25/2006	3/28/2008	Project - Financial Risk Assessment	Based on Hotline - IPA reports - Risk Analysis perform limited field review and testing to detect indicators of thefts and embezzlements
07-002	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	12/1/2006	7/30/2007	Obstruction of Justice/Audit	[REDACTED] created time records and case records in support of material subpoenaed by the OIG. Also, [REDACTED] had no support in the case management system for work activities that would justify [REDACTED] salary.
07-003	Indiana Legal Services	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1/23/2007	12/7/2007	Timecard fraud	Prince is alleged to be on multiple city boards and charging time to ILS while attending and performing duties related to the city boards.
07-004	Legal Services of Alabama			2/5/2007	4/12/2007	Theft/loss of funds	On or about Dec 15, 2006 the Huntsville office was burglarized. One desktop computer, monitor and keyboard were stolen. Police were notified and report was made. Notice was also provided to the property insurance carrier; efforts were made to secure the area.
07-005	Legal Aid of Northwest Texas Risk Assessment	Legal Aid of Northwest Texas		2/23/2007	3/16/2007	Risk Assessment	Information was provided to the OIG that employees at LANT were padding their travel expense reimbursements. It was alleged that this took place around the time period of 2003 when West Texas and North Texas merged. Based on information obtained from LANT, [REDACTED] was placed as [REDACTED] at their [REDACTED] office.
07-006	Texas Rural Legal Aid	TRLA		3/9/2007	3/9/2007	Risk Assessment	Survey to determine if office supply purchases were proper.
07-007	Inland Counties Legal Services	Inland Counties Legal Services		4/9/2007	9/13/2007	Embezzlement - Monetary Loss - Client Trust funds	Custodian of trust fund overpaid client by \$1000.

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07-008	Legal Services of Oklahoma (Risk Assessment)			5/10/2007	8/31/2007	Risk Assessment Review	Risk Assessment
07-009	LSC INTERNAL			5/10/2007	8/31/2007	Administrative - Employee - Management Issue	██████ alleges sexual harassment and retaliation against management
07-010	Legal Services of Alabama (Opelika Office)			7/9/2007	7/10/2007	Theft of gov't property	Persons unknown broke into the vehicle of ██████ and removed a Sony Cybershot digital camera (serial # 9062199), a battery charger w/4 rechargable batteries, 1 memory stick card reader and 1 nylon camera bag, black in color, which belonged to Legal Services of Alabama. ██████ is reimbursing LAS for the loss.
07-011	Risk Assessment - Legal Aid of North Dakota	Legal Aid of North Dakota		5/7/2007	7/23/2007	Risk Assessment	In 2005 - 2006 an employee of LSND embezzled \$36,000 in funds through the purchase of office supplies. The purpose of this review was to address the circumstances surrounding the loss and to assess financial risk for petty cash, travel, payroll, office supplies and other expenses.
07-014	PPI Survey			8/16/2007	3/10/2008	Special Project	
07-015	California Indian Legal Services	California Indian Legal Services		8/16/2007	4/3/2008	Compliance	Program's participation in prohibited activities including political activity, attorney compensation
07-016	Kansas Legal Services	Kansas Legal Services		8/16/2007	8/20/2007	Compliance	KLS charged a financially eligible client fees for legal services provided.
07-017	Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation	Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation		8/16/2007	12/7/2007	Compliance	Land of Lincoln is in non-compliance by handling fee generating cases, seeking attorneys fees, and representing ineligible clients
07-019	Neighborhood Legal Services Program	Neighborhood Legal Services Program		8/16/2007	8/21/2007	Compliance	NLSP is committing mal practice.
07-020	Legal Aid Services of Oregon	Legal Aid Services of Oregon		8/17/2007	10/2/2007	Compliance	LASO represented a client who was financially ineligible. ██████ not satisfied with OCE's response and wants to contact Board member.
07-021	██████████	Alaska Legal Services Corporation		6/4/2007	6/12/2008	Compliance	It is alleged that ██████, an ALSC attorney, held ██████ out as a private attorney in order to collect attorney fees and costs for an ALSC client, ██████, as a result of a successful ALCS lawsuit. It is further alleged that ██████ submitted a Motion for Fees and Costs to the Court, following successful litigation, so that ██████ would reimburse ALSC, and/or staff attorney ██████ and co-counsel, ██████, since ██████ knows ALSC is precluded from directly accepting attorney fees and costs.

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07-022	[REDACTED]	CRLA-Coachella	[REDACTED]	5/21/2007	6/28/2007	Compliance	CRLA Coachella filed a lawsuit against [REDACTED] for wrongful eviction of [REDACTED] mobile home tenants, that [REDACTED] claims was frivolous and retaliatory. [REDACTED] stated that CRLA Coachella maintained a contempt charge against [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] for two years, without first filing papers, before dismissing the charge, and later requested that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] be placed in jail without bail.
07-023	Ocean Monmouth Legal Services	Ocean Monmouth Legal Services	[REDACTED]	8/21/2007	3/3/2008	Compliance	[REDACTED] is a [REDACTED] at OMLS. [REDACTED] alleges numerous compliance and FWA violations by [REDACTED] program including travel abuses, inappropriate monetary and property donations to organizations & charities of management officials and Board members, nepotism, targeted outreach to undocumented immigrants, and unlawful law practice by law graduates.
07-027	Fort Hall Landowners v. Bureau of Indian Affairs	Idaho Legal Services	[REDACTED]	6/6/2007	9/24/2007	Compliance	[REDACTED] ILS, represented several plaintiffs in the above-mentioned lawsuit and then represented these same plaintiff's in a class action lawsuit in [REDACTED] private capacity. The class action is near settlement and [REDACTED] requested that any settlements for plaintiffs that cannot be located should be given to ILS (cy pres) because it performed the bulk of the litigation.
07-028	Massachusetts Justice Program	Massachusetts Justice Program	[REDACTED]	8/31/2007	6/6/2008	Compliance	[REDACTED] alleges numerous LSC program violations.
07-030	North Penn Legal Services	North Penn Legal Services	[REDACTED]	7/16/2007	12/12/2007	Time and leave fraud Professional Misconduct	[REDACTED] z stated that [REDACTED] conducted an off-site affair with a co-worker, [REDACTED] during work hours, which was faciliated by another employee, [REDACTED]
07-031	Legal Action of Wisconsin, Inc.	Legal Action of Wisconsin, Inc.	[REDACTED]	9/5/2007	9/6/2007	Theft - Credit Card Fraud	LAW reported that a charge was made on their corporate credit card for \$1450.91 for a purchase from TESCO Insurance. LAW saw the charge on their statement and contacted the card company to remove that transaction as it was not their's. The account is frozen and LAW is waiting for a listing of charges to see if other fraudulent charges were made.
07-032	Legal Aid of Western Ohio	Legal Aid of Western Ohio	[REDACTED]	9/5/2007	10/4/2007	Theft of Property	On or about 8/15/2007 a theft occurred at the office of LAW. LAW reported two cameras, two laptops, two battery chargers, one USB camera cord and one USB cord for a scanner.

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07-033	Puerto Rico Legal Services			9/12/2007	11/1/2007	Theft of Property	from Puerto Rico Legal Service (PRLS) reported the theft of their building's Air Condenser Units. Police report taken.	7(c)
07-034		ALSC		9/24/2007	12/26/2007	Compliance	claims that requested attorneys' fees, in violation of 45 CFR 1642, under the guise of "reasonable expenses."	
08-001	CRLA v. Global Horizons, Inc.	CRLA-Fresno		10/16/2007	1/17/2008	Compliance	CRLA-Fresno has violated the LSC Act, LSC regulations, and federal appropriations law restrictions by: 1) engaging in fee-generating cases-1609; 2) participating in class action litigation-1617; 3) failure to identify all plaintiffs by name; 4) providing legal assistance to illegal aliens and aliens not present in the United States-1626; and 5) initiating litigation on behalf of unidentified individuals without first having established their eligibility.	
08-002				11/5/2007	9/3/2008	Fraud	using the color of office named, a and as beneficiaries on a clients will.	7(c)
08-003	Indiana Legal Services	Indiana Legal Services		11/15/2007	8/28/2008	Compliance	OIG was "cc" on an email sent to the ED of Indiana Legal Services. questions whether denial of request for representation was related to the fact that the opposing counsel in case had previously held a fundraiser for the program.	7(c)
08-004	Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles	Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles		11/15/2007	11/20/2007	Compliance	LAFLA has been involved in political activity and organizing. LAFLA helped the Los Angeles Taxi Workers Alliance (LATWA) organize into a union in 2005. an employment attorney with LAFLA testified before the LA City Counsel on behalf of LAFLA regarding raising taxi meter rates and gas surcharge.	7(c)
08-005	Capital Area Legal Services Corporation - Risk Assessment	Capital Area Legal Services Corp		11/15/2007	12/12/2007	Project - Risk Assessment	Risk Assessment Review	
08-006	Office of Adjudication and Review Social Security, State of Michigan	none		11/19/2007	11/19/2007		presented vocational expert, at Social Security adjudication hearing on October 17, 2006. alleges that is not a vocational expert in that is neither certified with the American Board of Vocational Experts or with the National Registry of Experts and does have a valid license to practice as a vocational expert.	7(c)

08-007	Castlewood Field Office	SW Virginia Legal Aid Society	[REDACTED]	11/19/2007	3/31/2008	Compliance	<p>[REDACTED] of the Castlewood Field Office, has allegedly engaged in professional misconduct with [REDACTED], computer consultant, by commencing an affair with [REDACTED] in Summer 2006, nepotism in awarding contracts to [REDACTED] firm, [REDACTED] potentially in violation of 16 CFR 1630 (Costs Standards and Procedures), and represented [REDACTED] in divorce proceeding, although not income ineligible, in violation of 45 CFR 1611 (Financial Eligibility), and without permission from [REDACTED], [REDACTED] in violation of 45 CFR 1604.4. [REDACTED] also stated that [REDACTED] was aware that [REDACTED], [REDACTED] was engaging in sexual relations with several clients, yet ignored the situation. [REDACTED] also may be receiving a daily driving allowance for [REDACTED] round trip to work. Finally, SW Virginia Legal Aid may be in violation of 45 CFR 1628.3(a) (Recipient Fund Balances), by retaining greater than 10% of its LSC fund balances from one year to the next.</p>
08-008	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	11/26/2007	12/7/2007	Compliance	<p>[REDACTED]</p>
08-009	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	12/7/2007	5/12/2008	Embezzlement	<p>[REDACTED] charged time and submitted false travel vouchers for mileage and trips not taken. Also charge hours for time not worked in conjunction with travel.</p>

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08-011	Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida			12/13/2007	2/29/2008	Risk Assessment	Anomalies in spending and part-time attorneys ██████████, Office of Inspector General, was cc: on a letter dated 12/12/07 to ██████████ from ██████████ thanking ██████████ for her letter of 11/26/07. The letter stated that the program had investigated the issues raised in ██████████ letter and the program was satisfied that all staff members acted appropriately.
08-012	Legal Aid of North West Texas	Legal Aid of North West Texas		1/16/2008	4/3/2008	Compliance	
08-013	Legal Aid Society of Columbus	Legal Aid Society of Columbus		1/29/2008	4/3/2008	Compliance	
08-014	Florida Rural Legal Services	Florida Rural Legal Services		1/29/2008	4/3/2008	Compliance	
08-015	Inland Counties Legal Services	██████████ ██████████			4/9/2008	Theft of case documents	Riverside ██████████ took three mail tubs filled with closed case files to review at home. ██████████ took one bin into the house to work on and left two bins in the car. Sometime during the night, someone stole ██████████ car and took the two bins of case files. PD recovered one bin left at the scene of a an attempted vehicle theft. Someone who was trying to steal another car was transferring a box of the files to the car and left the box behind.
08-017	Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services	Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services		3/18/2008	8/21/2008	Compliance	SMRLS had/has a relationship with Minnesota Legal Services Coalition, a legal services organization engaged in work restricted by SMRLS. The relationship was discovered in the IPA report. SMRLS indicated it was severing its relationship with MLSC but in a subsequent audit report, the relationship appeared to show up again. Also SMRLS was to transfer assets to MLSC or Mid-Minnesota Legal Assistance, but there is no documentation in the records reviewed by the IPA that approval was granted by LSC to do so.
08-018	Legal Aid of Nebraska	LAN		3/26/2008	3/28/2008	Theft	Theft of petty cash. Program suspects ██████████
08-019	Bay Area Legal Services	BALS		3/26/2008	3/28/2008	Loss of funds	Client gave check for \$664.98 for deposit into ██████████ client trust funds which brought the balance to \$2659.92. A week later, client was given a check for \$2659.92. BALS was notified by bank that \$664.98 check was NSF. BALS reimbursed funds with non-LSC funds.

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08-021	Central Jersey Legal Services, Inc.	CJLS		4/10/2008	4/10/2008	Theft of property	7-16-2007 - On this date at approximately 11:45 PM, two laptop computers and their docking stations were stolen from CJLS. CJLS estimates the time of the theft based on the activation of their alarm system.
08-023	Fraud Vulnerability Assessment	Various		4/16/2008	9/30/2008	Project	Proactive investigation to assess fraud and thefts and grantee programs.
08-026	California Indian Legal Services	California Indian Legal Services		4/22/2008	8/21/2008	Compliance	After reviewing OCE report, decision was made to conduct follow up visit with program in light of fact that Audit unit is going their for ASR as well. Will follow up with program to see if actions program was required to take after the last OCE visit have been implemented. Special attention to be paid to client eligibility issue, where tribal members are at times ineligible when tribe distributes gaming revenues to its members.
08-031	Ocean Monmouth Legal Services	Ocean Monmouth Legal Services		7/2/2008	8/13/2008	Compliance	██████████ states that OMLS is representing a client in a divorce proceeding against ██████████ who is allegedly financially ineligible for representation by a legal service program. The client is ██████████
08-033	Emerson Court Apartments	Lone Star Legal Aid		7/23/2008	10/27/2008		██████████ alleged that Lone Star Legal Aid represented ██████████ and ██████████ in eviction proceedings although both appeared to be financially ineligible. ██████████ alleged that Lone Star Legal Aid is advising ██████████ to engage in defamatory actions against ██████████ and Emerson Court.
08-034	FVA - Northeast New Jersey LSC	Northeast New Jersey LSC		8/7/2008	9/22/2008		FVA - significant increases in office expenditures
08-035	Hatch Act			6/4/2008	8/21/2008	Project	To inquire if OSC had any suggestions or investigative programs or plans that can be used to "test" whether persons are involved in prohibited political activity. Can OSC recommend publicly-available or even subscription databases that have campaign information we can search by using names of employees and grantees?
08-036	Legal Services of South Central Michigan			8/18/2008	8/19/2008	Theft of Property	April 9, 2008 person(s) unknown to LSSCM entered and took a laptop computer from their Battle Creek field office.
08-039	Indiana Legal Services	Indiana Legal Services	██████████	8/28/2008	8/28/2008	Compliance	██████████ misappropriated or misused program funds by renting a car for the June 6, 2008 Board meeting but failed to attend the meeting. ██████████ did not return the car until June 19, 2008. Enterprise Car Rental billed ILS for \$781.74 for the rental.

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08-041	Theft of LAB issued laptop computer	Legal Aid of Maryland	[REDACTED]	9/8/2008	9/26/2008	A LAB issued laptop computer was stolen from the luggage of [REDACTED] while returning from a vacation in Puerto Rico.
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