

Executive Office for United States Attorneys

United States Attorneys' Bulletin



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(Remove and Place with Volume 34 of the Bulletin, Issues 1-13 (1986).)

VOL. 35, NO. 2

THIRTY-FOURTH YEAR

FEBRUARY 15, 1987

COMMENDATIONS

The following Assistant United States Attorneys have been commended:

W. LEON BARFIELD and JOSEPH D. NEWMAN (Georgia, Southern) by Federal Bureau of Investigation Director William H. Webster for their successful prosecution of two major marijuana-smuggling cases.

ELLEN E. CHRISTENSEN (Michigan, Eastern) by Aviation Safety Inspector Paul T. McCormick, Federal Aviation Administration, for her assistance with a federal air regulations violations case.

VIRGINIA M. COVINGTON and the Civil Division (Florida, Middle) by District Counsel Clifton R. Byrd, Veterans Administration, for their effective representation of the Veterans Administration over a number of years.

RICHARD COX (Illinois, Central) by Superintendent William Doster, Illinois Department of State Police, for his presentation on federal prosecutions in cannabis cultivation cases at the "Operation Cash Crop Information" Conference.

PATRICK J. CUNNINGHAM, VIRGINIA A. MATHIS, and ROSLYN O. MOORE-SILVER (Arizona) by Special Agent-in-Charge Herbert H. Hawkins, Jr., Federal Bureau of Investigation, for their participation in a training exercise on direct and cross-examination regarding a short bank robbery scenario.

GEORGE F. DARRAGH, JR. (Montana) by Field Solicitor Roger W. Thomas, Department of the Interior, for his excellent efforts in handling specific Interior litigation.

TERRY L. DERDEN, LINDA L. GLEGHORN, and MICHAEL D. JOHNSON (Arkansas, Eastern) by Special Agent-in-Charge Ruben Monzon, Drug Enforcement Administration, for their excellent assistance in the successful prosecution of a drug case.

BARRY D. GOLDMAN, JOSEPH F. MCSORLEY, and MICHAEL J. MITCHELL (Florida, Southern) by Assistant Attorney General F. Henry Habicht II, Land and Natural Resources Division, for their outstanding work in prosecuting an environmental crimes case.

GREGORY K. HARRIS (Illinois, Central) by Special Agent-in-Charge Philip V. Fisher, Drug Enforcement Administration for his presentation on the Controlled Substances Act at a Drug Enforcement Administration Law Enforcement Seminar.

DAVID A. JIVIDEN and HUNTER P. SMITH, JR. (West Virginia, Northern) by Task Force Coordinator Larry R. Mincks, Internal Revenue Service, for their successful handling of a Narcotics Task Force case.

GERALD F. KAMINSKI (Ohio, Southern) by Nuclear Regulatory Commission Solicitor William H. Briggs, Jr., for his assistance in certain Ohio nuclear power plants appeals.

MICHAEL O. LANG (Michigan, Eastern) by United States District Judge Avern Cohn, for his skillful prosecution of a drug case.

PAULA E. LOPOSSA (Indiana, Southern) by Ms. Martha D. Lamkin, Manager, Indianapolis Field Office, Department of Housing and Urban Development, for her efforts and success in pursuing indictments against a former Elwood Housing Authority employee for misuse of federal housing subsidy.

FRANKLIN L. NOEL (Minnesota) by Assistant Secretary for Labor-Management Standards Salvatore R. Martoche, Department of Labor, for his professional efforts on behalf of the enforcement responsibilities of the Labor Department under the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act.

ELLEN G. RITTEMAN (Michigan, Eastern) by Special Agent-in-Charge Kenneth P. Walton, Federal Bureau of Investigation, for her efforts in obtaining a dismissal in a civil suit based on a negligence theory and her successful prosecution of another civil case.

GREGORY C. SASSE and JOSEPH P. SCHMITZ (Ohio, Northern) by District Director Robert L. Brown, Immigration and Naturalization Service, for their successful handling of the operation "Dropped "Q" Marriage" fraud ring.

LEE SMITH (Illinois, Central) by Regional Attorney Robert L. Williams, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, for his excellent assistance in defending a deposition in a civil case.

JAMES C. THOMASON III (Tennessee, Middle) by Federal Highway Administrator Ray A. Barnhart, Department of Transportation, for his excellent representation provided to the Federal Highway Administration in three complex civil actions.

GREGORY A. VEGA (Indiana, Northern) by Special Agent-in-Charge Philip V. Fisher, Drug Enforcement Administration, for his presentation on the Controlled Substances Act at a law enforcement seminar.

JAMES E. WILSON (Alabama, Middle) by Area Veterinarian-in-Charge M. A. Mixon, Department of Agriculture, for his outstanding and successful prosecution of a false claims, 18 U.S.C. §1001, and mail fraud case.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

<u>Personnel</u>

Effective December 15, 1986, Michael W. Carey, was appointed by the Attorney General, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §546, as the interim United States Attorney for the Southern District of West Virginia.

Effective December 24, 1986, George J. Terwilliger III was appointed by the Attorney General, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §546, as the interim United States Attorney for the District of Vermont.

Effective December 24, 1986, David F. Levi was appointed by the Attorney General, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §546, as the interim United States Attorney for the Eastern District of California.

Effective December 24, 1986, Kevin Michael Moore was appointed by the Attorney General, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §546, as the interim United States Attorney for the Northern District of Florida.

Effective December 24, 1986, Robert H. Edmunds, Jr. was appointed by the Attorney General, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §546, as the interim United States Attorney for the Middle District of North Carolina.

(Executive Office)

Reporting Responsibilities of United States Attorneys.

The Attorney General has assigned the general direction and supervision of the United States Attorneys to the Deputy Attorney General. For reporting purposes, direction and supervision of the activities and programs of United States Attorneys have been apportioned as follows:

- 1. Directly to the Office of the Deputy Attorney General:
 - a) All matters pertaining generally to management and administration;
 - b) All matters pertaining generally to the enforcement of civil law;
 - c) All matters pertaining specifically to the activities of the Divisions and organizational units under the direction and supervision of the Deputy Attorney General, i.e., the Civil Division, the Civil Rights Division, the Tax Division, the Antitrust Division, the Land and Natural Resources Division, the Office of Legislative Affairs, the Office of Legal Counsel, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Executive Office for United States Trustees, and the Justice Management Division;
 - d) The Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee Program;
 - e) All matters pertaining generally to management, budget, resources, personnel, and administration of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) Program.
- Delegated by the Deputy Attorney General to the Office of the Associate Attorney General:
 - a) All matters pertaining generally to the enforcement of the criminal law;
 - b) All matters pertaining specifically to the activities of the organizational units under the direction and supervision of the Associate Attorney General, i.e., the Criminal Division, the Community Relations Service, the Bureau of Prisons, the United States Marshals Service, the Office of the Pardon Attorney, and the Office of Justice Programs;
 - c) All matters pertaining to the activities of the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

- d) Coordinating and directing the substantive law enforcement responsibilities and operational aspects of the OCDETF Program; providing requested legal assistance and advice on specific cases and investigations; coordinating interagency matters;
- e) The Economic Crime Council;
- f) The President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency;
- g) The asset forfeiture sharing program.

This allocation of responsibilities does not alter the specific authority previously delegated to Assistant Attorneys General in charge of litigating divisions.

All correspondence and communications from United States Attorneys shall be processed according to this allocation of responsibilities.

(Executive Office)

Social Security Disability Litigation

Social Security disability cases represent both a significant portion of United States Attorneys' civil caseload and a large dollar value. The average case is worth approximately \$70,000 in real dollars. A number of case management procedures have been developed to expedite the voluminous and complex Social Security cases. United States Attorneys are reminded of procedures to be followed in the Department's continuing efforts to efficiently and effectively handle this litigation in cooperation with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

United States Attorneys are to teletype notices of new Social Security cases to HHS within three business days of service. It is important to follow this procedure if timely answers from HHS are expected.

Social Security court orders and settlements should be promptly transmitted to HHS. Procedures for handling adverse decisions in Social Security Act Review cases (including remand orders) are found at USAM 4-1.511. Pursuant to that section, adverse decisions should be forwarded to both the Social Security Administration (with a copy to the Department of Health and Human Services Regional Attorney) and the Civil Division within two business days of their receipt by United States Attorneys. Expeditious action is critical if the decision is adverse to HHS since the Civil Division requires an appeal recommendation be made to the Appellate Staff within 30 days of the adverse decision. Moreover, in cases where the plaintiff prevails and the government does not appeal, HHS needs the orders to expeditiously effectuate them and timely pay benefits. Where prompt electronic transmission is not possible, please make immediate phone contact and follow it with express mail.

(Executive Office)

Speeches and Articles

Speeches or articles which relate to the policies, activities, or administration of the Department or other federal agency should accurately reflect Department policy and fact. Fees for speeches or articles may only be accepted pursuant to the provisions of 28 C.F.R. §45.735-12.

The provisions of 28 C.F.R. §45.735-12 require that speeches and articles must not be a part of the employee's regular duties; the subject matter must not be devoted substantially to the responsibilities, programs or operations of the Department; and must not draw from an official data base which has not become a part of the general body of public knowledge.

Further, no speech or article dependent on information obtained as a result of government employment, which has not been made available to the public by the Department or where the Deputy Attorney General has not given prior written authorization, may be performed, with or without compensation. Please note 28 C.F.R. §45.735-12(d) prohibits employees from suggesting such compensation be donated to a particular charity.

Questions concerning the above should be directed to Legal Counsel (EOUSA) at (FTS) 633-4024.

(Executive Office)

CASENOTES.

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR GENERAL

The Solicitor General has authorized the filing of:

A petition for a writ of certiorari in <u>Department of Transportation v.</u> <u>Fitzgerald</u>, 798 F.2d 461 (Fed. Cir. 1986). The issue is whether representatives of a union who were not present at their duty stations following commencement of a strike were entitled to official leave on the ground that they were engaged in collective bargaining, even though collective bargaining ceased where the union began its unlawful strike against the United States.

A petition for a writ of certiorari in <u>Bowen v. Galbreath</u>, No. 85-2496 (8th Cir. Aug. 14, 1986). The question presented is whether a district court may order the Secretary of Health and Human Services to withhold a portion of past-due supplemental security income benefits to pay attorney's fees for services performed in court.

A petition for a writ of certiorari in Commissioner of Internal Revenue v. Asphalt Products Co., 799 F.2d 243 (6th Cir. 1986). The issue is the proper method for calculating the 5% negligence penalty for underpayment of tax imposed by Section 6653(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code.

A petition for a writ of certiorari in <u>Haig v. Bissonette</u>, 800 F.2d 812 (8th Cir. 1986). The question is whether violation of a federal statute (the Posse

Comitatus Act, 18 U.S.C. §1385), without more, may render unreasonable an otherwise reasonable seizure and thereby give rise to a Fourth Amendment claim under <u>Bivens</u> v. Six Unknown Federal Narcotics Agents, 403 U.S. 388 (1971).

A petition for a writ of certiorari in Lyng v. Northwest Indian Cemetery Protective Association, 795 F.2d 688 (9th Cir. 1986). The question presented is whether the government's decision to reconstruct a segment of road located in a national forest that has religious significance for certain Indian Tribes and its decision to permit logging in that area of forest violate the Tribe members' Free Exercise Clause rights.

A petition for a writ of certiorari in <u>INS v. National Center for Immigrants' Rights</u>, 791 F.2d 1351 (9th Cir. 1986). The question presented is whether 8 U.S.C. §1252(a), which allows the Attorney General, pending determination of deportability of an alien, to release the alien under bond "containing such conditions as the Attorney General may prescribe," allows a condition that forbids the alien to engage in unauthorized work pending determination of deportability.

A brief amicus curiae in Fort Halifax Packing Co. v. Coyne, 510 A.2d 1054 (Me. 1986). The question is whether Section 514(a) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), 29 U.S.C. §1144(a), preempts a Maine statute that requires major employers to provide specified severance benefits unless an employee is covered by an express contract concerning severance pay.

A brief amicus curiae in <u>Griffith v. Wisconsin</u>, 388 N.W.2d 535 (Wisc. 1986). The question is whether a state probation officer may search a probationer's home without a warrant and on only reasonable cause suspicion to believe the probationer has violated a condition of probation.

A brief amicus curiae in <u>Nollan v. California Coastal Commission</u>, 177 Cal. App. 3d 719 (1986). The issue is whether the California Coastal Commission committed an unconstitutional taking of property when it required, as a condition on a coastal development permit for replacement of an existing house with a larger home, that the permittee dedicate to the public a right to pass and repass laterally along the shoreline.

A jurisdictional statement in <u>United States v. Rosenberg</u>, (C.D. Cal. Oct. 20, 1986). The issues are (1) whether project bonds are exempted from estate taxation by Section 11(b) of the Housing Act of 1937, 42 U.S.C. §1437i(b); and (2) if not, whether Section 641(b)(2) of the Deficit Reduction Act of 1984 is unconstitutional because it violates due process and equal protection principles.

LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION

CITY NOT ENTITLED TO SHARE PORTION OF CIVIL PENALTY ASSESSED UNDER CONSENT DECREE.

The district court had refused to approve the consent decree of an enforcement action under the Clean Air Act unless the parties agreed to give a portion of the civil penalties assessed against Jones & Laughlin to the City of Cleveland. The City had intervened in the action brought by the United States, but had filed no

independent action against the corporation. The district court found the proposed settlement satisfied the criterion of being in the public interest, but found it unfair to Cleveland. The Sixth Circuit reversed, finding that the City had offered no legal basis justifying entitlement to a portion of the civil penalties agreed to under the consent decree.

The lower court's ruling, if affirmed, could have raised the potential that future, otherwise beneficial settlements of environmental litigation would be hampered. The decision is significant in two other respects. The court of appeals reiterated the basic tenet that only the Department of Justice has the authority to bind the government, thus rejecting assertions by Cleveland that it had relied on representations made by a regional office of the Environmental Protection Agency. Second, the court of appeals addressed the issue of jurisdiction where, as here, a corporation has filed under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code after a settlement of an enforcement action has been reached. The court concluded that the automatic stay provision of the Bankruptcy Code did not deprive the court of appeals of its authority over the appeal because the case fell under the government regulatory power exception to the automatic stay in bankruptcy.

United States v. Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation, F.2d, No. 85-327 (6th Cir. Nov. 3, 1986). D. J. # 90-5-2-3-1011. Attorneys: Peter R. Steenland (FTS 633-2748), Maria A. Iizuka (FTS 633-2753), and Martin W. Matzen (FTS 633-4426), Land and Natural Resources Division.

NO DISCRETIONARY STAY OF RCRA ENFORCEMENT ACTION BY EPA UNDER SECTION 105 OF BANKRUPTCY CODE.

The court of appeals affirmed the holding of the district court and of the bankruptcy court that the Environmental Protection Agency's RCRA enforcement action was exempt from the automatic stay provisions of the Bankruptcy Code and that a discretionary stay pursuant to Section 105 of the Bankruptcy Code should not issue. The court found that EPA's enforcement action was one to enforce police or regulatory powers and, thus, was within the statutory exception to the automatic stay found at 11 U.S.C. §362(b)(4). In a decision which adopted the line of reasoning articulated by the Third Circuit in Penn Terra Ltd. v. Dept. of Environmental Resources, 733 F.2d 267, the court also found that the EPA enforcement action was not an attempt to enforce a money judgment (which would be stayed by the Code) simply because the debtor would be forced to spend funds to comply with environmental laws. The court rejected the debtor's argument that to fall within the Section 362(b)(4) exception the exercise of regulatory power must be aimed at addressing an imminent and identifiable harm. The court assumed without deciding that a discretionary stay is available to stay an action expressly exempted from the automatic stay provisions of the Code. However, in the instant case, the count agreed with the lower courts that a discretionary stay should not issue since the debtor had failed to establish that it would be likely to succeed on the merits of the enforcement action.

Commonwealth Oil Refining Company v. United States, F.2d, Nos. 85-2827, 85-2828 (5th Cir. Nov. 25, 1986). D. J. # 90-7-1-279. Attorneys: J. Carol Williams (FTS 633-2757) and David C. Shilton (FTS 633-5580), Land and Natural Resources Division.

CUMULATIVE LIST OF CHANGING FEDERAL CIVIL POSTJUDGMENT INTEREST RATES

(As provided for in the amendment to the Federal Postjudgment Interest Statute, 28 U.S.C. §1961, effective October 1, 1982.)

Effective Date	Annual Rate
12-20-85	7.57%
01-17-86	7.85%
02-14-86	7.71%
03-14-86	7.06%
04-11-86	6.31%
05-14-86	6.56%
06-06-86	7.03%
07-09-86	6.35%
08-01-86	6.18%
08-29-86	5.63%
09-26-86	5.79%
10-24-86	5.75%
11-21-86	5.77%
12-24-86	5.93%
01-16-87	5.75%

NOTE: When computing interest at the daily rate, round (5/4) the product $(\underline{i.e.},$ the amount of interest computed) to the nearest whole cent.

For cumulative list of those federal civil postjudgment interest rates effective October 1, 1982, through December 19, 1985, see United States Attorneys' Bulletin, Vol. 34, No. 1, Page 25, January 17, 1985.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS TELETYPES TO ALL UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS

- 01-07-87 From Deputy Attorney General Arnold I. Burns by William P. Tyson, Director, re: "General Salary Comparability Increase."
- 01-12-87 From William P. Tyson, Director, by Jason P. Green, Legal Counsel (EOUSA), re: "Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1986."
- 01-12-87 From William P. Tyson, Director, re: United States Attorney Position, Eastern District of California."
- 01-13-87 From William P. Tyson, Director, re: "Extension of Comments Deadline for Draft BJA Program Policy and Administrative Guidance and Questions and Answers Documents."
- 01-14-87 From William P. Tyson, Director, by Richard L. DeHaan, Associate Director, Administrative Services, re: "Assistant United States Attorneys' Salary Increases."

UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS' LIST

DISTRICT	U.S. ATTORNEY
Alabama, N	Frank W. Donaldson
Alabama, M	John C. Bell
Alabama, S	J. B. Sessions, III
Alaska	Michael R. Spaan
Arizona	Stephen M. McNamee
Arkansas, E	George W. Proctor
Arkansas, W	J. Michael Fitzhugh
California, N	Joseph P. Russoniello
California, E	David F. Levi
California, C	Robert C. Bonner
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District of Columbia	Joseph E. diGenova
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Indiana, N	James G. Richmond
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Kentucky, W	Joseph M. Whittle
Louisiana, E	John Volz
Louisiana, M	P. Raymond Lamonica
Louisiana, W	Joseph S. Cage, Jr.
Maine	Richard S. Cohen
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Michigan, W	John A. Smietanka Jerome G. Arnold
Minnesota Minaissiani N	
Mississippi, N	Robert Q. Whitwell George L. Phillips
Mississippi, S	Thomas E. Dittmeier
Missouri, E	Robert G. Ulrich
Missouri, W	תטטפוינ ט. טוווכוו

UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS

DISTRICT	U.S. ATTORNEY
Montana	Byron H. Dunbar
Nebraska	Ronald D. Lahners
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New Hampshire	Richard V. Wiebusch
New Jersey	Thomas W. Greelish
New Mexico	William L. Lutz
New York, N	Frederick J. Scullin, Jr.
New York, S	Rudolph W. Giuliani
New York, E	Andrew J. Maloney
New York, W	Roger P. Williams
North Carolina, E	Samuel T. Currin
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North Carolina, W	Charles R. Brewer
North Dakota	Rodney S. Webb
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Ohio, S	D. Michael Crites
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Oklahoma, E	Roger Hilfiger
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Pennsylvania, M	James J. West
Pennsylvania, W	J. Alan Johnson
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Rhode Island	Lincoln C. Almond
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South Dakota	Philip N. Hogen
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Tennessee, M	Joe B. Brown
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Texas, S	Henry K. Oncken
Texas, E	Robert J. Wortham
Texas, W	Helen M. Eversberg
Utah	Brent D. Ward
Vermont	George J. Terwilliger III
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Virginia, E	Henry E. Hudson
Virginia, W	John P. Alderman
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Washington, W	Gene S. Anderson
West Virginia, N	William A. Kolibash
West Virginia, S	Michael W. Carey
Wisconsin. E	Joseph P. Stadtmueller
Wisconsin, W	John R. Byrnes
Wyoming	Richard A. Stacy
North Mariana Islands	K. William O'Connor