

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

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AMERICAN COUNCIL OF THE BLIND, et al., )  
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 Plaintiffs, )  
 )  
 v. )  
 )  
 JACOB J. LEW, Secretary of the Treasury, )  
 )  
 Defendant. )

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Case No. 1:02-cv-00864-BAH

**DEFENDANT’S FIFTEENTH STATUS REPORT**

Defendant, by his undersigned counsel, hereby submits this Fifteenth Status Report pursuant to paragraph 4 of the Court’s Order and Judgment of October 3, 2008 (Doc. 96), and the Court’s Order of August 15, 2012 (Doc. 121), which require the defendant to file semi-annual status reports describing the steps taken to implement the Order and Judgment.

1. The Bureau of Engraving and Printing (“BEP” or “Bureau”) continues to make progress in pursuing the Secretary of the Treasury’s three-pronged approach to providing meaningful access to United States currency by (1) adding a raised tactile feature to each Federal Reserve note that the BEP may lawfully redesign, (2) continuing the Bureau’s program of adding large, high-contrast numerals and different colors to each denomination that it may lawfully redesign, and (3) implementing a currency reader distribution program for blind and other visually impaired U.S. citizens and legal residents.

2. As reported in Defendant’s Supplemental Status Report of February 22, 2016 (Doc. 139), the Advanced Counterfeit Deterrence Committee (“ACD”) has determined, in light of significant developments in counterfeiting technology, that new, additional security features must be created for the next redesign of the currency. The ACD has not yet settled on a target date for the design and production of currency incorporating the new anti-counterfeiting features, but is

still expected to do so in the near future. The defendant intends to file a supplemental status report once that date is known.

3. In the meantime, as anticipated in Defendant's Fourteenth Status Report (Doc. 138), six focus groups reviewed tactile feature samples, in late 2015, incorporating different potential patterns of tactile features using the two remaining potential application methods. Based on the feedback from those focus groups and on information from earlier testing, BEP intends to concentrate on two potential patterns of tactile features going forward. Those patterns will be used in further acuity testing and in the samples to be distributed in BEP's Banknote Equipment Manufacturers program. BEP is currently preparing the samples to be used in the large-group acuity testing referred to in Defendant's Fourteenth Status Report.

4. The currency reader distribution program operated by BEP and the National Library Service continues to be very successful. As of March 10, 2016, the program had distributed more than 37,300 readers. BEP has recently increased its efforts to inform governmental and non-governmental organizations and individuals about the availability of the readers, and to encourage organizations to share information about the program. For example, the BEP issued a press release regarding the program in February 2016 in recognition of Low Vision Awareness Month, resulting in inquiries from the media and members of the public. Additionally, at BEP's request and with its support and cooperation –

- The fifty-six state Assistive Technology Act Programs, funded through grants provided by the Administration for Community Living of the Department of Health and Human Service, will demonstrate the currency readers, assist individuals in their use, and provide help in filling out and submitting applications for a currency reader.
- The Internal Revenue Service will send information about the currency reader program, in

large print and Braille, to taxpayers who request tax materials in formats intended for visually impaired persons.

- Disability.gov, an official government Web portal for information about disability-related programs, will display information about the currency reader program and disseminate additional communications to its readers/viewers.

5. Downloads of the mobile device applications, which allow smartphones and similar devices to function as currency readers, have continued to increase. The EyeNote app for Apple devices, which BEP developed, has been downloaded 26,560 times. The IDEAL Currency Identifier app for the Android operating system has been downloaded approximately 6,800 times.

Dated: March 16, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

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