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Mr. Joseph S. Norman
5647 Santa Anita RR 2
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Dear Mr. Norman

Thank you for your letter dated September 26 and postmarked September 28. I apologize for the delay in this response, but your letter reached my office only yesterday. Mail coming to government buildings here in Washington sometimes suffers such delays due to security inspections.

As I said when we spoke by phone, the three person research team has drawn a stratified sample of complaints from all the circuits, selecting at random from cases in specific categories. To protect the integrity of the process, neither I nor any other agency managers (nor the committee) have access to the cases that appeared in the sample. The researchers drew the sample from cases filed in 2001 through 2003. Some of the circuits have conditioned their permission to review complaints on a requirement that the names of the principals be masked. I don't know if the Eleventh Circuit has imposed such a requirement.

For the same reason as referenced above--protecting the integrity of the research from management oversight--I have not read the documents you sent, but I have directed that they be maintained with other communications from persons who have volunteered cases to the committee for its review. As we also discussed by phone, the committee has not decided whether it will review these volunteered complaints (either all or a sample of them), in addition to reviewing the research team's analyses of the complaints drawn from the random sample described in the paragraph above.

I wish I could provide more direct responses to your queries but am confident of your understanding.

Cordially,



Russell R. Wheeler