

Bruce & Sara Schundler

From: "Wheeler, Matthew" <matthew.wheeler@sol.doi.gov>
To: <bruce@schundler.net>
Sent: Friday, December 02, 2011 12:47 PM
Subject: Agency Inquiry
Mr. Schundler:

The Agency is in receipt of your inquiry, which has been included on this correspondence. Given that there is an ongoing OSC investigation into your allegations, the Agency respectfully declines to answer your questions.

Feel free to contact me with any questions, comments or concerns.

Have a happy holiday season.

Thanks,

Matthew J. Wheeler
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Dear John

By now you probably know my wife and I have cases being investigated by the Investigation and Prosecution Division of the Office of Special Counsel--cases based on what we think were apparent violations of the Whistleblower Protection Act by Cliff Spencer at Mesa Verde NP, and in Sara's case, a violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act.

In the interest of accuracy as we answer questions and write more about our experiences...and the process of filing a Whistleblower complaint...can you tell me when you first became aware of our complaint and case?

Was it when Cliff first ordered Linda Martin not to re-hire me, and then four days later when he ordered Linda not to re-hire Sara? Was there any discussion back in January that a Whistleblower complaint probably would be filed? Or, was it when we first contacted the Whistleblower Protection section of the DOI's Office of Inspector General on February 3, 2011?

Was it sometime during the DOI's CorePlus process....perhaps when Matt Wheeler from the Solicitor's Office got involved? Or, was it when the OSC finally got the case, and an investigation was initiated?

Was it simply when someone told you in passing about the case? Or, did you read about it on the internet or on my web site?

Or...are you still unaware that a case is working its way through the Office of

Special Counsel?

We always thought you should have been informed from the very beginning....but if our initial complaint with the OIG's Whistleblower section did not trigger notification of you, Cliff's superior....then, what did? When are supervisors within the DOI or NPS informed that a complaint has been filed with the DOI's Office of Inspector General, or that a complaint has been referred by the Inspector General to the Office of Special Counsel?

When a Park Rangers violates some law or breaks some regulations, it usually gets back to his or her supervisor fairly quickly---and adjudicated quickly. And as the president/CEO of a fairly large corporation for 27 years, it was very important for me to know if any of our employees had violated any federal, state, or local laws---or if the company had...and to have that information as soon as possible.

So quite frankly....I'm interested in how alleged violations of federal laws are treated by the NPS and/or DOI? Does the process let you know about cases like ours quickly and before they get to the OSC....giving you or others in the regional office time to try to adjudicate or resolve problems and misunderstandings? Or, does the process prevent any kind of intervention once a Superintendent or someone else makes a decision that can lead to complaints, formal investigations, and possible prosecution---and some bad publicity?

Needless to say, I'm curious....and wondering how to describe this process.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Bruce Schundler

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