## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BEFORE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS:	Timothy J. Muris, Chairman Mozelle W. Thompson Orson Swindle Thomas B. Leary Pamela Jones Harbour
In the Matter of	) ) ) Docket No. C-
Robert Lewis, James Sowdo	,
Gerald Wear, and Joel R.	)
Yoseph, individually.	)
-	)
	)

#### **DECISION AND ORDER**

The Federal Trade Commission ("Commission"), having initiated an investigation of certain acts and practices of Robert Lewis, James Sowder, Gerald Wear, and Joel R. Yoseph (hereinafter collectively referred to as ARespondents Q and Respondents having been furnished thereafter with a copy of the draft of Complaint that counsel for the Commission proposed to present to the Commission for its consideration and which, if issued, would charge Respondents with violations of Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. '45; and

Respondents, their attorneys, and counsel for the Commission having thereafter executed an Agreement Containing Consent Order to Cease and Desist (Consent Agreement Containing an admission by Respondents of all the jurisdictional facts set forth in the aforesaid draft of Complaint, a statement that the signing of said Consent Agreement is for settlement purposes only and does not constitute an admission by Respondents that the law has been violated as alleged in such Complaint, or that the facts as alleged in such Complaint, other than jurisdictional facts, are true, and waivers and other provisions as required by the Commission's Rules; and the Commission having thereafter considered the matter and having determined that it had reason to believe that Respondents have violated said Act, and that a Complaint should issue stating its charges in that respect, and having accepted the executed Consent Agreement and placed such Consent Agreement on the public record for a period of thirty (30) days for the receipt and consideration of public comments, now in further conformity with the procedure

described in Commission Rule 2.34, 16 C.F.R.  $^{\prime}$  2.34 (2003), the Commission hereby issues its Complaint, makes the following jurisdictional findings and issues the following Order:

- A. Entering into, adhering to, participating in, maintaining, organizing, implementing, enforcing, or otherwise facilitating any combination, conspiracy, agreement, or understanding between or among any attorneys:
  - 1. To negotiate on behalf of any attorney with any Payor;
  - 2. To deal, refuse to deal, or threaten to refuse to deal with any Payor;
  - 3. Regarding any term, condition, or requirement upon which any attorney deals, or is willing to deal, with any Payor, including, but not limited to, price terms; or
  - 4. Not to deal individually with any Payor;
- B. Exchanging or facilitating in any manner the exchange or transfer of information among attorneys concerning any attorney's willingness to deal with a Payor, or the terms or conditions, including price terms, on which the attorney is willing to deal with a Payor;
- C. Attempting to engage in any action prohibited by Paragraph II.A or II.B above; and
- D. Encouraging, suggesting, advising, pressuring, inducing, or attempting to induce any person to engage in any action that would be prohibited by Paragraphs II.A through II.C above.

**PROVIDED, HOWEVER,** that, nothing in this Paragraph II shall prevent Respondents from:

- (i) Exercising rights under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution to petition any government body concerning legislation, rules or procedures;
- (ii) Providing information or views in a noncoercive manner to persons engaged in or responsible for the administration of any program to obtain legal services for persons eligible for appointed counsel.

#### III.

### **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Respondents shall:

A. Within thirty (30) days after the date on which this Order becomes final:

- 1. Send by first-class mail, with delivery confirmation, a copy of this Order and the Complaint to each attorney who signed the Indigent Defense Bar Consortium Contract; and
- 2. Send by first-class mail, with delivery confirmation, a copy of this Order and the Complaint to each Payor that contracted with any Respondent for the provision of legal services to indigents; and
- B. File verified written reports within sixty (60) days after the date this Order becomes final, annually thereafter for three (3) years on the anniversary of the date this Order becomes final, and at such other times as the Commission may by written notice require. Each report shall include:
  - 1. A detailed description of the manner and form in which Respondents have complied and are complying with this Order;
  - 2. The name, address, and telephone number of each Payor with which Respondents have had any contact; and
  - 3. Copies of the delivery confirmations required by Paragraphs III.A.1 and III.A.2.

IV.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that each Respondent shall notify the Commission of any change in his principal address within twenty (20) days of such change.

V.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that, for the purpose of determining or securing compliance with this Order, Respondents shall permit any duly authorized representative of the Commission:

- A. Access, during office hours and in the presence of counsel, to inspect and copy all non-privileged books, ledgers, accounts, correspondence, memoranda, calendars, and other records and documents in their possession, or under their control, relating to any matter contained in this Order; and
- B. Upon ten (10) days' notice to Respondents, and in the presence of counsel, and without restraint or interference from Respondents, to interview Respondents or the employees of Respondents.

# VI.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this	Order shall terminate twenty (20)	years from the
date it is issued.		

By the Commission.

Donald S. Clark Secretary

SEAL

ISSUED: