



Office of Inspector General
Legal Services Corporation

Inspector General
Jeffrey E. Schanz

3333 K Street, NW, 3rd Floor
Washington, DC 20007-3558
202.295.1660 (p) 202.337.6616 (f)
www.oig.lsc.gov

FORMER DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AT LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY INDICTED FOR THEFT

On May 22, 2018, Christoffer Denney, former Director of Information Technology (IT) at the Legal Aid Society of Orange County, Inc. (LASOC), was indicted by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California. The indictment charged Denney with theft related to his use of a LASOC credit card to purchase sports trading cards (sports memorabilia). Specifically, Denney was charged with one (1) count of 18 U.S.C. § 666(a)(1)(A); Theft From Program Receiving Federal Funds and 17 counts of 18 U.S.C. § 641; Theft of Government Property in Excess of \$1,000.

LASOC is a non-profit organization that provides free legal representation to qualifying individuals in Orange County, CA. LASOC is a federally funded organization and annually receives over four million dollars in federal grants from the Legal Services Corporation (LSC).

Jeffrey E. Schanz, Inspector General, LSC, Office of Inspector General, said: "Mr. Denney allegedly took advantage of his position as Director of IT to enrich himself by selfishly stealing LSC funds intended to serve the legal needs of the poor. In cooperation with our law enforcement partners, my office will continue to aggressively pursue criminal action against those who steal LSC grant funds."

Denney's arraignment was delayed until June 27, 2018, due to his relocation to South Carolina. He made his initial appearance in the District Court for the Central District of California in Los Angeles, CA before the Honorable Patrick J. Walsh, U.S. Magistrate Judge. His trial date has been set for February 2019 in the Central District of California before District Judge Josephine L. Staton.

The charges are merely an accusation and Denney is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

This case is being investigated by the LSC, Office of Inspector General. The United States is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys David Ryan and Ben Balding.

