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LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

**Office of Inspector General
Legal Services Corporation**
Thomas E. Yatsco, Inspector General
1825 Eye Street, NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20006
202-295-1660
www.oig.lsc.gov

Former Chief Administrative Officer of Legal Services of Eastern Michigan Pleads Guilty and is Sentenced to Probation and Restitution

On December 16, 2022, as a result of a joint investigation by the Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the OIG for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC), a criminal complaint was filed and an arrest warrant was issued for Teresa Trantham, former Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Legal Services of Eastern Michigan (LSEM).

Trantham was charged by the U.S Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Michigan, with Theft from a Program Receiving Federal Funds (18 USC 666), Theft of Government Property (18 USC 641), and Wire Fraud (18 USC 1343).

LSEM is a non-profit organization that provides civil legal assistance to qualifying individuals in Genesee County, Michigan. In fiscal year 2024, LSEM received over \$3 million from LSC and HUD.

Trantham's scheme involved the embezzlement of funds belonging to LSEM from a bank account to which she had access, as well as the submission of fraudulent reimbursement requests to LSEM.

On January 15, 2025, Trantham entered a plea of guilty to federal program theft (18 U.S.C. 666). On May 27, 2025, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan sentenced Trantham to probation for two years. The Court ordered restitution in the amount of \$25,743 payable to Legal Services of Eastern Michigan. Trantham will also be subject to the standard conditions of probation, plus an additional condition that she does not gamble or enter casinos.

On December 21, 2022, *The Detroit News* issued an article on the criminal case. Please see the article [here](#).