

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF THE BLIND, et al., )  
)  
Plaintiffs, )  
)  
v. )  
)  
JACOB J. LEW, Secretary of the Treasury, )  
)  
Defendant. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

Case No. 1:02-cv-00864-BAH

**DEFENDANT’S TENTH STATUS REPORT**

Defendant, by his undersigned counsel, hereby submits this Tenth Status Report pursuant to paragraph 4 of the Court’s Order and Judgment of October 3, 2008 (Doc. 96), and the Court’s Order of August 15, 2012 (Doc. 121), which require the defendant to file semi-annual status reports describing the steps taken to implement the Order and Judgment.

1. The Bureau of Engraving and Printing (“BEP” or “Bureau” ) continues to make progress toward implementing the Secretary of the Treasury’s decision to provide meaningful access to United States currency by (1) adding a raised tactile feature to each Federal Reserve note that the BEP may lawfully redesign, (2) continuing the Bureau’s program of adding large, high-contrast numerals and different colors to each denomination that it may lawfully redesign, and (3) implementing a supplemental currency reader distribution program for blind and other visually impaired U.S. citizens and legal residents.

2. Since the filing of Defendant’s Ninth Status Report (Doc. 123), the BEP has taken further steps toward developing an appropriate tactile feature for the currency, including conducting additional manufacturing trials, conducting several additional usability studies, and awarding a contract to conduct an acuity study. The usability studies conducted by the Bureau during the last six months include on-site studies involving the plaintiff American Council of the

Blind, the National Federation of the Blind, the Perkins School for the Blind, and Lighthouse International, among other organizations. The acuity study to be conducted by a contractor will involve 200 blind participants from across the country; the final report on this study is due January 31, 2014. Usability studies and acuity studies involve asking users (blind and other visually impaired persons) to interact with various potential tactile features. BEP is on schedule to meet the tactile feature milestones outlined in Attachment 1 to Defendant's Supplemental Status Report (Doc. 124), including selecting the application method by December 31, 2013, and selecting the application material by January 31, 2015.

3. Also to prepare for the incorporation of a tactile feature, the BEP will host, on September 26, 2013, a forum conducted by the National Council on Disability ([www.ncd.gov](http://www.ncd.gov)) entitled "Introduction of Tactile Currency in America." Representatives of the Federal Reserve Board and the United States Secret Service will attend this forum, as well as representatives of disability organizations and advocacy groups. The purpose of the forum is to give disability organizations and advocacy groups an opportunity to hear from the Government about the process of getting currency with tactile designs into circulation. Representatives from BEP, the Federal Reserve Board, and the Secret Service will engage representatives of disability organizations and advocacy groups in dialogue through questions and comments.

4. As contemplated in paragraph 5 of Defendant's Ninth Status Report, BEP recently met with representatives of eighteen domestic and international cash handling equipment manufacturers to help them prepare for the addition of a tactile feature to the currency. To that end, BEP invited the representatives to inspect a number of potential tactile features that BEP is considering. The manufacturers responded positively to the tactile feature concepts that BEP shared with them, and expressed interest in being included in future discussions and testing.

5. As stated in paragraph 6 of Defendant's Ninth Status Report, the BEP has been preparing a solicitation to procure currency readers for the currency reader distribution program. BEP expects to issue the solicitation by September 30, 2013, and to award a contract for the readers by February 28, 2014. Meanwhile, BEP continues to negotiate with the National Library Service of the Library of Congress ("NLS") for an arrangement under which NLS will assist in the distribution of currency readers and other administrative aspects of the program. The Bureau also continues to evaluate alternatives to meet the public education and communications needs of the currency reader program. BEP is on schedule to launch the currency reader program in 2015, as stated in Attachment 1 to Defendant's Supplemental Status Report.

6. BEP continues to provide access to U.S. currency to a segment of the blind and visually impaired population by developing currency-reading apps for mobile devices. As stated in earlier status reports, the BEP has developed "EyeNote," a free application for the Apple mobile operating system that allows users to scan a bank note and hear the note's value ([www.eyenote.gov](http://www.eyenote.gov)). Since the release of EyeNote in April 2011, it has been downloaded approximately 13,000 times. Recently, the BEP has assisted in the development of a new version of this app, EyeNote 2.0, which is currently being tested. This version will have a "continuous scanning" feature; the app will scan the banknote automatically upon starting, such that the user will no longer need to hold the device in a fixed position or tap the screen to capture an image of the note. EyeNote 2.0 is tentatively set for release at the end of 2013.

Dated: September 16, 2013

Respectfully submitted,

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