Final Opportunity for Resolution – Startz v. Department of the Army (25-1375)

To: Blake.W.Cowman@usdoj.gov

CC:

- Michael.D.Granston@usdoj.gov (Director, DOJ Civil Fraud Section)

- Lisa.Rein@washpost.com (Investigative Reporter, Washington Post)

- Whistleblower.Ombud@gao.gov (GAO Whistleblower Oversight Office)

- Sen\_Gillibrand@Gillibrand.Senate.gov (Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Personnel)

- whistleblower@osc.gov (Office of Special Counsel Intake)

From: Sherman S. Startz, Jr.

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Email: shelbystartz@outlook.com

Date: [Insert Today’s Date]

Dear Mr. Cowman,  
  
This is a final formal outreach regarding Startz v. Department of the Army, Federal Circuit Docket No. 25-1375.  
  
Despite repeated good-faith efforts on my part to initiate informal resolution, clarify the record, and prevent further institutional harm, the Department of Justice and the Department of the Army have repeatedly declined to engage. I have exhausted all internal remedies, requested extensions based on active FOIA disclosures, and made every effort to avoid escalation through litigation, congressional intervention, or public exposure.  
  
At this point, we are unable to determine the true posture of the opposing side. While we want to believe that DOJ and Army officials recognize the gravity of the situation, the active containment efforts, coordinated delay responses, and continued opposition to record supplementation or settlement leave no confidence that this matter will be resolved in good faith.  
  
We cannot continue to wait without a significant and timely expression that DOJ and the Department of the Army acknowledge the seriousness of the whistleblower disclosures, understand the evidentiary contradiction now emerging, and intend to settle this case in full rather than prolonging it to control the narrative or suppress accountability long-term.  
  
Specifically:  
  
- FOIA-confirmed referrals from DoD OIG to Army CID and Army IG directly contradict the DOJ’s informal brief representation that no investigative action occurred.  
- Documents withheld under law enforcement exemptions (including OIG Case #20230213-083550) directly relate to the events at issue in this appeal.  
- The retaliatory timeline (e.g., refusal to sign fraudulent material logs on June 24, 2022, and termination on June 27, 2022) is now backed by QA logs, OSC filings, and referral tracking numbers.  
- DOJ has refused to explore resolution despite multiple contacts (3/20, 3/28, 4/11), all documented and preserved.  
  
Unless I receive a substantive and affirmative response from DOJ by May 15, 2025, I will:  
  
1. File a motion to remand based on newly confirmed but withheld investigative records.  
2. Send formal notices of briefing to congressional oversight offices and investigative journalists.  
3. Finalize sealed FCA and WPA retaliation complaints, with attached FOIA exhibits and government correspondence.  
4. Document all suppression patterns in the June 30 reply brief, including contradictions between DOJ representations and FOIA-verified record.  
  
This is a final, good-faith offer to resolve this matter confidentially and with dignity. The burden now rests with DOJ to act responsibly.  
  
Sincerely,  
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