DOJ Follow-Up Email – Sherman S. Startz, Jr.

Subject: Follow-Up Regarding Case No. [Insert Federal Circuit Docket Number] – Ongoing FOIA Disclosures and Referral Confirmation  
  
To: [DOJ Trial Attorney Name]  
CC: [Optional: Sherman Startz’s email]  
From: Sherman S. Startz, Jr. (Pro Se Appellant)  
Date: [Insert Today’s Date]  
  
Dear [Attorney's Name],  
  
I’m writing to follow up on our prior correspondence regarding the above-captioned matter currently on appeal before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.  
  
Since our last exchange, I have received a formal response from the Department of Defense Office of Inspector General (FOIA Case #2025-000761) confirming that my original hotline disclosure—Case #20230213-083550—was formally received, processed, and referred to multiple investigative bodies, including:  
  
- The Department of the Army Inspector General,  
- The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Division (CID),  
- And other relevant Army components.  
  
The DoD OIG response further confirms that material related to this referral is currently withheld under FOIA exemptions relating to law enforcement sensitivity and ongoing litigation. They also directed me to pursue records directly with Army CID and IG, which I have now done.  
  
This formal acknowledgment significantly changes the factual record. It not only affirms that the underlying disclosure was valid and triggered an official investigative response, but also that relevant documentation is actively being withheld due to its connection to the current appeal. This stands in contrast to earlier characterizations of the matter in the record.  
  
Furthermore, I am concerned about the growing appearance of institutional obstruction. Despite multiple FOIA submissions directed to Army entities now confirmed to possess responsive records, there has been a consistent failure to acknowledge or release those materials. This raises serious due process issues and may warrant further review if resolution cannot be reached through informal channels.  
  
Given this development, I would like to renew my request that the Department consider a confidential resolution or remand, especially in light of newly acknowledged materials which are highly likely to surface through FOIA in the coming weeks. This option remains preferable to drawn-out litigation that may soon implicate additional statutory concerns outside the scope of MSPB, including procurement integrity, retaliation, and potential contractor misconduct.  
  
I remain open to informal discussions or structured resolution if DOJ and the Army are willing to revisit the current posture. Please feel free to contact me directly should you wish to discuss any aspect further.  
  
Sincerely,  
Sherman S. Startz, Jr.  
[Insert Phone Number]  
[Insert Email Address]