



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 MISSISSIPPI VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
IS SENTENCED FOR CONVERTING FEDERAL FUNDS

Jackson, Miss – Shirley Mae Williams, 47, of Jackson, Mississippi, former Executive Director of the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project (MVLP), in Jackson, MS, was sentenced to 5 months incarceration to be followed by 5 months of home confinement and ordered to pay a \$1,500.00 fine for her misdemeanor conviction for the theft of federal funds on January 20, 2015. MVLP received Legal Services Corporation (LSC) grant funds as a sub-grantee of both North Mississippi Rural Legal Services (NMRLS) and Mississippi Center for Legal Services (MCLS). From January 2009 through December 2012, Williams, while employed as the Executive Director, converted federal funds from MVLP to pay for a portion of her family's cellular phone expenses, a family health club membership, and fraudulent monthly payments to a cleaning company owned by her husband. The sentence imposed is in conjunction with the \$54,424 in restitution made by Williams on November 13, 2014.

In a statement issued by Jeffrey E. Schanz, Inspector General, LSC, Office of Inspector General, he states "these events represent a joint effort by the Department of Justice and the Legal Services Corporation Office of Inspector General in bringing justice to those who steal funds intended to serve the legal needs of the poor."

This case was investigated by Legal Services Corporation Office of Inspector General and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jerry Rushing of the Department of Justice.