Hon. Richard A. Jones

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

MEGAN MING FRANCIS, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,

Defendant.

No. 2:19-cv-1317-RAJ

SEVENTH JOINT STATUS REPORT

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Pursuant to the Court's March 12, 2021 Scheduling Order, plaintiffs Megan Ming Francis, Matthew J. Connelly, Mary L. Dudziak, Matthew L. Jones, Hiroshi Motomura, Campaign for Accountability, and the Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University (collectively, "Plaintiffs") and Defendant United States Department of Justice ("Defendant"), submit this Joint Status Report regarding Plaintiffs' Freedom of Information Act request for all formal written opinions of the Office of Legal Counsel ("OLC")[1] issued prior to February 15, 1994.

In accordance with the processing schedule described in the parties' Fifth Joint Status Report, *see* ECF No. 24, OLC has produced to Plaintiffs twelve lists of unclassified formal written opinion titles. The lists include all titles of unclassified formal written opinions for the years 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1955, 1956, 1957, and 1958. OLC continues to create lists and will produce the next twelve lists of unclassified opinion titles to Plaintiffs on July 8, 2021.

The only remaining issue in this case is Plaintiffs' request for attorney's fees. Due in part to recent leadership changes at OLC, Defendant is still evaluating Plaintiffs' request. The parties propose that they submit either a settlement agreement and stipulation of dismissal or an eighth Joint Status Report advising the Court of any need for further proceedings by May 28, 2021.

DATED: April 16, 2021 Respectfully submitted,

[1] As defined in Plaintiffs' FOIA request, *see* ECF No. 1-1.

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