

Dear QuiTamNet, TAFNET Members:

Some of you may know us, but others do not. In any case, we are Jim Holzrichter and Janet Chandler, successful whistleblowers in previous False Claims Act cases.

One of the questions we faced, as our cases moved to resolution, was how to give something back to the False Claims Act community, and especially to whistleblowers who have a case filed.

We know how these folks feel: often isolated, frequently anxious, and often with a peculiar set of problems which few others fully understand.

Our idea is a simple one: To forge a small group of successful whistleblowers to serve as “life mentors” for those who have a case filed, and who need a little emotional help along the way.

Towards that end, we are working with Taxpayers Against Fraud to create a whistleblower-mentoring program, and I am writing you now because we are interested in reaching out and contacting previously successful whistleblowers who might be interested in learning more about this program.



- The relator’s need for a support system:

- The collapse of trust after job termination.
- The fear of financial ruin.
- Rising isolation as old work ties collapse and wither.
- Depression.
- The need to break out of lethargy and paralysis.
- Marital and other family-pressure strains.



- What we are not:

- Your lawyer.
- A bank.
- Acting as professional psychiatrists.
- People with a political affiliation or agenda to promote.



- What we hope will develop from a mentoring program:

- A community of shared experience and hope.
- A set of tips and advice on how to strengthen personal support networks.
- A set of tips on how to get out of isolation and/or depression.
- Tips on common problems often faced:
 - Finding a new job.
 - Retooling your life to fit new circumstances.
 - Tax problems.
 - Financial management problems.
 - Keeping the seal while avoiding isolation.
 - Redefining yourself.
 - Planning for success . . . and failure.
 - Learning that life crises can bring out the best in us as we rise to meet the challenges.
 - Family and community building.
 - Strengthening the bonds of family.



- Why something new is needed:
 - The limitations of the attorney-client relationship as an emotional support system.
 - The limitations of family members also affected by stressors.
 - The dangers of communication with former coworkers.
 - The strengths to be gained from talking to an experienced and successful whistleblower.



- Attorney concerns:
 - The seal.
 - Client relations (Ethical concerns).
 - Confidentiality.
 - Dispositive information.

Notes

Contact Information

If you have a former client who you think might be interested in giving time to working with the mentors program, please contact Jim or Janet, or shoot off an email to Patrick Burns at TAF.

If you have a client who might need a mentor call
202-296-4826 ext 23

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Taxpayers Against Fraud

Mentor Project