

April 30, 2007

Dear Sir,

As a former student of the Court Reporting Institute here in Seattle, I am insisting on an explanation for why this for-profit school that left so much carnage has not been properly investigated as a criminal operation.

The Court Reporting Institute is now in the bankruptcy court here in Seattle. I believe they made that decision to avoid paying money back to the State of Washington over violations of the Consumer Protection Act that you are certainly aware of. By taking this action, they also avoided paying back money they owed to the Department of Education, and may have dodged a lawsuit against them.

Compound the above with the fact that when they closed, they did not return funds students had borrowed for future tuition and living expenses – money that was electronically deposited into CRI's accounts. Nor did they return the funds to the lenders. Students are responsible for paying the money back because they signed the loan papers. Is there another way to put this besides saying it was stolen?

CRI used Sallie Mae and Wachovia lenders. Students say they were directed to these lenders through the financial aid office. Some of these lenders are now settling with schools. If a case is made quickly, before the records disappear, then possibly students who took out these loans could be reimbursed. **BUT WE NEED YOUR IMMEDIATE HELP IF THERE IS TO BE ANY HOPE OF THIS AT ALL.** And we need your help to make sure the records are not left with Alen Janisch like they are now!

As it stands now, students are looking at debt up to \$75,000 or more, all because of their desire to get a good paying career and falling into the clutches of the con artists at the Court Reporting Institute. This is money that must be paid back to the Dept of Education for loans, even though the students did not receive the education they are stuck paying for. The number of students affected is horrendous – they enrolled several thousand students over the years at their several schools.

Time is of the essence due to the bankruptcy that is in process. Judge Karen Overstreet in Seattle is overseeing this case, and is very familiar with the circumstances of the corporation. ***Just a week ago, it was learned in her courtroom that litigation will be upcoming with the owner because, according to the attorney representing the trustee, the owner of the school drew out between \$600,000 and \$800,000 the last 6 months the school was in operation - and then ran to the bankruptcy court for protection!*** This is not even a legitimate bankruptcy – it was manufactured. And he has literally stolen money from the students and the government. If I had done one tenth of what owner Alen Janisch has done, I would be in a federal penitentiary. Why this owner and school have not been criminally investigated is beyond my comprehension after all the information that has been given by ex-students to people in authority.

As you well know, in the past couple of years Washington has been hit hard by these for-profit sleazy schools. BCTI, CRI, Go2Cert, Crown College, Bryman College – have either been closed down and then cried bankruptcy or are in ongoing or past litigation with students. (Crown College was sued three separate times and Bryman College suits are constantly being arbitrated.) But they didn't just suddenly turn bad in the past couple of years. They were bad all along and just avoided detection due to lax oversight, weak laws, and being good at doing the paper chase. Washington seems to be sending out the wrong messages about education. Legislators are constantly getting more money approved for education, but the money is all going to enrich the schools instead of training for the students.

PLEASE TAKE SOME ACTION TO HELP US QUICKLY *before we are victimized in yet another way by this school that should have been closed down years ago!* Please follow the lead of other Attorneys General across the country and get to the bottom of this while there is still time. Just because they are in the bankruptcy court does not mean you can't do the right thing here. Two wrongs do not make a right.

Feel free to contact Senator Maria Cantwell's office. She has been the only one so far who has even taken an interest in seeking justice for us and has asked the Department of Justice to impanel a grand jury.

Thank you.

Judy McKinney