



**Federal Communications Commission
Enforcement Bureau
Investigations and Hearings Division
445 12th Street, SW, Suite 4-C330
Washington, D.C. 20554**

February 16, 2005

DA 05-422

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Qasim Bokhari
(a/k/a Syed Qasim Ali Bokhari, a/k/a Kasim Bokhari)
c/o Michael J. Steinle, Esquire
Steinle Law Offices
2600 N Mayfair Rd- Suite 700
Milwaukee, WI 53226

**Re: Notice of Suspension and of Proposed Debarment,
File No. EB-04-IH-0388**

Dear Mr. Qasim Bokhari:

The Federal Communications Commission (“FCC” or “Commission”) has received notice of your January 28, 2005 conviction for mail fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 371 and 1341, and for money laundering in violation of the 18 U.S.C. § 1956(a) and (h).¹ Consequently, pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.521, this letter constitutes official notice of your suspension from the schools and libraries universal service support mechanism (“E-Rate program”). In addition, the Enforcement Bureau (“Bureau”) hereby notifies you that we are commencing debarment proceedings against you.²

I. Notice of Suspension

Pursuant to section 54.521(a)(4) of the Commission’s rules,³ Your conviction requires the Bureau to suspend you from participating in any activities associated with or related to the schools and libraries fund mechanism, including the receipt of funds or

¹*United States v. Bokhari et al*, Case No. 04-CR-0056-RTR, Plea Agreement (E.D.WI filed and entered October 22, 2004) (“*Qasim Bokhari Plea Agreement*”); *United States v. Qasim Bokhari*, Case No. 04-CR-0056-RTR, Judgment (E.D.WI filed January 28, 2005 and entered February 3, 2005).

²47 C.F.R. § 54.521; 47 C.F.R. § 0.111(a)(14) (delegating to the Enforcement Bureau authority to resolve universal service suspension and debarment proceedings pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.521).

³47 C.F.R. § 54.521(a)(4). See *Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism*, Second Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 18 FCC Rcd 9202, 9225-9227, ¶¶ 67-74 (2003) (“*Second Report and Order*”).

discounted services through the schools and libraries fund mechanism, or consulting with, assisting, or advising applicants or service providers regarding the schools and libraries support mechanism.⁴ Your suspension becomes effective upon the earlier of your receipt of this letter or publication of notice in the Federal Register.⁵

Suspension is immediate pending the Bureau's final debarment determination. You may contest this suspension or the scope of this suspension by filing arguments in opposition to the suspension, with any relevant documentation. Your request must be received within 30 days after it receives this letter or after notice is published in the Federal Register, whichever comes first.⁶ Such requests, however, will not ordinarily be granted.⁷ The Bureau may reverse or limit the scope of suspension only upon a finding of extraordinary circumstances.⁸ Absent extraordinary circumstances, the Bureau will decide any request for reversal or modification of suspension within 90 days of its receipt of such request.⁹

II. Notice of Proposed Debarment

A. Reasons for and Cause of Debarment

The Commission has established procedures to prevent persons who have "defrauded the government or engaged in similar acts through activities associated with or related to the schools and libraries support mechanism" from receiving the benefits associated with that program.¹⁰ As provided by the October 22, 2004 plea agreement upon which your conviction is based, you pled guilty to mail fraud and money laundering offenses for activities in connection with your participation, through your Virginia-based consulting company, in the E-Rate program with certain schools in Wisconsin and Illinois. In connection with the mail fraud offenses, you admitted to conspiring and carrying out, with other co-conspirators, the following acts: (1) illegally inducing certain Wisconsin and Illinois schools to select your consulting company as the schools' E-Rate service provider by promising school officials that their school would not have to pay their undiscounted share of the cost under the E-Rate program; (2) taking over those schools' role in completing and submitting E-Rate applications, and causing those schools to enter into unnecessarily large contracts for infrastructure enhancements under the E-Rate program;

⁴*Second Report and Order*, 18 FCC Rcd at 9225, ¶ 67; 47 U.S.C. § 254; 47 C.F.R §§ 54.502-54.503; 47 C.F.R. § 54.521(a)(4).

⁵*Second Report and Order*, 18 FCC Rcd at 9226, ¶ 69; 47 C.F.R. § 54.521(e)(1).

⁶*Second Report and Order*, 18 FCC Rcd at 9226, ¶ 70; 47 C.F.R. § 54.521(e)(4).

⁷*Second Report and Order*, 18 FCC Rcd at 9226, ¶ 70.

⁸47 C.F.R. § 54.521(e)(5).

⁹*See Second Report and Order*, 18 FCC Rcd at 9226, ¶ 70; 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.521(e)(5), 54.521(f).

¹⁰*Second Report and Order*, 18 FCC Rcd at 9225, ¶ 66. The Commission's debarment rules define a "person" as "[a]ny individual, group of individuals, corporation, partnership, association, unit of government or legal entity, however, organized." 47 C.F.R. § 54.521(a)(6).

(3) submitting materially false and fraudulent invoices and other documents to the E-Rate program claiming that the schools have been billed for their undiscounted share; (4) submitting materially false and fraudulent invoices and other documents to the E-Rate program claiming that certain work had been performed and goods supplied to the schools; and (5) receiving payment from the E-Rate program for goods and services that you fraudulently claimed your consulting company had provided to the schools.¹¹ In connection with the money laundering offenses, you admitted to conspiring and carrying out, with other co-conspirators, an unlawful scheme to transfer the fraudulently obtained E-Rate payments from the United States to Pakistan through the unknowing services of other individuals designed, in whole or in part, to conceal and disguise the nature, location, source, ownership, and control of these monies.¹² These actions constitute the conduct or transactions upon which this debarment proceeding is based.¹³ Moreover, your conviction on the basis of these acts falls within the categories of causes for debarment defined in section 54.521(c) of the Commission's rules.¹⁴ Therefore, pursuant to section 54.521(a)(4) of the Commission's rules, your conviction requires the Bureau to commence debarment proceedings against you.

B. Debarment Procedures

You may contest debarment or the scope of the proposed debarment by filing arguments and any relevant documentation within 30 calendar days of the earlier of the receipt of this letter or of publication in the Federal Register.¹⁵ Absent extraordinary circumstances, the Bureau will debar you.¹⁶ Within 90 days of receipt of any opposition to your suspension and proposed debarment, the Bureau, in the absence of extraordinary circumstances, will provide you with notice of its decision to debar.¹⁷ If the Bureau decides to debar you, its decision will become effective upon the earlier of your receipt of a debarment notice or publication of the decision in the Federal Register.¹⁸

¹¹See *Qasim Bokhari Plea Agreement* at 1-5.

¹²See *Qasim Bokhari Plea Agreement* at 1, 6-9.

¹³*Second Report and Order*, 18 FCC Rcd at 9226, ¶ 70; 47 C.F.R. § 54.521(e)(2)(i).

¹⁴“Causes for suspension and debarment are the conviction of or civil judgment for attempt or commission of criminal fraud, theft, embezzlement, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, receiving stolen property, making false claims, obstruction of justice and other fraud or criminal offense arising out of activities associated with or related to the schools and libraries support mechanism.” 47 C.F.R. § 54.521(c). Such activities “include the receipt of funds or discounted services through the schools and libraries support mechanism, or consulting with, assisting, or advising applicants or service providers regarding schools and libraries support mechanism described in this section ([47 C.F. R.] § 54.500 et seq.)” 47 C.F.R. § 54.521(a)(1).

¹⁵See *Second Report and Order*, 18 FCC Rcd at 9226, ¶ 70; 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.521(e)(2)(i), 54.521(e)(3).

¹⁶*Second Report and Order*, 18 FCC Rcd at 9227, ¶ 74.

¹⁷See *id.*, 18 FCC Rcd at 9226, ¶ 70; 47 C.F.R. § 54.521(e)(5).

¹⁸*Id.* The Commission may reverse a debarment, or may limit the scope or period of debarment upon a finding of extraordinary circumstances, following the filing of a petition by you or an interested party or upon motion by the Commission. 47 C.F.R. § 54.521(f).

C. Effect of Debarment

If and when your debarment becomes effective, you will be prohibited from participating in activities associated with or related to the schools and libraries support mechanism for at least three years from the date of debarment.¹⁹ The Bureau may, if necessary to protect the public interest, extend the debarment period.²⁰

Please direct any responses to the following address:

Diana Lee
Federal Communications Commission
Enforcement Bureau
Investigations and Hearings Division
Room 4-C443
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

If you submit your response via hand-delivery or non-United States Postal Service delivery (e.g., Federal Express, DHL, etc.), please send the response to Ms. Lee at the following address:

Federal Communications Commission
9300 East Hampton Drive
Capitol Heights, MD 20743

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Lee via mail, by telephone at (202) 418-0843 or by e-mail at diana.lee@fcc.gov.

Sincerely yours,

William H. Davenport
Chief
Investigations and Hearings Division
Enforcement Bureau

cc: Carla Stern, Assistant United States Attorney, DOJ (E-mail)
Kristy Carroll, Esq., USAC (E-mail)

¹⁹*Second Report and Order*, 18 FCC Rcd at 9225, ¶ 67; 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.521(d), 54.521(g).

²⁰*Id.*