**Federal Communications Commission**

Enforcement Bureau
Investigations and Hearings Division
45 L Street, NE
Washington, DC 20554

September 3, 2026

**DA 26-894**

**VIA CERTIFIED MAIL, RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Mr. Shawn Clemmons
c/o Steven S. Nolder, Esq.
Steven S. Nolder, Attorney at Law
65 E State St., Suite 200
Columbus Ohio 43215

**Re: Notice of Debarment, File No. EB-IHD-25-00038475**

Dear Mr. Clemmons:

The Enforcement Bureau (Bureau) of the Federal Communications Commission (Commission or FCC) hereby notifies you that, pursuant to section 54.8 of the Commission's rules, you are prohibited from participating in activities associated with or related to the federal schools and libraries universal service support mechanism (E-Rate program) and any other program funded by federal universal service support mechanisms for three years, commencing on either the date of your receipt of this Notice of Debarment or of its publication in the Federal Register, whichever comes first (Debarment Date).[1]

On April 7, 2026, the Bureau sent you a notice of suspension and initiation of debarment proceeding (*Notice of Suspension*) that was published in the Federal Register on April 13, 2026.[2] The *Notice of Suspension* suspended you from participating in or receiving any benefit associated with the E-Rate program as well as any other program funded by federal universal service support mechanisms.[3] It

[1] 47 CFR § 54.8 (e), (g); 47 CFR § 0.111 (delegating to the Bureau authority to resolve universal service suspension and debarment proceedings). The Commission adopted debarment rules for the E-Rate program in 2003. *See Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism*, Second Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 18 FCC Rcd 9202 (2003) (*Second Report and Order*) (adopting section 54.521 to suspend and debar parties from the E-Rate program). In 2007, the Commission extended the debarment rules to apply to all federal universal service support mechanisms. *See Comprehensive Review of the Universal Service Fund Management, Administration, & Oversight*, Report and Order, 22 FCC Rcd 16372, 16410–12 (2007) (*Program Management Order*) (renumbering section 54.521 of the universal service debarment rules as section 54.8 and amending subsections (a)(1), (a)(5), (c), (d), (e)(2)(i), (e)(3), (e)(4), and (g)). On March 26, 2026, new rules were adopted allowing the Commission to take quicker and more comprehensive action to exclude bad actors from participating in Congressionally-mandated funding programs. *See Modernizing Suspension & Debarment Rules*, GN Docket No. 19-309, Report & Order, Direct Final Rule, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 26-18 (Mar. 27, 2026).

[2] Letter from Christopher J. Sova, Chief, Investigations and Hearings Division, FCC Enforcement Bureau, to Shawn Clemmons, Notice of Suspension and Initiation of Debarment Proceeding, 91 Fed. Reg. 18847 (April 13, 2026) (*Notice of Suspension*).

[3] *Id*.

also described the basis for initiating the debarment proceeding against you, the applicable debarment procedures, and the effect of debarment.[4]

As discussed in the *Notice of Suspension*, on October 23, 2019, you pleaded guilty to making a false claim that involved deceptively using the E-Rate invoicing and reimbursement process.[5] As the executive director of South Central Ohio Computer Association (SCOCA), you made and presented to the Universal Service Administrative Company a false claim that SCOCA was in compliance with the E-Rate program rules, when you knew that to be untrue, and SCOCA was therefore ineligible to receive E-Rate funds.[6] Pursuant to section 54.8(c) of the Commission's rules, your conviction of criminal conduct in connection with the E-Rate program is the basis for this debarment.[7]

In accordance with the Commission's debarment rules, you were required to file with the Commission any opposition to the suspension or its scope, or to the proposed debarment or its scope, within 30 calendar days from your receipt of the *Notice of Suspension* or of its publication in the Federal Register, whichever was earlier.[8] The Commission received no opposition.

For the above reasons, you are debarred from involvement with the E-Rate program for three years from the Debarment Date.[9] During this debarment period, you are excluded from participating in any activities associated with or related to the E-Rate program and any other program funded by federal universal service support mechanisms, including the receipt of funds or discounted services through the E-Rate program, or consulting with, assisting, or advising applicants or service providers regarding the E-Rate program.[10]

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Sova
Chief
Investigations and Hearings Division
Enforcement Bureau

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[4] *Id*.

[5] *See Notice of Suspension* at 2*; see also United States v. Shawn Clemmons*, Case No. 2:19-cr-00226-EAS, Information (S.D. Ohio, filed Oct. 22, 2019) (*Information*); *United States v. Shawn Clemmons*, Case No. 2:19-cr-00226-EAS, Plea Agreement (S.D. Ohio, filed Oct. 23, 2019).

[6] *Information* at 5; *Notice of Suspension* at 2-3.

[7] 47 CFR § 54.8(c).

[8] 47 CFR § 54.8 (e)(3)–(4). Any opposition had to be filed no later than May 13, 2026.

[9] 47 CFR § 54.8(g).

[10] 47 CFR § 54.8(a)(1), (d), (g).

cc: Fred Theobald, Universal Service Administrative Company (via e-mail)