

Claimants Representative Committee

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Mr. Greg Schneider
Executive Vice President
The Jewish Claims Conference
1359 Broadway
New York, NY 10018

Re: Claims Conference: Late Applicant Fund (LAF)

Dear Greg:

As your annual meeting approaches the CRC would like to take this opportunity to once again address the issue of the necessity of returning Nazi stolen property to the families (Nazi victims and their heirs) from whom it was illegally taken.

Last year we met in September to discuss the issue of whether the Claims Conference had enacted the changes we had requested to the LAF program. Unfortunately, at that time you told me that this issue was not taken up by your board, but was only discussed in committee. You also recommended that we wait and see if your board takes up this matter next year (July 2014).

I told you at that time that CRC would not wait until next year to go public with its just demands that the Claims Conference return to our clients the property which was illegally stolen from them by the Nazis. As you know we subsequently filed a Complaint with the New York Attorney General's office and have discussed this matter in the media.

As we discussed with you last year, the reasons why we decided to take actions against the Claims Conference has to do with the inadequacy of the LAF program. In our view it is inadequately funded and does not guarantee the claimant the right to adequately and fairly obtain the return of his/her family property. In addition, many of our clients believe that it borders on being fraudulent since it requires the release of claims before the amount of the award is determined.

As you know, the Gurlitt affair has re-ignited public interest in the matter of returning Nazi stolen property to the families who lost it. In the Gurlitt matter the Claims Conference has quite correctly taken the position that stolen artworks need to be returned to the victims who lost it and to their heirs.

Yet when the same families request the return of their Nazi stolen property from the Claims Conference they are met by a different response. They are "late", the Claims Conference has better plans for their property, the rights of Nazi victims and their heirs are somehow less when such property has been obtained by the Claims Conference, even though there is absolutely no difference between the Nazi victim whose property ended up with Gurlitt or with the Claims Conference. The cold truth is that their property was stolen from them by the Nazis and by all of the laws of man and by all morality needs to be returned to them. It is that simple.

During our previous discussions, you always brought up the fact that these funds would be used for your home care project for Holocaust survivors. The CRC applauds this program and supports it. But, the CRC does not believe that it is the duty of Nazi victims to pay for this program. And, when we found out last year in April 2013 that the German government would fund this program in the amount of approximately one billion USD, we thought that the Claims Conference would finally do the right thing and return to our clients the property which was stolen from them.

You can of course imagine our surprise when not only did this not happen, but that you did not even address this issue at your annual board meeting.

Now, the Claims Conference has an historic opportunity to do the right thing. To agree to fairly and adequately fund the LAF program and to restore to our clients the property which was illegally stolen from them by the Nazis. Here we ask that the Claims Conference treat all LAF claimants just like Goodwill Fund claimants were treated in the past.

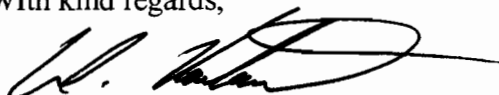
We think that if you look into your hearts, you will find there the humanity and the courage to do this, which is no less than what we would expect from a Jewish organization which has been tasked with a great historical responsibility.

With respect to this, we are watching, our clients are watching, and in fact the world is watching to see if justice will be done.

Finally, we would be remiss if we did not point out that many of our clients continue to weigh their options, they seek justice and they hope that the Claims Conference will be wise enough to give it to them. However, if this chance is missed, and the Claims Conference turns away from them, they will pursue their rights in the other forums which are available to them.

Should you wish to meet and discuss this further we are available.

With kind regards,



David J. Rowland
Member, Claimants Representative Committee

Cc: Eric Schneiderman, New York Attorney General
CRC Members
Julius Berman, Esq.
Karen Heilig, Esq.
Claims Conference Board of Directors
President Barack Obama
Chancellor Angela Merkel