

ATLANTA LEGAL AID SOCIETY, INC.

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(404) 524-5811

November 13, 2008

Ms. Sheila Bair
Chair, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
550 17th Street, NW
Room 6028
Washington, DC 20429

Dear Ms Bair:

I am writing as the Executive Director of the Atlanta Legal Aid Society, a recipient of IOLTA funds in Georgia, to urge the Interim Rule regarding the Transaction Account Guarantee Program of the Temporary Liquidity Program (TLGP) be amended to include coverage for IOLTA accounts.

You should already have the Comments of Jeffrey O. Bramlett, the President of the State Bar of Georgia, which sets forth why not including IOLTA accounts in the TLGP would have such serious unintended effects in Georgia. As an IOLTA recipient in Georgia, we are particularly concerned about how IOLTA accounts would be jeopardized.

Since the early 1980's IOLTA funds have been more and more important to support civil legal services in Georgia. The majority of IOLTA funds have traditionally gone to our program and to the Georgia Legal Services Program, which are the only two general providers of civil legal assistance throughout the State of Georgia. Last year over \$4 million of IOLTA funds were distributed to our two program, funding which supported the salaries and benefits of about half of the legal aid lawyers in the State. IOLTA funds in fact were only exceeded by those provided by the federal Legal Services Corporation. These funds were also particularly critical because they provided general support for legal aid to the poor and were not limited to particular types of representation; therefore they could fill the gaps to do work which, while not trendy or on the issue of the day, provided core basic services to low income people -- to protect their homes, protect them against domestic violence, or protect them against consumer frauds.

Of course IOLTA funding has become critical to the provision of legal services to low income people across the country, and so that important work will be put at risk not only here in Georgia, as President Bramlett has indicated, but throughout the United States.

I therefore urge the FDIC to include IOLTA account in the Transaction Account Guarantee Program.

Sincerely,

Steve Gottlieb
Executive Director