



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

December 30, 2013

Re: Request No. 2011-07-087

Mr. Michael L. Stern  
8529 Century Oak Court  
Fairfax Station, VA 22039

Dear Mr. Stern:

This is the Department of the Treasury's final response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated July 11, 2011, in which you request "all documents that contain, discuss, refer or relate to any legal opinion or analysis by the Treasury Department General Counsel, or any attorney thereof, of Section Four of the Fourteenth Amendment (also known as the Public Debt Clause), or any application or potential application of Section Four to the statutory debt limit."

I am releasing 432 pages in full or in part, and I am withholding 323 pages in full. The information being withheld is protected from disclosure under the FOIA pursuant to 5 U.S.C. §§ 552(b)(5) and (b)(6).<sup>1</sup> Exemption 5 pertains to certain inter- and intra-agency communications protected by the deliberative process privilege. Exemption 6 concerns records or information the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. In addition, for certain published materials (e.g. books, law review articles), I am releasing only the cover page of the published item.

If you are dissatisfied with the Department's action on your request, you may appeal within thirty-five (35) days. Your appeal must be in writing, signed by you or your representative, and should contain the rationale for the appeal. Your appeal should be addressed to: Freedom of Information Appeal, Disclosure Services, DO, Department of the Treasury, Washington, D.C. 20220.

Sincerely,

Digitally signed by Ryan Law  
DN: cn=Ryan Law, o=Disclosure  
Services, ou=U.S. Department of  
the Treasury,  
email=FOIA@treasury.gov, c=US  
Date: 2013.12.30 14:08:11 -0500

Ryan Law  
Director, Disclosure Services

<sup>1</sup> Though Exemption 5 does pertain to some of the pages I am releasing, I have determined to release those pages as a matter of discretion, in accordance with the March 19, 2009 guidance from the Attorney General of the United States ("I strongly encourage agencies to make discretionary disclosures of information.").