

SENATE  
S. No. 1509

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill is an adaptation of the US False Claims Act that seeks to combat financial fraud perpetrated against the government by individuals and companies.

In the United States, the False Claims Act has proven to be one of the most effective tools in fighting all types of financial fraud perpetrated against the government. It contained *qui tam* provisions that allow private citizens to sue, on the government's behalf, companies and individuals that are defrauding the government. *Qui tam* is short for a Latin phrase, "*qui tam pro domino rege quam pro se ipso in hac parte sequitur*," which roughly means, "he who brings an action for the king as well as for himself."

The *qui tam* provisions have been the key to the law's success. Many people who file *qui tam* lawsuits (called the "relators") are employees or former employees of companies that commit fraud, but anyone who knows of an instance where the government has paid false claims can file a *qui tam* lawsuit. That could be, for example, a competitor, a subcontractor, or even a patient.

The whistleblower does not need to have personal knowledge of the fraud to file a False Claims Act case. The lawsuit can be based on information the relator learned from a friend, a relative, a competitor, etc. As long as the individual is not publicly disclosed and the government has not already sued the individual or company for the fraud, the relator may bring a *qui tam* lawsuit.

The False Claims Act has encouraged a number of individuals to step forward and report fraud because it gives whistleblowers pecuniary incentives. Since 1986, the US government has

recovered more than \$3.5 billion as a result of *qui tam* lawsuits (Department of Justice Statistics, as of February 24, 2000).

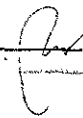
This bill also seeks to give whistleblowers a share of the recoveries that result from *qui tam* lawsuits to give people a strong incentive to step forward and take the personal and professional risks involved in pursuing a false claim lawsuit; hence, reducing fraud perpetrated against the government. \*

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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\* This bill was originally filed during the Thirteenth Congress.

SENATE  
S. No. **1509**

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 AN ACT  
2 TO COMBAT FINANCIAL FRAUD PERPETRATED AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

3 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “False Claims Act.”

4 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State to  
5 give priority to the enactment and enforcement of stronger measures to combat financial fraud  
6 perpetrated against the government by individuals and companies.

7 SECTION 3. *False Claims.* – (I) Liability for certain acts - Any person who –

8 (A) knowingly presents, or causes to be presented, to an officer or employee of  
9 the government or a member of the Armed Forces of the Philippines a false or fraudulent  
10 claim for payment or approval;

11 (B) knowingly makes, uses, or causes to be made or used, a false record or  
12 statement to get a false or fraudulent claim paid or approved by the government;

13 (C) conspires to defraud the government by getting a false or fraudulent claim  
14 allowed or paid;

15 (D) has possession, custody, or control of property or money used, or to be used,  
16 by the government and, intending to defraud the government, willfully conceals the  
17 property, delivers, or causes to be delivered, less property than the amount for which the  
18 person receives a certificate or receipt;

19 (E) authorizes to make or deliver a document certifying receipt of property used,  
20 or to be used, by the government and, intending to defraud the government, makes or

1 delivers the receipt without completely knowing that the information on the receipt is  
2 true;

3 (F) knowingly buys, or receives as a pledge of an obligation or debt, public  
4 property from an officer or employee of the government, or a member of the Armed  
5 Forces, who may not lawfully sell or pledge the property; or

6 (G) knowingly makes, uses, or causes to be made or used, a false record or  
7 statement to conceal, avoid, or decrease an obligation to pay or transmit money or  
8 property to the government, is liable to the government for a civil penalty of not less than  
9 Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (P200,000.00) but not more than Four Hundred Thousand  
10 Pesos (P400,000.00), plus three times the amount of damages which the government  
11 sustains because of the act of that person, except that if the court finds that -

12 (i) the person committing the violation of this Act furnished officials of the  
13 government responsible for investigating false claims violations with all  
14 information known to such person about the violation within thirty (30) days after  
15 the date on which the defendant first obtained the information;

16 (ii) such person fully cooperated with any government investigation of such  
17 violation; and

18 (iii) at the time such person furnished the government with the information  
19 about the violation, no criminal prosecution, civil action, or administrative action  
20 had commenced under this Act with respect to such violation, and the person did  
21 not have actual knowledge of the existence of an investigation into such violation;  
22 the court may assess not less than two times the amount or damages which the  
23 government sustains because of the act of the person. A person violating this  
24 section shall also be liable to the government for the costs of a civil action  
25 brought to recover any such penalty or damages.

26 (2) Knowing and Knowingly Defined - For purposes of this Act, the terms "knowing"  
27 and "knowingly" mean that a person, with respect to information -

28 (A) has actual knowledge of the information;

29 (B) acts in deliberate ignorance of the truth or falsity of the information; or

1 (C) acts in reckless disregard of the truth or falsity of the information, and no proof  
2 of specific intent to defraud is required.

3 (3) Claim Defined - For purposes of this section, "claim" includes any request or demand,  
4 whether under a contract or otherwise, for money or property which is made to a contractor,  
5 grantee, or other recipient for any portion of the money or property which is requested or  
6 demanded, or if the government will reimburse such contractor, grantee, or other recipient for  
7 any portion of the money or property which is requested or demanded.

8 (4) Exclusion - This section does not apply to claims, records, or statements made under  
9 the National Internal Revenue Code.

10 SECTION 4. *Civil Actions for False Claims.* -

11 (1) Responsibilities of the Solicitor General - The Solicitor General shall investigate a  
12 violation under Section 3. If the Solicitor General finds that a person has violated or is violating  
13 Section 3, he may bring a civil action under this section against that person.

14 (2) Actions by Private Persons - (A) A person may bring a civil action for a violation of  
15 section 3 for the person and for the government. The action shall be brought in the name of the  
16 government. The action may be dismissed only if the court and the Solicitor General give written  
17 consent to the dismissal and their reasons for consenting.

18 (B) A copy of the complaint and written disclosure or substantially all material  
19 evidence and information the person possesses shall be served on the government  
20 pursuant to the pertinent provisions of the Rules of Court on Civil Procedure. The  
21 complaint shall remain under seal for at least sixty (60) days and shall not be served on  
22 the defendant until the court so orders. The government may elect to intervene and  
23 proceed with the action within sixty (60) days after it receives both the complaint and the  
24 material evidence and information.

25 (C) The government may, for good cause shown, move the court for extensions of  
26 the time during which the complaint remains under seal. Any such motions may be  
27 supported by affidavits. The defendant shall not be required to respond to any complaint

1 filed under this section until twenty (20) days after the complaint is unsealed and served  
2 upon the defendant.

3 (D) Before the expiration of the sixty (60) day period, the government shall –

4 (i) proceed with the action, in which case the action shall be conducted by the  
5 government; or

6 (ii) notify the court that it declines to take over the action, in which case the  
7 person bringing the action shall have the right to conduct the action

8 (E) When a person brings an action under this section, no person other than the  
9 government may intervene or bring a related action on the facts underlying the pending  
10 action.

11 (3) Rights of the Parties to *Qui Tam* Actions - (A) If the government proceeds with the  
12 action, it shall have the primary responsibility for prosecuting the action, and shall not be bound  
13 by an act of the person bringing the action. Such person shall have the right to continue as a party  
14 to the action, subject to the limitations set forth in paragraph (13).

15 (B) (i) The government may dismiss the action, notwithstanding the objections of  
16 the person initiating the action, if the person has been notified by the government of the  
17 filing of the motion and the court has provided the person with an opportunity for a  
18 hearing, on the motion.

19 (ii) The government may settle the action with the defendant, notwithstanding  
20 the objections of the person initiating the action, if the court determines, after  
21 hearing, that the proposed settlement is fair, adequate, and reasonable under all the  
22 circumstances.

23 (iii) Upon showing by the government that unrestricted participation during the  
24 course of the litigation by the person initiating the action would interfere with or  
25 unduly delay the government's prosecution of the case, or would be repetitious,  
26 irrelevant, or for purposes of harassment, the court may, in its discretion, impose  
27 limitations on the person's participation, such as -

28 (a) limiting the number of witnesses the person may call;

29 (b) limiting the length of the testimony of such witnesses;

1 (c) limiting the person's cross-examination of the witnesses; or

2 (d) otherwise limiting the participation by the person in litigation.

3 (iv) Upon a showing by the defendant that unrestricted participation during the  
4 course of the litigation by the person initiating the action would be for purposes of  
5 harassment or would cause the defendant undue burden or unnecessary expense, the  
6 court may limit the participation by the person in the litigation.

7 (C) If the government elects not to proceed with the action, the person who initiated  
8 the action shall have the right to conduct the action. If the government so requests, it shall  
9 be served with copies of all pleadings filed in the action and shall be supplied with copies  
10 of all deposition transcripts (at the government's expense). When a person proceeds with  
11 the action, the court, without limiting the status and rights of the person initiating the  
12 action, may nevertheless permit the government to intervene at a later date upon a  
13 showing of good cause.

14 (D) Whether or not the government proceeds with the action, upon a showing by the  
15 government that certain actions of discovery by the person initiating the action would  
16 interfere with the government's investigation or prosecution of a criminal or civil matter  
17 arising out of the same facts, the court may stay such discovery for a period of not more  
18 than sixty (60) days. The court may extend the 60-day period upon a further showing that  
19 the government has pursued the criminal or civil investigation or proceedings with  
20 reasonable diligence and any proposed discovery in the civil action will interfere with the  
21 ongoing criminal or civil investigation or proceedings.

22 (4) Award to *Qui Tam* Plaintiff - (A) If the government proceeds with an action brought  
23 by a person under subsection (2), such person shall, subject to the second sentence of this  
24 paragraph, receive at least fifteen percent (15%) but not more than twenty-five percent (25%) of  
25 the proceeds of the action or settlement of the claim, depending upon the extent to which the  
26 person substantially contributed to the prosecution of the action. Where the action is one which  
27 the court finds to be based primarily on disclosures of specific information (other than  
28 information provided by the person bringing the action) relating to allegations or transactions in  
29 a criminal, civil, or administrative hearing, in a congressional, administrative, report, hearing,

1 audit, or investigation, or from the news media, the court may award such sums as it considers  
2 appropriate, but in no case more than ten percent (10%) of the proceeds, taking into account the  
3 significance of the information and the role of the person bringing the action in advancing the  
4 case to litigation. Any payment to a person under the first or second sentence of this paragraph  
5 shall be made from the proceeds. Any such person shall also receive an amount for reasonable  
6 expenses which the court finds to have been necessarily incurred, plus reasonable attorney's fees  
7 and costs. All such expenses, fees, and costs shall be awarded against the defendant.

8 (B) If the government does not proceed with an action under this section, the  
9 person bringing the action or settling the claim shall receive an amount which the court  
10 decides is reasonable for collecting the civil penalty and damages. The amount shall be  
11 not less than twenty-five percent (25%) and not more than thirty percent (30%) of the  
12 proceeds of the action or settlement and shall be paid out of such proceeds. Such person  
13 shall also receive an amount for reasonable expenses which the court finds to have been  
14 necessarily incurred, plus reasonable attorney's fees and costs. All such expenses, fees,  
15 and costs shall be awarded against the defendant.

16 (C) Whether or not the government proceeds with the action, if the court finds  
17 that the action was brought by a person who planned and initiated the violation of section  
18 3 upon which the action was brought, then the court may, to the extent the court considers  
19 appropriate, reduce the share of the proceeds of the action which the person would  
20 otherwise receive under paragraph (A) or (B) of this section, taking into account the role  
21 of that person in advancing the case to litigation and any relevant circumstances  
22 pertaining to the violation. If the person bringing the action is convicted of criminal  
23 conduct arising from his or her role in the violation of section 3, that person shall be  
24 dismissed from the civil action and shall not receive any share of the proceeds of the  
25 action. Such dismissal shall not prejudice the right of the government to continue the  
26 action, represented by the Department of Justice.

27 (D) If the government does not proceed with the action and the person bringing  
28 the action conducts the action, the court may award to the defendant its reasonable  
29 attorney's fees and expenses if the defendant prevails in the action and the court finds that



1 the claim of the person bringing the action was clearly frivolous, clearly vexatious, or  
2 brought primarily for purposes of harassment.

3 (5) Certain Actions Barred - (A) No court shall have jurisdiction over an action brought  
4 by a former or present member of the armed forces under subsection (2) of this section against a  
5 member of the Armed Forces arising out of such person's service in the Armed Forces;

6 (B) No court shall have jurisdiction over an action brought under subsection (2)  
7 against a member of Congress, a member of the judiciary, or a senior executive branch  
8 official if the action is based on evidence or information known to the government when  
9 the action was brought.

10 (C) In no event may a person bring an action under subsection (2) which is based  
11 upon allegations or transactions which are the subject of a civil suit or an administrative  
12 civil money penalty proceeding in which the government is already a party.

13 (D) (i) No court shall have jurisdiction over an action under this section based  
14 upon the public disclosure of allegations or transactions in a criminal, civil, or  
15 administrative hearing, in a congressional, administrative report, hearing, audit, or  
16 investigation, or from the news media, unless the action is brought by the Solicitor  
17 General or the person bringing the action is an original source of the information.

18 (ii) For purposes of this paragraph, "original source" means an individual  
19 who has direct and independent knowledge of the information on which the  
20 allegations are based and has voluntarily provided the information to the  
21 government before filing an action under this section which is based on the  
22 information.

23 (6) Government not liable for certain expenses - The government is not liable for  
24 expenses which a person incurs in bringing an action under this section.

25 (7) Any employee who is discharged, demoted, suspended, threatened, harassed, or in  
26 any manner discriminated against in the terms and conditions of employment by his or her  
27 employer because of lawful acts done by the employee on behalf of the employee or others in  
28 furtherance of an action under this section, including investigation for, initiation of, testimony  
29 for, or assistance in an action filed or to be filed under this section, shall be entitled to all relief

1 necessary to make the employee whole. Such relief shall include reinstatement with the same  
2 seniority status such employee would have had but for the discrimination, two times the amount  
3 of back pay, interest on the back pay, and compensation for any special damages sustained as a  
4 result of the discrimination, including litigation costs and reasonable attorney's fees.

5

6 SECTION 5. *False Claims Procedure.* - (1) A subpoena requiring the attendance of a  
7 witness at a trial or hearing conducted under section 4 of this Act may be served at any place in  
8 the Philippines;

9 (2) A civil action under section 4 may not be brought - (A) more than six (6) years after  
10 the date on which the violation of section 3 is committed, or (B) more than three (3) years after  
11 the date when facts material to the right of action are known or reasonably should have been  
12 known by the official of the government charged with responsibility to act in the circumstances,  
13 but in no event more than ten (10) years after the date on which the violation is committed,  
14 whichever occurs last.

15 (3) In any action brought under section 4, the government shall be required to prove, all  
16 essential elements of the cause of action, including damages, by a preponderance of the  
17 evidence.

18 (4) Notwithstanding any other provision of law or the Rules of Criminal Procedure, a  
19 final judgment rendered in favor of the government in any criminal proceeding charging fraud or  
20 false statements, whether upon a verdict after trial or upon a plea of guilty, shall stop the  
21 defendant from denying the essential elements of the offense in any action which involves the  
22 same transaction as in the criminal proceeding and which is brought under subsection (1) or (2)  
23 of section 4.

24

25 SECTION 6. *False Claims Jurisdiction.* - Any action under section 4 may be brought in  
26 any court in which the defendant or, in the case of multiple defendants, any one defendant can be  
27 found, resides, transacts business, in which any act proscribed by section 4 occurred. A summons  
28 as required by the Rules of Civil Procedure shall be issued by the appropriate court and served at  
29 any place within or outside the country.

1           SECTION 7. *Civil Investigative Demands.* -

2           (I) In General - (A) Issuance and service - Whenever the Solicitor General has reason to  
3 believe that any person may be in possession, custody, or control of any documentary material or  
4 information relevant to a false claims law investigation, the Solicitor General may, before  
5 commencing a civil proceeding under section 4 or other false claims law, issue in writing and  
6 cause to be served upon such person, a civil investigative demand requiring such person -

7                   (i) to produce such documentary material for inspection and copying;

8                   (ii) to answer in writing written interrogatories with respect to such documentary  
9 material or information;

10                  (iii) to give oral testimony concerning such documentary material or information;

11           or

12                  (iv) to furnish any combination of such material, answers, or testimony.

13           The Solicitor General may not delegate the authority to issue civil investigative demands  
14 under this subsection. Whenever a civil investigative demand is an express demand for any  
15 product of discovery, the Solicitor General shall cause to be served, in any manner authorized by  
16 this section, a copy of such demand upon the person from whom the discovery was obtained and  
17 shall notify the person to whom such demand is issued of the date on which such copy was  
18 served.

19           (B) Contents and deadlines -

20                  (i) Each civil investigative demand issued under paragraph (A) shall state the  
21 nature of the conduct constituting the alleged violation of a false claims law which is  
22 under investigation, and the applicable provision of law alleged to be violated.

23                  (ii) If such demand is for the production of documentary material, the demand  
24 shall -

25                  (a) describe each class of documentary material to be produced with such definiteness  
26 and certainty as to permit such material to be fairly identified;

1 (b) prescribe a return date for each such class which will provide a reasonable period of  
2 time within which the material so demanded may be assembled and made available for  
3 inspection and copying; and

4 (c) identify the false claims law investigator to whom such material shall be made  
5 available.

6 (iii) If such demand is for answers to written interrogatories, the demand shall -

7 (a) set forth with specificity the written interrogatories to be answered;

8 (b) prescribe dates at which time answers to written interrogatories shall  
9 be submitted; and

10 (c) identify the false claims law investigator to whom such answers shall  
11 be submitted.

12 (iv) If such demand is for the giving of oral testimony, the demand shall -

13 (a) prescribe a date, time, and place at which oral testimony shall be  
14 commenced;

15 (b) identify a false claims law investigator who shall conduct the  
16 examination and the custodian to whom the transcript of such examination shall be  
17 submitted;

18 (c) specify that such attendance and testimony are necessary to the  
19 conduct of the investigation;

20 (d) notify the person receiving the demand of the right to be accompanied  
21 by an attorney and any other representative; and

22 (e) describe the general purpose for which the demand is being issued and  
23 the general nature of the testimony, including the primary areas of inquiry, which  
24 will be taken pursuant to the demand.

25 (v) Any civil investigative demand issued under this section which is an express  
26 demand for any product of discovery shall not be returned or returnable until twenty (20)  
27 days after a copy of such demand has been served upon the persons from whom the  
28 directory was obtained.

1 (vi) The date prescribed for the commencement of oral testimony pursuant to a  
2 civil investigative demand issued under this section shall be a date which is not less than  
3 seven (7) days after the date on which demand is received, unless the Solicitor General  
4 determines that exceptional circumstances are present which warrant the commencement  
5 or such testimony within a lesser period of time.

6 (vii) The Solicitor General shall not authorize the issuance under this section of  
7 more than one (1) civil investigative demand for oral testimony by the same person  
8 unless the person requests otherwise or unless the Solicitor General, after investigation,  
9 notifies that person in writing that an additional demand for oral testimony is necessary.  
10 The Solicitor General may not authorize the performance, by any other officer, employee,  
11 or agency, or any function vested in the Solicitor General under this subparagraph.

12 (C) Protected Material or Information -

13 (i) In general - A civil investigative demand issued under subsection

14 (1) may not require the production of any documentary material, the  
15 submission of my answers to written interrogatories, or the giving of any oral  
16 testimony if such material, answers, or testimony would be protected from  
17 disclosure under -

18 (a) the standards applicable to subpoena or subpoenas *duces tecum*  
19 issued by a court; or (b) the standards applicable to the discovery  
20 requests of the Rules of Civil, Procedure, to the extent that the  
21 application of such standards to any such demand is appropriate  
22 and consistent with the provisions and purposes of this section.

23 (ii) Effect on other orders, rules, and laws - Any such demand which is an express  
24 demand for any product of discovery supersedes any inconsistent order, rule, or provision  
25 of law (other than this section) preventing or restraining disclosure of such product of  
26 discovery to any person. Disclosure of my product of discovery pursuant to any such  
27 express demand does not constitute a waiver of any right or privilege which the person  
28 making such disclosure may be entitled to invoke to resist discovery of trial preparation  
29 materials.

1 (D) Service; Jurisdiction - (i) By whom served - Any civil investigative demand issued  
2 under subsection (1) may be served by a false claims law investigator, at any place within the  
3 territorial jurisdiction of any court.

4 (ii) Service in foreign countries - Any such demand or any petition filed under  
5 paragraph (H) may be served upon any person who is not found within the territorial  
6 jurisdiction of any court in such manner as the Rules of Civil Procedure prescribe for  
7 service in a foreign country.

8 (iii) Service upon legal entities and natural persons --

9 (a) Legal entities - Service of any civil investigative demand issued under  
10 subsection (1) or of any petition filed under paragraph (a) may be made upon a  
11 partnership, corporation, association, or other legal entity by -

12 (1) delivering an executed copy of such demand or petition to any  
13 partner, executive officer, managing agent, or general agent of the  
14 partnership, corporation, association or entity, or to any agent authorized  
15 by appointment or by law to receive service of process on behalf of such  
16 partnership, corporation, association, or entity.

17 (2) delivering an executed copy of such demand or petition to the  
18 principal office or place of business of the partnership, corporation,  
19 association, or entity, or (3) depositing an executed copy of such demand  
20 or petition in the mails by registered or certified mail, with a return receipt  
21 requested, addressed to such partnership, corporation, association, or  
22 entity at its principal office or place of business.

23 (b) Natural persons - Service of any such demand or petition may be made  
24 upon any natural person by -

25 (1) delivering an executed copy of such demand or petition to the  
26 person; or

27 (2) depositing an executed copy of such demand or petition in the  
28 mail by registered or certified mail, with a return receipt requested,

1 addressed to the person at the person's residence or principal office or  
2 place of business.

3 (E) Proof of Service - A verified return by the individual serving any civil investigative  
4 demand issued under subsection (1) or any petition file under paragraph (13) setting forth the  
5 manner of such service shall be proof of such service. In the case of service by registered or  
6 certified mail, such return shall be accompanied by the return post office receipt of delivery of  
7 such demand.

8 (F) Documentary Material - The production of documentary material in response to a  
9 civil investigative demand served under this section shall be made under a sworn certificate, in  
10 such form as the demand designates, by -

11 (i) in the case of a natural person, the person to whom the demand is directed; or  
12 control, or knowledge of the person to whom the demand is directed has been submitted.  
13 To the extent that any information is not furnished, the information shall be identified and  
14 reasons set forth with particularity regarding the reasons why the information was not  
15 furnished.

16 (G) Oral Examinations -

17 (i) Procedure - The examination of any person pursuant to a civil investigative  
18 demand for oral testimony served under this section shall be taken before an officer  
19 authorized to administer oaths and affirmations by law of the Philippines or of the place  
20 where the examination is held. The officer before whom the testimony is to be taken shall  
21 put the witness on oath or affirmation and shall, personally or by someone acting under  
22 the direction of the officer and in the officer's presence, record the testimony of the  
23 witness. The testimony shall be taken stenographically and shall be transcribed. When the  
24 testimony is fully transcribed, the officer before whom the testimony is taken shall  
25 promptly transmit a copy of the transcript of the testimony by any means authorized by,  
26 and in a manner consistent with, the Rules of Civil Procedure;

27 (ii) Persons present - The false claims law investigator conducting the  
28 examination shall exclude from the place where the examination is held all persons  
29 except the person giving the testimony, the attorney for, and any other representative of

1 the person giving the testimony, the attorney for the government, any person who may be  
2 agreed upon by the attorney for the government and the person giving the testimony, the  
3 officer before whom the testimony is to be taken, and any stenographer taking such  
4 testimony;

5 (iii) Where testimony taken - The oral testimony of any person taken pursuant to a  
6 civil investigative demand served under this Section shall be taken in the court within  
7 which such person resides, is found, or transacts business, or in such other place as may  
8 be agreed upon by the false claims law investigator conducting the examination and such  
9 person;

10 (iv) Transcript of testimony - When the testimony is fully transcribed, the fake  
11 claims law investigator or the officer before whom the testimony is taken shall afford the  
12 witness, who may be accompanied by counsel, a reasonable opportunity to examine and  
13 read the transcript, unless such examination and reading are waived by the witness. Any  
14 changes in form or substance which the witness desires to make shall be entered and  
15 identified upon the transcript by the officer or the false claims law investigator, with a  
16 statement of the reasons given by the witness for making such changes. The transcript  
17 shall then be signed by the witness, unless the witness in writing waives the signing, is ill,  
18 cannot be found, or refuses to sign. If the transcript is not signed by the witness within  
19 thirty (30) days after being afforded a reasonable opportunity to examine it, the officer or  
20 the false claims law investigator shall sign it and state on the record the fact of the  
21 waiver, illness, absence of the witness, or the refusal to sign, together with the reasons, if  
22 any, given therefore;

23 (v) Certification and delivery to custodian - The officer before whom the  
24 testimony is taken shall certify on the transcript that the witness was sworn by the officer  
25 and that the transcript is a true record of the testimony given by the witness, and the  
26 officer or fake claims law investigator shall promptly deliver the transcript, or send the  
27 transcript by registered or certified mail, to the custodian;

28 (vi) Furnishing or inspection of transcript by witness - Upon payment of  
29 reasonable charges therefore, the false claims investigator shall furnish a copy of the



1 transcript to the witness only except that the Solicitor General may, for good cause, limit  
2 such witness to inspection or the official transcript of the witness' testimony;

3 (vii) Conduct of oral testimony - (a) Any person compelled to appear for oral  
4 testimony under a civil investigative demand issued under subsection (1) may be  
5 accompanied, represented, and advised by counsel. Counsel may advise such person, in  
6 confidence, with respect to any question asked of such person. Such person or counsel  
7 may object on the record to any question, in whole or in part, and shall briefly state for  
8 the record the reason for the objection. An objection made, received, and entered upon  
9 the record when it is claimed that such person is entitled to refuse to answer the question  
10 on the grounds of any constitutional or other legal rights of privilege, including h e  
11 privilege against self-incrimination. Such person may not otherwise object to or refuse to  
12 answer any question, and may not directly or through counsel otherwise interrupt the oral  
13 examination. If such person refuses to answer any question, a petition may be filed in the  
14 court under subsection (H)(i) for an order compelling such person to answer such  
15 questions;

16 (b) If such person refuses to answer any question on the grounds of the  
17 privilege against self-incrimination, the testimony of such person may be  
18 compelled in accordance with the provisions of the Rules of Court.

19 (viii) Witness fees and allowances - Any person appearing for oral testimony  
20 under a civil investigative demand issued under subsection (1) shall be entitled to the  
21 same fees and allowances which are paid to witnesses as provided in the appropriate  
22 provisions of the Rules of Court;

23 (ix) Custodians of Documents, Answers, and Transcripts –

24 (a) Designation - The Solicitor General shall designate a false claims law  
25 investigator to serve as custodian of documentary material, answers to  
26 interrogatories, and transcripts of oral testimony received under this section, and  
27 shall designate such additional false claims law investigators as the Solicitor  
28 General determines from time to time to be necessary to serve as deputies to the  
29 custodian.

1 (b) Responsibility for materials; disclosure - (1) A false claims  
2 investigator who receives any documentary material, answers to interrogatories,  
3 or transcripts of oral testimony received under this section shall transmit them to  
4 the custodian. The custodian shall take physical possession of such material,  
5 answers, or transcripts and shall be responsible for the use made of them and for  
6 the return of documentary material under paragraph (D).

7 (2) The custodian may cause the preparation of such copies of such  
8 documentary material, answers to interrogatories, or transcripts of oral  
9 testimony as may be required for official use by any false claims law  
10 investigator, or other officer or employee of the Department of Justice,  
11 who is authorized for such use under regulations which the Solicitor  
12 General shall issue. Such material, answers, and transcripts may be used  
13 by any such authorized false claims law investigator or other officer or  
14 employee in connection with the taking of oral testimony under this  
15 section.

16 (3) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, no  
17 documentary material, answers to interrogatories, or transcripts of oral  
18 testimony, or copies thereof, while in the possession of the custodian and  
19 under such reasonable terms and conditions as the Solicitor General shall  
20 prescribe--

21 (a) documentary, material and answers to interrogatories  
22 shall be available for examination by the person who produced  
23 such material or answers, or by a representative of that person  
24 authorized by that person to examine such materials and answers;  
25 and

26 (b) transcripts of oral testimony shall be available for  
27 examination by the person who produced such testimony, or by a  
28 representative of that person authorized by that person to examine  
29 such transcripts.

1 (c) Use of materials, answers, or transcripts in other proceedings -  
2 Whether any attorney of the Department of Justice has been designated to appear  
3 before any court or agency in any case or proceeding, the custodian of any  
4 documentary material, answers to interrogatories, or transcripts of oral testimony  
5 received under this section may deliver to such attorney such material, answers, or  
6 transcripts for official use in connection with any such case or proceeding as such  
7 attorney determines to be required.

8 Upon the completion of any such case or proceeding, such attorney shall  
9 return to the custodian any such material, answers, or transcripts so delivered  
10 which have not passed into the control of such court, or agency through  
11 introduction into the record of such case or proceeding.

12 (d) Conditions for return of material - If any documentary material has  
13 been produced by any person in the course of my false claims law investigation  
14 pursuant to a civil investigative demand under this section, and --

15 (1) any case or proceeding before the court arising out of such  
16 investigation, or any proceeding before any agency involving such  
17 material, has been completed, or

18 (2) any case or proceeding in which such material may be used has  
19 been commenced within a reasonable time after completion of the  
20 examination and analysis of all documentary material and other  
21 information assembled in the course of such investigation, the custodian  
22 shall, upon written request of the person who produced such material,  
23 return to such person any such material other than copies furnished to the  
24 false claims law investigator under subsection (G)(ii) or made for the  
25 Department of Justice under paragraph (2)(B) which has not passed into  
26 the control of any court or agency through the introduction into the record  
27 of such case or proceeding.

28 (e) Appointment of successor custodians - In the event of the death,  
29 disability, or separation from service in the Department of Justice of the custodian

1 of any documentary material, answers to interrogatories, or transcripts of oral  
2 testimony produced pursuant to such custodian from responsibility for the custody  
3 and control of such materials, answers, or transcripts, the Solicitor General shall  
4 promptly -

5 (1) designate another false claims law investigator to serve as  
6 custodian of such material, answers, or transcripts; and

7 (2) transmit in writing to the person who produced such material,  
8 answers, or testimony notice of the identity and address of the successor  
9 so designated. Any person who is designated to be a successor under this  
10 paragraph shall have, with regard to such material, answers, or transcripts,  
11 the same duties and responsibilities as were imposed by this section upon  
12 that person's predecessor in office, except that the successor shall not be  
13 held responsible for any default or dereliction which occurred before that  
14 designation.

15 (H) Judicial Proceedings - (i) Petition for enforcement - Whenever any person fails to  
16 comply with any civil investigative demand issued under subsection (I), or whenever satisfactory  
17 copying or reproduction of any material requested in such demand cannot be done and such  
18 person refuses to surrender such material, the Solicitor General may file, in the court in which  
19 such person resides, is found, or transacts business, and serve upon such person a petition for an  
20 order of such court for the enforcement of the civil investigative demand.

21 (ii) Petition to modify or set aside demand - (a) Any person who has received a  
22 civil investigative demand issued under subsection (I) may file, in the court within which  
23 such person resides, is found, or transacts business, and serve upon the false claims law  
24 investigator identified in such demand a petition for an order of the court to modify or set  
25 aside such demand. In the case of a petition addressed to an express demand for any  
26 product of discovery, a petition to modify or set aside such demand may be brought only  
27 in the court in which the proceeding in which such discovery was obtained is or was last  
28 pending. Any petition under this subparagraph must be filed - (1) within twenty (20) days  
29 after the date of service of the civil investigative demand, or at any time before the return

1 date specified in the demand, whichever date is earlier; or (2) within such longer period  
2 as may be prescribed in writing by any false claims law investigator identified in the  
3 demand.

4 (b) The petition shall specify each ground upon which the petitioner relies  
5 in seeking relief under subparagraph (a), and may be based upon any failure of  
6 the demand to comply with the provisions of this section or upon any  
7 constitutional or other legal right or privilege of such person. During the  
8 pendency of the petition in the court, the court may stay, as it deems proper, the  
9 running of the time allowed for compliance with the demand, in whole or in part,  
10 except that the person filing the petition shall comply with any portions of the  
11 demand not sought to be modified or set aside.

12 (iii) Petition to modify or set aside demand for product of discovery - (a) In the  
13 case of any civil investigative demand issued under subsection (1) which is an express  
14 demand for any product of discovery, the person from whom such discovery was  
15 obtained may file, in the court in which the proceeding in which said discovery was  
16 obtained is or was last pending, and serve upon any false claims law investigator  
17 identified in the demand and upon the recipient of the demand, a petition for an order of  
18 such court to modify or set aside those portions of the demand requiring production of  
19 any such product or discovery. Any petition under this subparagraph must be filed (1)  
20 within twenty (20) days after the date of service or the civil investigative demand, or at  
21 any time before the return date specified in the demand, whichever date is earlier; or (2)  
22 within such longer period as may be prescribed in writing by any false claims law  
23 investigator identified in the demand. (3) The petition shall specify each ground upon  
24 which the petitioner relies in seeking relief under subparagraph (a), and may be based  
25 upon any failure of the portions of the demand from which relief is sought to comply with  
26 the provisions of this section, or upon any constitutional or other legal right or privilege  
27 of the petitioner. During the pendency of the petition, the court may stay, as it deems  
28 proper, compliance with the demand and the running of the time allowed for compliance  
29 with the demand.

1 (iv) Petition to require performance by custodian of duties - At any time during  
2 which any custodian is in custody or control of any documentary material or answers to  
3 interrogatories produced, or transcripts of oral testimony given, by any person in  
4 compliance with any civil investigative demand issued under subsection (l), such person,  
5 and in the case of an express demand for any product of discovery, the person from  
6 whom such discovery was obtained, may file, in the court within which the office of such  
7 custodian is situated, and serve upon such custodian, a petition for an order of such court  
8 to require the performance by the custodian of any duty imposed upon the custodian by  
9 this section.

10 (v) Jurisdiction - Whenever any petition is filed in any court under this subsection,  
11 such court shall have jurisdiction to hear and determine the matter so presented, and to  
12 enter such order or orders as may be required to carry out the provisions of this section.  
13 Any final order so entered shall be subject to appeal under the appropriate provisions of  
14 the Rules of Procedure. Any disobedience of any final order entered under this section by  
15 any court shall be punished as contempt of the court.

16 (vi) Applicability of rules of civil procedure - The Rules of Civil Procedure shall  
17 apply to any petition under this subsection, to the extent that such rules are not  
18 inconsistent with the provisions of this section.

19 (l) Definitions - For purposes of this section -

20 (i) the term "false claims law" means -

21 (a) this section and sections 3 and 4; and

22 (b) any Act of Congress enacted after the date of the enactment of this  
23 section which prohibits, or makes available to the court any civil remedy with  
24 respect to, any false claim against, bribery of, or corruption of any officer or  
25 employee of the government;

26 (ii) the term "false claims law investigation" means any inquiry conducted by any  
27 false claims investigator for the purpose of ascertaining whether any person is or has been  
28 engaged in any violation of a false claims law:

1 (iii) the term "false claims investigator" means any attorney or investigator  
2 employed by the Department of Justice who is charged with the duty of enforcing or  
3 carrying into effect any false claims law, or any officer or employee of the government  
4 acting under the direction and supervision of such attorney or investigator in connection  
5 with a false claims law investigation;

6 (iv) the term "person" means any natural person, partnership, corporation,  
7 association, or other legal entity, including any political subdivision of a State;

8 (v) the term "documentary material" includes the original or any copy of any  
9 book, record, report, memorandum, paper, communication, tabulation, chart, or other  
10 document, or data compilations stored in or accessible through computer or other  
11 information retrieval systems, together with instructions and all other materials necessary  
12 to use or interpret such data compilations, and any product of discovery;

13 (vi) the term "custodian" means the custodian, or any deputy custodian,  
14 designated by the Solicitor General under subsection (G)(ix); and

15 (vii) the term "product of discovery" includes -

16 (a) the original or duplicate of any deposition, interrogatory, document,  
17 thing, result of the inspection of land or other property, examination, or  
18 admission, which is obtained by any method of discovery in any judicial or  
19 administrative proceeding of an adversarial nature;

20 (b) any digest, analysis, selection, compilation, or derivation of any item  
21 listed in subparagraph (i); and

22 (c) any index or other manner of access to any item listed in subparagraph

23 (i).

24 SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision, or part hereof, is held invalid or  
25 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain  
26 valid and subsisting.

1           SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive  
2 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent  
3 with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

4           SECTION 10. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
5 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.