

information technology, *e.g.*, permitting electronic submission of responses.

Burden Statement: The burden for information collection requirements associated with the Outreach Award Application is estimated to be 1.5 hours per respondent. The burden estimate includes time to review the instructions, gather information, and complete and submit the application. EPA plans to collect this information annually and estimates between 27 and 42 respondents per year over the life of this ICR at a cost of \$112 per response.

The burden for information collection requirements associated with the Mentoring Program Registration Form is estimated to be 0.25 hours per respondent. The burden estimate includes time to review the registration form, and complete and submit the registration. EPA plans to collect this information annually and estimates between 39 and 60 respondents per year over the life of this ICR at a cost of \$19 per response.

The burden for information collection requirements associated with the Customer Satisfaction Questionnaire is estimated to be 0.5 hours per respondent. The burden estimate includes time to read the instructions for the questionnaire and complete the online survey. EPA plans to administer the questionnaire on a biennial schedule and estimates 358 and 554 respondents for year one and year three, respectively, at a cost of \$37 per response.

Burden means the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide information to or for a Federal agency. This includes the time needed to review instructions; develop, acquire, install, and utilize technology and systems for the purposes of collecting, validating, and verifying information, processing and maintaining information, and disclosing and providing information; adjust the existing ways to comply with any previously applicable instructions and requirements; train personnel to be able to respond to a collection of information; search data sources; complete and review the collection of information; and transmit or otherwise disclose the information.

Dated: December 19, 2003.

Daniel Fiorino,

Director, Performance Incentives Division.
[FR Doc. 04-375 Filed 1-7-04; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[DA 03-4087]

Notice of Debarment; Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Federal Communications Commission (the "Commission") debar Mr. Oscar Alvarez from the schools and libraries universal service support mechanism for a period of three years.

DATES: Debarment commences on the date of Mr. Alvarez' receipt of the debarment letter or January 8, 2004, whichever date comes first, for a period of three years.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Diana Lee, Federal Communications Commission, Enforcement Bureau, Investigations and Hearings Division, Room 6-C326, 445 12th Street, SW., Washington DC 20554. Diana Lee may be contacted by phone at (202) 418-1420 or e-mail at diana.lee@fcc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Commission debarred Mr. Oscar Alvarez from the schools and libraries universal service support mechanism for a period of three years pursuant to 47 CFR 54.521 and 47 CFR 0.111(a)(14). The Commission previously suspended Mr. Alvarez from the schools and libraries mechanism, pending debarment proceedings. See 68 FR 56836, October 2, 2003. Attached is the debarment letter, *Notice of Debarment*, DA 03-4087, which was mailed to Mr. Alvarez and released on December 23, 2003, that in turn attached the suspension letter, *Notice of Suspension and of Proposed Debarment Proceedings*, DA 03-2706. The complete text of the debarment letter, including attachment 1, the suspension letter, is available for public inspection and copying during regular business hours at the FCC Reference Information Center, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW., Room CY-A257, Washington, DC 20554. In addition, the complete text may be retrieved from the FCC's Web site at <http://www.fcc.gov>. The text may also be purchased from the Commission's duplicating contractor, Qualex International, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW., Room CY-B402, Washington, DC 20554, telephone (202) 863-2893, facsimile (202) 863-2898, or via e-mail qualexint@aol.com.

Federal Communications Commission.

William H. Davenport,

Deputy Chief, Investigations and Hearings Division, Enforcement Bureau.

The debarment letter, which attached the suspension letter, follows:

December 23, 2003.

[DA 03-4087]

Via Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested
Mr. Oscar Alvarez,
Connect2 Internet Networks, Inc., 26 Bay Street, Staten Island, NY 10301.
Re: Notice of Debarment, File No. EB-03-IHD-0377.

Dear Mr. Alvarez: Pursuant to section 54.521 of the rules of the Federal Communications Commission (the "Commission"), by this Notice of Debarment you are hereby debarred from the schools and libraries universal service support mechanism for a period of three years.¹

On August 21, 2003, the Enforcement Bureau (the "Bureau") sent you a Notice of Suspension and Proposed Debarment (the "Notice of Suspension").² That Notice of Suspension was published in the **Federal Register** on October 2, 2003.³ The Notice of Suspension suspended you from the schools and libraries universal service support mechanism⁴ and described the basis for your proposed debarment,⁵ the applicable debarment procedures,⁶ and the effect of debarment.⁷

Pursuant to the Commission's rules, any opposition to your suspension or its scope or to your proposed debarment or its scope had to be filed with the Commission no later than thirty (30) calendar days from the earlier date of your receipt of the Notice of Suspension or publication of the Notice of Suspension in the **Federal Register**.⁸ The Commission did not receive any such opposition.

As discussed in the Notice of Suspension, on May 20, 2003, you pled guilty attempting to persuade two school administrators not to show to Commission auditors a letter signed by your employer that falsely represented that the school could participate in the E-Rate program at no cost.⁹ Such conduct constitutes the basis for your debarment, and your conviction falls within the categories of causes for debarment under section 54.521(c)

¹ See 47 CFR 0.111(a)(14), 54.521.

² Letter from Maureen F. Del Duca, Chief, Investigations and Hearings Division, Enforcement Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, to Oscar Alvarez, Notice of Suspension and Proposed Debarment, 18 FCC Rcd 16668 (2003).

³ 68 FR 58836 (Oct. 2, 2003).

⁴ See Notice of Suspension, 18 FCC Rcd at 16668-69 (imposing suspension pending the Bureau's final debarment determination) (Attachment 1).

⁵ See *id.*, 18 FCC Rcd at 16669 (describing the basis for your proposed debarment).

⁶ See *id.*, 18 FCC Rcd at 16670 (describing procedures to contest proposed debarment).

⁷ See *id.* (describing effect of proposed debarment).

⁸ See 47 CFR 54.521(e)(3) and (4). That date occurred no later than November 1, 2003. See *supra* note 3.

⁹ Notice of Suspension, 18 FCC Rcd at 16669.

of the Commission's rules.¹⁰ For the foregoing reasons, you are hereby debarred for a period of three years from the debarment date, *i.e.*, the earlier date of your receipt of this Notice of Debarment or its publication date in the **Federal Register**.¹¹ Debarment excludes you, for the debarment period, from activities "associated with or related to the schools and libraries support mechanism," including "the receipt of funds or discounted services through the schools and libraries support mechanism, or consulting with, assisting, or advising applicants or service providers regarding the schools and libraries support mechanism."¹²

Sincerely yours,

William H. Davenport,
Deputy Chief, Investigations and Hearings
Division, Enforcement Bureau.

cc: Joel M. Cohen, Greenberg Traurig, LLP
(Via Certified Mail, Return Receipt
Requested) Kristy Carroll, USAC (Via E-mail).

Attachment 1

August 21, 2003.

[DA 03-2706]

Via Certified Mail, return receipt requested
Mr. Oscar Alvarez,

Connect2 Internet Networks, Inc., 26 Bay
Street, Staten Island, NY 10301.

Re: Notice of Suspension and of Proposed
Debarment, File No. EB-03-IHD-0377.

Dear Mr. Alvarez: The Federal Communications Commission ("FCC" or "Commission") has received notice of your May 20, 2003 conviction pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 1512 for misleading conduct toward another person: (1) To influence, delay, or prevent the testimony of any person in an official proceeding; and (2) with the intent to cause and induce another person to alter, destroy, mutilate and conceal objects with the intent to impair the objects' integrity and availability for use in an official proceeding.¹³ Consequently, pursuant to 47 CFR 54.521, this letter constitutes official notice of your suspension from the schools and libraries universal service support mechanism. In addition, the Enforcement Bureau ("Bureau") hereby notifies you that we are commencing debarment proceedings against you.¹⁴

¹⁰ Notice of Suspension, 18 FCC Rcd at 16669-70; 47 CFR 54.521(c).

¹¹ See Notice of Suspension, 18 FCC Rcd at 16670.

¹² See 47 CFR 54.521(a)(1), 54.521(a)(5), 54.521(d); Notice of Suspension, 18 FCC Rcd at 16670.

¹³ Any further reference in this letter to "your conviction" refers to your May 20, 2003 guilty plea and conviction of this count based on your attempt to persuade two school administrators not to reveal evidence to FCC auditors conducting an official investigation into violations by your employer, Connect2 Internet Networks, Inc. ("Connect2") of the FCC rules governing the E-Rate schools and libraries internet funding program ("E-Rate program"). See *United States v. Alvarez*, Criminal Docket No. 1:03cr634, Felony Information at 1-2 (S.D.N.Y. filed May 20, 2003) ("Alvarez Felony Information").

¹⁴ 47 CFR 54.521; 47 CFR 0.111(a)(14) (delegating to the Enforcement Bureau authority to resolve universal service suspension and debarment proceedings pursuant to 47 CFR 54.521).

I. Notice of Suspension

Pursuant to section 54.521(a)(4) of the Commission's rules,¹⁵ your conviction requires the Bureau to suspend you from participating in any activities associated with or related to the schools and libraries fund mechanism, including the receipt of funds or discounted services through the schools and libraries fund mechanism, or consulting with, assisting, or advising applicants or service providers regarding the schools and libraries support mechanism.¹⁶ Your suspension becomes effective upon the earlier of your receipt of this letter or publication of notice in the **Federal Register**.¹⁷

Suspension is immediate pending the Bureau's final debarment determination. You may contest this suspension or the scope of this suspension by filing arguments in opposition to the suspension, with any relevant documentation. Your request must be received within 30 days after you receive this letter or after notice is published in the **Federal Register**, whichever comes first.¹⁸ Such requests, however, will not ordinarily be granted.¹⁹ The Bureau may reverse or limit the scope of suspension only upon a finding of extraordinary circumstances.²⁰ Absent extraordinary circumstances, the Bureau will decide any request for reversal or modification of suspension within 90 days of its receipt of such request.²¹

II. Notice of Proposed Debarment

A. Reasons for and Cause of Debarment

The Commission's rules establish procedures to prevent persons who have "defrauded the government or engaged in similar acts through activities associated with or related to the schools and libraries support mechanism" from receiving the benefits associated with that program.²² On May 20, 2003, you pleaded guilty to attempting to persuade two school administrators not to show to FCC auditors a letter signed by your employer that falsely represented that the school could participate in the E-Rate program at "absolutely no cost to the school."²³ These actions constitute the

¹⁵ 47 CFR 54.521(a)(4). See *Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism*, Second Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 18 FCC Rcd 9202, 9225-9227, ¶¶ 67-74 (2003) ("Second Report and Order").

¹⁶ *Second Report and Order*, 18 FCC Rcd at 9225, ¶ 67; 47 U.S.C. 254; 47 CFR 54.502-54.503; 47 CFR 54.521(a)(4).

¹⁷ *Second Report and Order*, 18 FCC Rcd at 9226, ¶ 69; 47 CFR 54.521(e)(1).

¹⁸ *Second Report and Order*, 18 FCC Rcd at 9226, ¶ 70; 47 CFR 54.521(e)(4).

¹⁹ *Second Report and Order*, 18 FCC Rcd at 9226, ¶ 70.

²⁰ 47 CFR 54.521(f).

²¹ See *Second Report and Order*, 18 FCC Rcd at 9226, ¶ 70; 47 CFR 54.521(e)(5), 54.521(f).

²² *Second Report and Order*, 18 FCC Rcd at 9225, ¶ 66.

²³ See *United States v. John Angelides, John Dotson, Oscar Alvarez, and Gary Blum*, U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York, Complaint at 29 (S.D.N.Y. filed Dec. 17, 2003). The incriminating letter was signed by John Angelides, owner and CEO of Connect2. *Id.* Further, the conduct for which you were convicted served to conceal and

conduct or transactions upon which this debarment proceeding is based.²⁴ Moreover, your conviction on the basis of these acts falls within the categories of causes for debarment defined in section 54.521(c) of the Commission's rules.²⁵ Therefore, pursuant to section 54.521(a)(4) of the Commission's rules, your conviction requires the Bureau to commence debarment proceedings against you.

B. Debarment Procedures

You may contest debarment or the scope of the proposed debarment by filing arguments and any relevant documentation within 30 calendar days of the earlier of the receipt of this letter or of publication in the **Federal Register**.²⁶ Absent extraordinary circumstances, the Bureau will debar you.²⁷ Within 90 days of receipt of any opposition to your suspension and proposed debarment, the Bureau, in the absence of extraordinary circumstances, will provide you with notice of its decision to debar.²⁸ If the Bureau decides to debar you, its decision will become effective upon the earlier of your receipt of a debarment notice or publication of its decision in the **Federal Register**.²⁹

C. Effect of Debarment

If and when your debarment becomes effective, you will be prohibited from participating in activities associated with or related to the schools and libraries support mechanism for at least three years from the date of debarment.³⁰ The Bureau may, if necessary to protect the public interest, extend the debarment period.³¹

Please direct any responses to the following address:

Diana Lee, Federal Communications
Commission, Enforcement Bureau,
Investigations and Hearings Division,
Room 6-C326, 445 12th Street, SW.,
Washington, DC 20554.

further a fraudulent scheme unlawfully to obtain E-Rate program funds. See *generally id.*

²⁴ *Second Report and Order*, 18 FCC Rcd at 9226, ¶ 70; 47 CFR 54.521(e)(2)(i).

²⁵ "Causes for suspension and debarment are the conviction of or civil judgment for attempt or commission of criminal fraud, theft, embezzlement, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, receiving stolen property, making false claims, obstruction of justice and other fraud or criminal offense arising out of activities associated with or related to the schools and libraries support mechanism." 47 CFR 54.521(c). Such activities "include the receipt of funds or discounted services through the schools and libraries support mechanism, or consulting with, assisting, or advising applicants or service providers regarding schools and libraries support mechanism described in this section [47 CFR 54.500 *et seq.*]." 47 CFR 54.521(a)(1).

²⁶ See *Second Report and Order*, 18 FCC Rcd at 9226, ¶ 70; 47 CFR 54.521(e)(2)(i), 54.521(e)(3).

²⁷ *Second Report and Order*, 18 FCC Rcd at 9227, ¶ 74.

²⁸ See *Second Report and Order*, 18 FCC Rcd at 9226, ¶ 70; 47 CFR 54.521(e)(5).

²⁹ *Id.* The Commission may reverse a debarment, or may limit the scope or period of debarment upon a finding of extraordinary circumstances, following the filing of a petition by you or an interested party or upon motion by the Commission.

³⁰ *Second Report and Order*, 18 FCC Rcd at 9225, ¶ 67; 47 CFR 54.521(d), 54.521(g).

³¹ *Id.*

If you submit your response via hand-delivery or non-United States Postal Service delivery (e.g., Federal Express, DHL, etc.), please send your response to Ms. Lee at the following address:

Federal Communications Commission, 9300 East Hampton Drive, Capitol Heights, MD 20743.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Lee via mail, by telephone at (202) 418-1420 or by e-mail at diana.lee@fcc.gov. If Ms. Lee is unavailable, you may contact William Davenport by telephone at (202) 418-1420 and by e-mail at william.davenport@fcc.gov.

Sincerely yours,
Maureen F. Del Duca,
Chief, Investigations and Hearings Division,
Enforcement Bureau.

cc: Joel M. Cohen, Greenberg Traurig, LLP,
Kristy Carroll, USAC

[FR Doc. 04-367 Filed 1-7-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[DA 03-4088]

Notice of Debarment; Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Federal Communications Commission (the "Commission") debars Mr. John Angelides from the schools and libraries universal service support mechanism for a period of three years.

DATES: Debarment commences on the date of Mr. Angelides' receipt of the debarment letter or January 8, 2004, whichever date comes first, for a period of three years.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Diana Lee, Federal Communications Commission, Enforcement Bureau, Investigations and Hearings Division, Room 6-C326, 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554. Diana Lee may be contacted by phone at (202) 418-1420 or e-mail at diana.lee@fcc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Commission debarred Mr. John Angelides from the schools and libraries universal service support mechanism for a period of three years pursuant to 47 CFR 54.521 and 47 CFR 0.111(a)(14). The Commission previously suspended Mr. Angelides from the schools and libraries mechanism, pending debarment proceedings. See 68 FR 56837, October 2, 2003. Attached is the debarment letter, *Notice of Debarment*, DA 03-4088, which was mailed to Mr. Angelides and released on December 23, 2003, that in turn attached the

suspension letter, *Notice of Suspension and of Proposed Debarment Proceedings*, DA 03-2707. The complete text of the debarment letter, including attachment 1, the suspension letter, is available for public inspection and copying during regular business hours at the FCC Reference Information Center, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW., Room CY-A257, Washington, DC 20554. In addition, the complete text may be retrieved from the FCC's Web site at <http://www.fcc.gov>. The text may also be purchased from the Commission's duplicating contractor, Qualex International, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW., Room CY-B402, Washington, DC, 20554, telephone (202) 863-2893, facsimile (202) 863-2898, or via e-mail qualexint@aol.com.

Federal Communications Commission.

William H. Davenport,

Deputy Chief, Investigations and Hearings Division, Enforcement Bureau.

The debarment letter, which attached the suspension letter, follows:

December 23, 2003.

[DA 03-4088]

Via Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested.

Mr. John Angelides,
Chief Executive Officer, Connect2 Internet Networks, Inc., 26 Bay Street, Staten Island, NY 10301.

Re: Notice of Debarment, File No. EB-03-IHD-0376.

Dear Mr. Angelides: Pursuant to section 54.521 of the rules of the Federal Communications Commission (the "Commission"), by this Notice of Debarment you are hereby debarred from the schools and libraries universal service support mechanism for a period of three years.¹

On August 21, 2003, the Enforcement Bureau (the "Bureau") sent you a Notice of Suspension and Proposed Debarment (the "Notice of Suspension").² That Notice of Suspension was published in the **Federal Register** on October 2, 2003.³ The Notice of Suspension suspended you from the schools and libraries universal service support mechanism⁴ and described the basis for your proposed debarment,⁵ the applicable

¹ See 47 CFR 0.111(a)(14), 54.521.

² Letter from Maureen F. Del Duca, Chief, Investigations and Hearings Division, Enforcement Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, to John Angelides, Notice of Suspension and Proposed Debarment, 18 FCC Rcd 16672 (2003) (Attachment 1).

³ 68 FR 56837 (Oct. 2, 2003).

⁴ See Notice of Suspension, 18 FCC Rcd at 16672-73 (imposing suspension pending the Bureau's final debarment determination).

⁵ See *id.*, 18 FCC Rcd at 16673 (describing the basis for your proposed debarment).

debarment procedures,⁶ and the effect of debarment.⁷

Pursuant to the Commission's rules, any opposition to your suspension or its scope or to your proposed debarment or its scope had to be filed with the Commission no later than thirty (30) calendar days from your receipt of the Notice of Suspension or publication of the Notice of Suspension in the **Federal Register**, whichever came first.⁸ On or about September 22, 2003, the Bureau granted your request to extend the time to contest issues raised in the Notice of Suspension until October 14, 2003.⁹ The Bureau received your response on that date.¹⁰ Your Response explicitly states that you do not challenge your debarment.¹¹ The Response merely "emphasizes" that this proceeding is directed "only against Mr. Angelides."¹² The Bureau notes that the Notice of Suspension and the Notice of Debarment are addressed to and applicable to you, Mr. Angelides, individually, and not to any other person or entity. Such limitation does not bar the Commission from taking additional enforcement action, subject to its rules, against such other persons or entities.

As discussed in the Notice of Suspension, on May 22, 2003, you pled guilty to charges of falsely representing to schools that they could participate in the E-Rate program at no cost, falsely representing to fund administrators and Government investigators that the schools would pay or had paid their unsubsidized share, falsifying documents, and attempting to persuade school administrators not to reveal evidence to Government investigators in order to conceal the scheme.¹³ Such conduct constitutes the basis for your debarment, and your conviction falls within the categories of causes for debarment under section 54.521(c) of the Commission's rules.¹⁴ For the foregoing reasons, you are hereby debarred for a period of three years from the debarment date, *i.e.*, the earlier date of your receipt of this Notice of Debarment or its publication in the **Federal Register**.¹⁵ Debarment excludes you, for the debarment period, from activities "associated with or related to the schools and libraries support mechanism," including "the receipt of funds or discounted services through the schools and libraries support mechanism, or

⁶ See *id.*, 18 FCC Rcd at 16674 (describing procedures to contest proposed debarment).

⁷ See *id.*, 18 FCC Rcd at 16674 (describing effect of proposed debarment).

⁸ See 47 CFR 54.521(e)(3) and (4).

⁹ Letter from Karen H. Broomberg, Cohen & Gresser LLP, to Diana Lee, Investigations and Hearings Division, Enforcement Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, dated Sep. 22, 2003.

¹⁰ Letter from Mark S. Cohen, Cohen & Gresser LLP, to Diana Lee, Investigations and Hearings Division, Enforcement Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, dated Oct. 14, 2003 (the "Response").

¹¹ Response at 1 (stating, "Mr. Angelides does not challenge his individual debarment.").

¹² *Id.*

¹³ Notice of Suspension, 18 FCC Rcd at 16673.

¹⁴ Notice of Suspension, 18 FCC Rcd at 16674; 47 CFR 54.521(c).

¹⁵ See Notice of Suspension, 18 FCC Rcd at 16674.