



**U.S. Department of  
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary  
of Transportation

The Inspector General

Office of Inspector General  
Washington, D.C. 20590

August 16, 2005

Mr. David L. Gunn  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
National Railroad Passenger Corporation  
60 Massachusetts Avenue, NE  
Washington, DC 20002

Re: Review of legal services operations

Dear Mr. Gunn:

In response to requests from the U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the U.S. Department of Transportation Office of Inspector General (OIG), in conjunction with the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) OIG, will review the costs and expenditures associated with legal services performed for Amtrak.

The review will involve the top ten recipients of outside legal fees from Amtrak for the last three years, regardless of the subject matter of the legal services. The initial phase of the review will focus on, among other areas, Amtrak's processes for the procurement of outside legal services, its disbursement of funds related to those services, and the use of its in-house legal resources. In addition, the review will address Amtrak's legal costs and expenditures on the Northeast High-Speed Rail Improvement Project.

We ask that you immediately preserve all documents and information concerning Amtrak's legal costs and expenditures and make available to our staff and the Amtrak OIG all staff familiar with the payment of legal services fees and the processes used for acquiring outside legal services and assigning in-house legal resources. In this regard, to avoid any issues of privilege, we request that you prepare and execute an authorization form granting us access to Amtrak related legal documentation which, if necessary, we will submit to outside law firms.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation and expeditious handling of these document and information requests so that we may be responsive to the Congressional requestors. If I can answer any questions or be of further assistance, please contact me at (202) 366-1496 or Kurt Hyde, Assistant Inspector General for Surface and Maritime Programs, at (202) 366-2017.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Theodore Alves', with a stylized, cursive flourish at the end.

Theodore Alves  
Principal Assistant Inspector General  
for Auditing and Evaluation