



## U.S. Department of Justice

### *United States Attorney Eastern District of Arkansas*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **INQUIRY INTO FEE OFFICE CONTRACTS CONCLUDED**

**Little Rock** – Bud Cummins, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas disclosed today that he has concluded an inquiry into alleged wrongdoing involving the awarding of contracts for Missouri fee offices with no indictments sought or returned. The matter was assigned to his office in January 2006 upon the recusal of the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Missouri.

"Normally, a United States Attorney's Office does not comment on or even confirm the existence of any investigation unless or until formal charges result," stated Cummins. "Inquiries into the dealings of public officials are not uncommon, but those inquiries are generally and necessarily conducted in complete secrecy. This is, in part, to protect both the integrity of the government's investigation and the presumed innocence and reputation of any party touched by it."

"There are, however, exceptional circumstances where it becomes appropriate to disclose certain information," Cummins stated. "Department of Justice policy provides for the limited release of information in matters that have already received substantial publicity. Department policy also provides for the possibility of notification to individuals once a matter has closed."

"Earlier in the year, the existence of the investigation was disclosed to the media and has since become a topic of substantial public interest and discourse in the State of Missouri," Cummins stated. "In light of that unfortunate disclosure and the publicity it spawned, it is appropriate to confirm certain facts. First, the matter has been closed with no indictments sought or returned. Second, at no time was Governor Blunt a target, subject, or witness in the investigation, nor was he implicated in any allegation being investigated. Any allegations or inferences to the contrary are uninformed and erroneous."

This office does not intend to elaborate further about this closed matter.

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