

William Lager, The ECOT Man, Responds to the Attorney General's Motion to Freeze His Assets

The world knows that the ECOT Man stole hundreds of millions from school districts. The state is attempting to recover some of the loot.

On September 27, the Ohio Attorney General (AG) filed a Motion for Preliminary Injunction requesting the court to freeze Lager's assets. The AG indicates that Lager may have insufficient assets to cover the huge amount of money he should pay back to school districts; hence freezing Lager's assets seems imperative.

On October 26, Lager filed a Memorandum essentially indicating that the court has no authority to freeze his assets.

When Lager started ECOT he was a bankrupted furniture salesperson. After about 16 or so years of ECOT operation, the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) finally audited ECOT's student enrollment and found a huge disparity between students funded and students "enrolled". In just one year, Lager overcharged the state \$60 million. By interpolation, it appears that Lager stole hundreds of millions over the years.

Lager used millions of funds that should have gone to educate kids, to fund campaigns for state officials. A review of Lager's assets shows that huge amounts of the tax revenue ended up in Lager's portfolio.

Will the state ever reclaim all or any funds to be returned to school districts? This depends on how aggressive the state pursues the case. Remember, Lager distributed a boat load of campaign contributions to some state officials that still are in office.

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