

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

HAROLD WEISBERG,

Plaintiff,

v.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 75-1996

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,

Defendant.

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AFFIDAVIT OF MICHAEL E. SHAHEEN, JR.

I, Michael E. Shaheen, being duly sworn, do hereby depose and state as follows:

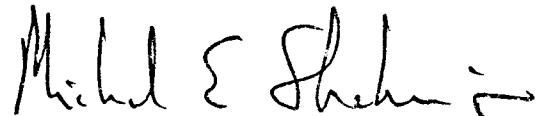
1. I am head of the Justice Department's Office of Professional Responsibility.

2. On April 26, 1976, the Attorney General ordered this Office, under my direction, to undertake a review of all records in the Department of Justice concerning the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The purpose of this review is to determine the thoroughness of the FBI's investigation of Dr. King's assassination, whether the FBI was involved in the assassination, whether any new evidence has come to the attention of the Department concerning the assassination, and whether the relationship between the Bureau and Dr. King calls for criminal proceedings or other disciplinary action.

3. In this connection, members of my staff have reviewed FBI documents both at FBI Headquarters in Washington, D. C. and the FBI's Memphis field office. This office did not participate in the original investigation of Dr. King's death, and accordingly did not generate any records relating

to the assassination. Our present review will be confined solely to the records of other components of the Department, namely the FBI and the Civil Rights Division.

4. I have been informed that Mr. James Lesar filed an Information Act request dated December 23, 1975 on behalf of his client, the plaintiff in the instant action, seeking numerous categories of information concerning the assassination of Dr. King. To my knowledge, this request was not forwarded to the Office of Professional Responsibility. There is no reason that it should have been. Under Justice Department regulations, we were not a component of the Department which had "primary concern with the records requested" inasmuch as we did not maintain records on the King assassination and did not become involved in any way with this subject matter until more than four months after the request was filed. 28 C.F.R. §16.4(a) (1975).



MICHAEL E. SHAHEEN, JR.  
Counsel  
Office of Professional  
Responsibility  
Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C. 20530

Subscribed and sworn to before me,  
a Notary Public, on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of  
July, 1976.

  
Notary Public

My Commission expires October 31, 1980