



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of the Deputy Attorney General RECEIVED NOV 15 1994

Executive Office for Asset Forfeiture

Washington, D.C. 20530

November 8, 1994

Chief Ronald D. Nelson
Chairman of the Board
Commission on Accreditation
for Law Enforcement Agencies
10306 Eaton Place, Suite 320
Fairfax, VA 22020-2201

Dear Chief Nelson:

The Attorney General has asked me to respond to your letter of October 25, 1994, requesting a written opinion regarding the propriety of using federal asset forfeiture equitable sharing monies for accreditation and/or reaccreditation fees.

A Guide for Equitable Sharing of Federally Forfeited Property for State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies (March 1994) expressly provides; at part X, 1, b; that equitable sharing monies may be used for: "The training of investigators, prosecutors, and law enforcement support personnel in any area that is necessary to perform official law enforcement duties." [Emphasis added.] In my opinion, this language clearly encompasses accreditation and/or reaccreditation fees. State and local law enforcement agencies, therefore, may use equitable sharing funds for such fees with confidence that they are fully in compliance with Department of Justice guidance.

I hope this is responsive to your inquiry and that you will not hesitate to let me know if you have further questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Cary H. Copeland
Director and Chief Counsel

cc: Dan Rosenblatt, IACP
Chuck Wexler, PERF
Charles "Bud" Meeks, NSA
Ira Harris, NOBLE