

**ERIC G. ANDELL, U.S. Department of Education**

In September 2002, then-Secretary of Education Rod Paige appointed Eric G. Andell deputy undersecretary in charge of the newly created Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools.<sup>1</sup> Previously, Mr. Andell was a senior advisor to Secretary Paige and before that, he had served as a Texas court of appeals judge until he lost his bid for re-election in 2001.<sup>2</sup>

As deputy undersecretary, Mr. Andell had the authority to approve his own travel for official purposes.<sup>3</sup> Between November 2002 and September 2003, Mr. Andell used that authority to approve 14 such trips at a total cost of \$8,659.85.<sup>4</sup> All of these trips were motivated in part by his own personal financial interests.<sup>5</sup> For example, on some of these trips Mr. Andell accrued service time toward a pension from the state of Texas.<sup>6</sup> In addition, he sometimes conducted personal business and had the government reimburse some of his personal expenses.<sup>7</sup> On some trips, Mr. Andell took paid sick leave while at the same time receiving compensation for serving as a visiting judge in Texas.<sup>8</sup> Moreover, Mr. Andell failed to disclose the Texas payments on his public financial disclosure forms.<sup>9</sup>

On April 29, 2005, Mr. Andell pleaded guilty to one count of conflict of interest.<sup>10</sup> He was sentenced to one year of probation, 100 hours of community service and was fined \$5,000.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Education Press Release, Eric G. Andell to Lead New Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools, September 17, 2002. (Exhibit 1)

<sup>2</sup> Id.; U.S. v. Andell, Crim No. 05-182, Sentencing Memorandum on Behalf of Defendant Eric G. Andell, p. 4 (D.D.C. July 25, 2005). (Exhibit 2)

<sup>3</sup> U.S. v. Andell, Crim No. 05-182, Factual Basis for Plea, ¶ 1 (D.D.C. Apr. 5, 2005) [hereinafter "Plea Basis"]. (Exhibit 3)

<sup>4</sup> Id., ¶ 2 and Attachment A to Plea Basis.

<sup>5</sup> Plea Basis, ¶ 2 .

<sup>6</sup> Id.

<sup>7</sup> Id.

<sup>8</sup> Id.

<sup>9</sup> Plea Basis, ¶ 2.

<sup>10</sup> U.S. v. Andell, Crim No. 05-182M-01, Judgment in a Criminal Case, p.1 (D.D.C. Aug. 25, 2005). (Exhibit 4)

<sup>11</sup> Id.