

CLOSEOUT OF M90110043

On 21 November 1990, OIG received from the NSF Office of the Director (O/D) a copy of a letter from [REDACTED] (the complainant) alleging "Discrimination against ethnic minorities by the [REDACTED] Association" [REDACTED] the letter was forwarded from O/D to NSF's Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO) for action. The handling of such complaints is generally the responsibility of OEO, and we monitored OEO's resolution of the matter.

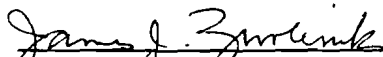
The allegation from the complainant was that he had "been discriminated against by . . . the [REDACTED] because of my extensive work with hispanics, rather than Anglo-Saxon Whites." Under federal law, "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." 42 U.S.C. § 2000d. The complainant did not allege that he had been discriminated against on the basis of *his* national origin, but on the basis of the national origin of the subjects of his research. OEO concluded that the complainant's "allegations of discrimination by the [REDACTED] against minority applicants for fellow status amount to an attempt to file a discrimination complaint on behalf of those individuals." After consulting with the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, OEO concluded that the complainant had no basis under law to bring such a complaint on behalf of others. OEO encouraged the complainant to have any victims of discrimination of whom he was aware to file complaints themselves.

We have no basis on which to question the resolution of this case by OEO in consultation with the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice. Accordingly, this case is closed.

[REDACTED]

Counsel to the Inspector General

concur:

  
James J. Zwolenik  
Assistant Inspector General for Oversight

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