

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:

Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner

UPDATE

July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010

Background

The Washington State Legislature passed the Holocaust Victims Insurance Relief Act in 1999. The law created the Holocaust Survivors Assistance Program and charged the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with helping claimants resolve their Holocaust-era insurance claims. Since its inception, the program has assisted in collecting over \$1 million in awards for Washington claimants from the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC) until its closure in 2007.

After the closure of ICHEIC, the Holocaust Survivors Assistance Program has continued to help claimants by focusing efforts on outstanding monies owed Washington claimants by the Austrian General Settlement Fund. From 2007-2009, the Holocaust Survivors Assistance Program assisted Washington claimants in obtaining \$152,007 in “advance payments” from this fund.

Ongoing efforts to assist claimants (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010)

Over the past year, the Holocaust Survivors Assistance Program has helped four consumers recover a total of \$13,328 from the Austrian General Settlement Fund. In total, our program has helped consumers recover \$165,335, and will continue to assist claimants who need help.

Anyone with concerns or questions about their Holocaust-era insurance claims should contact our office toll-free at 1-800-562-6900 and ask for Chris Bauer, or e-mail him at chrisb@oic.wa.gov.

In addition, information about ICHEIC and its past activities can be found at <http://www.icheic.org/>. Key ICHEIC documents, including decision memoranda and meeting minutes are maintained by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Information about the Austrian General Settlement Fund can be found on the web at <http://www.en.nationalfonds.org/>.



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Mike Kreidler - *State Insurance Commissioner*