

Excerpt from joint House Oversight and Government Reform Committee and House Ways and Means Committee interview of Cindy Thomas, IRS Program Manager for Exempt Organizations Determinations:

Q And that was the group that the, quote/unquote, "Tea Party" cases were first assigned to?

A That's correct. After screening, they went, once the Washington office asked us to identify somebody to work or to be the -- coordinate these cases, I went down through our management chain and asked who they wanted to coordinate, and the decision was to have Liz Hofacre coordinate them, and Liz is the person who was in Group 7825, and the manager was Joseph Herr.

Q So -- and that was because these cases were designated an emerging issue that they went to 7825?

A They really weren't designated as an emerging issue at the time because we didn't really have, you know -- that was around April 2010, and the Washington office asked for a coordinator for these cases. And apparently when they were reviewing these cases in the Washington office, they, the Washington office became -- they wanted a coordinator, and we assigned Liz Hofacre to coordinate those cases. And so she was preparing developmental letters for those cases, and she was sending the development letters to the contact in the Washington office, and they were -- she was also sending applicable parts of the application to the Washington office.