

**MARK S. ZAID, P.C.**  
**ATTORNEY-AT-LAW**

1250 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W.  
SUITE 200  
WASHINGTON, DC 20036

TELEPHONE: (202) 454-2809  
FACSIMILE: (202) 330-5610

MARK S. ZAID, MANAGING PARTNER (admitted in CT, DC, MD, NY)  
E-MAIL: MARK@MARKZAID.COM  
BRADLEY P. MOSS, PARTNER (admitted in DC, IL)  
E-MAIL: BRAD@MARKZAID.COM  
ILANA S. GREENSTEIN, OF COUNSEL (admitted in DC, MD)  
E-MAIL: ILANA@MARKZAID.COM

November 6, 2017

Director Christopher J. Wray  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20535-0001

Dear Director Wray:

Congratulations on recently assuming the leadership of the premier law enforcement agency in the United States.

I am writing to bring to your personal attention important news regarding the longest unsolved skyjacking case in the Bureau's history: the 1971 hijacking of North West Orient Flight 305 by "D.B. Cooper", or NORJAK as the case name was assigned. Unfortunately, I am also using this opportunity to alert you to the fact that the Bureau has failed to live up to its' Mission and has seemingly ignored crucial new evidence that could solve the case.

For the past six-years Thomas J. Colbert (a 30-year police trainer) and his partner-wife, Dawna, both of whom previously funded an FBI civilian cyber-counterintelligence asset, former Judge Shannen Rossmiller, for years in the War on Terror (out of the Helena, Montana Field Office), have led an investigative effort of more than forty renowned criminal-justice, legal and forensic volunteers, including more than a dozen former FBI Special Agents, to solve the NORJAK case. The full list of our Cold Case Team Members can be found at:  
<https://dbcooper.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/DBC-Bio-Cold-Case-Team-List-for-Website-9-28-17.pdf>.

From 2012 – 2015, the team worked to gather more than 100 pieces of evidence including DNA, family member testimony, and letter trails, that led to the identification of Robert W. Rackstraw, a former Army Paratrooper and Vietnam veteran who currently lives in San Diego, California, as the infamous "D.B. Cooper." The story received national attention, including the *Washington Post* (7/27/16), *ABC News* (9/8/16) and the *New York Daily News* (8/20/17).

Notwithstanding our efforts, which can be reviewed in detail at [www.DBCooper.com](http://www.DBCooper.com), the Bureau, led by its Seattle Field Office, administratively closed the NORJAK file in July 2016.

The FBI publicly announced that absent identifying direct evidence such as the parachute or missing ransom money the case was closed.

The FBI's decision aside, the team continued to move forward with its own investigation and it paid off. Credible sources revealed new details of the "Cooper" escape story, including, and most importantly, the ransom/parachute evidence burial location. This past August 2017, an excavation in the woods discovered remnants of what appeared to be a vintage parachute. We even learned the names of two living alleged co-conspirators who helped "Cooper" get away.

On August 12, 2017, I arranged for Mr. Colbert to personally turn over five unidentified fabric pieces believed to be that of "Cooper's" parachute, along with the names of the alleged co-conspirators, to agents in your Los Angeles Field Office. I understand that these items were sent to your Seattle Field Office for further review. As Sherlock Holmes famously said in *A Study in Scarlet*, "[t]here is nothing like first-hand evidence." We gave the FBI *exactly* the type of first-hand evidence it publicly claimed would generate the re-opening of the NORJAK investigation.

But after the passage of three months, the owners of the Oregon site has informed us that they have never been contacted by the FBI. Nor have we learned of any attempt to question the alleged co-conspirators or the results of the laboratory tests, assuming any were ever run, regarding the fabric. Needless to say, the lack of news is incredibly disappointing.

Of course, we are well aware the FBI has far more important crimes to solve than an historic hijacking that resulted in no injuries other than financial. Nor do we necessarily expect the Bureau to go out of its way to update us on any progress. But while we have absolutely no desire to impede any Bureau efforts, we remain committed to continuing our own investigative efforts.

If the Bureau has decided against re-opening its NORJAK investigation notwithstanding the evidence we have submitted, then we shall continue to excavate the site as well as directly contact the alleged co-conspirators. Therefore, unless we hear from a Bureau representative on or before **November 13, 2017**, that is our plan.

Director Wray, we have the utmost respect for the Bureau. Indeed, I have represented many of its agents and personnel over my 25-year career. And the Colberts are nothing but dedicated to law enforcement, as is our entire Cold Case Team. But justice delayed is justice denied. If the Bureau would like to contact us and ask that we refrain from disturbing the Oregon site due to FBI interest and planned activity, I can be best reached via e-mail or at the letterhead's phone numbers. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Mark S. Zaid

**UPDATE:** Attorney Zaid's status-report deadline of November 13, 2017, came and went without an FBI response. With the prodding of the Colberts' local California congresswoman, Julia Brownley, the Bureau finally responded on January 17, 2018 — with a form letter from Deputy Assistant Director Kevin P. Lyons (CID). One of the five sentences summed it up:

*"FBI does not generally comment on status or existence of any potential investigative matter."*