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**Fred Hitz**

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**BROADCAST EXCERPT**

**BOB EDWARDS:** A year ago, the CIA settled a sex discrimination case brought by one of its top female operatives. The settlement was for some \$700,000. NPR has learned that the woman who brought the case, known as Jane Doe Thompson, has asked the Justice Department to investigate top CIA officials for deliberately falsifying information against her. The Justice Department is conducting a preliminary investigation to see whether the CIA Inspector General, Fred Hitz, and others should be charged with a crime.

Just three weeks ago, three former CIA directors asked the Senate to conduct an independent investigation of the Inspector General's office.

NPR legal affairs correspondent Nina Totenberg reports.

**NINA TOTENBERG:** Jane Doe Thompson is not allowed to use her real name because the CIA insisted she remain under cover, even though she no longer works for the agency.

For 26 years she served in the CIA, eventually becoming one of four women to reach the rank of Station Chief in the Directorate of Operations, the Clandestine Services. For 23 of those years she was a star, a brilliant case officer who was steadily promoted. And in 1989 she was sent to Jamaica as the first female Station Chief in Latin America.

According to former CIA Director William Webster, Jamaica was a problem station for the CIA, and Thompson was sent there to clean it up. Within the first year and a half, Thompson reported her deputy for beating his wife, and she disciplined two other subordinates.

In 1992, Thompson was called to the Inspector General's office

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in Washington for a meeting, a meeting that she thought would be about her deputy's repeated and admitted wife abuse. Instead, she found that the Inspector General had been investigating her for six months.

JANE DOE THOMPSON [Former CIA Station Chief]: I got to the interview, they called me for an interview, and the first thing that I was told was that I was the target of the investigation.

TOTENBERG: Jane Doe Thompson's life was suddenly turned upside down. The very people she had disciplined and had reported for alleged wrongdoing had made charges against her and been believed.

THOMPSON: I left there and I must have been in such a state of shock, I ran into a friend of mine as I was walking down the hall, just after leaving the IG's office, and she said to me, "Jane, what's the matter with you? You're all white." She said, "What happened to you?"

TOTENBERG: Thompson has never spoken publicly before, but in a lengthy interview, she told the story of what happened to her. Initially, she said, the charges against her were that she claimed some unauthorized overtime and had used a government helicopter for personal purposes. But when she was able to definitively disprove those charges, the focus of the Inspector General's investigation switched to more personal allegations, that she was a drunken, promiscuous case officer who sexually harassed a subordinate.

Thompson got herself a lawyer, and in November of 1992, more than a year after the investigation of her began, she was allowed to see the Inspector General's report on her conduct.

THOMPSON: I was horrified. They said that I dressed in revealing clothing, in short shorts, in thin T-shirts, in skimpy or no perceptible underwear. The whole report was vicious. I was just -- I guess I was just shocked and appalled by it.

TOTENBERG: Over the course of the investigation, Thompson had offered to take a polygraph test, had offered all her doctor's records to prove she was not a problem drinker, and had presented affidavits from the ambassador she worked for in Jamaica and others attesting to her sobriety and good professional conduct.

Now, looking at the inspector general's report, she saw that the ambassador had not been interviewed. Neither had any of the other witnesses she had said would back her up. Rather, the Inspector General had relied almost exclusively on the testimony of the individuals she had disciplined in Jamaica.

Thompson said she was able to easily identify the unnamed

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sources cited in the report, all except one, the subordinate whom she had allegedly harassed.

THOMPSON: I became an insomniac. I didn't sleep for days and days on end. I was absolutely devastated. I mean, I tried, I wreaked my brain day after day, night after night, trying to think of what male subordinate would say that about me.

TOTENBERG: By 1994, the CIA was telling Thompson's lawyers that the unnamed subordinate was the linchpin of their case against Thompson. And the time finally came when the CIA was required by law to identify its star witness. The witness was no subordinate. Rather, the agency identified him as Stephen Widener, who had served as the ranking Drug Enforcement Agency officer in Jamaica at the same time Thompson had been there.

THOMPSON: They told my lawyers that I had draped myself on him at this Christmas party, I had massaged him, I had said things to him about what I wanted to do to him sexually, that they could not repeat it to my lawyers. And so my lawyers came and told me that, and I said, "Let's call him up and ask him, because it never happened."

TOTENBERG: Within days, Widener had gotten permission from his superiors at the Drug Enforcement Administration to file an affidavit with Thompson's lawyers. It was nothing short of a legal bomb, rebutting in every specific, the CIA's allegations. "Yes," said Widener, "he had been at the Christmas party referred to by the Inspector General, but nothing said about Thompson's conduct was true. At the Christmas party and in all my contact with Miss Thompson," said Widener, "Miss Thompson never massaged my chest or back, touched me in any way that was sexually provocative, draped herself on me, said anything that was sexually provocative or behaved in any way that suggested she was inebriated or abusing alcohol."

Perhaps even more devastating for the Inspector General was this fact. Widener stated in the affidavit that he had never been interviewed or questioned about Thompson by anyone from the Inspector General's office.

Within hours, the Justice Department lawyers representing the CIA agreed to settle the case and to pay Thompson \$400,000 in damages and her lawyers \$300,000 for nearly three years of legal work.

But Jane Doe Thompson says she wants more than money. In a letter to Attorney General Janet Reno, she charged that Inspector General Fred Hitz and his staff, quote, "knowingly accepted lies as truths and produced a perjurious and fabricated report," close quote. That, says Thompson, would appear to be a violation of a

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federal law making it a crime punishable by up to five years in prison for any federal official to knowingly make any false representations in a government report.

Upon receiving Thompson's letter, the Attorney General authorized a preliminary investigation of Inspector General Hitz, his staff and the CIA employees who made the original charges against Thompson, the individual she disciplined in Jamaica.

Inspector General Fred Hitz and the CIA had no comment when queried about the Justice Department investigation yesterday. Hitz, however, did testify about the Thompson case before the Senate Intelligence Committee last March. At that time he said the case should not have been settled and insisted his office had not, in any way, mishandled the investigation.

But former CIA Director Robert Gates, the CIA director who signed off on the original reprimand of Thompson, had told friends recently that he believes an injustice was done to Jane Doe Thompson and it was the CIA Director who succeeded Gates, James Woolsey, who overrode Hitz in settling the case.

Hitz has won high marks on Capitol Hill for the damage assessment he completed last month on the Aldrich Ames case. But the three former CIA directors he criticized in his report wrote to Congress noting that Hitz himself had twice reviewed the Clandestine Services Operation when the CIA knew they had a mole and yet Hitz found none of the failures he listed in his report to Congress last month.

Within the CIA, all three former CIA directors, William Webster, Robert Gates and James Woolsey, were seen as strong Hitz supporters over the years. But as one of them put it recently, "I think Fred Hitz has gotten the sense that he can do whatever he wants to, because the Senate likes him to go out and get as many heads as he can."

The Senate, of course, may have good reason to cast a doubting eye on the CIA, given the agency's many fumbleings and failures of late. The question is, has the Inspector General perverted the process? Jane Doe Thompson thinks he has.

THOMPSON: When the Soviet Union was still in existence and we had this big propaganda program and used to direct it against the KGB, and these were the kind of things we said about the KGB. And until it happened to me, I realized that this exists in my own agency. It is Kafkaesk.

TOTENBERG: I'm Nina Totenberg in Washington.