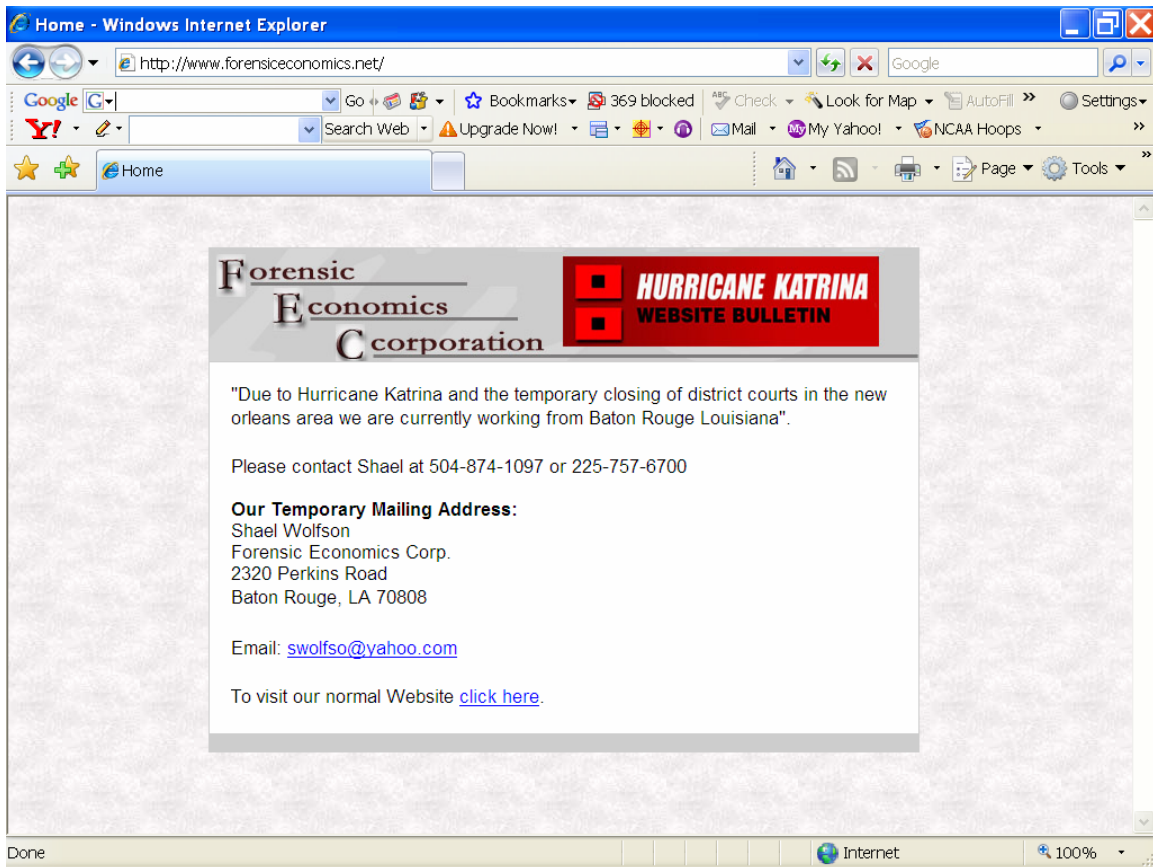


Special Report

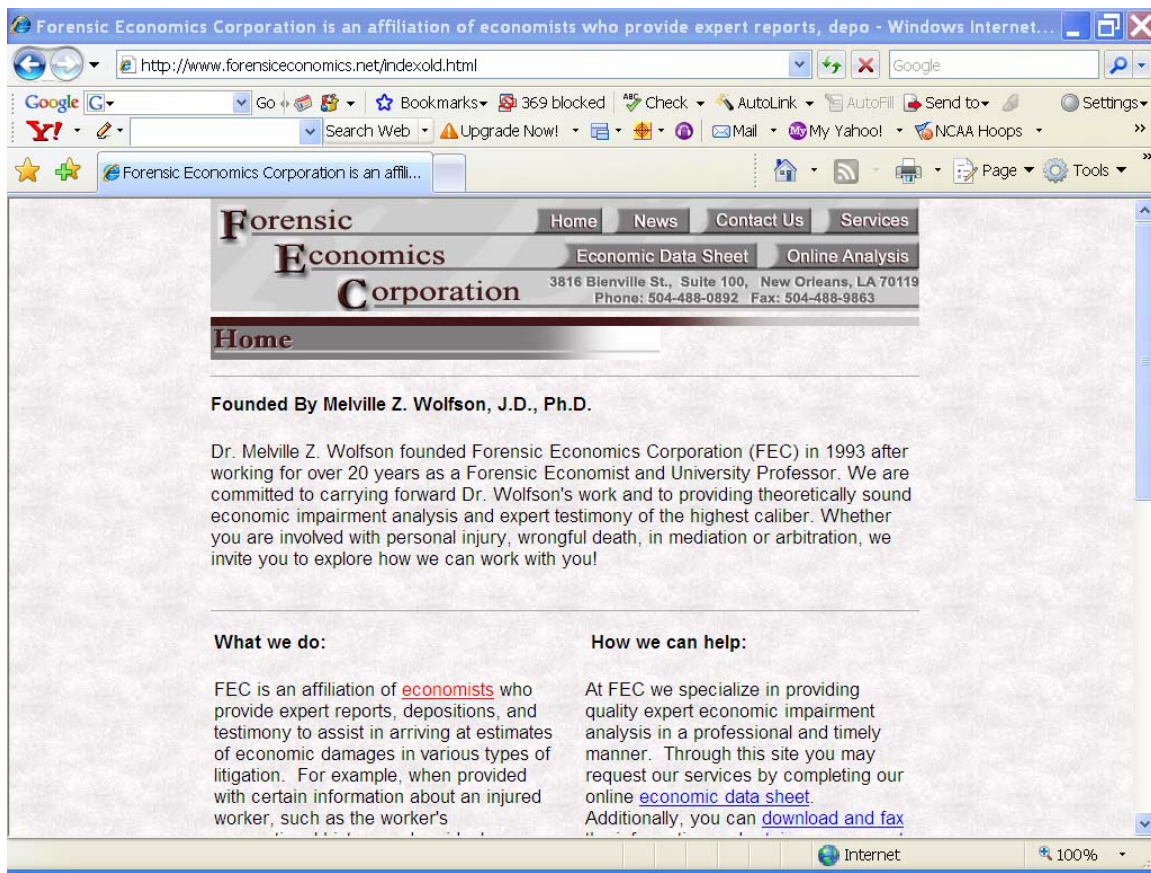
More Details on Carter's Private Sector Shingle

An Investigative Series on the Use of the CoB for Personal Gain

Sources have provided usmnews.net with another batch of information related to EFIB Chairman George Carter's use of USM facilities for work in his private sector consulting firm. Tips from sources led usmnews.net reporters to the temporary website for the private sector company **Forensic Economics Corporation**. As the screen insert below states, **FEC** is a New Orleans-based company that has been temporarily relocated to Baton Rouge due to the lingering effects of Hurricane Katrina.



The screen above also indicates that the Corporation's contact person is Shael Wolfson in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. At the bottom of the screen above is the line "To visit our normal Website [click here](#)." Our investigators followed that trail, which produced the screen you will find inserted below:



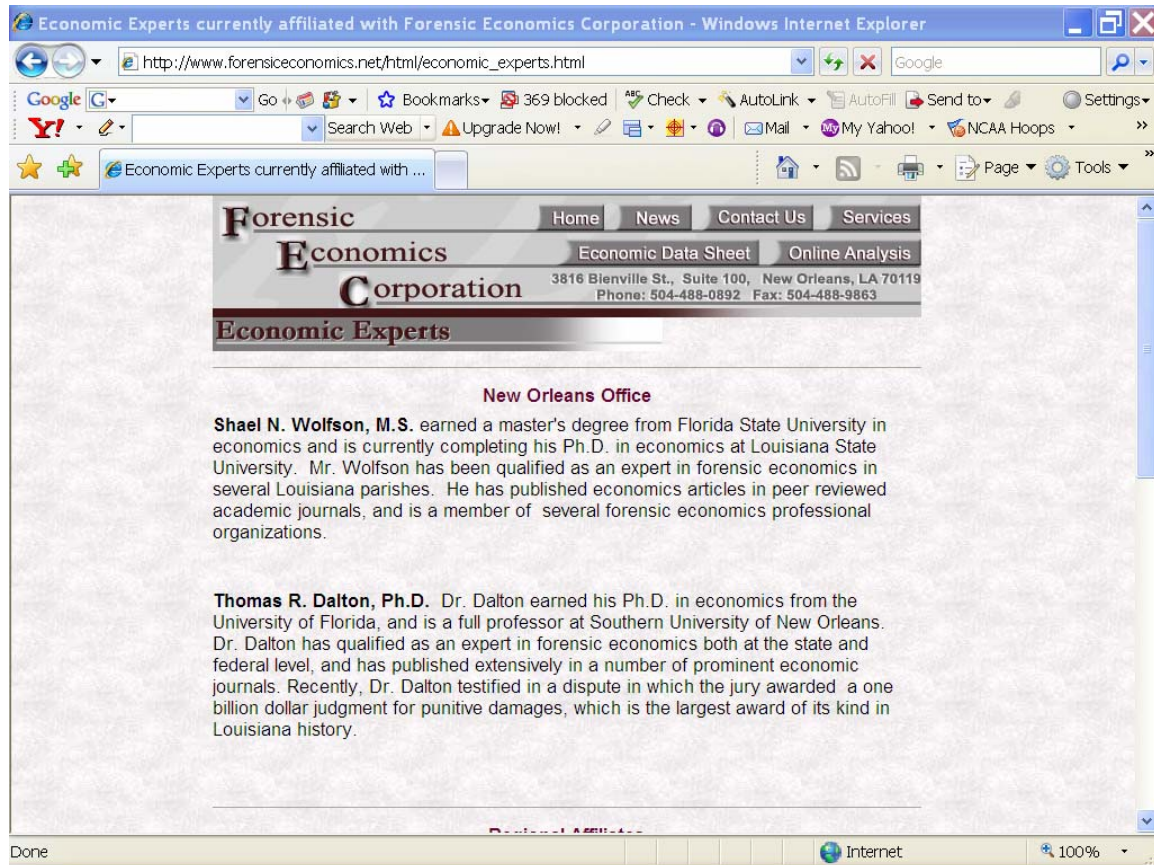
This page of **FEC**'s website provides some history of the Corporation, such as information about its founding in 1993 by Melville Z. Wolfson, J.D., Ph.D., a forensic economist and University Professor. According to a passage above,

“We [**FEC**] are committed to carrying forward Dr. Wolfson’s work and to providing theoretically sound economic impairment analysis and expert testimony of the highest caliber. Whether you are involved with personal injury, wrongful death, in mediation or arbitration, we invite you to explore how we can work with you!”

To explain further, **FEC**'s website (above, bottom right) indicates that the Corporation specializes “in providing quality economic impairment analysis in a professional and timely manner.” **FEC** also states (above, bottom left) that the Corporation is “an affiliation of economists who provide expert reports, depositions, and testimony to assist in arriving at estimates of economic damages in various types of litigation.” Thus, **FEC** does many, if not all (or more), of the things that Carter’s own **Mississippi Consulting Group, Inc.** does for its clients.¹

¹ For more usmnews.net reporting on Carter’s **MCG, Inc.** business, and its use of USM facilities, see “Is Carter Operating a Business out of JGH? . . .” (http://www.usmnews.net/Special_Report_69.pdf), CoB Public Service Announcement (<http://www.usmnews.net/MCG%20Inc%20PSA.pdf>), and “Conveniently Located . . .” (<http://www.usmnews.net/Special%20Report%20102.pdf>).

Next, our reporters followed the [economists](#) link on the webpage inserted just above, and found the following:

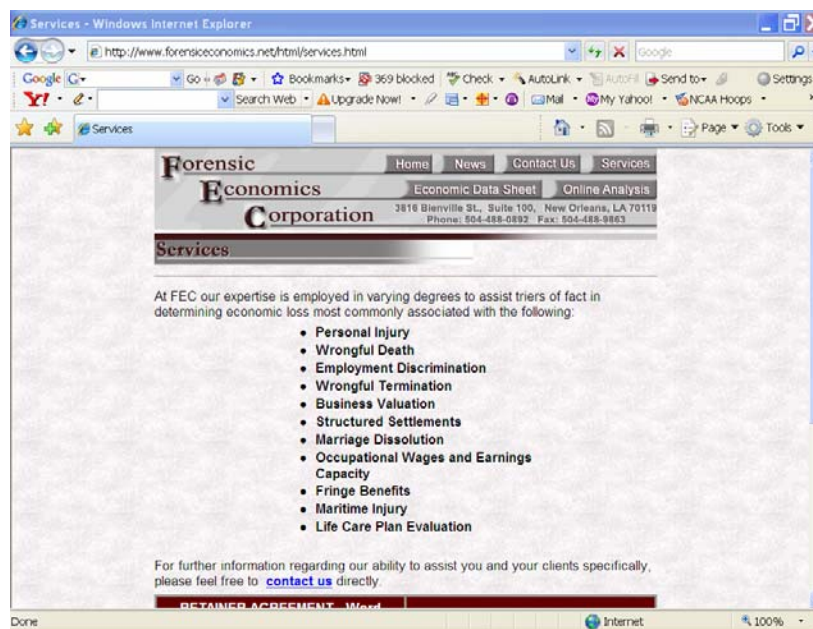


This screen shows that the “Economic Experts” in the New Orleans branch of FEC are Shael N. Wolfson (M.S., Florida State University) and Thomas R. Dalton (Ph.D., University of Florida). Wolfson is currently working on his Ph.D. in economics from Louisiana State University, and Dalton is a professor of economics at Southern University in New Orleans.

The phrase that is barely visible at the bottom of the screen above is “**Regional Affiliates**”; there are two of these listed underneath. The second of these two Regional Affiliates of the FEC is the EFIB’s own Chairman, George H. Carter, who is listed as “George H. Carter [Ph.D., Texas A&M University] . . . full professor and chair of the economics and international business department at the University of Southern Mississippi . . .” The screen below captures this information, as well as the statement that “In addition to numerous publications in academic journals, Dr. Carter has an . . .”:



This information above suggests that Carter and his **MCG, Inc.** concern are part of a larger umbrella organization – the **Forensic Economics Corporation** – which offers a number of consulting services, as indicated by the screen below:



As you will see in one of the screens above, there is a link to the **FEC's Retainer Agreement – PDF-Format**. Our reporters copied the top portion of the **FEC's Retainer Agreement**. It is inserted below:

RETAINER AGREEMENT FORENSIC ECONOMICS CORP.

FORENSIC ECONOMICS CORPORATION requires a minimum \$500 non-refundable and non-transferable retainer before work commences or designation of a Forensic Economics Expert as your expert witness;

FORENSIC ECONOMICS CORPORATION bills for its services on a project basis: Rates are between \$1000-\$1500 for an initial economic impairment analysis including standard research, past and future earnings/earning capacity, fringe benefit losses, personal service losses and report preparation; \$575 for the first hour of a deposition and \$275 an hour thereafter with a two hour minimum billed to deposing counsel, \$250 an hour for trial testimony with a four hour minimum; and \$400 for a standard update which is required when trial dates change or new pertinent information becomes available; premiums may be added for rush projects (those required in less than 3 business days), Life Care Plan Evaluation, and issuance or recalculation of additional formal reports;

This information (above) was used to generate an estimate of the expenses associated with a typical project that George Carter might work on for the **FEC** group. That hypothetical project is detailed below:

Hypothetical Carter Project for FEC Group

Initial Impairment Analysis:	\$1,250
2-Hour Deposition:	\$ 850
1-Hour Trial Testimony:	\$1,000
Standard Update:	<u>\$ 400</u>
	\$3,500

Staff at usmnews.net are in possession of a number of official documents provided to usmnews.net by USM Counsel Lee P. Gore that relate to Carter's permission to engage in outside employment. In these documents Carter indicates that he works on consulting business about four (or more) hours each week (plus depositions and courtroom testimony when necessary). If one assumes that Carter works on impairment consulting for six (6) hours per week over the course of a year, his total would come to 312 hours per year. Divided by 40, this total comes to 7.8 full-time work weeks (i.e., almost two months' worth of consulting time per year). At two projects per week-worked, Carter could conceivably complete 15.6 projects for **FEC** each year, bringing in \$54,600 in the process. Thus, combined with his USM compensation package, Carter could be earning well over \$200,000 per year from (both) MS taxpayers and **FEC** (and **MCG, Inc.**) clients.

How all of this **FEC**-(and **MCG, Inc.**-)related work impacts Carter's ability to perform, as a professor of economics and Chairman of the EFIB, for MS taxpayers will be the subject of future reports and commentaries here at usmnews.net.