

U.S. Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General
Summaries of Investigations Provided Pursuant to
Requests by Chairmen Grassley and Johnson

October 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015

The case summaries below include the current status of Department of Justice (Department) component disciplinary action and any appeals thereof. At the request of the components, we note that a component's disciplinary action with respect to an individual employee may be informed by the Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) investigation and findings, the component's findings and conclusions, and additional information that may have been provided to component disciplinary officials in accordance with that component's approved policies and procedures.

1. The OIG conducted an investigation of allegations that an Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) received marijuana to deliver to his spouse. In an interview with the OIG, the AUSA denied having obtained marijuana for his wife, but admitted that his spouse possessed and used marijuana at their residence. He also admitted to an isolated incident of marijuana use after the death of a parent during his tenure as an AUSA. The OIG concluded that the AUSA had failed to fulfill his professional duties and obligations by his admitted use of marijuana while an AUSA, and by tolerating his spouse's marijuana use at their residence. Prosecution was declined by federal and local officials. Through review of the AUSA's official e-mail, the OIG also determined that the AUSA exercised poor judgment and violated Department policy by misusing his government e-mail account to organize and solicit for private charitable fundraisers. On October 27, 2014, the OIG provided its ROI to the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys (EOUSA) for appropriate action. The OIG also provided a copy of the report to the DOJ Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) for its determination of whether to notify the State Bar of the attorney's conduct.

EOUSA has informed us that the AUSA had resigned from his position.

2. The OIG conducted an investigation of allegations that a Chief Deputy U.S. Marshal (CDUSM) followed a car to the driver's residence, approached the teenage occupants of the car, and threatened them. It was also alleged that the CDUSM had previously thrown a beer can from his car onto the lawn of the same residence. During an interview with the OIG, the CDUSM admitted to following the car to the residence, but

he denied threatening the car's occupants and denied previously throwing a beer can on the lawn of the same residence. The OIG concluded that the CDUSM violated the USMS Code of Professional Responsibility by exhibiting conduct unbecoming of a U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) employee when he engaged in a verbal altercation with members of the general public. On October 23, 2014, the OIG provided its ROI to the USMS for appropriate action.

On May 12, 2015, the USMS informed us that the matter remained pending.

3. The OIG conducted an investigation of allegations that an AUSA engaged in a verbal altercation with a retail store manager during which he identified himself as a federal prosecutor and threatened to sue the retail establishment. The OIG investigation determined that the AUSA had identified himself as a federal prosecutor, and by doing so, had misused his position. The investigation also determined that the AUSA lacked candor while under oath during his interviews with the OIG. Prosecution was declined. On December 16, 2014, the OIG provided its ROI to EOUSA for appropriate action.

EOUSA has informed us that the AUSA received a Letter of Reprimand.

4. The OIG conducted an investigation of allegations that an AUSA violated ethics regulations by applying for a position with a financial institution while simultaneously participating in the prosecution of a matter in which the financial institution was the victim. The OIG investigation substantiated the allegations, and in an interview with the OIG, the AUSA admitted to violating ethics regulations relating to conflicts of interest. The AUSA resigned his employment with the DOJ prior to the conclusion of the investigation. Prosecution was declined. On December 11, 2014, the OIG presented its ROI to EOUSA for review.
5. The OIG conducted an investigation of allegations that a former U.S. Marshal engaged in inappropriate relationships with multiple subordinate employees while serving as the U.S. Marshal. The OIG investigation determined that the former U.S. Marshal engaged in inappropriate relationships with two subordinates and a peer. During a compelled interview with the OIG, the former U.S. Marshal admitted to engaging in the inappropriate relationships. The former U.S. Marshal also admitted to operating a government vehicle after consuming alcohol, misusing the vehicle, and misusing a government cell phone, all to further the inappropriate relationships. The OIG also found that the former U.S. Marshal demonstrated a lack of candor concerning

availability for the OIG interview. After having taken another position within the USMS, the former U.S. Marshal retired as a result of, and prior to the conclusion of, the OIG investigation. On March 2, 2015 the OIG provided its ROI to the USMS for review.