

Transcript: "A Message from IG Horowitz: "A Message from IG Horowitz: 2014 Top Management Challenges" – Dec 2014

Hello. My name is Michael Horowitz, and I am the Inspector General at the U.S. Department of Justice.

Here at the Department of Justice's Office of the Inspector General, we are responsible for identifying and deterring waste, fraud, abuse, and misconduct in the Department's programs and by its employees. We also work to promote efficiency in Justice Department programs and operations.

Our office, by law, is independent of the DOJ. We report to both the head of the agency and to Congress, which helps to ensure our ability to act as an independent watchdog over Department personnel and activities.

We do a number of things to carry out our mission here at OIG. We investigate allegations of wrongdoing, conduct financial and performance audits of Justice grants, contracts and programs, and report on the operations of DOJ components. These include the FBI, DEA, ATF, U.S. Marshals Service, and the Bureau of Prisons.

Every year, the OIG releases a list of what we believe are the most pressing challenges for the Department of Justice. This month, we released our latest report on these Top Management Challenges. Our top seven challenges now facing the Department, in no particular order, are:

- Addressing the Persisting Crisis in the Federal Prison System,
- Safeguarding National Security Consistent With Civil Rights and Civil Liberties,
- Enhancing Cybersecurity in an Era of Ever-Increasing Threats,
- Effectively Implementing Performance-Based Management,
- Ensuring Effective and Efficient Oversight of Law Enforcement Programs,
- Upholding the Highest Standards of Integrity and Public Service, and
- Protecting Taxpayer Funds from Mismanagement and Misuse.

Over the next few weeks, I plan to use these videos to further explain what exactly these challenges entail, and what issues the Department faces with each of them. I will discuss what we have determined needs to be addressed, and why it is important for the Department and the public that DOJ begins to address these issues. In the process, I hope to make clearer to you the kind of work the OIG does, and hopefully give you a window into our reviews – and of course, why our findings and recommendations are important to the Department's operations.

Like all Inspector General offices, we challenge the Department to make necessary improvements. These aren't easy issues, but they cannot be avoided, and it is important that DOJ make real progress on them.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to continuing this conversation about the path going forward. Thank you.