Finding of Misconduct by an Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) for Misuse of Position, Conduct Prejudicial to the Government, and Driving a Personal Vehicle While Under the Influence of Alcohol

The Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) initiated this investigation upon the receipt of information from the Executive Office for United States Attorneys (EOUSA) alleging that an Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) had misused the AUSA's position and had engaged in conduct prejudicial to the government during a traffic stop. During this investigation, the OIG found indications that the AUSA had been driving a personal vehicle while under the influence of alcohol.

The OIG investigation found that the AUSA had engaged in misuse of position when referring to the AUSA's title in an attempt to influence local police officers during a traffic stop. The OIG investigation also found that the AUSA engaged in conduct that was prejudicial to the government, including ignoring instructions, cursing at officers, and kicking the door of the patrol vehicle, in violation of federal ethics regulations and 5 C.F.R. § 735.203. The OIG investigation also determined that the AUSA had been driving a personal vehicle while under the influence of alcohol.

The OIG has completed its investigation and provided its report to EOUSA and the Department's Office of Professional Responsibility for appropriate action.

Unless otherwise noted, the OIG applies the preponderance of the evidence standard in determining whether Department of Justice personnel have committed misconduct.