Findings of Misconduct by an Assistant United States Attorney for Inappropriate Physical Contact with a Foreign Service National and Other Unprofessional Conduct while on a Department of Justice Detail Assignment in a Foreign Country

The Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) initiated an investigation after receiving information from the DOJ Criminal Division alleging that an Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) then on a DOJ Criminal Division detail assignment in a foreign country, had inappropriate physical contact with a Foreign Service National (FSN) employed by the State Department. During its investigation, the OIG found indications that the AUSA had engaged in other unprofessional conduct, by becoming inebriated in the presence of foreign government officials and making offensive and demeaning remarks to foreign government officials.

The OIG investigation substantiated the allegation that the AUSA had inappropriate physical contact with the FSN when during an off-duty social gathering at a restaurant, the AUSA forcibly grabbed the FSN by the chin in an aggressive gesture and redirected the FSN’s attention toward the AUSA, in violation of DOJ and State Department policy. The OIG investigation also found that the AUSA on multiple occasions had engaged in unprofessional conduct by becoming inebriated in the presence of foreign government officials and making offensive and demeaning remarks to foreign government officials, in violation of DOJ and State Department policy.

Criminal prosecution of the AUSA was declined.

The OIG has completed its investigation and is providing this 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.