

To: Horowitz, Michael E. (b)(6)
From: MICHAEL HOROWITZ (b)(6)
Sent: Tue 1/19/2021 12:01:25 PM (UTC)
Subject: Lott hiring
[D1F289E895FDD9F6342DC1E899BFC179.2020.12.08-letter-to-ag-barr.pdf](#)

https://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/b/0/b013ed7a-f056-421f-9720-1e09e25a851f/D1F289E895FDD9F6342DC1E899BFC179.2020.12.08-letter-to-ag-barr.pdf?utm_source=The+Trace+mailing+list&utm_campaign=9ddb1b62e3-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_09_24_04_06_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f76c3ff31c-9ddb1b62e3-112434573

United States Senate

December 8, 2020

The Honorable William P. Barr
Attorney General of the United States
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Barr:

We write to request information on the Justice Department's recent hiring of John Lott and on the completed and potential conversions of political appointees to civil service positions at the Department and its components.

The Department recently hired John Lott, a pro-gun advocate who claims that widespread gun ownership can reduce crime. Although the Department has confirmed that Lott was hired as a senior adviser in the Office of Justice Programs, it has not said whether Lott is serving in a career civil service position or as a political appointee. Lott himself has said that he "took a job at the Department of Justice" and that he is "really not supposed to say more than that." [Politico, 11/25/2020] This coincides with reports that Heidi Stirrup, the Department's White House liaison, was recently barred from the Department after extending job offers to political allies and attempting to interfere in the hiring process for career personnel. [AP, 12/3/2020] These events raise concerns about the Department's compliance with requirements designed to maintain the continued integrity of the nonpartisan career civil service.

The Civil Service Reform Act requires that the "selection and advancement" of employees in the civil service be "determined solely on the basis of relative ability, knowledge, and skills, after fair and open competition." [5 U.S.C. § 2301(b)(1)] The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) makes clear that "political appointees...must not be given preference or special advantages" when considered for federal jobs. [McGettigan Memo, *Political Appointees and Career Civil Service Positions*, February 23, 2018]

Given the importance of ensuring that the career civil service remains a merit-based system, we ask that you provide the following information no later than December 22:

1. An explanation of the circumstances surrounding Mr. Lott's hiring, including whether he is a political appointee.
2. A list of all individuals who held positions as political appointees since January 20, 2017, and are now employed in permanent competitive positions, non-political excepted service positions, or career Senior Executive Service (SES) positions at the Department and its components. For each individual, include:

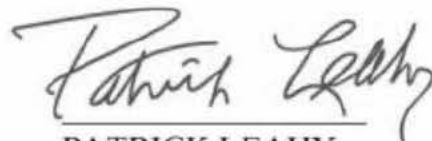
- a. the individual's name;
 - b. the title of position(s) to which the individual was initially appointed;
 - c. the start and end dates of such appointment(s);
 - d. the title of the individual's current position;
 - e. the start date of the individual's current position; and
 - f. a copy of the written OPM authorization of the individual's appointment to a permanent position.
3. A list of all current or former political appointees for whom the Department and its components have sought written authorization from OPM for the appointees' conversion to permanent competitive positions, non-political excepted service positions, or career SES positions. For each individual, include:
- a. the individual's name;
 - b. the title of position(s) to which the individual was initially appointed;
 - c. the start, and end dates if applicable, of such appointment(s);
 - d. the title of the permanent position sought; and
 - e. a copy of the Department's request to OPM for written authorization of the individual's appointment to a permanent position.

We also ask that you supplement your response to these questions on a biweekly basis through January 20, 2021.

Sincerely,



DIANNE FEINSTEIN
Ranking Member



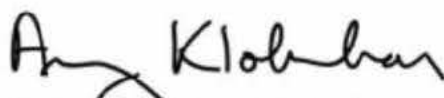
PATRICK LEAHY
United States Senator




RICHARD J. DURBIN
United States Senator



SHELDON WHITEHOUSE
United States Senator



AMY KLOBUCHAR
United States Senator



CHRISTOPHER A. COONS
United States Senator



RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senator



MAZIE K. HIRONO
United States Senator

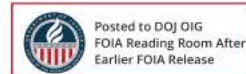


CORY A. BOOKER
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable Lindsey O. Graham
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Jeffrey A. Rosen
Deputy Attorney General of the United States

To: Horowitz, Michael E.(OIG) [redacted]; Blier, William M.(OIG) [redacted]; O'Neill, Michael S. (OIG) [redacted]
From: Miles, Adam (OIG)[/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=2C130EDA9FA24D05BC3B82BEA82105D4-MILES, ADAM]
Sent: Tue 1/26/2021 5:14:10 PM (UTC)
Subject: Fwd: Lott hiring
IDMS Printout - LOTT.pdf
[ATT00001.htm](#)



Begin forwarded message:

From: "Kirdar, Jim M. (OIG)" [redacted]
Date: January 26, 2021 at 12:06:54 PM EST
To: "Miles, Adam (OIG)" [redacted]
Cc: "Lake, Sarah E. (OIG)" [redacted]
Subject: RE: Lott hiring

Hi Adam,

Per our telecom, please see attached (IDMS indicates he's an active DOJ employee).

Thanks,

Jim

-----Original Message-----

From: Miles, Adam (OIG) [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 11:32 AM
To: Kirdar, Jim M. (OIG) [redacted]
Cc: Lake, Sarah E. (OIG) [redacted]
Subject: FW: Lott hiring

Jim,

Would you be able to pull the appointment authority and position title for someone named John Lott in OJP?

[redacted]

Thanks,

Adam

-----Original Message-----

From: Horowitz, Michael E.(OIG) [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 11:22 AM
To: Miles, Adam (OIG) [redacted]
Cc: Blier, William M.(OIG) [redacted]; O'Neill, Michael S. (OIG) [redacted]
Subject: RE: Lott hiring

[redacted]

-----Original Message-----

From: Miles, Adam (OIG) [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 3:16 PM
To: Horowitz, Michael E.(OIG) [REDACTED]
Cc: Blier, William M.(OIG) [REDACTED]; O'Neill, Michael S. (OIG) [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Lott hiring

OLA just closed the loop on this. [REDACTED]

Do you want anyone to reach out to OJP about this particular person, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] They should be able to do that.

> On Jan 21, 2021, at 8:37 AM, Horowitz, Michael E.(OIG) [REDACTED] wrote:
>
> Interesting letter with reference to Stirrup. Doesn't look like we were copied on it.
>
> Adam, can you see if DOJ responded?
>
>
> https://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/b/0/b013cd7a-f056-421f-9720-1e09e25a851f/D1F289E895FDD9F6342DC1E899BFC179.2020.12.08-letter-to-ag-barr.pdf?utm_source=The+Trace+mailing+list&utm_campaign=9ddb1b62e3-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_09_24_04_06_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f76c3ff31c-9ddb1b62e3-112434573
>
>
> <D1F289E895FDD9F6342DC1E899BFC179.2020.12.08-letter-to-ag-barr.pdf>

Department Of Justice - OIG Persons Report



Prefix:	Employee:	DOJ Employee
First Name: John	DOB:	(b)(6)
Middle Name: R	Misc:	
Last Name: Lott	Sex:	Male
Suffix: JR	Key:	674784
Name: Lott, John R	Date Added:	11/16/2020
SSN: (b)(6)	Added By:	Nfc_update
US Citizen: U.S. Citizen	Date Updated:	12/15/2020
Nationality:	Updated By:	Nfc_update
Race: White not of Hispanic Origin	Owner:	Nfc_update
Place of Birth:	Group:	Data Entry Personnel
FBI #:	Permissions:	fud--f--
Person/Organization:	Person:	

Job Titles (2)

Job Title:	Step:	5
Component: Office of Justice Programs (Other)	EOD:	10/20/2020
NFC Title: ADVISOR FOR RESEARCH AND STATISTICS	Position Supervisory Code:	5 - All Other Positions
Work Title:	Separation Status Code:	Not Separated
Pay Plan: GS	Date Added:	12/15/2020
Series: 00301 - Miscellaneous Administration and Program Series	Added By:	Nfc_update
Bargaining Status Code: Represented	Date Updated:	
Grade: 13	Updated By:	
	Key:	3656429

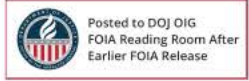
Job Title:	Step:	5
Component: Office of Justice Programs (Other)	EOD:	10/20/2020
NFC Title: ADVISOR FOR RESEARCH AND STATISTICS	Position Supervisory Code:	5 - All Other Positions
Work Title:	Separation Status Code:	Not Separated
Pay Plan: GS	Date Added:	11/16/2020
Series: 00301 - Miscellaneous Administration and Program Series	Added By:	Nfc_update
Bargaining Status Code: Represented	Date Updated:	
Grade: 13	Updated By:	
	Key:	3633915

Location/Address (2)

Type: Home	Country: US - United States of America
Street Address: (b)(6)	E-Address:
City:	Date Added: 11/16/2020
State:	Added By: Nfc_update
Zip Code:	Date Updated:
County:	Updated By:
	Key: 7527086

Type: Business	Country: US - United States of America
Street Address: 810 7TH STREET NW	E-Address:
City: WASHINGTON	Date Added: 11/16/2020
State: DC	Added By: Nfc_update
Zip Code: 20001	Date Updated:
County:	Updated By:
	Key: 7527087

**Department Of Justice - OIG
Persons Report**



Report complete. Number of main records listed: 1 of 1

To: Horowitz, Michael E.(OIG) [redacted] Blier, William M.(OIG) [redacted] O'Neill, Michael S. (OIG) [redacted]
From: Miles, Adam (OIG)[/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=2C130EDA9FA24D05BC3B82BEA82105D4-MILES, ADAM]
Sent: Thur 2/4/2021 7:32:36 PM (UTC)
Subject: RE: Lott hiring



I forgot about this. I don't know if we want to close the loop on this too.

From: Miles, Adam (OIG)
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 12:14 PM
To: Horowitz, Michael E.(OIG) [redacted] Blier, William M.(OIG) [redacted] O'Neill, Michael S. (OIG) [redacted]
Subject: Fwd: Lott hiring

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Kirdar, Jim M. (OIG)" [redacted]
Date: January 26, 2021 at 12:06:54 PM EST
To: "Miles, Adam (OIG)" [redacted]
Cc: "Lake, Sarah E. (OIG)" [redacted]
Subject: RE: Lott hiring

Hi Adam,

Per our telecom, please see attached (IDMS indicates he's an active DOJ employee).

Thanks,

Jim

-----Original Message-----

From: Miles, Adam (OIG) [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 11:32 AM
To: Kirdar, Jim M. (OIG) [redacted]
Cc: Lake, Sarah E. (OIG) [redacted]
Subject: FW: Lott hiring

Jim,

Would you be able to pull the appointment authority and position title for someone named John Lott in OJP?

[redacted]

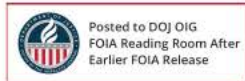
Thanks,

Adam

-----Original Message-----

From: Horowitz, Michael E.(OIG) [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 11:22 AM
To: Miles, Adam (OIG) [redacted]

Cc: Blier, William M.(OIG) (b)(6); O'Neill, Michael S. (OIG)



(b)(6)
Subject: RE: Lott hiring

(b)(6)
-----Original Message-----

From: Miles, Adam (OIG) (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 3:16 PM
To: Horowitz, Michael E.(OIG) (b)(6)
Cc: Blier, William M.(OIG) (b)(6); O'Neill, Michael S. (OIG)
(b)(6)
Subject: Re: Lott hiring

OLA just closed the loop on this. (b)(6)

(b)(6)
Do you want anyone to reach out to OJP about this particular person, (b)(6)
(b)(6) They should be able to do that.

> On Jan 21, 2021, at 8:37 AM, Horowitz, Michael E.(OIG) (b)(6) > wrote:
>
> Interesting letter with reference to Stirrup. Doesn't look like we were copied on it.
>
> Adam, can you see if DOJ responded?
>
>
> https://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/b/0/b013ed7a-f056-421f-9720-1e09e25a851f/D1F289E895FDD9F6342DC1E899BFC179.2020.12.08-letter-to-ag-barr.pdf?utm_source=The+Trace+mailing+list&utm_campaign=9ddb1b62e3-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_09_24_04_06_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f76c3ff31c-9ddb1b62e3-112434573
>
>
> <D1F289E895FDD9F6342DC1E899BFC179.2020.12.08-letter-to-ag-barr.pdf>

To: Miles, Adam (OIG) [b)(6)]
Cc: Blier, William M. (OIG) [b)(6)] O'Neill, Michael S.
(OIG) [b)(6)]
From: Horowitz, Michael E. (OIG) [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=86E3BD4CE7EE45F7A6222B7C6A7A8B29-HOROWITZ, M]
Sent: Thur 1/21/2021 1:54:16 PM (UTC)
Subject: RE: Lott hiring

Yes, OLA is fine. And if there is underlying info, that would be good to have.

-----Original Message-----

From: Miles, Adam (OIG) [b)(6)]
Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2021 8:44 AM
To: Horowitz, Michael E. (OIG) [b)(6)]
Cc: Blier, William M. (OIG) [b)(6)] O'Neill, Michael S. (OIG)
[b)(6)]
Subject: Re: Lott hiring

Oh, in reference to last email, I was going to ask OLA, [b)(5)]

[b)(5)]

> On Jan 21, 2021, at 8:40 AM, Miles, Adam (OIG) [b)(6)] wrote:
>
> Yes, will do. Do you want any of the underlying info, or just want to know if they responded?
>
>> On Jan 21, 2021, at 8:37 AM, Horowitz, Michael E. (OIG) [b)(6)] wrote:
>>
>> Interesting letter with reference to Stirrup. Doesn't look like we were copied on it.
>>
>> Adam, can you see if DOJ responded?
>>
>>
>> https://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/b/0/b013ed7a-f056-421f-9720-1e09e25a851f/D1F289E895FDD9F6342DC1E899BFC179.2020.12.08-letter-to-ag-barr.pdf?utm_source=The+Trace+mailing+list&utm_campaign=9ddb1b62e3-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_09_24_04_06_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f76c3ff31c-9ddb1b62e3-112434573
>>
>>
>> <D1F289E895FDD9F6342DC1E899BFC179.2020.12.08-letter-to-ag-barr.pdf>

To: Blier, William M. (OIG) [REDACTED] Miles, Adam
(OIG) [REDACTED] O'Neill, Michael S. (OIG) [REDACTED]
From: Horowitz, Michael E. (OIG) [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE
GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=86E3BD4CE7EE45F7A6222B7C6A7A8B29-
HOROWITZ, M]
Sent: Thur 1/21/2021 1:37:51 PM (UTC)
Subject: FW: Lott hiring
[D1F289E895FDD9F6342DC1E899BFC179.2020.12.08-letter-to-ag-barr.pdf](https://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/b/0/b013ed7a-f056-421f-9720-1e09e25a851f/D1F289E895FDD9F6342DC1E899BFC179.2020.12.08-letter-to-ag-barr.pdf)

Interesting letter with reference to Stirrup. Doesn't look like we were copied on it.

Adam, can you see if DOJ responded?

https://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/b/0/b013ed7a-f056-421f-9720-1e09e25a851f/D1F289E895FDD9F6342DC1E899BFC179.2020.12.08-letter-to-ag-barr.pdf?utm_source=The+Trace+mailing+list&utm_campaign=9ddb1b62e3-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_09_24_04_06_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f76c3f31c-9ddb1b62e3-112434573

To: Horowitz, Michael E.(OIG) (b)(6)
Cc: Blier, William M.(OIG)[wblier@OIG.USDOJ.GOV]; O'Neill, Michael S.
(OIG) (b)(6)
From: Miles, Adam (OIG)/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=2C130EDA9FA24D05BC3B82BEA82105D4-MILES,
ADAM]
Sent: Thur 1/21/2021 1:40:39 PM (UTC)
Subject: Re: Lott hiring

Yes, will do. Do you want any of the underlying info, or just want to know if they responded?

> On Jan 21, 2021, at 8:37 AM, Horowitz, Michael E.(OIG) (b)(6) wrote:
>
> Interesting letter with reference to Stirrup. Doesn't look like we were copied on it.
>
> Adam, can you see if DOJ responded?
>
>
> https://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/b/0/b013ed7a-f056-421f-9720-1e09e25a851f/D1F289E895FDD9F6342DC1E899BFC179.2020.12.08-letter-to-ag-barr.pdf?utm_source=The+Trace+mailing+list&utm_campaign=9ddb1b62e3-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_09_24_04_06_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f76c3ff31c-9ddb1b62e3-112434573
>
>
> <D1F289E895FDD9F6342DC1E899BFC179.2020.12.08-letter-to-ag-barr.pdf>

To: Horowitz, Michael E.(OIG) [REDACTED]
Cc: Blier, William M.(OIG) [REDACTED] O'Neill, Michael S.
(OIG) [REDACTED]
From: Miles, Adam (OIG)/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=2C130EDA9FA24D05BC3B82BEA82105D4-MILES, ADAM]
Sent: Thur 1/21/2021 1:43:40 PM (UTC)
Subject: Re: Lott hiring

Oh, in reference to last email, I was going to ask OLA [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

> On Jan 21, 2021, at 8:40 AM, Miles, Adam (OIG) [REDACTED] > wrote:
>
> Yes, will do. Do you want any of the underlying info, or just want to know if they responded?
>
>> On Jan 21, 2021, at 8:37 AM, Horowitz, Michael E.(OIG) [REDACTED] wrote:
>>
>> Interesting letter with reference to Stirrup. Doesn't look like we were copied on it.
>>
>> Adam, can you see if DOJ responded?
>>
>>
>> https://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/b/0/b013ed7a-f056-421f-9720-1e09e25a851f/D1F289E895FDD9F6342DC1E899BFC179.2020.12.08-letter-to-ag-barr.pdf?utm_source=The+Trace+mailing+list&utm_campaign=9ddb1b62e3-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_09_24_04_06_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f76c3ff31c-9ddb1b62e3-112434573
>>
>>
>> <D1F289E895FDD9F6342DC1E899BFC179.2020.12.08-letter-to-ag-barr.pdf>