

**From:** Ian Prior <[ian.prior@aflegal.org](mailto:ian.prior@aflegal.org)>

**Sent:** Friday, April 14, 2023 2:16 PM

**To:** DOJ.OIP.FOIA (SMO) <[DOJ.OIP.FOIA@usdoj.gov](mailto:DOJ.OIP.FOIA@usdoj.gov)>

**Cc:** Venetia Resciniti <[venetia.resciniti@aflegal.org](mailto:venetia.resciniti@aflegal.org)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] FOIA-2023-00419 Status

Good afternoon,

I am checking in on the status of FOIA-2023-00419. The acknowledgment letter is attached.

Thank you.

Ian Prior

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

## RE: FOIA-2023-00419 Status



Villanueva, Valeree A (OIP) <Valeree.A.Villanueva@usdoj.gov>

4/20/2023 6:49 PM



To: ian.prior@aflegal.org

Ian Prior:

Good evening, this is in response to your communication below seeking a status on the processing of FOIA-2023-00419. Currently, we are continuing to search for records responsive to this request. More specifically, we are conducting a search for emails that are potentially responsive to this request. We conduct such email searches by utilizing an ediscovery search platform that allows for more dynamic processing of the records once they are located. That said, the queue for such ediscovery searches is extensive and can cause a delay in our ability to respond to you. Your request currently requires a search of seventy custodians of the Offices of the Attorney General, Deputy Attorney General, Associate Attorney General, and Public Affairs. At this time, I estimate the search to be completed in nine to ten months. Please be advised that estimates are subject to change, and if that occurs you will be advised.

Once the searching is completed, we will begin our review of potentially responsive records, and be able to provide an updated estimated date of completion, including possible interim responses. If you would like this Office can also provide an estimated date for completion based on our Annual FOIA Report concerning complex track requests.

In an effort of facilitate our ability to respond to this request, you may want to narrow the parameters of the records search, such as limiting to office leadership or providing a search start and end date. For your information, the number of Department custodians subject to the records search and the broadness of the timeframe of the search are significant factors in how long the records search takes to be completed. Please be advised, you are not required to limit custodians or narrow the timeframe, I am only providing you options that might help facilitate our search.

If you are no longer interested in emails related to the topic of your request, it would significantly facilitate our ability to provide a response as we could limit our search to the Department Executive Secretariat, which maintains official correspondence on behalf of the Offices of the Attorney General, Deputy Attorney General, and Associate Attorney General.

Unless advised otherwise by you, we will continue our processing with the understanding that you are interested in responsive emails (to the extent such records exist) and will continue our records search accordingly. I am out of the Office until next week; however, review what I have provided and if you would like to further discuss your request, please feel free to contact our Office.

Thank you,  
Valeree Villanueva.

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**Valeree Villanueva**  
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U.S. Department of Justice  
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