



May 21, 2024

VIA EMAIL

Deborah Waller
Government Information Specialist
Office of the Inspector General
Department of Justice
Room 4726
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001
Email: oigfoia@usdoj.gov

Freedom of Information Act Request: DOJ Office of the Inspector General Employees

Dear Ms. Waller:

America First Legal Foundation (AFL) is a national, nonprofit organization working to promote the rule of law in the United States, prevent executive overreach, and ensure due process and equal protection for all Americans, all to promote public knowledge and understanding of the law and individual rights guaranteed under the Constitution and laws of the United States. To that end, we file Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests on issues of pressing public concern, then disseminate the information we obtain, making documents broadly available to the public, scholars, and the media. Using our editorial skills to turn raw materials into distinct work, we distribute that work to a national audience through traditional and social media platforms. AFL has over 231,000 followers on Facebook, 221,000 followers on X, and our Founder and President has over 628,000 followers on X.

I. Requested Records

AFL respectfully requests, under 5 U.S.C. § 552, all records sufficient to show the names and positions of all special agents, auditors, inspectors, program analysts, data analysts, and attorneys, including all political appointees and career civil

611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231
Washington, DC 20003

320 South Madison Avenue
Monroe, Georgia 30655

servants with a grade of GS-14 or its equivalent and above, working in the following offices:

- Office of the Inspector General
- Office of the General Counsel
- Audit Division, the Evaluation and Inspections Division
- Information and Technology Division
- Management and Planning Division
- Oversight and Review Division
- All Audit Division Offices
- All Investigations Division Offices

The relevant time period for this search is from October 20, 2020, to January 20, 2021.

II. Fee Waiver

Per 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii) and your agency's fee waiver regulations, AFL requests a waiver of all search and duplication fees. AFL has a demonstrated ability and intention to effectively convey the information broadly to the public; AFL's status as a representative of the news media has been recognized by other agencies for granting fee waivers by the Departments of Defense, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Justice, Interior, and Homeland Security. As a non-profit organization, AFL has no commercial interest, and the request is made entirely to serve the public interest. Disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and of government operations. *See* 28 CFR 16.10(k)(1). We are, of course, available to provide additional information in writing or offline in support of this request. If AFL's request for a fee waiver is not granted in full, please contact us immediately upon making that determination.

III. Expedited Processing

AFL requests expedited processing of this request. In support thereof, AFL certifies its compelling need for expedited processing.

AFL is "primarily engaged in disseminating information" 28 CFR 16.5(e)(1)(ii). As explained below, this request is "urgent" because it seeks information regarding the existence of politically motivated employees in positions that demand impartiality. The Department's Office of Inspector General itself describes that "[i]n light of today's wide-spread lack of trust and negative views of government, a key facet of the

Department's challenge of strengthening public trust is **ensuring that DOJ personnel fulfill their duties without any actual or perceived political influence or partisan consideration.**¹ Despite this unambiguous obligation to avoid the appearance of political or partisan considerations, there is evidence that the Office of the Inspector General is deeply infected with partisan actors. Some posts reveal employees "liking" social media statements supporting "sending Donald Trump packing" and to "boot his Republican enablers out of office – at every level of government."² Other statements "liked" by the employee are filled with expletives and wishes for harm to befall President Trump and his allies. It is imperative that Americans learn whether these views persist within the Department of Justice, certainly meeting the Department's standard that a "matter of widespread and exceptional media interest in which there exist possible questions about the government's integrity that affect public confidence," especially as we approach a Presidential election. 28 C.F.R. 16.5(e)(1)(iv). It is vital for our democracy and trust in government that those in government with duties to be impartial do not wield their power by targeting political opponents.

IV. Conclusion

Processing should strictly comply with the processing guidance in the Attorney General's Memorandum on Freedom of Information Act Guidelines.³ If you have any questions about our request or believe further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate the more efficient production of requested records, please contact me at FOIA@aflegal.org.

To accelerate your release of responsive records, AFL welcomes production on an agreed rolling basis. Please provide responsive records in an electronic format by email. Alternatively, please provide responsive records in native or PDF format on a USB drive to America First Legal Foundation, 611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231, Washington, DC 20003.

[Signature page follows]

¹ *Strengthening Public Trust in the U.S. Department of Justice, Department of Justice Top Management and Performance Challenges 2023*, U.S. DEPT JUST. OFF. INSPECTOR GEN., <https://tinyurl.com/2yjrwws2> (last accessed May 17, 2024) (emphasis added); see *Anti-Trump DOJ Officials Prepare Attacks On His Appointees During Election Year, Corruption*, FEDERALIST (May 15, 2024), <https://tinyurl.com/24pkmmpb>.

² *REVEALED: 'Nonpartisan' DOJ official promoted anti-Trump social media posts urging Republicans to 'go f**k yourselves and die' while fawning over how Nancy Pelosi eats Slim Jims*, DAILY CALLER (May 16, 2024), <https://tinyurl.com/5662skuc>.

³ U.S. DEPT JUST. (Mar. 15, 2022), <https://tinyurl.com/6dwzb269>.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
/s/ Will Scolinos
America First Legal Foundation