

October 14, 2011

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Leahy and Senator Grassley:

I am pleased and honored to endorse the nomination of Michael E. Horowitz for the position of Inspector General of the Department of Justice. I have known Michael for more than twenty years and I am confident that Michael is extremely well qualified for this critical and sensitive position. He possesses the experience, the temperament and, most of all, the independence and integrity required to uphold the high ethical standards required to fulfill the mission of the Justice Department's Office of Inspector General.

During a law enforcement career of more than 25 years, I served as the Inspector General for the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (1985-90), First Deputy Inspector General for the New York City School Construction Authority (1990-1993) and Deputy Commissioner of Investigation for the New York City Department of Investigation (1994-1998). As Deputy Commissioner, I was responsible for managing the City's entire Inspector General Program. From 1983 through 1993, I also had the honor to serve as a Special Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of New York in the Public Corruption Unit. It was in this capacity that I first met Michael when he joined the Unit in 1991. After I became Deputy Commissioner of Investigation in 1994, I had regular occasion to work with Michael on major public corruption investigations and prosecutions in which the Department of Investigation had a role.

During this period, Michael made significant contributions to a series of bribery and fraud cases involving corruption affecting vital programs of the City of New York. He displayed an admirable tenacity in pursuing these investigations matched with a high regard for the integrity of the process at every stage. He also demonstrated that he is a warm and decent person and someone with whom I was proud to work. In the Office of the United States Attorney for the Southern District Attorney, which is noted for the outstanding caliber of its attorneys, Michael was a standout, a status he has maintained during almost a decade of private practice.

While Michael has a breadth of experience as a lawyer, I believe his experience in the Public Corruption Unit in Manhattan makes him particularly well qualified to be the Inspector General for the Justice Department. Throughout his career, Michael has demonstrated an ability to successfully manage difficult cases and challenges without compromising either his personal integrity or that of his office or client.

As a longtime friend and former colleague of Michael and someone who cares deeply about the integrity and reputation of the Justice Department, I applaud the nomination of Michael Horowitz and believe that President Obama could not have selected someone with better credentials, a deeper commitment to integrity or a more compelling vision of what is required to fulfill the mission of the Office of Inspector General.

I wholeheartedly support his nomination.

Sincerely,

Kevin J. Ford

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