

October 6, 2011

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

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

**Nomination of Michael E Horowitz
Inspector General of the Department of Justice**

Dear Senators Leahy and Grassley:

I write to express my strong support of the nomination of Michael E. Horowitz for the very important position of Inspector General of the Department of Justice. I have known Mr. Horowitz since 1988 when he was a litigation associate in my law firm. Thereafter, he worked very closely with me for six years when I served as United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York. I have also worked with him on several major matters in the private sector. In my opinion, there could not be a stronger or better choice for Inspector General. I recommend him highly without any reservation.

As his very impressive resume clearly reflects, Michael is an exceptional lawyer and public servant who has served in several administrations in important positions, both in the Department of Justice and on the United States Sentencing Commission. At every step of his career, Michael has been recognized for his tremendous abilities and judgment, work ethic and independence. He has excelled in every role, bringing high praise from every quarter of the bench, bar and public.

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For the Committee's consideration, I would like to share my own experience with Mr. Horowitz when he served as an Assistant United States Attorney and Chief of the Public Corruption Unit in the Southern District of New York United States Attorney's Office, a position to which I promoted him. Of all of the functions in any prosecutorial office, none is more important in my judgment than the efforts devoted to root out public corruption. If our public officials break the law or fail to follow the rules, the entire system of justice is weakened and loses vital credibility. Choosing Michael as the Chief of the Public Corruption Unit is a testament to my very high regard for him, both as a prosecutor and as the kind of person who exhibits the requisite leadership and independence, as well as the strength of character, to carry out one of the most important jobs in any prosecutor's office. No one is better suited to fulfill that difficult responsibility than Michael Horowitz.

While Michael served in and later as Chief of the Public Corruption Unit, he was entrusted with the most sensitive cases and investigations in the Office. He performed superbly. One particular matter he handled which illustrates the strengths Michael would bring to the position of Inspector General was the investigation and prosecution of widespread police corruption. Mr. Horowitz received the Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service for his work on this case, which has been accurately described as one of the largest police corruption cases in New York City history.

As is the case with any federal prosecutor's office, the Southern District of New York works closely with the Police Department and a number of other state and federal law enforcement agencies on a wide variety of cases. When the Office is called upon to investigate corruption in those same agencies, there is a need for tenacious investigation, clear-eyed independence and judgment. Michael displayed all of those qualities in all of his cases. He also consistently coordinated his efforts with state and federal inspector generals to maximize the effectiveness of all the available anti-corruption resources of law enforcement. That same leadership and effectiveness would serve him very well as Inspector General.

If confirmed as Inspector General of the Justice Department, I am confident that Mr. Horowitz will pursue his mandate without fear or favor, and do the nation and the Department proud. I would be pleased to provide any further information that would be helpful to the Committee.

Sincerely yours,



Mary Jo White