

Jennifer A. Maceda
268 Murtha St.
Alexandria VA 22304

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The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley:

I am writing to offer my strong recommendation for Don Berthiaume, who has been nominated by the current Administration to serve as the next Inspector General for the Department of Justice. I first met Don in the spring of 2016 during my hiring process at the Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General (DOJ OIG), and I began working closely with him that August. Over more than three years, we both served as investigative counsel in the Oversight and Review Division. Based on my direct experience collaborating with him on some of the most consequential and sensitive matters before the DOJ OIG during that time, I can attest without reservation to his independence, integrity, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to the mission of the Inspector General community.

For approximately the last eighteen months of my tenure at DOJ OIG, Don and I worked as partners on a high-visibility review of the FBI's Crossfire Hurricane investigation. In addition to participating in the larger effort, our specific responsibility was to examine actions taken by the former Associate Deputy Attorney General Bruce Ohr, who also served as head of the Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF), related to his interactions with Christopher Steele, the FBI, Glenn Simpson, and the State Department. This was a complex and sensitive assignment, requiring objective judgment, meticulous factual analysis, and a willingness to pursue every lead regardless of where it might end.

Throughout this review and the time I worked with him at DOJ OIG, Don consistently demonstrated the qualities essential to an effective Inspector General. He approached every issue with seriousness and independence, carefully evaluating evidence and ensuring that all relevant facts were considered. He was thorough in his preparation, conducted rigorous and fair interviews, and maintained a balanced perspective even when faced with challenging or politically sensitive subject matter. Equally notable was his efficiency and discipline in bringing work to completion. Don has a rare ability to quickly and succinctly identify the core of an issue, synthesize the evidence, and produce concise, well-crafted reports that required minimal editing by senior reviewers. Don's skills dramatically reduced the time between investigation and action, and enabling leadership to take corrective measures sooner. In an office where some projects stretched on for years, Don's work moved with notable swiftness. On the

Crossfire Hurricane review, Don and I were the first team to complete our section of the report. That allowed the former Inspector General to conduct a thorough review of our work early, and freed Don and me to assist other teams that were still finishing their sections. I found him to be a thoughtful partner who listened to differing viewpoints, engaged respectfully in analytical debate, and was committed at every step to ensuring the accuracy and completeness of our findings.

Beyond his technical skill, Don's personal dedication to the oversight mission stood out. He viewed our work not merely as a professional responsibility but as a public trust. His conduct in our review reflected an understanding of the significant institutional and societal implications of our findings, coupled with a commitment to fairness and truth. These qualities—independence, integrity, efficiency, and an ability to navigate complex and sensitive matters—are, in my view, indispensable for any Inspector General. Don possesses them in abundance.

Since leaving DOJ OIG, Don has continued to deepen his commitment to the oversight community. From 2020 to early 2023, he served at the Drug Enforcement Administration as the External Audit Liaison Section Chief in the Office of Compliance, where his work included helping DEA address and close recommendations issued by the DOJ OIG. From what I understand of his work there, he brought the same rigor and accountability he demonstrated as an investigator to the challenging work of institutional compliance and reform. From 2023 through December 2025, he served as Senior Counsel to the Inspector General at the HUD Office of Inspector General, further expanding his leadership experience at the highest levels of the OIG community. Although I have not worked directly with Don since I left DOJ OIG in late 2019, I have stayed in touch with him and have been continually impressed by his ongoing dedication to the OIG community and the values that underpin its work. His continued engagement and his long record of service reflect a deep-rooted commitment to accountability, transparency, and good governance.

In light of my firsthand experience working with Don on highly sensitive investigations and observing his professionalism, judgment, and integrity under demanding circumstances, I strongly support his nomination to serve as Inspector General for the Department of Justice. I believe he would bring rigor, independence, and a deep respect for truth and fairness to this vital role.

Thank you for your consideration of my views. Should the Committee require any additional information, I would gladly provide it.

Respectfully,



Jennifer A. Maceda