



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of the Inspector General

August 4, 2016

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to provide an update on the continuing work of the Department of Justice (Department) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) on gender equity at the Department's law enforcement components. As we have conveyed to your staff, my Office initiated a review of gender equity in the Department's law enforcement components – specifically, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), and U.S. Marshals Service (USMS). This review will assess demographics, gender discrimination complaints, and the complaint process at these law enforcement organizations. We will also assess staff perceptions related to gender equity and the reasons why staff have those perceptions. We initiated this review, in part, due to the information you provided in your letters dated September 14, 2015, regarding allegations of sexual harassment and gender discrimination in ATF; and May 21, 2014, regarding allegations of gender discrimination and retaliation against female employees at the FBI.

In addition, your September 2015 letter asked us to review allegations raised by ATF Special Agent (SA) Sherry Ann Quindley, and your subsequent letter dated July 26, 2016, requested a briefing and report prepared upon the conclusion of our gender equity review. As part of our ongoing gender equity review, we have been in contact with a number of employees of ATF, FBI, DEA, and USMS, and intend to interview several additional employees. We will consider the information obtained during these interviews as we report our findings and make recommendations. When this review is completed, we will be pleased to provide a briefing for you and your staff on our gender equity report.

Your September 2015 letter further asked about why certain sexual harassment claims at ATF that were described in your letter were not included in our report on the *Handling of Sexual Harassment and Misconduct Allegations by the Department's Law Enforcement Components*, dated March 2015.

Our report examined cases of misconduct related to sexual harassment reported from Fiscal Years 2009 through 2012, and we would note that this review period would not have covered the time period of the information contained in your September 2015 letter.

I hope this information is useful for the Committee's purposes, and I appreciate you bringing these matters to my attention. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or my Chief of Staff Jay Lerner at (202) 514-3435.

Sincerely,



Michael E. Horowitz
Inspector General

cc: The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary