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April 4, 2008

The Honorable Glenn A. Fine  
Inspector General  
The Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20530

H. Marshall Jarrett  
Counsel  
Office of Professional Responsibility  
The Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 3266  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Inspector General Fine and Mr. Jarrett:

We are writing to confirm press reports that your offices are investigating allegations surrounding the treatment of career attorney Leslie Hagen. Ms. Hagen was appointed in October, 2005 as the liaison between the Department and the U.S. Attorneys' Committee on Native American issues. According to a recent report on National Public Radio, despite receiving the best possible rating of "outstanding" on her job performance evaluation, Ms. Hagen was removed from her position at the Justice Department amid rumors of her sexual orientation. It has been reported that several people interviewed by your staff believe that Ms. Hagen's removal was because of these rumors.

We were encouraged by Attorney General Mukasey's commitment during his confirmation hearing to end any disparate treatment of Department employees based on sexual orientation. Allegations of disparate treatment should be fully investigated. Accordingly, this matter should be a part of the ongoing joint IG and OPR investigation of improper personnel practices at the Justice Department. Please simply confirm for us that it is part of your investigation.

We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



PATRICK LEAHY  
Chairman



ARLEN SPECTER  
Ranking Member