



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

March 28, 2007

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This responds to your letter of March 27, 2007. In regard to the employment status of the individuals you reference, Ms. Goodling is employed by the Department of Justice and is on annual leave. Messrs. Elston and Mercer are employed by the Department of Justice. Mr. Battle left the Department for private practice earlier this month, for reasons unrelated to the dismissal of U.S. Attorneys. Department representatives are in the process of conferring with staff for both the House and Senate Judiciary Committees about the arrangement for interviews of current and former Department officials. The choice to bring private counsel to such an interview is, of course, the prerogative of the interviewee, and not the Department. We understand that Ms. Goodling has declined to participate in any such interview, based upon advice of her private counsel.

Please do not hesitate to contact this Office if you have additional questions about this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard A. Hertling".

Richard A. Hertling
Acting Assistant Attorney General

Enclosure

cc The Honorable Arlen Specter
Ranking Minority Member