



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

April 6, 2007

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

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Senator Whitehouse:

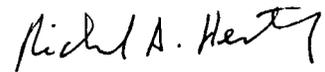
In your letter of March 30, 2007, you asked the Department to identify the appropriate person in the Department with whom the Committee could discuss the best course with respect to Ms. Goodling's cooperation with the congressional inquiry. As with any congressional request, I would serve as the point of contact for any such discussions, as the Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legislative Affairs. This afternoon, however, Ms. Goodling submitted her resignation to the Department, effective April 7, 2007. As we have previously stated, any communications relating to Ms. Goodling's participation in congressional interviews or testimony should be directed to her private attorney.

Your letter of March 30th also asked how the Attorney General intended to manage any potential conflicts that might arise on this issue. The Attorney General and the Deputy Attorney General have already taken steps to ensure that no actual or apparent conflict of interest would arise with respect to Ms. Goodling or related matters. In particular, even before receiving your letter, the Attorney General and the Deputy Attorney General had recused themselves from involvement in the supervision of and personnel decisions concerning Ms. Goodling, from involvement in the supervision of the joint investigation of the Office of Professional Responsibility and the Office of the Inspector General into the resignations of the eight United States Attorneys, and from involvement in the handling of any issues of privilege that may arise in connection with the congressional inquiry. Following the usual rules of succession within the Department, the Solicitor General is the Acting Attorney General for these matters.

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Please let me know if I can provide any more assistance with respect to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard A. Hertling". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

Richard A. Hertling
Acting Assistant Attorney General

cc: The Honorable Arlen Specter
Ranking Minority Member