

March 4, 2010

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

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Sessions:

We have in common that we have all served as senior leaders of the Department of Justice, although we have served in the administrations of different parties. What we also have in common, and what is particularly relevant at the moment, is that we all benefited during our tenures from the wise counsel and good judgment of David Margolis. His advice is informed by his long experience and delivered with utter lack of partisan bias or any other distorting prejudice. We greatly admire and appreciate the unique role he has played in the Department over many years.

While we do not comment here on the merits of the decision regarding the discipline of John Yoo and Jay Bybee, we are certain that it was reached conscientiously and wholly without partisan purposes. Obviously, Congress has the right to explore this decision with the Department, as this Committee did in hearing from the Acting Deputy Attorney General last Friday, but we write to emphasize that we have no doubts at all about the honesty and integrity of David Margolis's decision in this matter.

As those who have benefited from David Margolis's counsel, we know he remains a great asset to the Department and the country for the present and future.

Sincerely,

John D. Ashcroft
Attorney General
2001-2005

William P. Barr
Attorney General
1991-1993

Benjamin R. Civiletti
Attorney General
1979-1981

James B. Comey
Deputy Attorney General
2003-2005

Mark R. Filip
Deputy Attorney General
2008-2009

Alberto R. Gonzales
Attorney General
2005-2007

Jamie S. Gorelick
Deputy Attorney General
1994-1997

Jo Ann Harris
Assistant Attorney General,
Criminal Division
1993-1995

Philip B. Heymann
Deputy Attorney General
1993-1994

Paul J. McNulty
Deputy Attorney General
2005-2007

Craig S. Morford
Acting Deputy Attorney General
2007-2008

Michael B. Mukasey
Attorney General
2007-2009

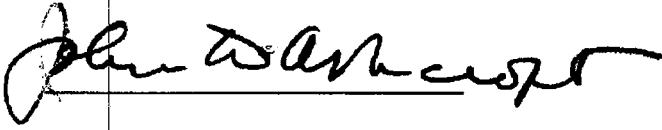
David W. Ogden
Deputy Attorney General
2009-2010

Janet W. Reno
Attorney General
1993-2001

James K. Robinson
Assistant Attorney General,
Criminal Division
1998-2001

George J. Terwilliger III
Deputy Attorney General
1992-1993

Larry D. Thompson
Deputy Attorney General
2001-2003

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John D. Ashcroft". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

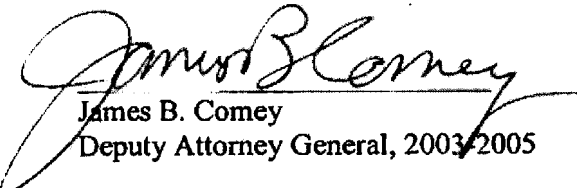
John D. Ashcroft
Attorney General, 2001-2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'WP Barr', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William P. Barr
Attorney General, 1991-1993

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Benjamin R. Civiletti". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Benjamin R. Civiletti
Attorney General, 1979-1981

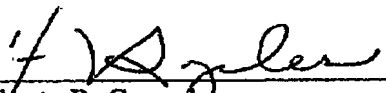


James B. Comey
Deputy Attorney General, 2003/2005

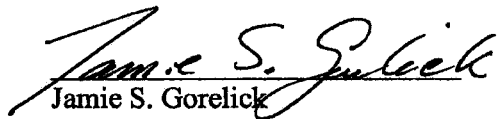
A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mark Filip". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "F".

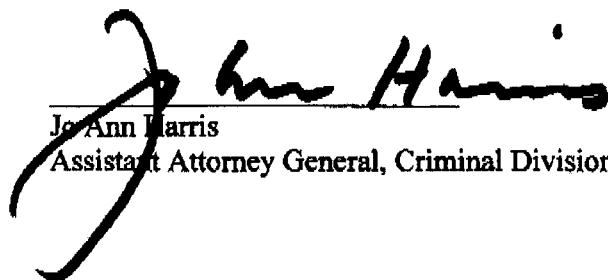
Mark Filip

Deputy Attorney General, 2008-2009



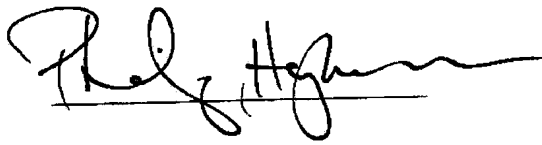
Alberto R. Gonzales
Attorney General, 2005-2007


Jamie S. Gorelick
Deputy Attorney General, 1994-1997

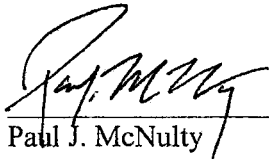
A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jo Ann Harris". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Jo Ann Harris

Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, 1993-1995

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip Heymann", written over a horizontal line.

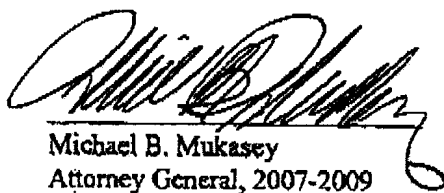
Philip B. Heymann
Deputy Attorney General, 1993-1994

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. McNulty", is positioned above a horizontal line.

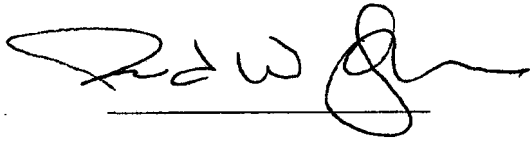
Paul J. McNulty
Deputy Attorney General, 2005-2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CM' with a stylized flourish.

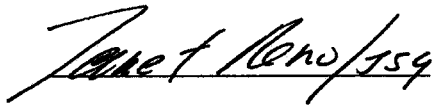
Craig Morford
Acting Deputy Attorney General, 2007-2008



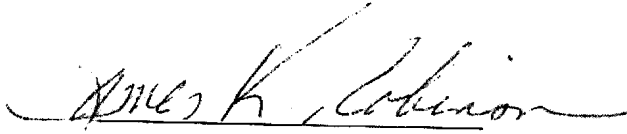
Michael B. Mukasey
Attorney General, 2007-2009

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D W Ogden', written over a horizontal line.

David W. Ogden
Deputy Attorney General, 2009-2010

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Janet Reno/154". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Janet W. Reno
Attorney General, 1993-2001

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James K. Robinson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

James K. Robinson
Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, 1998-2001

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George J. Terwilliger III". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "G" and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

George J. Terwilliger III
Deputy Attorney General, 1992-1993

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'L' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Larry D. Thompson
Deputy Attorney General, 2001-2003