

CLEMENT HEADFAKE

So Paul Clement was Acting Attorney General for all of four hours this morning. But then Bush replaced him with the former (re-current?) head of the Civil Division, who had resigned but I guess is sticking around for a while (hat tip Pontificator).

It's a pivotal time for our nation, and it's vital that the position of Attorney General be filled quickly. I urge the Senate to confirm Judge Mukasey promptly. Until the Judge is confirmed, Assistant Attorney General Paul [sic] Keisler will serve as acting Attorney General. Accepting this assignment requires – Peter – I said – Peter Keisler. Accepting this assignment requires Peter to delay the departure date he announced earlier this month, and I appreciate his willingness to do so. Peter is the acting Attorney General. Paul Clement, who agreed to take on this role, will remain focused on his duties as Solicitor General, so he can prepare for the Supreme Court term that begins just two weeks from today.

Dunno whether I buy the explanation—that they did that because Clement has a very busy SCOTUS season coming up. Or whether they decided, at the last minute, that they didn't want Clement in charge of the Department.

I'm also curious with the way that Bush ties this mini-announcement so closely with his demand that Mukasey be approved quickly.

I wonder if Clement gets to list Acting AG on his resume, now?