



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE | OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY | 22-013

Findings of Misconduct by a then Senior Official with the Drug Enforcement Administration for Misuse of Official Position Related to Giving Preferential Treatment to a Pharmaceutical Company, and Related Misconduct

The Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) initiated an investigation after receiving information alleging that, among other things, a then senior official with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) gave preferential treatment to a particular pharmaceutical company by prioritizing the company's requests for drug quota increases over other pending requests. The allegation further stated that the pharmaceutical company's requests to the DEA had been made by a former DEA official then employed by the pharmaceutical company.

The OIG found that the senior DEA official misused the senior official's position at DEA by giving preferential treatment to a request by the pharmaceutical company that employed the former DEA official, which request the former DEA official personally sought to have approved, and that the senior DEA official pressured and directed subordinates to approve the request, in violation of DEA policy. The OIG further found that the senior DEA official lacked candor with the DEA Office of Chief Counsel about the senior official's post-retirement plans with the pharmaceutical company during the senior official's DEA exit interview process, in violation of DEA policy.

The senior DEA official retired prior to the OIG initiating its investigation and declined to be interviewed by the OIG. The OIG has the authority to compel testimony from current Department employees upon informing them that their statements will not be used to incriminate them in a criminal proceeding. However, the OIG does not have the authority to compel or subpoena testimony from former Department employees, including those who retire or resign during the course of an OIG investigation.

Prosecution of the senior DEA official was declined.

The OIG has completed its investigation and is providing this report to DEA for its information.



Unless otherwise noted, the OIG applies the preponderance of the evidence standard in determining whether DOJ personnel have committed misconduct.