



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE | OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

## INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY | 24-003

### Findings of Misconduct by a then Trial Attorney for Violations of Department Policy Regarding Use of Non-Official Email Accounts and Removal of Federal Records

The Department of Justice (DOJ or Department) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) initiated an investigation after receiving information from the Criminal Division alleging that a then Trial Attorney (Trial Attorney) had improperly disclosed Department information. The OIG found that the Trial Attorney violated Department policy and Rules of Behavior regarding the use of non-official email accounts by emailing Department records, including records containing grand jury information, to the Trial Attorney's personal email account. Additionally, the OIG found that the Trial Attorney violated Department policy regarding the removal of federal records when the Trial Attorney refused to return to the Department certain DOJ records following the Trial Attorney's resignation from DOJ.

The Trial Attorney resigned from the Criminal Division prior to being contacted by the OIG for an interview. When later contacted by the OIG for a voluntary interview, the Trial Attorney declined to be interviewed. 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. 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.

Criminal prosecution of the Trial Attorney was declined.

The OIG has completed its investigation and provided its report to the Criminal Division for its information and DOJ's Professional Misconduct Review Unit for appropriate action.



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