
From: Breuer, Lanny A. (CRM)
To: Grindler, Gary (OAG)
Sent: 2/13/2011 3:19:09 PM
Subject: Sen Grassley allegations about ATF

Gary,

To follow up on our conversation of Friday morning, prior to the Senate staff briefing on Thursday, Jason checked with the USAO in AZ and with ATF (both HQ and AZ) and was advised that the specific allegation in Sen. Grassley's most recent letter -- that ATF encouraged a reluctant FFL to continue to make sales to suspected traffickers - is false.

From talking to Jason, my understanding is [REDACTED] DP

[REDACTED] DP Instead, Jason and the ATF reps. provided a tutorial of sorts on how cases against sophisticated gun trafficking organizations like the one in AZ are built. They walked the staffers through the kind of tactical and investigative judgments involved at each stage of the investigation, drawing an analogy between gun trafficking cases and drug conspiracy cases. [REDACTED] DP

[REDACTED] DP

During the Q&A at the briefing, Sen. Grassley's staffers asked a number of specific questions about the AZ investigation, which our folks declined to answer, with one exception. A staffer asked whether as part of the AZ case, ATF ever encouraged a reluctant FFL to continue unlawful sales. Jason and the ATF reps. responded that based on their knowledge of the case, they were unaware of that ever having happened in this investigation.

Up to this point, our inquiries about the Grassley allegations have been at the U.S. Attorney/SAC level. [REDACTED] DP

[REDACTED] DP

Best, Lanny