
From: Grindler, Gary (OAG)
To: Richardson, Margaret (OAG)
Sent: 10/6/2011 5:46:45 PM
Subject: FW: Contact from Sen. Grassley's Office

fyi

From: Weich, Ron (SMO)
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 4:37 PM
To: Wilkinson, Monty (OAG); Richardson, Margaret (SMO)
Cc: Grindler, Gary (OAG)
Subject: RE: Contact from Sen. Grassley's Office

It did. Essentially he complained about intimidation of a whistleblower and asked the AG to look into it. AG said he would. Margaret was there and can say more if she wants.

From: Wilkinson, Monty (OAG)
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 12:42 PM
To: Weich, Ron (SMO); Richardson, Margaret (SMO)
Cc: Grindler, Gary (OAG)
Subject: FW: Contact from Sen. Grassley's Office
Importance: High

FYI. This could come up today during the AG's meeting with Grassley.

From: Hoover, William J. (ATF)
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 11:20 AM
To: Smith, Brad (ODAG)
Cc: Melson, Kenneth E. (ATF); [REDACTED] (ATF); [REDACTED] (ATF); Michalic, Mark (ODAG); Wilkinson, Monty (OAG)
Subject: FW: Contact from Sen. Grassley's Office

Brad,

We received a letter last week from Senator Grassley. It appears one of our special agents contacted the Senator's staff and made comments to them which were less than favorable concerning our Project Gunrunner and the Fast and Furious investigation. We are conducting a review to determine if any 6e material was disclosed. That involved a conversation with the aforementioned special agent by his Field Division Supervisor's. We have convened a meeting this afternoon with our Chief Counsel, Field Operations, and the Office of Professional Responsibility and Security Operations.

We understand the law concerning the Whistle Blower Protection Act (WPA) and will act in accordance. However, we also have to ensure we follow the guidelines of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure (FRCP) as well. We want to ensure we are doing the right thing. As you will see in the email below, our special agent has contacted the Senator's Staff and raised concerns over our inquiry. Apparently the Senator is meeting with the Attorney General today and will have this as a topic of conversation. I want to ensure everyone that we are moving forward with caution and respect for both the WPA and the FRCP.

I just spoke with Monty Wilkinson of the AG's staff on another issue and informed him of this issue. You will note that I have cc'd him as well.

I will reach out to you shortly to follow up.

Billy

William J. Hoover
Deputy Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
O) 202-648-**ATF**

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From: **ATF**
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 10:52 AM
To: Hoover, William J.
Subject: Contact from Sen. Grassley's Office

Billy:

ATF just reported that he had been contacted this morning by Sen. Grassley's Chief Counsel for Investigations who related the following:

Our employee who came in to speak with them advised that he/she had advised his/her chain of command that he/she was coming in to speak to Sen. Grassley's staff as required by orders. Upon return, the employee was "called to the carpet," caused to participate in two meetings, was accused of lying in the first meeting, and was ordered to write a memorandum disclosing everything that he/she had told the Senator's staff.

Sen. Grassley's counsel expressed concern that this may be a direct violation of the Whistleblower statute (retaliation) and that this could be perceived as an attempt to obstruct a congressional investigation. Sen. Grassley's counsel indicated that the Senator was having a private lunch with the Attorney General today and this would be the first topic on his agenda when they meet.

ATF
Acting Chief of Staff
Office of the Director
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HQ Room 5 S 100