

Statement by
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Re

Conclusion of Investigation of U.S. Attorney Resignations

Washington, D.C. July 21, 2010. The position we have taken from the outset of the U.S. Attorney controversy – that no wrongdoing whatsoever by Judge Gonzales occurred – has now been vindicated by the Justice Department’s long overdue conclusion. Judge Gonzales, despite having suffered untoward and unwarranted allegations to the contrary, is pleased to be able to move ahead with his professional life, which has been marked by his holding a series of distinguished and high positions in public service. Those who made unwarranted allegations and predicted a prosecution owe Judge Gonzales an apology.

This result refutes the suggestion that any U.S. Attorneys were removed for any improper reasons. Rather, the outcome vindicates our position that U.S. Attorneys are political appointees who serve at the pleasure of the President and may be removed under presidential authority, exercised by the Attorney General, for any proper reason or no reason other than a determination to make a change. As importantly, the case underscores the authority of the Attorney General to hold U.S. Attorneys to answer for their effectiveness in office and in meeting the law enforcement priorities established by the President and the Attorney General.

Judge Gonzales fully cooperated with the investigation of this matter, as he had with numerous other inquires and investigations following his tenure as Attorney General. None of those matters have resulted in any determination of any criminal wrongdoing by Judge Gonzales. The country will be better served if political figures recognize the harm caused by the unwarranted and politicized vilification of dedicated public servants and refrain from such exploitation in the future.

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