

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3203

June 22, 2020

The Honorable Michel E. Horowitz
Inspector General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Jeffrey R. Ragsdale
Director and Chief Counsel
Office of Professional Responsibility
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Inspector General Horowitz and Director Ragsdale:

I write to request that the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Inspector General and Office of Professional Responsibility immediately conduct a joint investigation into the firing of U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York Geoffrey Berman. I ask that you review the reason for the removal of the U.S. Attorney Berman and whether he was removed for partisan political purposes, to influence an investigation or prosecution, or to retaliate for his actions in any specific investigation or prosecution.

Your offices undertook an identical investigation after multiple U.S. Attorneys were told to resign from their positions at the direction of senior Department of Justice officials starting in 2006. At the conclusion of that investigation, your offices found that the removal of these U.S. Attorneys and the controversy it created severely damaged the credibility of the Department of Justice and raised doubts about the integrity of Department prosecutive decisions.

As the Attorney General was not truthful when he initially represented that U.S. Attorney Berman was “stepping down,” this corrupt firing cannot be explained by cause and gives the impression that the President interfered in ongoing criminal investigations into himself and his associates. To help restore confidence in and prevent further abuses to the administration of justice, the American people deserve to know the truth.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
U.S. Senator