

**Department of Justice
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
CONTROL SHEET**

DATE OF DOCUMENT: 8/29/2019

WORKFLOW ID: 4325153

DATE RECEIVED: 9/4/2019

DUE DATE: 9/19/2019

FROM: The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz*
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0001

TO: AG (cc indicated for OIG)

MAIL TYPE: Congressional Priority

SUBJECT: (Rec'd from OLA via email) Urging DOJ to allow the Inspector General to conduct an independent and comprehensive investigation into the non-prosecution agreement that DOJ provided Mr. Epstein, as well as the circumstances surrounding his death. Advises the investigation should not only cover Mr. Epstein's death, but also investigate the conduct of any officials who approved, reviewed and defended his egregious and unprecedented plea deal. Ltr also signed by 5 other MCs.

DATE ASSIGNED

09/05/2019

ACTION COMPONENT & ACTION REQUESTED

OLA

For appropriate handling. Advise ES of any action taken.

INFO COMPONENT: OAG, ODAG, CRM, EOUSA, FBI, OIG, OPR

COMMENTS: 09/05/2019: Per OLA, assign to OLA ([REDACTED]).

FILE CODE:

EXECSEC POC: [REDACTED]

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 29, 2019

The Honorable William Barr
U.S. Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave N.W.
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Barr:

It has been announced that the Department of Justice's (DOJ) Office of Inspector General (OIG) will investigate the questionable circumstances surrounding the recent death of Jeffrey Epstein.¹ While that certainly merits OIG attention, limiting the scope of an independent inquiry solely into his death is grossly inadequate, and would ignore the various DOJ officials who have allowed this serial pedophile to elude true justice for more than a decade.²

We respectfully request that the Department permit the OIG to conduct a broad, independent investigation of this entire case. It should be one that not only covers his death, but also investigates the conduct of any officials who approved, reviewed, and defended Mr. Epstein's egregious and unprecedented plea deal. That agreement was not only intolerably lenient, but it was recently deemed illegal by a federal judge.³

Members of Congress made a similar request for an independent investigation of this potentially illegal plea deal last year (see attached item 1, dated Nov. 30, 2018). Regrettably, we were denied. The subsequent response from Inspector General Michael Horowitz (see attached item 2, dated Jan. 29, 2019) stated that his Office lacked the authority to conduct such an investigation, and that Congress in Sec 8E(b)(3) of the Inspector General Act had delegated exclusive jurisdiction into such matters to the DOJ's Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR). The Inspector General has requested authority from the Department on several other occasions to investigate issues related to attorney misconduct and every time that authority has been denied.

While we understand his concerns regarding the limitations on the statutory independence of the OIG, there are no legitimate legal barriers to an independent investigation of the circumstances surrounding this plea deal. More importantly, these concerns should not be used to starve Mr. Epstein's victims of the justice they so desperately still seek

¹ Department of Justice, "Statement from Attorney General William P. Barr on the Death of Jeffrey Epstein," August 10, 2019, <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/statement-attorney-general-william-p-barr-death-jeffrey-epstein>.

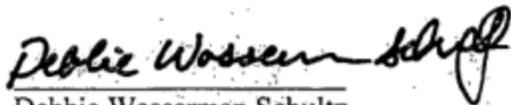
² The Washington Post, "'He was inappropriate with me': Epstein face to face with accusers at bail hearing," Renae Merle and Matt Zapposky, July 15, 2019, https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/he-was-inappropriate-with-me-epstein-comes-face-to-face-with-accusers-at-bail-hearing/2019/07/15/0e067664-a706-11e9-a3a6-ab670962db05_story.html.

³ *Jane Doe 1 and Jane Doe 2 v. United States*, 359 F.Supp.3d 1201 (S.D. Fla. 2019).

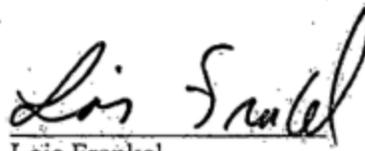
As has been well publicized, most notably in the *Miami Herald's* "Perversion of Justice" newspaper reporting, the plea agreement that the DOJ gave Mr. Epstein is now shrouded in corrosive allegations of official misconduct, corruption and illegality. Therefore, the Justice Department owes these victims and the public its absolute highest level of transparency and self-examination. A limited OPR inquiry into this matter, which we understand was opened in February of this year, will not satisfy that demand. An OIG investigation which can fully examine all issues surrounding the Epstein case is needed.

As Members of Congress intent on ensuring the equal application of justice, especially as it relates to the plague of sex trafficking and sexual abuse, we urge you to allow the Inspector General to conduct an independent and comprehensive investigation into the non-prosecution agreement that the Department of Justice provided Mr. Epstein, as well as the circumstances surrounding his death. Mr. Epstein is alleged to have manipulated every level of our legal system, through his wealth and political connections. If justice was indeed for sale, or the process that led to the non-prosecution agreement violated ethical and legal standards within the Department of Justice, the Inspector General must conduct a thorough investigation that extends far beyond the jail cell where he died. Mr. Epstein's victims have been denied justice at every turn so far. They must be granted this dignity, while some measure of true accountability is still within reach.

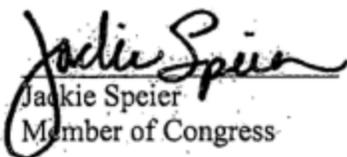
Sincerely,



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



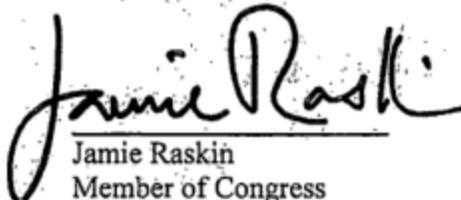
Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Member of Congress



Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

CC: Mr. Michael Horowitz, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Justice.

From: DOJ Correspondence (SMO) [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 8:55:10 AM
To: DOJExecSec (JMD)
CC: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Letter from Members of Congress to Attorney General Barr

Good morning,

Please log & assign to OLA [REDACTED].

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 03, 2019 5:25 PM
To: DOJ Correspondence (SMO) <[REDACTED]>
[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Letter from Members of Congress to Attorney General Barr

Please assign to [REDACTED] Thanks!

From: DOJ Correspondence (SMO) <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2019 1:15 PM
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] DOJ Correspondence (SMO) <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: Letter from Members of Congress to Attorney General Barr
Importance: High

Good afternoon,

Please provide assignment guidance.

Thanks,
[REDACTED]

From: Kugler, Sara <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 10:10 AM
To: DOJ Correspondence (SMO) <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Wolman, Lauren [REDACTED]
Subject: Letter from Members of Congress to Attorney General Barr

Good afternoon,

I am emailing to send a letter from Congresswoman Wasserman Schultz and the co-signed Members of Congress to Attorney General Barr concerning an Office of Inspector General investigation into Jeffrey Epstein's plea deal. Inspector General Michael Horowitz is CC'd on the letter. Thank you for your attention to this correspondence.

Regards,
[REDACTED]

Sara Kugler
Legislative Assistant/D.C. Press Secretary
Office of U.S. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (FL-23)

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