



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of the Inspector General

November 7, 2014

Dear Members of Congress:

I am writing in response to your letter of October 16, 2014 requesting an investigation into the Department of Justice (Department) program known as Operation Choke Point and the Department officials and staff involved in its creation and execution. We have reviewed your letter and the May 29, 2014 report of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, which you provided.

Based on our review, we concluded that your letter raises concerns about the exercise by Department attorneys and other personnel of their authority to investigate, litigate, and provide legal advice. Under the Inspector General Act, the jurisdiction to investigate allegations of misconduct relating to the exercise of the authority of an attorney to investigate, litigate, or provide legal advice is allocated to the Department's Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR). IG Act section 8E(b)(3).

Because your letter was addressed to OPR's Counsel as well as me, we contacted OPR and informed that office of our view that the issues raised in your letter appeared to be within its jurisdiction, and not ours. It is my understanding that OPR will respond to your letter shortly.

In light of this apparent lack of jurisdiction, the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) is not taking any further action in response to your letter. We appreciate your raising this matter to our attention, and for your support of the work of the OIG. If you have any questions, please contact me, or acting Deputy Inspector General Robert Storch, at (202) 514-3435.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael E. Horowitz".

Michael E. Horowitz
Inspector General

cc: Robin Ashton