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Assistant U.S. Attorneys

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April 11, 2023

Robert M. (Monty) Wilkinson

Director, Executive Office of U.S. Attorneys
RFK Main Justice Building
950 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20530

Re: AUSA Pay Study Update

Dear Director Wilkinson:

For more than a year, your office has indicated it is working on a study on the pay disparity between Assistant U.S. Attorneys (AUSAs) and Main Justice Attorneys. The National Association of Assistant U.S. Attorneys (NAAUSA) requests a formal update on the study's status and the Department's efforts to address AUSA pay.

AUSAs continue to report that inadequate compensation is the premier detriment to their workplace wellbeing. As workloads increase and cases become more complex, the recruitment and retention of experienced AUSAs is critical to the effective administration of justice. Unfortunately, the pay disparity forces experienced AUSAs out of their position or, worse, turns our U.S. Attorneys' Offices into taxpayer-funded training centers for private defense attorneys.

The current pay system over relies on the goodwill of AUSAs who are willing to take a pay cut to serve their country. This is unsustainable and places our U.S. Attorney Offices at a disadvantage in the recruitment and retention of qualified personnel. Without top talent, our criminal justice system cannot adequately serve and protect the American people.

NAAUSA's own research, coupled with office pay statistics from the Justice Management Division, indicate the disparity is pervasive and substantial. And the lack of action to rectify the disparity has left AUSAs feeling frustrated, ignored, and burnt out.

Therefore, NAAUSA requests (1) an update on the status and timeline for completing the pay study and (2) current data on the hiring and attrition rates of AUSAs and Main Justice Attorneys. Please promptly contact NAAUSA's Washington Representative Natalia Castro (ncastro@shawbransford.com) with this information.

Sincerely,

Steven Wasserman

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Executive Director
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CC: Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco
U.S. Attorney Damian Williams, Chair of the Attorney General's Advisory
Committee