

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE | OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

## INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY | 25-003

## Findings of Misconduct by an Assistant United States Attorney for Conduct Prejudicial to the Government and Misuse of Government Property

The Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) initiated an investigation after receiving information from a local police department that an Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) had used his governmentissued mobile device to engage in extensive sexually-explicit and sexually-oriented communications with an individual, who later became the target of a police investigation.

The OIG investigation substantiated the allegation that the AUSA exchanged numerous inappropriate, sexually-explicit and sexually-oriented text messages with the individual using the AUSA's government-issued mobile device, in violation of DOJ policy and federal ethics regulations. The OIG also found that the AUSA left the AUSA's office during work hours for a sexual encounter with the individual, in violation of federal ethics regulations. The OIG concluded that the AUSA engaged in conduct prejudicial to the government and created the appearance of violating the law by continuing to interact with the individual, including by using the AUSA's government-issued device, after the individual had provided indications to the AUSA that the individual was engaged in illegal activity.

Prosecution of the AUSA was declined.

The OIG has completed its investigation and provided its report to the EOUSA and DOJ's Professional Misconduct Review Unit for appropriate action.

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Unless otherwise noted, the OIG applies the preponderance of the evidence standard in determining whether DOJ personnel have committed misconduct.