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the OIG Internet Website at *http://www.usdoj.gov/oig*.

[Order No. 2167–98, 63 FR 36847, July 8, 1998, as amended by Order No. 2835–2006, 71 FR 54413, Sept. 15, 2006]

§ 0.29a General functions.

(a) The OIG is a statutorily created independent entity within the Department of Justice subject to the general supervision of the Attorney General that conducts and supervises audits, inspections, and investigations relating to the programs and operations of the Department; recommends policies to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness and to prevent and detect fraud and abuse in Departmental programs and operations; and keeps the Attorney General and Congress informed about the problems and deficiencies relating to the administration of the Department and the necessity for and progress of corrective action.

(b) In order to carry out its responsibilities the OIG:

(1) Audits and inspects Department programs and operations as well as non-Department entities contracting with or receiving benefits from the Department;

(2) Investigates allegations of criminal wrongdoing and administrative misconduct on the part of Department employees, as provided in § 0.29c of this subpart;

(3) Investigates allegations that individuals and entities outside of the Department have engaged in activity that adversely affects the Department's programs and operations;

(4) Undertakes sensitive investigations of Department operations and/or personnel, often at the request of senior Department officials or Congress.

§ 0.29b Reporting allegations of waste, fraud, or abuse.

Employees shall report evidence and non-frivolous allegations of waste, fraud, or abuse relating to the programs and operations of the Department to the OIG or to a supervisor for referral to the OIG.

§ 0.29c Reporting allegations of employee misconduct.

(a) *Reporting to the OIG.* Evidence and non-frivolous allegations of criminal wrongdoing or serious administrative misconduct by Department employees shall be reported to the OIG, or to a supervisor or a Department component's internal affairs office for referral to the OIG, except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) *Reporting to the Department's Office of Professional Responsibility (DOJ-OPR).* Employees shall report to DOJ-OPR evidence and non-frivolous allegations of serious misconduct by Department attorneys that relate to the exercise of their authority to investigate, litigate, or provide legal advice. Employees shall also report to DOJ-OPR evidence and non-frivolous allegations of serious misconduct by Department law enforcement personnel that are related to allegations of misconduct by a Department attorney that relate to the exercise of the attorney's authority to investigate, litigate, or provide legal advice.

(c) *Reporting to the Drug Enforcement Administration Office of Professional Responsibility (DEA-OPR).* Evidence and non-frivolous allegations of serious misconduct by employees of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) shall be reported by the OIG to the Drug Enforcement Administration Office of Professional Responsibility (DEA-OPR) or to the Deputy Attorney General.

(d) *Reporting to the Federal Bureau of Investigation Office of Professional Responsibility (FBI-OPR).* Evidence and non-frivolous allegations of serious misconduct by employees of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) shall be reported by the OIG to the FBI-OPR except as provided in § 0.29d of this subpart, or to the Deputy Attorney General.

[Order No. 2167–98, 63 FR 36847, July 8, 1998, as amended by Order No. 2492–2001, 66 FR 37903, July 20, 2001]

§ 0.29d Whistleblower protection for FBI employees.

(a) *Protected disclosures by FBI employees.* Disclosures of information by an FBI employee that the employee reasonably believes evidences a violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or mismanagement, gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or