

A MESSAGE FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

January 31, 2003

I am pleased to submit the Department of Justice's *FY 2002 Performance and Accountability Report*, prepared under the aegis of the Reports Consolidation Act of 2000 and guidance from the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Bulletin No. 01-09 and Circular A-11. This *Performance and Accountability Report* contains the Department's audited consolidated financial statements, as required by the Chief Financial Officers Act and the Government Management Reform Act; the Department's performance report, as required by the Government Performance and Results Act; and a report on the Department's material weaknesses, as required by the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (Integrity Act).

The Department of Justice is accountable for meeting the highest standards of effectiveness, efficiency, and integrity, as is the government as a whole. In performing our critical mission, the prevention and disruption of terrorist activity, Justice employees have earned a reputation for skill, dedication, and integrity. Whether patrolling a remote border area, arguing a legal point in the courtroom, or investigating drug crime, ensuring justice and promoting homeland security is our foremost concern.

With the submission of the FY 2002 consolidated financial statements, Justice has earned Departmentwide unqualified audit opinions on all its statements for the second year in a row. Importantly, several components overcame limitations in their financial systems or operations in order to earn FY 2002 unqualified opinions. These accomplishments are evidence of the Department's ongoing dedication to and achievement of superior performance. Continuing to improve the Department's financial management performance, including our core financial systems, is one of my stated goals for the Department, and one that we are pursuing aggressively.

The financial and the performance data presented in this report are complete and reliable, as outlined in guidance from OMB. The Department's managers routinely use these data to carry out their responsibilities. I am also pleased to provide reasonable assurance that our management control and financial systems, taken as a whole, met the objectives of Sections 2 and 4 of the Integrity Act. While we still have a number of material challenges to resolve, the Department is working diligently to improve in this area.

Finally, the President's Management Agenda (PMA) outlines five government-wide goals that envision a results-oriented, citizen-centered government and that allow for improving performance and overall effectiveness. The Department of Justice is committed to implementing the strategies of the PMA, and this report documents our progress. Further, in FY 2002, I announced ten Departmentwide management goals to support the President's vision for government reform. Several of these goals address management issues, such as consolidating duplicate functions, restructuring organizations to meet better our mission, and improving our Departmentwide financial performance. This report provides evidence that we are working successfully toward those goals.

In the coming year, we will work with the Department of Homeland Security to transition several Department of Justice functions, including those of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, to the new Department. In addition, we will embrace the employees and functions of the new Department of Justice Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. We will continue to pursue vigorously the defense of freedom and the principles of justice for all Americans, and we will not waiver in this pursuit.



John Ashcroft

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