



U. S. Department of Justice

Office of the Associate Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

December 4, 2015

To All United States Attorneys:

The Department of Justice is firmly committed to doing its part in serving the men and women who have dedicated their lives to protecting our country. In furtherance of this effort, earlier this year, I announced the Attorney General's creation of the **Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative**. Our goal is to enhance the Department's existing efforts by coordinating and expanding our enforcement, outreach, and training efforts on behalf of servicemembers, veterans, and their families. The Initiative is already addressing the unique challenges that servicemembers face while on active duty, veterans face upon returning home, and families face when a loved one is deployed.

It is a sad reality that servicemembers and their families face many obstacles and challenges both during and after military service. We have seen unscrupulous businesses attempt to take advantage of the stresses that servicemembers face while preparing for a deployment or when deployed overseas. We have seen businesses refuse to re-employ members of the National Guard and reserve when they return from their deployment. We have seen the denial of voting rights for servicemembers who are serving their country in foreign lands. It is vital that we at the Justice Department hold responsible parties accountable by enforcing the criminal and civil laws designed to protect servicemembers, veterans, and their families, so that they can focus on their invaluable work protecting our nation.

That is why the Department of Justice is marshalling all of its assets, including our resources at the United States Attorney's Offices, to enhance enforcement against violations of servicemembers' rights. In this past year alone, our collaboration across the Department has resulted in historic settlements under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act ("SCRA") and wide ranging resolutions under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act ("USERRA"). To help continue and build upon this constructive collaboration, we have developed a Servicemembers Toolkit containing information that will be useful to your office in taking effective enforcement action under both USERRA and the SCRA, as well as under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act and the numerous statutes under which both civil and criminal complaints may be brought against those who seek to commit financial crimes against servicemembers and veterans.

We greatly appreciate the Attorney General's Advisory Committee, and in particular the Servicemembers and Veterans Rights Working Group, for their leadership and support. Working together, I know we can increase our effectiveness, our scope, and our results, and get a little closer to repaying the debt of gratitude that we owe to our servicemembers and veterans community.

Thank you for all you do.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stuart F. Delery", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stuart F. Delery
Acting Associate Attorney General