

EXHIBIT 15



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Information Policy
Sixth Floor
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Telephone: (202) 514-3642

July 21, 2021

Florence Patti
111 Monument Circle
Suite 3200
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Italia_patti@fd.org

Re: FOIA-2021-00839
DRH:NAD

Dear Florence Patti:

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act request dated and received in this Office on March 1, 2021, in which you requested records concerning the processing of FOIA-2020-01353.

Please be advised that a search has been conducted in this Office, and two pages have been located that contain records responsive to your request. I have determined that this material can be released without withholdings, and copies are enclosed.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. § 552 (2018). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

You may contact our FOIA Public Liaison, Valeree Villanueva, for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request at: Office of Information Policy, United States Department of Justice, Sixth Floor, 441 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20530-0001; telephone at 202-514-3642.

Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, Room 2510, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001; e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448.

If you are not satisfied with this Office's determination in response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy, United States Department of Justice, Sixth Floor, 441 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20530-0001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIA STAR portal by creating an

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account following the instructions on OIP's website: <https://www.justice.gov/oip/submit-and-track-request-or-appeal>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically submitted within ninety days of the date of my response to your request. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Douglas R. Hibbard", with a small "DR" monogram at the end.

Douglas R. Hibbard
Chief, Initial Request Staff

Case Notes

Reviewer (if assigned): VAV/DRH
Name of Requester: Italia Patti
Date of Request: 2/24/20
Date of Receipt: 6/9/20
Date Received by
Analyst: 6/10/20
SLE – To Be Transferred
Case: FOIA-2020-01353
Component(s): OIP

Subject of Request: records regarding the search for the United States Attorney for the Central District of California that began with the resignation of Debra Wong Yang on November 11, 2006

Background Notes

Needs to be acknowledged. No need for search notifications. Search limited to Exec Sec and RITT.

Processing Notes

6/10/20 (SLE) – tasked ack ltr

6/16/20 (SLE) – ack ltr sent and transferred to Mandy

6/17/20 (VAV) – spoke with the requester and estimated 4-6 months on this case since I did not know the ins and outs for this one. I also recommended they contact us within a month to get a stronger estimation since by then we might have our search complete. R was interested in why the case had been moved around DOJ and that the 20 day working deadline is well past.

7/16/2020 (AKT)-R called and left a message asking if we had a better time estimate regarding this request

7/29/2020 (AKT)-R called and left an additional voicemail message seeking a status update

8/3/2020 (AKT)-emailed R and estimated that we will have a response to their FOIA request in 4-5 months.

ND search of RITT on 9/7/20

R mentioned the name of Debra Wong Yang -resignation started in Nov 2006-

Conducted a RITT search by name (Debra Wong Yang) –no hits; searched Wong Yang- no hits

Google searched the administration at that time (Alberto Gonzales- Searched his deputies files James Comey, Paul McNulty, Craig S. Morford

Searched by Office under Conzaes adm- located McNulty's files (11/1/2005 to 3/17/2006 - nothing about the filing position of EOUSA for Central District of CA- but files on EOUSA firings, personnel- nothing about Debra Wong Yang

3/17/2006-8/6/2007- results-identical to the above- nothing about Debra Wong Yang.

1/10/2021

R emailed seeking status of her request.

2/3/2021

R left a voice message re: status of request.

Called her back and advised that we are still searching for records and provided 3 months to complete her request.

IQ search

Wong Yang (WF)- 15 hits -1 hit responsive

{Wong Yang} (contact) {Debra Wong Yang} no records

2/4/2021

Processed material and sent an event to DRH to review.

2/18/2021

DRH reviewed the processed material and they are NR

Drafted no records final response and sent an event to DRH for review

DRH reviewed and signed final.

Sent out final and closed it FOIASTAR.