

EXHIBIT 23

Seth Watkins

From: OIP-NoReply <OIP-NoReply@usdoj.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2016 11:27 AM
To: Seth Watkins
Subject: Regarding OIP's final appeal response
Attachments: Watkins, Ph.D., Seth A., AP-2016-00940, ATF.pdf

PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS E-MAIL, AS THIS ACCOUNT IS NOT MONITORED. TO ENSURE A PROMPT REPLY, PLEASE DIRECT ANY INQUIRIES TO THE CONTACT INFORMATION LISTED IN THE CORRESPONDENCE PROVIDED TO YOU. THANK YOU.

Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Information Policy
Suite 11050
1425 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Telephone: (202) 514-3642

February 26, 2016

Mr. Seth A. Watkins, Ph.D.
Adduci, Mastriani, Schaumberg, LLP
133 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036
Watkins@adduci.com

Re: Appeal No. AP-2016-00940
Request No. 2016-0135
CDT:ADF

VIA: E-mail

Dear Mr. Watkins:

You attempted to appeal from the failure of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) to respond to your Freedom of Information Act request for access to certain communications between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Justice concerning firearms.

Department of Justice regulations provide for an administrative appeal to the Office of Information Policy only after there has been an adverse determination by a component. See 28 C.F.R. § 16.8(a) (2015). As no adverse determination has yet been made by ATF, there is no action for this Office to consider on appeal.

As you may know, the FOIA authorizes requesters to file a lawsuit when an agency takes longer than the statutory time period to respond. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(C)(i). However, I can assure you that this Office has contacted ATF and has been advised that your request is currently being processed. If you are dissatisfied with ATF's final response, you may appeal again to this Office.

This Office has forwarded a copy of your letter to ATF. You should contact ATF's Requester Service Center at (202) 648-8740 for further updates regarding the status of your request.

Sincerely,

2/25/2016

X

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christina Troiani".

Christina D. Troiani, Attorney-Advisor for
Sean O'Neill, Chief, Administrative Appeals Staff
Signed by: ctroiani