



1997 Annual Report of The Attorney General of the United States

1997 Annual Report of The Attorney General of the United States



Foreword

To the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled:

This Annual Report highlights the accomplishments of the Department of Justice in 1997, reflecting the dedication and expertise of the Department's employees and their commitment to the principles of justice and fair treatment for all Americans.

In Fiscal Year 1997, we continued to make America safer and provide a better environment for all Americans through support of anti-crime initiatives, partnerships with community law enforcement, greater border security, continued protection of civil and environmental rights, and better ways of doing business that make the Department more efficient and productive.

Marshaling our law enforcement resources to make America safe remained a top priority in 1997. The Department continued to put in place aggressive programs and initiatives to vigorously pursue and prosecute those who commit terrorist acts, domestic violence and violence against women, juvenile crime, and crimes and violence related to drugs and gangs. We also worked effectively to dismantle drug trafficking organizations both at home and abroad, to keep drugs from infiltrating our borders and communities.

Again in 1997, the Community Oriented Policing Services program exceeded all expectations by awarding grants to State and local law enforcement agencies to add or redeploy more than 65,000 police officers and sheriff's deputies, working towards the President's goal of 100,000 cops on the beat by the year 2000.

Legislation introduced in 1997 sought to expand and produce new programs to improve juvenile justice and victims' rights, stem the flow of firearms, stop domestic violence, and address immigration problems. We expect continued consideration and action on a number of crime-related legislative proposals during the second session of Congress.

As part of our comprehensive program under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Department continued to open up the mainstream of American life to people with disabilities, entering several landmark settlement agreements that will serve as models for ADA compliance throughout the country. We also continued to defend Indian rights and advance environmental justice and international environmental protection.

The Department has restructured many of its internal processes to better exercise responsible stewardship over the Department's budget, disbursements, and financial management and accounting systems. In 1998, we will continue our commitment to the American people to wisely use our resources to further the goal of making America a safe, free, and just society.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Reno

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
The Department of Justice	1
DOJ Organizational Chart	3
Highlights of 1997 Accomplishments	5
Making America Safe	5
Supporting Law Enforcement in the Community	6
Securing America's Borders	6
Making the Legal System Work for All Americans	7
Enforcing the Nation's Environmental and Antitrust Laws	7
Making the Department More Efficient and More Responsive	7
Chapter I. Making America Safe	9
National Security/Anti-terrorism	9
Responding to Acts of Terrorism	9
Countering Anti-Government, Terrorist Tactics	11
Combating Violence	12
Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women	13
Stemming Youth and Gang Violence	14
Fighting Drugs	16
Using a Task Force Approach	16
Domestic and International Drug Law Enforcement Achievements	17
Drug Treatment for Prisoners	20
Assets Seized and Forfeited Through Law Enforcement Operations	20
Organized Crime	21
Political Corruption	22
White Collar Crime	23
Intellectual Property Crimes	23
Computer Crimes	24
International Trade Fraud	25
Bankruptcy Fraud	26
Consumer Fraud	27
Pension Abuse	27
Health Care Fraud	27
Financial Institution Fraud	28
Incarcerating Violent Criminals	29
Key Crime-Fighting Resources	30
Investigative Information Technologies	30

Innovative Crime-Fighting Strategies	31
International Coordination	31
Chapter II. Supporting Law Enforcement in the Community	33
Putting More Police on the Beat	33
Encouraging the Use of Locality-Based Strategies	34
Controlling the Proliferation of Dangerous Weapons	36
Providing Specialized Law Enforcement Assistance	37
Sharing Resources and Forging Partnerships	37
On Technology’s Leading Edge	38
Sharpening Skills Through Training	39
Protecting America’s Children	40
Chapter III. Securing America’s Borders	43
Border Enforcement	43
Focusing Resources at the Southwest Border	43
Prosecuting, Incarcerating, and Deporting Illegal Aliens	44
Intercepting Drugs at Ports-of-Entry	45
Inspections	46
Employer Sanctions and Document Fraud	46
Anti-Smuggling Initiatives	47
Removing Criminal Aliens	48
Improving the Hearings Process	49
Reform of Asylum Policy and Procedures	50
Improving Immigration Benefits Processing	50
Coordinating with Other Agencies in Responding to Immigration Emergencies	50
Chapter IV. Making the Legal System Work for All Americans	51
Guaranteeing Rights to the Victims of Crimes	51
Guaranteeing the Civil Rights of All Americans	52
Responding to Crimes of Hate and Other Criminal Civil Rights Violations	53
Disability and Education Rights	54
Fair Housing	55
Voting Rights	56
Institutions-Related Rights and Facilities Access	56
Employment Rights	57
Indian Rights	58
Judicial Selection	58
Defensive Civil Litigation	59
Civil Justice Reform	59

Chapter V. Enforcing the Nation’s Environmental and Antitrust Laws.	61
Safeguarding America’s Environment	61
Investigating Environmental Crimes and Recovering Damages	62
Protecting Natural Resources and Defending Environmental Programs	64
Enforcing Antitrust Laws	65
Uncovering Price-Fixing Schemes	65
Looking at Mergers to Protect Competition	66
Chapter VI. Making the Department More Efficient and More Responsive.	69
Implementing the Government Performance and Results Act	69
Coordinating DOJ Law Enforcement Activities	70
Collecting Debts Due the United States	71
Ensuring Integrity	73
Inventing New Processes	73
Emphasizing Ethics and Integrity	74
Promoting Organizational Effectiveness	75
Doing It Better	75
Making the Most of Technology	76
Innovating Through Justice Performance Review Laboratories	77
Promoting Customer Service and Greater Access to Government	79
Appendix I: Glossary of Abbreviations and Acronyms	81
Appendix II: Criminal Caseload Statistical Reports on Intellectual Property Cases	85

Glossary

Matter - Referrals from other federal agencies; investigative matters opened by U.S. Attorneys.

Case - Investigative matters which were accepted for prosecution and resulted in indictment.

Terminated - Investigative matters which were not accepted for prosecution by U.S. Attorneys; prosecution declined/insufficient evidence to indict defendant(s).

Matter Def Count - Number of defendants in referred matters.

Matter Receive Count - Number of matters/referrals.

Matter Def Pend Count - Number of defendants in referrals pending resolution; resolution can be either the opening of a case (indictment) or a declination (termination).

Matter Pend Count - Number of investigative matters pending resolution.

Matter Def Term Count - Number of defendants in terminated/ declined matters (matters not accepted for prosecution).

Matter Term Count - Number of investigative matters declined prosecution.

Case File Def Count - Number of indicted defendants.

Case File Count - Number of indictments.

Case Pend Def Count - Number of defendants in cases pending resolution.

Case Pend Count - Number of cases pending resolution.

Case Term Def Count - Number of defendants in concluded cases.

Case Term Count - Number of cases concluded.

Guilty Pleas - Number of defendants who pled guilty.

Disposed by Trial - Number of defendants who went to trial.

Guilty Verdict - Number of defendants found “Guilty” at trial.

Acquittal - Number of defendants found “Not Guilty” at trial.

Dismissed - Number of defendants whose case was
dismissed at trial.

Other Term - Number of defendants whose cases terminated
other than with a verdict or dismissal (i.e., change of plea).