



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D. C. 20530

January 20, 1998

Mr. Donald C. Smaltz
Independent Counsel
Office of Independent Counsel
Post Office Box 26356
103 Oronoco Street, Suite 200
Alexandria, VA 22313

Dear Mr. Smaltz:

Your letter of December 5, 1997, expressing concern about alleged statements attributed by the media to senior Department of Justice officials has been referred to the Department's Office of Professional Responsibility for whatever action it deems appropriate.

I assure you that neither my staff nor I have any interest other than to ensure that the Independent Counsel Act is faithfully enforced and to assist independent counsels in fulfilling their mandates. If these alleged comments were made to the press, I, like you, deplore them and find them wholly inappropriate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janet Reno".

Janet Reno