

A MESSAGE FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

November 12, 2008

The Department of Justice faces challenges vastly different from those it faced as recently as a decade ago. But the principles that guide the Department remain the same – to pursue justice by enforcing the law with unswerving fidelity to the Constitution. I have always had great respect for the men and women who follow those principles daily across the Department. I applaud their contributions to public service, and I am honored to be able to serve with them to protect our security, the safety of our children, and the rights and liberties that define us as a Nation.

This year marks a special occasion for the Department as we join with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in celebrating its 100th anniversary as an investigative agency and a century of service to the American people. Over the past century, the FBI has grown from a small group of 34 investigators into a cadre of more than 30,000 employees comprising one of the world's most respected law enforcement agencies, and is now adapting itself to the new and vital role of becoming an intelligence-gathering organization as well. We commend the way this agency has evolved and transformed its mission and operations to meet the changing threats facing our Nation. On behalf of a grateful Nation, we honor and thank the fine men and women who have carried the FBI badge for their dedication, skill, and professionalism in protecting our country, and who put their lives at risk daily to keep us safe.

The Department continues to vigorously pursue its mission of protecting our communities from crime. Due to the hard work of law enforcement nationwide, violent crime in the United States remains at its lowest level in 30 years. Where individual localities have seen increases in crime, the Department has responded, working with State and local partners to study the problem and implement strategies to reduce and deter crimes involving guns, gangs, drugs, child exploitation, corporate and public corruption, immigration, and civil rights violations. Our efforts to deter crime on all these fronts continue unabated.

While the Department works to fulfill its vital missions of fighting terrorism and crime, it is committed to maintaining strong program and fiscal management. Prepared pursuant to the Reports Consolidation Act of 2000 and guidance in Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circulars A-11, A-123, and A-136, the FY 2008 Department of Justice *Performance and Accountability Report* contains our performance report, as required by the Government Performance and Results Act; our audited consolidated financial statements, as required by the Chief Financial Officers Act and the Government Management Reform Act; and a statement of assurance regarding our internal control and financial management systems, as required by the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA).

The Department again earned an unqualified audit opinion on our FY 2008 consolidated financial statements. For the second straight year, no material weaknesses were identified at the consolidated level in the auditor's report on internal control. While we continue as a Department to demonstrate noteworthy progress, we are committed to pursuing actions to correct areas where we have deficiencies.

The Department conducted its annual assessment of the effectiveness of internal controls to support effective and efficient programmatic operations and compliance with applicable laws and regulations (FMFIA Section 2) and whether financial management systems conform to government-wide requirements (FMFIA Section 4). Based on the results of this assessment, I provide qualified assurance that the Department met the objectives of FMFIA. The assessment did not identify any systems non-conformances required to be reported under FMFIA Section 4; however, the assessment identified two material weaknesses required to be reported under FMFIA Section 2 – one related to prison crowding and the other related to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's past issues with the use of National Security Letters. In addition, I provide reasonable assurance that the Department's internal control over financial reporting met the objectives of OMB Circular A-123, Appendix A.

The financial and performance data presented in this report are complete and reliable, providing timely and useful information on Department of Justice accomplishments to the American taxpayers. The Department is pleased with this past fiscal year's mission accomplishments, and we will continue to be resolute in our quest to protect our citizens by addressing terrorism and crime and working to enforce our federal laws with integrity.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael B. Mukasey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "M" and a long, sweeping tail.

Michael B. Mukasey
Attorney General