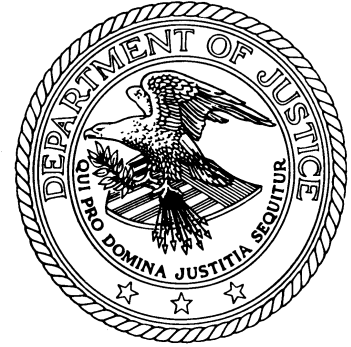


NEWS RELEASE



***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney
Karen P. Hewitt***

For Further Information, Contact:

Assistant U. S. Attorney Christopher M. Alexander (619)557-7425

For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - October 31, 2008

San Diego, CA - United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced today that Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) Christopher M. Alexander will lead the efforts of her Office in connection with the U.S. Department of Justice's nationwide Election Day Program for the upcoming November 4, 2008 general elections. AUSA Alexander has been appointed to serve as the District Election Officer for the Southern District of California, which includes San Diego and Imperial Counties. As District Election Officer, AUSA Alexander is responsible for overseeing the handling of complaints of federal election fraud and voting rights abuses in consultation with the Department of Justice.

The Department of Justice first established a Ballot Access and Voting Integrity Initiative in 2002. The goals of the Initiative are to increase the Department's ability to deter election fraud and discrimination at the polls and to prosecute any federal offenses that may occur. The Initiative is also intended to ensure

public confidence in the integrity of the election process by providing local points of contact to whom the public can report possible election fraud and voting rights violations while the polls are open on election day.

United States Attorney Hewitt stated that AUSA Alexander will be on duty while the polls are open on November 4, 2008 in order to respond to complaints of election fraud or voting rights abuses. AUSA Alexander can be reached by the public at (619) 557-7425. The FBI will also have Special Agents available in each field office and resident agency to receive allegations of election fraud, intimidation, suppression and other election abuses. The FBI can be reached by the public at (858) 565-1255.

Complaints about ballot access problems or discrimination can also be made directly to the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division's Voting Section in Washington, D.C. at 1-800-253-3931 (TTY line 1-888-305-3228) or (202) 307-2767. Complaints of voter intimidation or suppression on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin, may also be made to the Civil Rights Division's Criminal Section at (202) 514-3204. Forms may be submitted through a link on the Department of Justice's web page: <http://www.usdoj.gov/>