

A MESSAGE FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Since the tragic day of September 11, 2001, the Department has had significant success in our primary mission of fighting the global war on terror — identifying, dismantling and disrupting terrorist cells, plots, and financing within the United States and abroad. At the same time, we are pursuing vigorously our mission to protect our communities from crime. Violent offenders, corporate criminals, human traffickers and sexual predators are being held accountable for their crimes. Due to the hard work of law enforcement nationwide, violent crime in the United States has been driven to its lowest level in thirty years. Violent crimes and property crimes have dropped more than fifty percent in the last decade. However, the Department will not rest in its efforts to sustain and improve upon these impressive results.

As we focus on our mission to fight terrorism and crime, I understand our obligation to exercise strong fiscal management. Prepared pursuant to the Reports Consolidation Act of 2000 and guidance from the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Circulars A-136 and A-11, the Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 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 report on material weaknesses in our operations, as required by the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act.

I am pleased to report that the Department has earned an unqualified audit opinion on our financial statements as of September 30, 2005. All ten of the Department's components that produce financial statements received unqualified opinions this year. We were also able to obtain unqualified opinions on restated financial statements for FY 2003 and FY 2004 for the Office of Justice Programs, and thus were able to receive an unqualified opinion on the Department's restated FY 2004 consolidated financial report. For the second year in a row, the Department met OMB's 45-day standard for issuing the Performance and Accountability Report. Two components had no internal control weaknesses or compliance issues of any kind, and six of our ten components had no material control weaknesses reported by the auditors. While I am pleased with this progress, we still have components that face challenges in their financial controls and information systems environments. Addressing those weaknesses through fundamental control improvements is our commitment for FY 2006.

The financial and performance data presented in this report are complete and reliable, providing timely and useful information on our accomplishments to the American taxpayers. With the exception of the weaknesses reported in our financial controls and information technology systems, I can provide qualified reasonable assurance that our management control and financial systems met the objectives of Sections 2 and 4 of the Integrity Act. We are dedicated to improving our financial controls and to continuing our project to install a unified Department financial system. We look forward to further progress in these important areas.



Alberto R. Gonzales