



U.S. Office of Special Counsel  
1730 M Street, N.W., Suite 218  
Washington, D.C. 20036-4505

## Whistleblower Settles Case with ATF

---

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT:** Ann O'Hanlon, (202) 254-3631; [aohanlon@osc.gov](mailto:aohanlon@osc.gov)

WASHINGTON, DC/August 7, 2012 –

Peter Forcelli, one of the employees at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) who blew the whistle on Operation “Fast and Furious” and subsequently filed a retaliation claim with the Office of Special Counsel (OSC), successfully resolved his case through OSC’s mediation program.

OSC recently expanded its Alternative Dispute Resolution program and is actively mediating dozens of cases involving whistleblower retaliation. Mediation, a type of alternative dispute resolution, is an informal process in which a neutral third party – in this case an independent OSC mediator – assists the opposing parties in reaching a voluntary, negotiated resolution. Under OSC’s mediation program, all mediation communications are confidential.

“I commend Mr. Forcelli for his courage in coming forward, and I applaud both him and ATF for their good faith efforts to reach resolution of these issues,” said Special Counsel Carolyn Lerner. “This is a testament to the ability of mediation to resolve complex cases.”

\*\*\*

*The U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) is an independent federal investigative and prosecutorial agency. Our basic authorities come from four federal statutes: the Civil Service Reform Act, the Whistleblower Protection Act, the Hatch Act, and the Uniformed Services Employment & Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). OSC’s primary mission is to safeguard the merit system by protecting federal employees and applicants from prohibited personnel practices, especially reprisal for whistleblowing. For more information, please visit our website at [www.osc.gov](http://www.osc.gov).*