



# Department of Justice

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**STATEMENT OF  
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ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR ADMINISTRATION**

**BEFORE THE  
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL  
AFFAIRS  
UNITED STATES SENATE**

**FOR A HEARING ON  
AGENCY APPROACHES TO REORGANIZATION**

**PRESENTED**

**JUNE 15, 2017**

**Statement of Lee J. Lofthus, Assistant Attorney General for Administration  
Before the Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management  
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
United States Senate  
June 15, 2017**

Good morning Chairman Lankford and Ranking Member Heitkamp. Thank you for the opportunity to share the efforts of the Department of Justice to implement President Trump's March 13, 2017 Executive Order (EO) on a "Comprehensive Plan for Reorganizing the Executive Branch."

On April 4, 2017, Attorney General Sessions sent a memo, "Department of Justice Reorganization Plans," to the heads of all DOJ components and United States Attorneys describing the process for developing the Department's plan to be submitted to OMB in September. On April 12, 2017, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget issued OMB M-17-22 titled "Comprehensive Plan for Reforming the Federal Government and Reducing the Civilian Workforce." We are well underway with our work towards meeting the Administration's reorganization plans.

The process laid out by the Attorney General will obtain input from four internal sources and one external source. First, internally, the Attorney General directed each component to review its activities and submit reorganization proposals by June 16, 2017. Second, he asked key members of his office and the offices of the Deputy Attorney General and the Associate Attorney General to develop ideas for reorganization. Third, he asked the Justice Management Division, the organization I head, to develop ideas. And, importantly, as our fourth source we've asked Department employees for their input. Lastly, we are receiving ideas from the public via the web portal established by the Office of Management and Budget.

The Attorney General stated his goal that wherever possible, DOJ components should realign resources into our key priorities: strengthening our national security protections and counterterrorism efforts; combatting illegal immigration; deterring violent crime; fighting human trafficking; and reducing opioid abuse. Focusing on key priorities is paramount to ensuring DOJ's efficiency and effectiveness in serving the American people.

At this point, we have met with the Executive Officers of our components to review the process, provide a standardized template for submitting ideas, and answer questions regarding the process. Individual components are well underway in their work to develop ideas. My organization is preparing our own component plan as well as developing DOJ-wide and government-wide ideas. Additionally, we have been obtaining DOJ workforce and other data that will assist our leadership group in developing and evaluating ideas, and we have been reviewing the public suggestions provided by OMB. We are also reviewing GAO and OIG reports for past and current recommendations and ideas on restructuring.

Additionally, our Human Resources office is engaged with our components in developing the plan required by OMB 17-22 for Maximizing Employee Performance. All of this will come together after June 16 so that we can have high-level ideas outlined prior to June 30, ready for discussion with OMB in early July.

Once the component plans are received June 16, Justice Management Division will inventory and consolidate the ideas from all the various sources so that we can efficiently review the ideas with our DOJ leadership group. After selecting the best viable ideas, we plan to discuss the proposals with the Associate Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General, and Attorney General and get their input and direction.

Concurrent with the reorganization effort, the Department is in the process of updating our Strategic Plan as required by the GPRA Modernization Act of 2016, and aligning the restructuring plan ideas with the DOJ strategic objectives. I fully expect this to be an iterative process. Some ideas will be “low hanging fruit” and within the authority of individual components to implement, others will require approval and direction from the Attorney General. Yet others will require OMB and Congressional action. The entire plan will be fully developed and included with our FY2019 Budget submission to OMB in September.

In closing, by closely aligning our reorganization efforts with the DOJ partial hiring freeze and our FY 2019 budget development process, the Department has a strong approach to achieve efficiencies and operational improvements that will support the Attorney General’s national security and law enforcement priorities.

Thank you and I look forward to your questions.