U.S. Department of Justice



Office of the Inspector General

September 17, 2013

Rachel Levinson-Waldman Counsel, Liberty and National Security Program Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law School 1730 M Street NW, Suite 413 Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Ms. Levinson-Waldman:

Thank you for your letter dated July 8, 2013, on behalf of the Brennan Center for Justice and 22 other good government groups. The letter requested that the Department of Justice make public any findings by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) regarding the collection of Americans' telephone records under Section 215 of the Patriot Act, and that the OIG conduct a review of this use of Section 215 if it has not already done so.

The OIG has issued two reports on this topic. The OIG's first report, A Review of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Use of Section 215 Orders for Business Records, was issued in March 2007 and covered calendar years 2002 through 2005. The OIG's second report, A Review of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Use of Section 215 Orders for Business Records in 2006, was issued in March 2008 and covered calendar year 2006. In addition, the OIG is conducting a third review of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) use of Section 215. Our third review examines the progress the Justice Department and the FBI have made in addressing the recommendations the OIG made in its second report, and also addresses the FBI's use of Section 215 authority in calendar years 2007, 2008, and 2009.

Unclassified versions of our 2007 and 2008 reports are available on the OIG's website at http://www.justice.gov/oig/special/s0803a/final.pdf. In addition, the OIG has requested that the Department of Justice and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence conduct a declassification review of the full classified versions of these two reports. The results of any declassification review may also affect how much information we will be able to publish regarding our pending review upon its conclusion.

We very much appreciate your interest in our work. If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Chief of Staff Jay Lerner, at (202) 514-3435.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Horowitz Inspector General