

**U.S. Department of Justice**

Office of Professional Responsibility

950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 3266
Washington, D.C. 20530

November 24, 2009

A handwritten signature consisting of the letters "TW" in a bold, cursive style, with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the "W".

The Honorable Frank Wolf
Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Wolf:

I am writing in response to your November 10, 2009 letter, submitted jointly with Congressman Lamar Smith, as well as your separate November 16, 2009 letter, to Attorney General Eric H. Holder regarding the Office of Professional Responsibility's (OPR) investigation into the dismissal of certain charges relating to the New Black Panther Party and two individuals associated with the organization. Your letters were referred to OPR for a response.

OPR initiated an investigation into this matter in July 2009, and the investigation is being conducted consistent with OPR's Policies and Procedures (available at usdoj.gov/opr/polandproc.htm). As described in the Policies and Procedures, "the first step is usually to request a written response from the attorney involved in the allegation." In addition, "[s]upporting documentation and any other relevant material should be included with the response, and other individuals with relevant information should be identified." Attorneys also must provide to OPR "[c]ase files [and] investigative files." As with any investigation, OPR's review of these documents and responses could lead to additional requests for documents and information. After the gathering of evidence is completed, OPR prepares a written report to the Attorney General and the Deputy Attorney General.

I trust the above description of OPR's policies and procedures demonstrates that an appropriately complete investigation takes more time than has lapsed since the investigation was commenced in July 2009. Please be assured that OPR's investigation is proceeding apace. We will inform you of the results of our investigation as soon as we are able to do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary Patrice Brown".

Mary Patrice Brown
Acting Counsel