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Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

January 31, 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

THROUGH: THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

FROM: Ronald Weich

Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs

SUBJECT: Weekly Report for the Week ending February 4, 2011

The following is a summary of our current activities:

The Senate will be in session this week. The House will be in recess this week.

A. Hearings at which the Department is testifying

This week there are no hearings at which the Department is testifying.

B. Hearings of interest to the Department

- 1. <u>Foreclosure.</u> On Tuesday, February 1 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, the Senate Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing entitled "Foreclosure Mediation Program: Can Bankruptcy Courts Limit Homeowner and InvestorLosses?"
- 2. <u>Health care.</u> On Wednesday, February 2 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, the Senate Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing entitled "The Constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act."

C. Pending Nominations

- 1. <u>Department Nominees.</u> The following individuals were nominated by the President on January 5, 2011: James Cole, to be Deputy Attorney General; Andrew Traver, to be Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; Denise O'Donnell, to be Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance; Virginia Seitz, to be Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Counsel; and Timothy Feighery to be Chairman of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission.
- 2. <u>Judicial Nominees:</u> The following nominations are on the Senate Judiciary Committee markup calendar for February 2 at 10 a.m.: James E. Graves, Jr., Fifth Circuit; Susan Carney, Second Circuit; Amy Totenberg, ND GA; James E. Boasberg, D DC; Amy B. Jackson, D DC; Paul K. Holmes, III, WD AR; Anthony J. Battaglia, SD CA; Edward Davila, ND CA; Diana Saldana, SD TX; Marco A. Hernandez, D OR; Steve Jones, ND GA; Max O. Cogburn, Jr., WD NC; James E. Shadid, CD IL; Sue E. Myerscough, CD IL; and MichaelH. Simon, D OR.

D. Markups

Senate Judiciary Committee. On Thursday, February 3, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, the Senate Judiciary Committee is scheduled tomark up S.193, the USA PATRIOT Sunset Extension Act of 2011. The Committee also is scheduled to mark up S.23, the Patent Lawsuit Reform Act of 2011. The bill would amend federal patent law to specify that the fine for falsely marked articles (articles falselylabeled or advertised to deceive the public into believing such articles are patented) is limited to \$500, in the aggregate, for all offenses in connection with the same articles. The bill would require a person bringing a civil action against a violator tohave suffered a competitive injury and limits such person's damages to \$500.

E. Briefings

1. **Prison Rape Elimination Act.** On Thursday, February 3, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 2237 of the Rayburn House Office Building, representatives from the Office of the Attorney General and the Office of the Deputy Attorney General will brief staff for the House Judiciary Committee on the proposed rule the Department developed in accordance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003.

On Thursday, February 3, at 2:30 p.m. in Room 224 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, representatives from the Office of the Attorney General and the Office of the Deputy Attorney General will brief staff for the Senate Judiciary Committee on the proposed rule the Department developed in accordance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003.

2. <u>Obscenity Prosecution Task Force.</u> During the week of January 31 or the week of February 7, representatives from the Criminal Division will brief staff for Senators Hatch and Grassley on the activities of the Department's Obscenity ProsecutionTask Force.

F. Looking Ahead

1. <u>USA PATRIOT Act Reauthorization.</u>

Unrelated

Unrelated

Unrelated

2. <u>Electronic Communications Issues.</u> We anticipate that both the Senate and House Judiciary Committees will soon begin consideration of possible amendments to two key statutes on which the Department relies in connection with anti-terrorismand law enforcement investigations: the Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA) and the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA). We also expect work to resume on cyber security legislation in both the House and the Senate.