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**From:** Raman, Mythili  
**To:** Pope, Amy; Weinstein, Jason; Wroblewski, Jonathan  
**CC:** Wade, Jill C (SMO)  
**Sent:** 5/10/2011 7:02:11 PM  
**Subject:** RE: on the wiretap issue

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**From:** Pope, Amy  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 10, 2011 2:55 PM  
**To:** Raman, Mythili; Weinstein, Jason; Wroblewski, Jonathan  
**Cc:** Wade, Jill C (SMO)  
**Subject:** on the wiretap issue

House Oversight Committee spokesman Frederick Hill told TheDC he thinks it's disturbing that the DOJ is routinely approving wiretap applications like this one. "The assertion that the Justice Department has a robo-signing process for wiretap applications is a deeply troubling defense," Hill said in an email. "Applications for wiretaps generally include detailed descriptions of law enforcement activities, sworn statements and explanations for why invasive wiretaps are crucial to an investigation. Claiming ignorance on an operation where wiretaps were approved by high level officials raises even more concerns about irresponsible and reckless decisions by Justice officials that contributed to the deaths of two federal agents."

Former federal prosecutor and Foundation for the Defense of Democracies Center for Law and Counterterrorism co-chair Andrew McCarthy told TheDC Schmalzer is right in that Justice Department officials don't have time to review facts and details of every wiretap application they sign. But, McCarthy said, that doesn't absolve top officials of responsibility when something goes awry.

"Nobody would expect the Deputy Attorney General to know the details like the prosecutor on the case, but if your name is on something and it's a screw-up, you're going to end up being responsible for it not in the sense that anyone expects you to know all the facts, but if you've been relying on someone who isn't doing a good job to vet these things, then that is your responsibility," McCarthy said. "The reason that Congress put this requirement in the statute is because they wanted Justice Department oversight on the district offices because wiretaps are so invasive."

Read more: <http://dailycaller.com/2011/05/09/doj-deflects-gunrunner-fast-and-furious-blame-to-local-officials/#ixzz1Lye35Cfl>

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