
From: Chen, Edgar (SMO)
To: Weich, Ron (SMO)
Sent: 6/9/2011 10:59:22 PM
Subject: Fw: Legal Times clip re: your hearing

From: Edgar Chen [mailto:chen.edgar@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2011 10:24 PM
To: Chen, Edgar (SMO)
Subject: Legal Times clip re: your hearing

<http://legaltimes.typepad.com/blt/2011/06/dojs-lobbyist-scheduled-to-make-rare-appearance.html>

DOJ's Lobbyist Scheduled to Make Rare Appearance

The U.S. Department of Justice is sending one of its top public spokespeople to Capitol Hill next week to testify about a controversial program that unsuccessfully attempted to track weapons smuggling in Mexico.

Assistant Attorney General Ronald Weich, head of DOJ's Office of Legislative Affairs, is scheduled to appear on Wednesday, June 15, before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Though Weich is the department's chief lobbyist before Congress, it has been rare for him to testify during the first two and half years of the Obama administration compared with appearances by other DOJ officials.

The House oversight committee is holding hearings on a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives operation called Fast and Furious. Republicans want to know whether the weapons-tracking program backfired, contributing to increased violence or to the death of a border agent in Arizona. DOJ's inspector general is also investigating.

Weich is scheduled to testify on the third of three panels at the hearing. Sen. Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) is on the first panel, and the family of the border agent who was killed, Brian Terry, is on the second. Weich was chief counsel to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) before he was confirmed as assistant attorney general in April 2009.

In a separate hearing on Monday, the oversight committee is scheduled to address whether the Justice Department must "respond to a lawfully issued and valid congressional subpoena." A witness list for that hearing has not been released.

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