

---

**From:** Schmalzer, Tracy (OPA)  
**To:** 'Schultz, Eric'  
**Sent:** 10/3/2011 7:07:05 PM  
**Subject:** wide receiver

This email referred to an operation that was conducted in the previous administration, from 2006 to approximately the end of 2007, known as Operation Wide Receiver, which was handled by ATF's Tucson office and the U.S. Attorney's Office in Arizona.

Operation Wide Receiver was initiated by the ATF in 2006 after it received information about a suspicious purchase of firearms. Although the investigation was concluded in 2007, no charges were filed.

In about 2009, years after that investigation was concluded, the former Gang Unit reviewed the case for possible prosecution. During the review of the case, the Gang Unit prosecutor learned the ATF Arizona had permitted guns to be transferred to suspected gun traffickers and had not interdicted them.

Given the serious nature of the alleged gun trafficking and the available evidence, the Gang Unit prosecutor decided to bring charges against the gun traffickers, and did so. The investigation resulted in two sets of indictments that were unsealed toward the end of 2010.

Prior to the unsealing of the Wide Receiver indictments, in an email about the prosecution, DAAG Weinstein raised concerns about investigative methods in the Wide Receiver case. DAAG Weinstein's reference to a "tricky case" in which the questionable tactics were used was to Wide Receiver (also referred to as "Laura's Tucson case") and not to Fast and Furious. He mentioned Fast and Furious only because of his belief at the time that the cases would be announced in close proximity.

The only connection being made between Fast and Furious and Wide Receiver in that email was one of timing, not tactics.

The Criminal Division personnel involved in the Wide Receiver prosecution did not believe that the questionable tactics used in Wide Receiver -- an investigation conducted and concluded several years earlier in the previous administration and led by different agents in a different ATF office and supervised by a different AUSA in the Tucson -- had any connection to Fast and Furious, which was opened in 2009 out of the Phoenix.

In the Wide Receiver prosecution, the Criminal Division's effort was to ensure dangerous gun traffickers were punished for their crimes. [Five of the 10 charged defendants have pleaded guilty for their crimes], thanks to the work of these prosecutors, years after the investigation was concluded.