



January 23, 2026

Don R. Berthiaume
Acting Inspector General
U.S. Department of Justice
Office of the Inspector General
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

RE: *Supplement to January 7 Request for Audit of Department of Justice's
Compliance with the Epstein Files Transparency Act (Corrected Copy)*

Dear Acting Inspector General Berthiaume:

On January 7, 2026, Democracy Defenders Fund (DDF) requested that the Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the Department of Justice (Department) initiate an audit of the Department's processing, release, withholding, and redaction of documents required to be released pursuant to the *Epstein Files Transparency Act* (EFTA). As we noted in that letter, the Department does not appear to be complying with several key provisions of the EFTA, including by failing to produce all required records, redacting documents beyond what the law provides, and failing to notify the public of the basis for redactions through *Federal Register* notice.

On January 15, 2026, DDF initiated a dataset comparison between the documents originally retrieved from DOJ's Epstein Library and the documents in the Epstein Library as of the comparison date. That review identified that the Department surreptitiously applied additional redactions to over 70 files. Whether these redactions are appropriate or not, the Department never provided public notice that it was amending these documents, never provided justification for withholding or redacting further information, and has not provided any audit trail or change history. For your reference, we have provided a list of those documents that were identified as having been amended as of January 15 as Appendix A to this letter.

The Department's continued failure to comply with the EFTA is extraordinary. By their own counting the Department has only released 12,285 documents, or less than 1% of all responsive documents.¹ And not a single justification for any withholding or redaction has been published in the *Federal Register* as is required by the law.

The Department's decision to modify redactions on documents that have already been released without providing any explanation or any means of identifying that a document has been changed only raises further questions about the integrity of the Department's actions. The opaque

¹ Letter from Jay Clayton, U.S. v. Maxwell, Cr. No. 1:20-cr-00330 (PAE) (S.D. N.Y. January 5, 2026), gov.uscourts.nysd.539612.826.0.pdf.

nature of the Department's actions—in stark contrast to the transparency called for by the EFTA—only reinforces the need for a comprehensive audit of the Department's compliance with the EFTA.

Sincerely,

/s/

Ambassador Norman L. Eisen
(ret.)
Executive Chair and Founder
Democracy Defenders Fund

/s/

Virginia Canter
Chief Counsel and Director for Ethics and
Anticorruption
Democracy Defenders Fund

/s/

Christopher Swartz
Senior Ethics Counsel
Democracy Defenders Fund

APPENDIX A

Documents from the Department of Justice EFTA database confirmed to have been amended since January 6, 2026, based on search conducted on January 15, 2026.

· EFTA00000160	· EFTA00001524
· EFTA00000165	· EFTA00001523
· EFTA00000164	· EFTA00001528
· EFTA00000167	· EFTA00001533
· EFTA00000177	· EFTA00001532
· EFTA00000172	· EFTA00001589
· EFTA00000216	· EFTA00001590
· EFTA00000215	· EFTA00001591
· EFTA00000214	· EFTA00001596
· EFTA00000229	· EFTA00001931
· EFTA00000470	· EFTA00001932
· EFTA00000476	· EFTA00002063
· EFTA00000503	· EFTA00002064
· EFTA00000531	· EFTA00003632
· EFTA00000656	· EFTA00005284
· EFTA00000657	· EFTA00005932
· EFTA00000746	· EFTA00007157
· EFTA00000827	· EFTA00008500
· EFTA00000888	· EFTA00008529
· EFTA00001055	· EFTA00008744
· EFTA00001051	· EFTA00037100
· EFTA00001053	· EFTA00037160
· EFTA00001052	· EFTA00037158
· EFTA00001046	· EFTA00037154
· EFTA00001069	· EFTA00037161
· EFTA00001056	· EFTA00037157
· EFTA00001103	· EFTA00037155
· EFTA00001107	· EFTA00037156
· EFTA00001110	· EFTA00037163
· EFTA00001124	· EFTA00001213
· EFTA00001421	· EFTA00001218
· EFTA00001417	· EFTA00001217
· EFTA00001424	· EFTA00001225
· EFTA00001423	· EFTA00001244

· EFTA00001353	· EFTA00037470
· EFTA00001375	· EFTA00022173
· EFTA00001402	
· EFTA00037159	
· EFTA00037167	
· EFTA00037162	
· EFTA00037166	
· EFTA00037168	